



SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS REVIEW

Week Ending: June 5th, 2026

Summer Term (2) End of Week 1: Read on to get the latest SSMS updates.

Spotlight on....Humanities

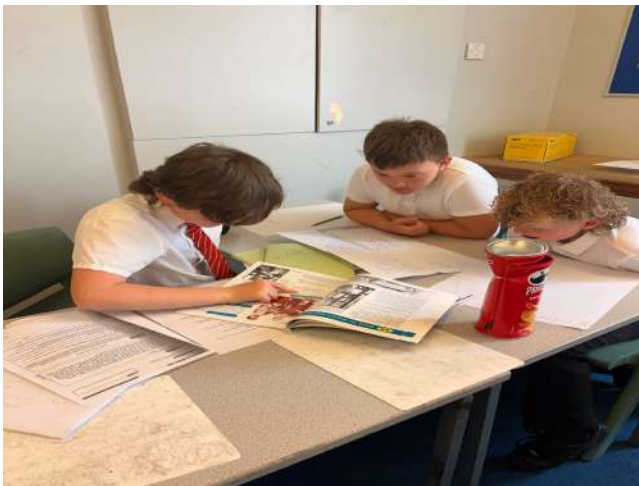
Year 5

Year 5 has launched into an exciting new topic this half term as they begin their journey into the history and culture of Native Americans.

To kick things off, the classes have been exploring how geography shaped the daily lives of different tribes across the continent.

One of the first major realisations for Year 5 was that there wasn't just one "Native American culture," but hundreds of distinct nations, each with its own language, traditions, and style of housing tailored to their environment.

Over the coming weeks, the children will be deepening their knowledge by looking into the spiritual connection Native American tribes held with nature, the art of storytelling through totem poles, and the eventual impact of European settlers on their way of life.



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Year 6

Our Year 6 students have turned into historical detectives recently, diving deep into archival sources to discover what life was like for children during the Victorian era. As part of their history topic, the classes have been researching Child Labour in Victorian Britain, investigating the grueling, often dangerous jobs that children their own age were expected to do over 150 years ago.

Using information sources, including illustrations, videos and first-hand testimonies from the era, the children have been discussing the harsh realities faced by young workers before compulsory schooling was introduced.

Through their research, Year 6 uncovered the details of several historical roles:

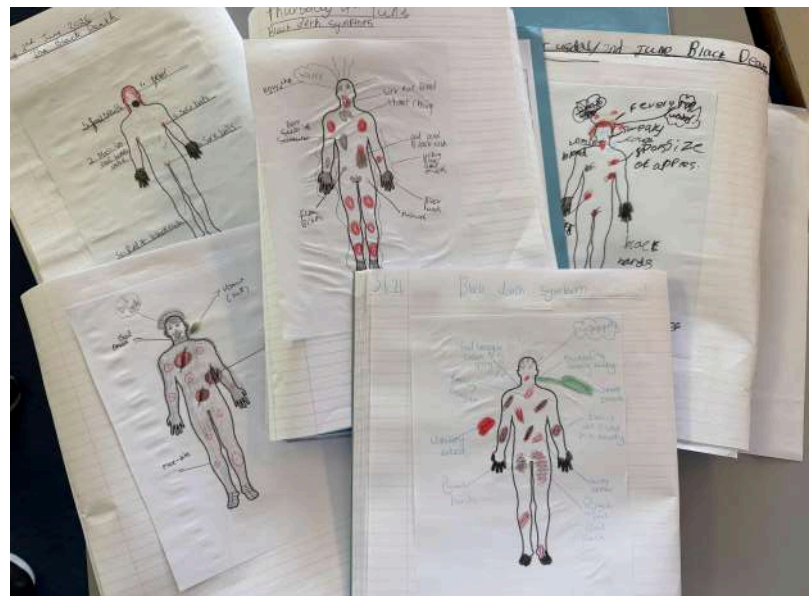
- A piecer - someone who worked in the noisy and dusty mills rubbing pieces of material together with their bare hands.
- A trapper - children as young as 5 would sit in the cold and dark opening the ventilation door to stop toxic gases building up

Year 6 student, Evie said, 'It was shocking to see children so young having to work in awful conditions.'

