



SSMS Newsletter

Autumn (2)



Royal British Legion

Many thanks to all who donated to the Remembrance Day poppy appeal for the Royal British Legion. We raised £124.53!



Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024 and here we are at the end of another busy term. There have been all sorts of exciting things going on, in and out of the classroom, including stargazing, an author visit, the Christmas fair, the school show, 'Aladdin Trouble'; this half-term's newsletter highlights just some of these.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of the staff at SSMS, to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and peaceful new year.

Mrs McSparron

'Aladdin Trouble'

December saw the performance of 'Aladdin Trouble'! The cast worked really hard for many weeks, giving up their lunchtimes and time after school to practise! The hard work paid off as the performance was a huge success and they wowed their audiences with their acting, singing and dancing talents. Well done!





Stargazer Event

On Wednesday 11th December, there was an exciting Stargazing Event at SSMS. Astronomers from Kielder Observatory visited again with their inflatable planetarium to deliver stimulating sessions to our Year 6 during the afternoon then stayed after school hours with vast telescopes to allow parents and pupils to experience the night sky. Unfortunately, a clear sky was not to be and clouds prevented the outdoor stargazing. However, the indoor planetarium meant that many could still receive an amazing experience of the night sky from our experts! Activities were also set up to engage our children: rocket making, UV bead bracelet making, constellation designs, ray box exploration, light spectrum glasses and an infrared camera. Having an expert to answer all fascinating questions was brilliant, as well as the impressive telescope to see. The astronomers even brought pieces rocks and meteorites to see; it was mind blowing to discover that we actually had pieces of the moon and mars in one of our very own classrooms! These precious, small pieces were worth more than gold! Our Young Enterprise took the opportunity to develop their businesses to cater for their new cliental and worked hard to achieve great success. What a wonderful way to end our Autumn term.



Mrs Middlemiss

A group of Year 6 pupils travelled to the Tyne Theatre to support Bo, our acting star! Bo starred as Tiny Tim in the Tyne Theatre's A Christmas Carol. His performance was spectacular and the show was enjoyed by all. At the end of the show, Bo greeted us as we left so we could congratulate our celebrity friend!



Mrs Middlemiss

Cultural Day - Year 6

On Thursday 24th October, Year 6 were lucky enough to be involved in a Cultural Day where they took part in some fantastic workshops throughout the day, where they were encouraged to continue to recognise and appreciate the world we live in.



A big thank you to the five visitors we had in school to help make the day so special. They had such a lovely time that they want to come along next year!

We had visitors from The Islamic Diversity Centre who talked to us about the beliefs and values within the Islamic community. The children enjoyed learning about this from the experts!



Kirtida told us all about Hindu beliefs and customs. The children loved dressing in some of the fabulous clothes she brought in with her.

Amaradaya, visited us from Newcastle Buddhist Society, and he gave us a fantastic insight into the beliefs of Buddhists and brought along some fantastic artefacts for us to see.



Sarah, from Boom Samba Drumming Workshops gave the children a fantastic opportunity to experience Samba Drumming. It was very loud, but great fun and it the children showed they all had fantastic rhythm!

Cultural Day cont'd...

Our very talented Mrs Smith delivered a creative workshop based around artefacts from different religions. The children worked so hard and managed to create some fantastic models with clay.



It is a huge thank you to all the visitors who helped to make the day so special. Everyone had so much fun on the day so we are going to do it again next year.

Mrs Cassidy

Key Stage 2 Author Visit - Thursday, 14th November

Key Stage 2 were visited by author of The Beast and The Bethany series, Jack Meggit-Phillips where he talked to the children about the books and the characters in them. His books were on sale on the day and Jack kindly signed these after the event.

This visit was followed up a week later by a Creative Writing Workshop for a group of our Key Stage 2 pupils, led by Tearlach Duncanson, who worked with the children to create characters and ideas for their own stories.



All the children ended the session with some fantastic ideas and are keen to develop these into stories of their own.

Mrs Cassidy



Earlier in the term, our students took part in the Times table Rockstars competition, *England rocks*. As a school, we competed against nearly 4,500 other schools across the country and came 1035th, an improvement of over 700 places on last year. The North East also came top of the nine regions in the UK.

Well done to the following students who were the top 3 in each of their maths classes:

Year 5 Year 6 Year 7 Year 8

Alfie P William D Noah C Mason H
Abdul R Jack R Noah W Lauren J
Evie H Leila S Daisy H Jackson B
Joey C George S Leighton O Jacob B
Lily W Ethan C Hannah D Ava D
Willem H Orlaith S Isaac W Oscar C
Betsy E Molly Grace C Aimee D Connor K
Jack H Ava M Gabrielle K Lily P
Alice C Lacey H Dominic H Olivia G
Alice L Josh D Liam B
Emily S Ryan C Finley M
Tillie M Ruby R Freddie V

The above students all received a certificate and the overall top three students below, also received a prize: 1st: Alfie P 2nd: Mason H 3rd: Abdul R

Mr Porter



The Theatre Space came into school and gave Y7 a performance about sustainable travel. Through drama, we learned about climate change and better, more environmentally friendly, ways to get around, such as bikes, scooters and walking. We also learned about how using sustainable travel helps improve our physical health too.

