



SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWS REVIEW

Week Ending January 30th, 2026

Spring Term (1) End of Week 4: Read on to get the latest SSMS updates.

Spotlight on Science:

Year 5 Science

During our Materials and their Properties topic, Year 5 pupils have been investigating how to speed up the rate of evaporation. Pupils made predictions about what they knew about the evaporation already, such as drying clothes/paint. Following this we set up apparatus to compare the rate of evaporation for beakers with and without a lid, containers with different sized openings and containers kept in different temperatures. The children were then able to conclude which conditions increased the speed of evaporation.



Another experiment was testing to see how long a candle would stay alight after covering it with different sized beakers. Most children predicted that the larger beaker would allow the flame to remain for the longest time and discovered that it was because of the amount of oxygen. We looked at the fire triangle but this raised some interesting questions. Bailey (5E) asked, 'If a fire needs oxygen then why does it go out when we blow on a candle, yet we also blow on it to help start the fire?' This prompted some fascinating discussions!

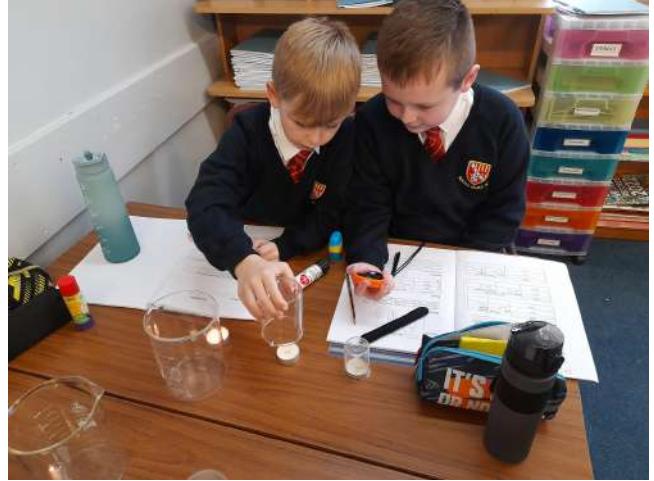


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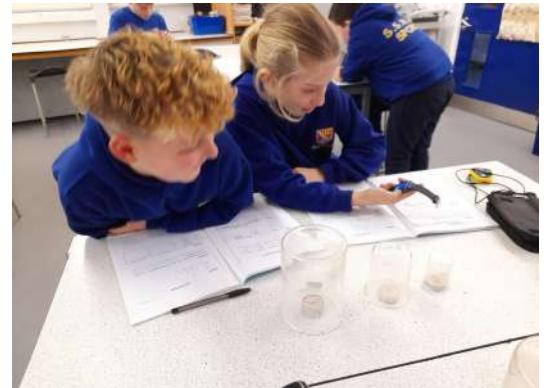


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Within our topic, we have also been looking at reversible and irreversible changes. After looking at the change of state of ice into water then into water vapour, pupils then used mirrors to condense the vapour into a liquid again. Pupils were able to draw on their experience of condensation on windows and in their bathrooms at home. Investigating chocolate was a popular experiment! Melting it in foil then watching it solidify again was not as enjoyable as melting it on their tongue!



Ivar (5N) highlighted, 'Melting wax is another reversible change' but we wondered if this was true for candles so using a very sensitive scale, we measured the mass of a burning candle over time and discovered a chemical reaction took place as the mass decreased, therefore this was an irreversible change. Rosy (5S), a very promising scientist gave an amazing explanation, 'There could be air in the candle that is released so the mass goes down.'



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Continuing our quest to find more irreversible changes, we mixed more reactants and produced a cake which was another popular experiment when we tasted the results!



Year 6 Science

Some of our Year 6 pupils have been considering what causes shadows this week and are planning an investigation into what affects the size of a shadow. We will carry out our investigation in our lesson next week.



