



SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS REVIEW

Week Ending: May 22nd, 2026

Summer Term (1) End of Week 5: Read on to get the latest SSMS updates.

Spotlight on....Mrs McSparron!

For over twenty years, Karen McSparron has worked tirelessly to support the children that have attended Seaton Sluice Middle School. Karen started the school as a newly qualified English teacher in 1991 and brought her passion for reading and writing into the classroom.

After three years she left to travel around the world before returning to education, working in Ashington, at the Duke's Middle School in Alnwick and Newminster Middle School in Morpeth. Karen returned to Seaton Sluice Middle School in 2007 and went on to lead the English department before becoming assistant headteacher in charge of KS3. Six years ago, she was promoted to head of school.

Whilst Karen has achieved a lot in her career and is a hugely respected leader within the school and wider community, it is the day to day things that those of us at SSMS will miss the most. Her mission has always been clear: "We are here for the children" and SSMS has evolved into a very nurturing school where the pupils are at the heart of it.



Karen has been very supportive of all the staff at the school, mentoring many of them and has always led by example. She works hard, is approachable and will always help and give her time to others. She has become known as the Mary Poppins of teaching.

Karen has always been involved in all aspects of school life. To name but a few: the fabulous school performances including 'A lad in trouble', dressing up for World book day, organising author visits, working alongside the Zambezi Sunrise Trust where our students have written and received letters from students in Africa, numerous Christmas and summer fairs, school trips and discos, careers fairs and developing the school community garden.

Karen has taught lessons alongside running the school and loves to be in the classroom. She has particularly enjoyed teaching her Y6 English set this year but has fond memories of thousands of students that she has taught over the years. She still gets stopped in the street by ex-students who remember her - they just seem to be getting older these days!

Karen will be a huge miss at Seaton Sluice Middle, however, it is now time for her to retire and focus on herself, family and friends. She loves to go walking, enjoys spending time in her garden and will, of course, be reading lots!

We wish her all the best.



Mrs McSparron - A Tribute

Karen McSparron—now, what a name!

A bouncy, jingly, slightly odd game.

You've run our dear school with such passion and grace,

"A spoonful of sugar" in every place!

You're our Headteacher, so kind and so true,

Who lets us explore all the things we can do.

You trust all your staff to be brave and be bold,

To teach us much more than the lesson books hold.

But even a leader has mysteries to trace,

Like the glasses that vanish from off of your face!

We try not to giggle, we try not to stare,

But Mrs. McSparron—they're right in your hair!

Now, let's talk computers—a bit of a test!

When the screen freezes, you give it your best.

You might give the monitor a hopeful tap,

And wonder if something is wrong with "the app."

And oh, how you type! It's a wonderful sight,

As you hunt for the keys with all of your might.

With one single finger, you peck at the space,

Moving along at a snail's weekly pace!

"Supercalifragilistic" takes half of the day—

By the time you have typed it, we've all gone to play!

Your desk is a sea of bright pink and bright green,

The most colorful office that we've ever seen!

A thousand bright thoughts in a neon array,

Your trusty pink Post-its are leading the way.



"In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun,"

And with your neon squares in hand, the job is always won!

You've been at this school since the dawn of all time,

Way back when the 90s were still in their prime!

You started right here as a new NQT,

And stayed long enough to run the whole property!

You've been here so long, through the highs and the lows,

Did you teach the Victorians? Nobody knows!

"Can you just help me?" a teacher will ask,

And you never say no to a single task.

The requests pile up in big, happy stacks,

Because kindness is one thing that you never lack.

You're **"practically perfect in every way,"**

Leading with love through every school day.

But the final bell's ringing, the register's done,

It's time to step out and enjoy some real fun.

"Let's go fly a kite!" and go kick up your heels,

With no morning briefings or computer deals!

And now for adventure! A new path to trace,

As you set off for Italy—a beautiful place!

With your daughter beside you to wander and roam,

A brilliant new chapter far away from home.

"Winds in the east, there's a mist coming in,

Like something is brewing and about to begin!"

So pack up your bags, it's your time to fly,

With your umbrella held high in the sky!

Though you are retiring, you're leaving a spark,

And you've definitely left a giant Mc-mark!



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Letters to Mrs McSparron

To Mrs McSparron,

Thank you so much for teaching me in year 6 and being my headteacher in year 5.