Year 7

Year 7 has had a very exciting week, learning all about the symptoms of the Black Death, a plague which swept across England (and the rest of the known world) in 1348. We discovered what a gruesome way was to die, and then drew and labeled some gory plague victims our own.

Next week we're going to look at the weird and wonderful ways that medieval people tried to cure the plague, and then look at the impact it had on the country in the long and short term.



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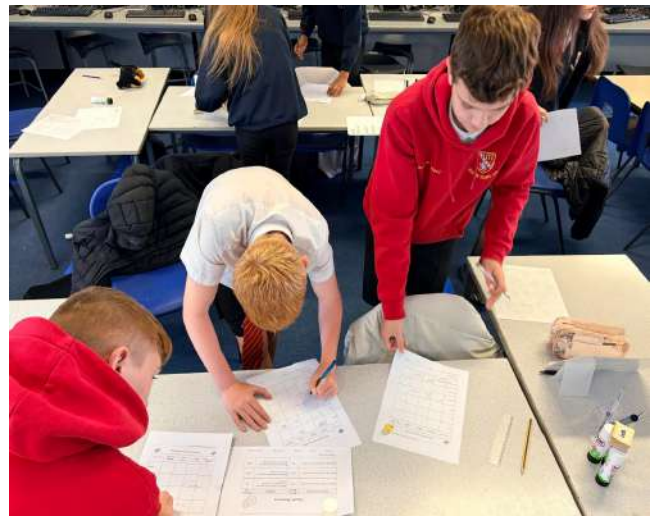
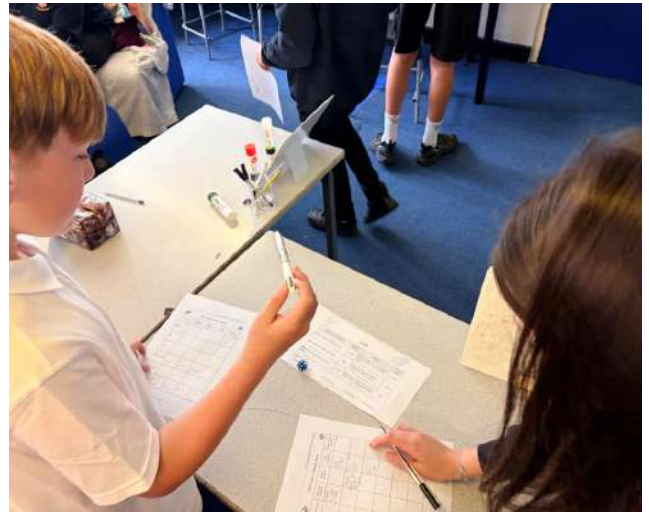
Year 8

This week, our Year 8 history students stepped directly into the past as part of our commitment to making history hands-on. Rather than just reading from a textbook, students actively brought their learning to life as part of their ongoing study of the British Empire.

Taking on the roles of 18th-century merchants, they experienced firsthand the high stakes, immense wealth, and deep tragedies that built Britain's global networks. Transforming the classroom into a bustling ocean, students physically travelled between key historical ports—including West Africa, the West Indies, and North America.

At each destination, the roll of a dice decided their fate. A lucky roll might mean a successful trade of cargo or favourable winds, while a poor roll forced them to confront the devastating realities of the era: shipwrecks, tropical diseases, or economic ruin.

By stepping into the shoes of historical figures and navigating these routes themselves, students gained a vivid, active understanding of how the British Empire drove the "Triangular Trade" and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It was a fantastic way to help them grapple with the complex human and economic factors that shaped this crucial period of history.



The Church our Lady Heritage Project

On Wednesday Year 5 swapped their books to take part in The Church of Our Lady Heritage Project. The trip started with a short walk to the Church. When we arrived, year 5 split into 3 groups to investigate different elements of the site:

- The Churchyard: The children examined the headstones, looking at the different styles, family names and Commonwealth Graves.
- The Architecture: Although the Church Of Our Lady is currently being repaired, local experts were able to provide information about the different styles and stone used.
- The Natural Environment: The children investigated the natural wildlife and habitats surrounding the Church. Although tricky to see, they did manage to hear the call of some parakeets.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the children to enhance their local history knowledge, discovering that some of the best stories from the past are written right into the buildings we pass every day.

The volunteers and church staff were incredibly complimentary about Year 5, noting how respectful they were and how many thoughtful, deep questions they asked during the tour.