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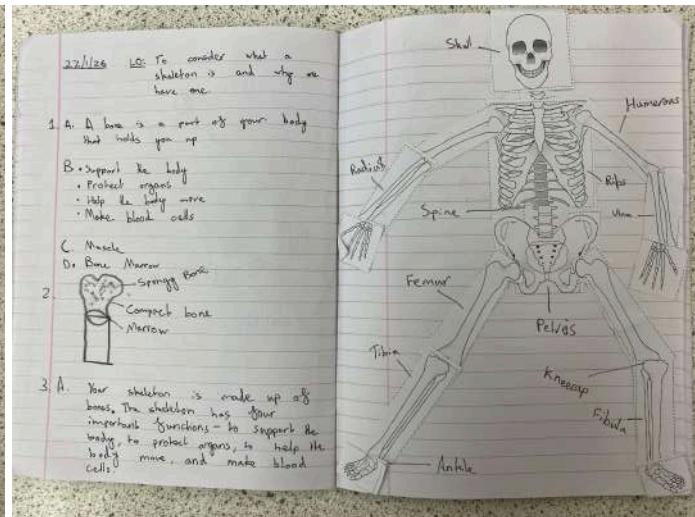
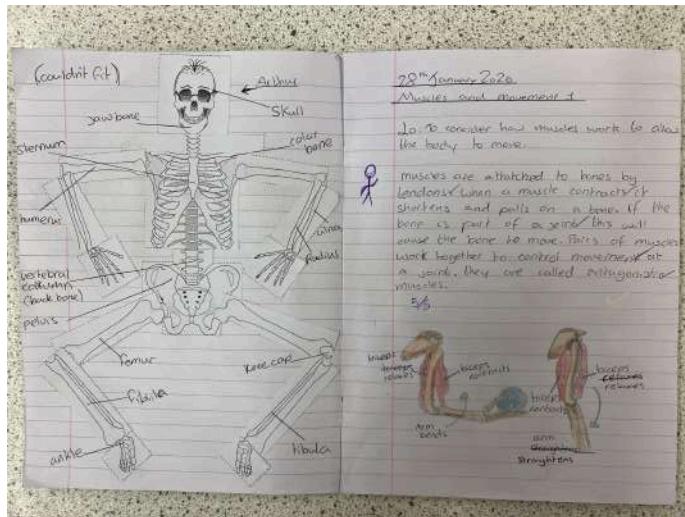


Year 7 Science

Our Year 7 pupils have been continuing their Biology topic this week, focussing on “Living Organisms”. Pupils in 7North have been learning about plant and animal cells. This week they have been acting as scientists preparing a plant cell slide to view under a microscope.



Pupils in 7 East and 7 South have been considering how our skeletons, muscles and joints all work together to allow us to move and live active lives. They have produced some excellent book work to show their learning and understanding.



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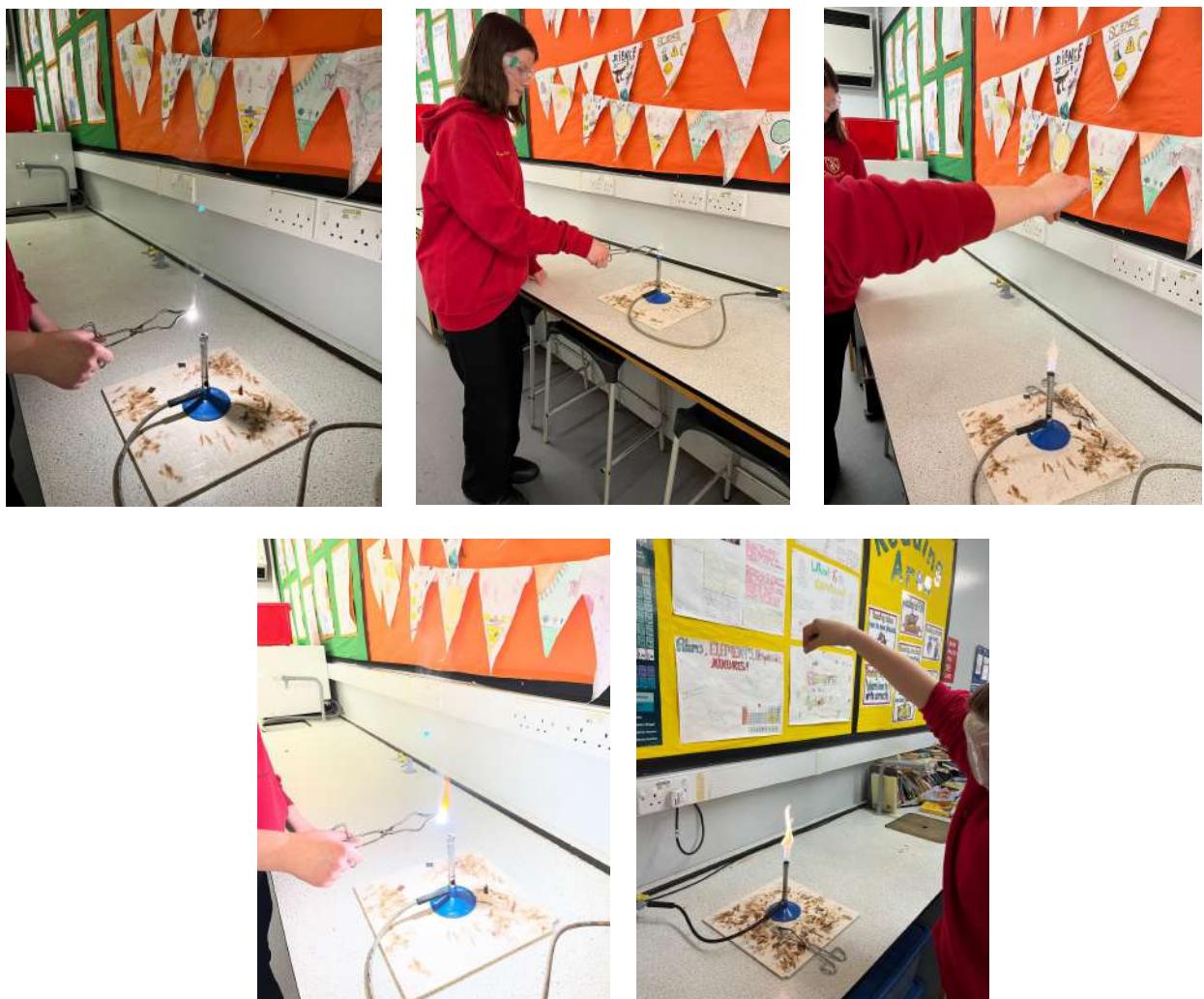