You have really brought me on academically and even as a person. I don't know how I've done on my SAT's yet but I could most definitely guarantee I would've failed them if it wasn't from you. You've taught me some things I'd never seen before. Even though you have loads of jobs as a headteacher you still somehow manage to organize an amazing English lesson everyday. I look forward to going to your English lesson everyday. You have pushed me hard and kept me motivated during my time here at Seaton Sluice Middle.

You are the headteacher I wished for when I came from first school. Everytime I look at you, you are smiling and joyous which really brightens my day up.

I wish you the best retirement ever and hope you go on to live a happy, healthy, long life. I really do hope you love your next chapter of life.

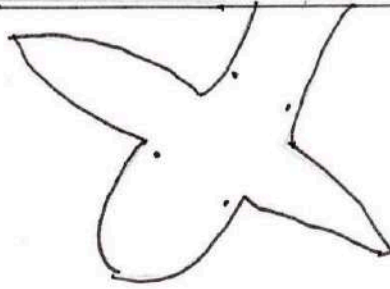
I will never forget you. I also will never forget Mrs McSparron under the table...

From Harrison P



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MRS M'sparlon,
 Ready to help anyone that needs it,
 Smart like Albert Einstien!

Miss you lots,
 Caring, calm,
 Sweet as strawberries,
 Perfect just the way you are,
 A busy bee,
 RRespectful to everyone,
 RReally into travelling and gardening,
 OOften feeding,
 Never will forget the name, Mrs M'sparlon!



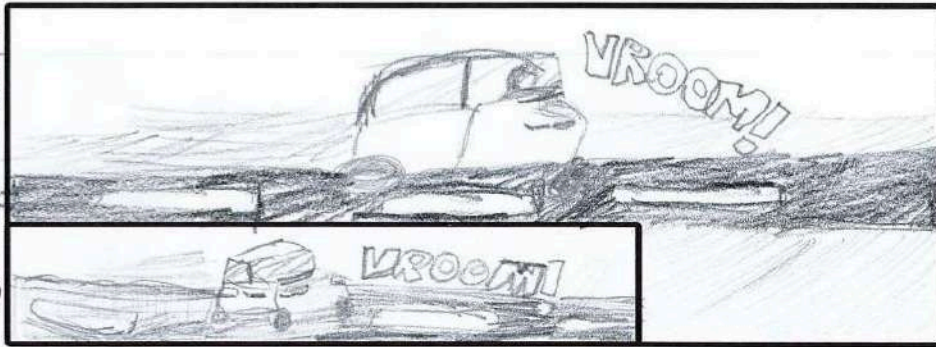
Enjoy your travels and books!



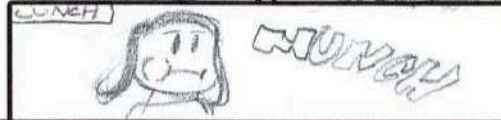
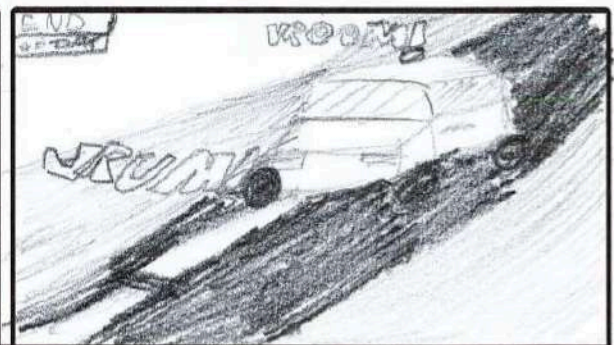
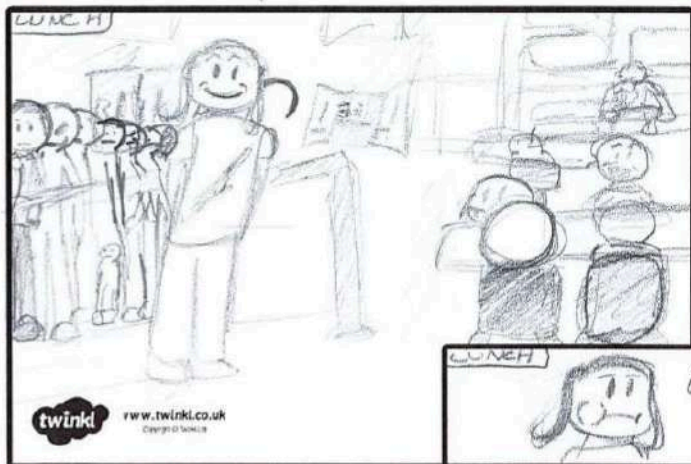
Ms Mesparan: Day in the life



You're a great headteacher!