Mrs Elliott



PTFA Updates

A big thank you to all parents and pupils who have supported the following events. We have been thrilled with the amounts of money raised for the school.

Halloween disco:

£367.60



Christmas Fair:

£1,970.80

This year we have also arranged to give a selection box to every child in school for Christmas.

Bebras Computing Challenge 2024

In November the whole school took part in the Bebras Challenge, which introduces the concept of computational thinking to solve problems.

All students put in a fantastic effort but special recognition must go to the following students, who scored within the top 10% nationally:

Oliver B

Johnny C

Oscar W

Jackson B

Mason H (Also best in school!)

Very well done to everyone involved.

Mrs Mason

Fun Run 2024

What a fantastic afternoon we all had the day of the whole school Fun Run. It was fantastic to see our whole school community running and walking along to Blyth Bandstand, some of them dressed up for fun. We had a mix of elite runners as well as pupils who dressed up

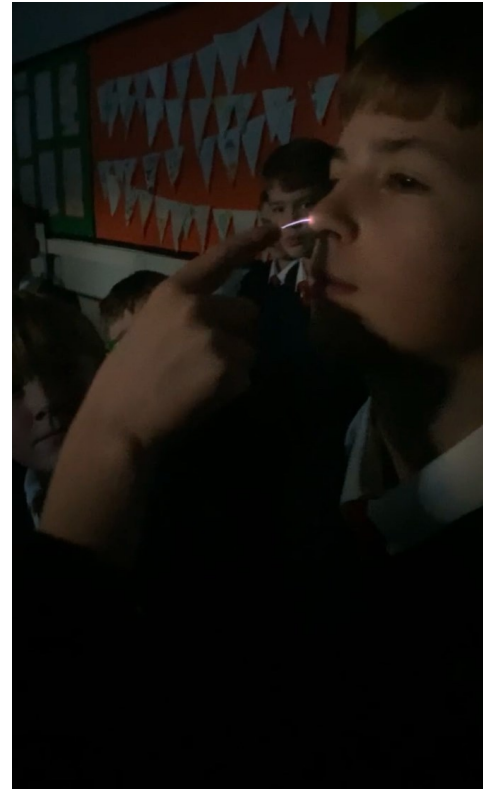


A huge well done to the elite runners who ran the whole distance. Congratulations to Joey C in Y7 for recording the fastest time of all the boys running, at 26.33 minutes and April K-N for recording the fastest time out of all the girls running, at 31.3minutes.

We raised £1760.93, which is a fantastic amount! Everyone who raised money was entered into a draw for some prizes. Well done to the following winners:



Jake G, Alexa W, Harrison J, Lewis A, Jack M and Georgie P.



Year 7 pupils had great fun learning about and experiencing static electricity using the Van de Graff generator in Science this term.

Mrs Cook

Wraparound Childcare

As you may be aware, we have been trying to identify a third party provider to deliver an after school provision from 3:30pm each day. We have approached several organisations who have all concluded that the level of interest from parents doesn't make it viable for them to do this. Apologies to anyone who might have been considering this for their child. We will send out a questionnaire each term and if more families indicate they are interested, this is something we might be able to offer in future. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that our breakfast club is open from 8:00am every morning during term time, at a cost of £2 per session. This cost includes breakfast for your child e.g. bagels, toast etc. The breakfast club is run by the school and staffed by existing members of staff, and can be booked using MCAS, under the 'Wraparound Care' section of the app.

Ben Watson, Business Director



Y6 and Y7 pupils took part in some workshops about anti-bullying and keeping themselves safe whilst out in the community. Dave Burn who led the workshops, said the pupils had enjoyed the workshops, listened attentively and had all learned something about keeping themselves and each other safe. He was very impressed by their mature attitude.

Mrs Mills



On Tuesday 17th December, Key Stage 2 went to the Tyne Theatre to see the Pantomime, Snow White. There was laughter, screaming, shouting and singing with all pupils and staff having a fabulous time. Twist and Pull were a highlight with their incredible dance moves to some popular music so our pupils took delight in singing along! Our lovely Year 5, Daisy got the opportunity to go on stage to meet Muddles with a massive cheering support from our school. What a wonderful way to start the Christmas celebrations!

Mrs Middlemiss

Message for Y5 parents:

Please add your consent for photos to be taken in school and used in publications/on the website etc. You can do this via MCAS App.

Dates for the Diary:

December 20th— school closes for Christmas at 1pm

January 6th, 2025— Teacher training Day

January 7th, 2025 — pupils return to school

January 21st and 29th — KS2 Parents' Evenings