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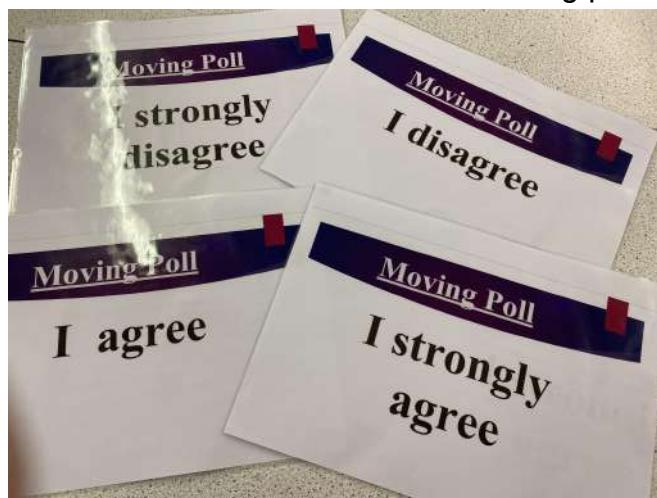


Year 8 Science

Year 8 pupils are studying Chemistry this term and all of the classes have used the Bunsen burners to carry out chemical reactions to join simple elements to produce new compounds, often with spectacular effects.



Year 8 have also been considering the importance of understanding Chemistry and not taking all information presented to us at face value. We carried out a moving poll and many pupils were surprised by the outcome.



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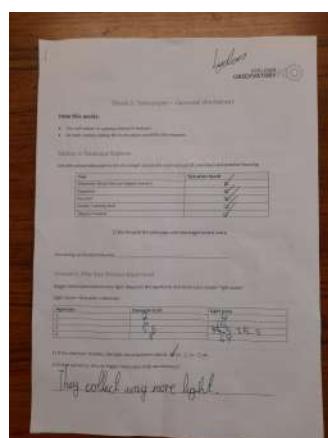


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Space Club

KS2 has been meeting every Monday to do a variety of activities following presentations from astronomers from Kielder Observatory. Last week, the children made their own planispheres which they can use to view objects in the sky and to identify which constellations will be visible at different times of the year. This week, club members have been exploring telescopes but doing mini experiments with lenses, mirrors, apertures and discovering how to use a real telescope. In the coming weeks, we are looking forward to more presentations and practical activities. The children will be making models of the solar system and making an eclipse viewer which they can test during the partial solar eclipse on 13th August! Other activities include, Aurora artwork with chalk, building satellites, experiments to discover the impact of asteroids, looking at light by making things with UV beads and using diffraction glasses. Each child fills in a Mission Log to track their progress. The STEM project will end with a trip to Kielder Observatory! There are still places available in Space Club so please use the link below to sign up for your child.



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The school has registered with the Royal Academy of Arts website. They are running a competition for pupils aged 4-18. If any pupils would like to submit their artwork they can do this before 4th March 5pm. The link is <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

Stars of the Week:

Y5 - Ella H, Caleb B-M, Owen R, Isaac D, Oliver C
Y6 - Frankie L, Charlie T, Frankeeey F, Bobby H, Lydon E
Y7 - Leighton OB
Y8 - Grayson J

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): 92.0%

| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 94.9% | 94.3% | 90.2% | 89.2% |

The current best attending class is: 5 North

Dates for the diary:

Mondays, weekly - Space Club for Y5 and Y6 pupils at 3.30pm-4.30pm. Spaces still available. Follow this link to: [Sign up for Space Club](#)

6.2.26 - Feel Good Friday

6.2.26 - NSPCC Number Day (more info to follow)

12.2.26 - PTFA Valentine's Disco - 6 to 7.30pm

24.2.26 - Arrival of our chick eggs in Year 5.

Social Media Channels

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



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

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