Have fun in it baby!



Goodbye Ms Mesparan



SUPPORTING & CONNECTING



never forget you

2024-27



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cloud nine



Mrs Mc Sparron



She is a joyful light
 A respectful human
 She is on cloud nine all of the time
 Thunder on a rainy day
 A busy bee
 Powerful like a queen
 Sweet like a strawberry
 Full of kindness!



SUPPORTING & CONNECTING



2024-27



Proud to be a Schools North East Partner School



My light to guide my future
 Responsible queen, Standing up Straight
 Sweet as a panda

Madness to thunder
 Caring koda
 Smart octopus
 Powerful Queen
 Ability to rule the world
 Reading superhero
 Respectful, Determined head teacher
 Observant bird, flying high
 Nothing but kindness!

Sweet panda!

My head teacher
 Ready to work
 Super strong

Marvelous at reading
 Certain as a fortune teller
 Sweet as chocolate
 Perseverance in every way
 Always happy
 Ready to make someone happy
 Really confident
 Obligated to work
 Never strict



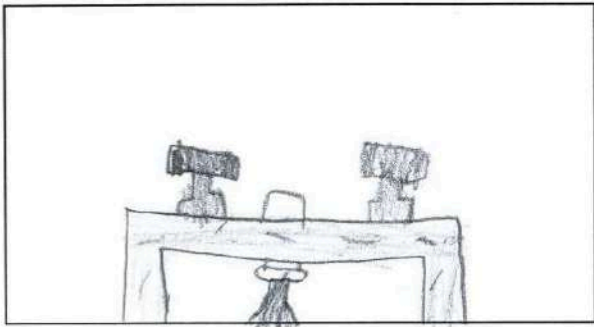
Mrs McSparron,
 Respectful and smart,
 Super in English,

Makes you happy when you're sad,
 Cold drinks on a summers day,
 Sweet as strawberries,
 Please and thank you, you are so kind,
 A busy bee,
 Really could not have been a better teacher,
 Reading books all day long,
 Only you, nobody else could be better
 Never have you ever had a job like this!



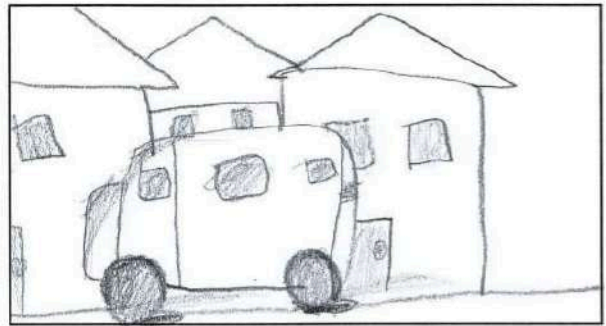
Mrs McSpotton has left the school!!

Head teacher Mrs McSpotton has left Seaton Sluice middle school, but why? You may ask. She has decided to retire from being in this school long enough.



The chair is empty and up for grabs, it's a secret until next week. Who shall take it?

Who will be the new head teacher? Well, we have yet to find out, but once the week off ends. A new teacher might be there, but for now, it's a mystery.



The school has erupted as the car leaves the parking lot.

Message from Mrs McSparron

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has sent cards, messages, gifts, and kind wishes on my retirement. Your thoughtfulness and generosity have meant more to me than I can fully put into words.

It has been an enormous privilege to work in this school community and to work alongside such dedicated staff and wonderful pupils. Looking back, I feel incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished together. I will carry many happy memories with me into retirement.

Thank you once again for your generous good wishes and for allowing me to be part of such a special community. I wish you all every success and happiness for the future.

Karen McSparron

Stars of the Week:

Y5- Matilda H, Aaron S, Freya K, Francesca M

Y6- Thomas W, Florence L, Alanah B, Darcie Rae R, Frankie L, Arran B, Jack R

Y7- Daisy G - for her fundraising and charity work

Y8- Jack Ma - for his award winning art work

Polo Shirts

From Monday, June 1st, pupils will be 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): 91.7%



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
94.6%	93/9%	90.3%	88.5%

The current best attending class is: 5 North

Dates for the diary:

June 1st - School reopens

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

Links to external agencies are provided in good faith. We do not take any responsibility for the content of these links.