Here the children are listening to a story by Elizabeth, a storyteller, who will be working with the children in school over the next few weeks. In preparation for this they collected one item from the church yard and wrote some adjectives to describe their object. They then put this into a little jar which they will work with in the story writing workshops.



Beach After School Club

It was den building time at the Beach Club this week. It started off fairly sunny, but by the end of the session everyone was soaked through from the rain. The children were brilliant and didn't complain as they were too focussed on making their den. They worked really well together and their dens stayed up in the strong winds long enough for them to take shelter from the rain.



Year 6 Maths

Our Year 6 mathematicians have been busy sharpening their geometry skills this week with a focused return to calculating the area of triangles. Recognizing that this was a tricky concept requiring a little extra support, the students tackled the challenge head-on. Following some clear step-by-step modeling from their teachers, the children dived enthusiastically into their independent work, showing great focus and determination as they mastered the formulas. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they successfully unlocked this important math milestone!



Year 7 Science

Our Year 7 scientists have been laying the groundwork for some exciting practical work this week by exploring the fascinating differences between chemical and physical changes. The classroom was buzzing with energy, featuring excellent student participation and highly engaged discussions as they learned to spot the signs of a true reaction. We can't wait to see them put their theory into practice next week!



Kindness at Lunchtime!

A huge shout-out to four of our wonderful students who showed fantastic teamwork and community spirit during lunchtime this week. The children worked beautifully together, sharing resources and demonstrating wonderful kindness toward one another while creating some lovely handmade bookmarks. It is always heartwarming to see our students supporting each other and spreading positivity during their free time. Keep up the amazing work!



Stars of the Week:

No celebration assemblies this week - all nominations will be carried forward to next week.

Polo Shirts

Pupils are allowed to wear white polo shirts instead of a shirt and tie for the last half term. They are still expected to wear a school jumper.



Attendance

Please remember to call in or send a message via MCAS if your child is unwell and will not be attending school by 8:30am. It is important that we have evidence for each day your child is absent, even if they were sent home the previous day.

To report an absence via telephone call please dial 0191 2370629, select 4 for Seaton Sluice Middle School, then select 8 to report a student absence.

Please send evidence of medical/dental appointments/medication to ssms@svf.org.uk so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system.

If you are submitting a Leave of Absence request, please ensure any documentation supporting the exceptional circumstances is handed in at the same time as the Leave of Absence form.



This week's whole school attendance (YTD): 91.6%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
94.6%	93.8%	90.3%	88.4%

The current best attending class is: 5N



Dates for the diary:

June 12th SSMS Mock Election with special guest Emma Foody MP

June 16th - y7 Careers workshops

June 17th - Y5 Puberty workshops

June 26th - Y8 Careers Afternoon

July 13th KS3 Metro Centre Trip. **Closing date for bookings 22nd May.**

July 15th Y8 Awards evening - Seaton Valley High School 6-7pm

July 15th - KS2 Adventure Valley Trip. Sign up for your child using this [link](#)

July 16th - Y8 leavers carnival 3.30-5.30pm

July 16th - Trip to Kielder Observatory for Space Club. More details coming soon. If your child attended Space Club and hasn't yet filled in the feedback form on Google Classroom, please ask them to do so as the feedback ensures that there will be funding to allow these wonderful opportunities to continue to be provided in the future. Kielder Observatory have offered SSMS so many amazing experiences that are all free of charge! Adam Shore, our astronomer friend who organises and resources all activities is running the GNR to raise more funds for the Observatory so if you would like to sponsor him, here is the link: [Fundraising for Kielder Observatory](#)

Lunch Account Balance

Please check your child's lunch account balance, and top up as necessary. We will never allow your child to go hungry, and should they not have enough money on their account then we will ensure they are able to buy a Main Meal Deal by granting them a temporary overdraft for that day of £2.60. You will then receive a message via MCAS advising you that you need to top up their account. This temporary overdraft facility will not be extended for additional days and should your child not have enough funds in their account the following day they will only be provided with a basic sandwich and drink. Our expectation is that you will top their account up immediately so they have a positive balance again.

Social Media Channels

Don't forget to keep up to date with everything else on our social media channel.

https://www.instagram.com/seaton_sluice_middle/

Facebook - @Seaton Sluice Middle School

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