



SSMS Newsletter

Autumn (2)



In November, Key Stage 3 took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge which introduces computational thinking to students. All students who participated performed really well; particular mention must go to Jude and Olive in 7 South whose results were in the top 10% nationally and they have been invited to take part in the 2024 Oxford University Computing Challenge in January.

Mrs Mason

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2023 and it's been another very busy half-term. We have celebrated Remembrance, been involved in maths and computing challenges, displayed artwork locally, as well as having a very successful Christmas fair and wonderful school show, 'Cinderella and Rockerfella'.

This half-term's newsletter will give you a snapshot of some of the fantastic things the pupils have been involved in.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of the school and to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Mrs McSparron



Zambezi Sunrise Trust

This year SSMS has started supporting the Zambezi Sunrise Trust, which is a charity working to help children in Linda Community School, Livingston, in Zambia.



One of our Y7 pupils, Mason, wrote to the children to introduce our school to them and we received a letter and photos in return.

All Y7 pupils have now written a letter to pupils in Linda Community School and we hope to be able to meet and chat to them via a live video link in the Spring.



In addition, we have donated some money from our fundraising and helped them to buy new stools for their science lab.



Representatives from the charity also had a stall at the Christmas fair and raised over £150 selling items made by local women in Zambia.



For more info about this charity, see: zambezisunrisetrust.co.uk



Positive Noticing Day

November 15th saw SSMS celebrating Positive Noticing Day. This is a day where schools up and down the country make a conscious effort to identify something positive about another pupil. All pupils were given a label on which to write a positive comment about someone else and give it to them. Pupils then got to display their comments and these are just a few examples of pupils and their labels.



Bikeability

Many of our pupils cycle to and from school so we are lucky to be able to offer the Bikeability course for our youngest children to develop their cycling skills and road safety awareness. Despite the wet and windy week, on 13th November, 32 of our Year 5 children opted to take part. Level 1 was based in the playground where the children were taught how to maintain their bike, be in control, be aware of their surroundings and even learn to pedal one handed! Those children who had the skills and confidence then went on to do Level 2 which is quite a big step as it is riding on the roads. The children learn how to start and stop with more confidence, pass stationary vehicles, understand road signs/markings and share the road with other vehicles. Most of the children embraced the challenges and showed great resilience; particularly when the weather continued to be so miserable! At the end of the week, all children received a certificate and badge to recognise their individual successes. We were thrilled with their efforts and dedication. Instructors were particularly proud of Kai T and Kobi B, who had exceptional skills on the roads!

Mrs Middlemiss



Remembrance

To commemorate Remembrance Day, SSMS pupils were asked to produce some artwork to be part of a display in the Keel Row Shopping Centre in Blyth. Pupils produced some outstanding work (see photos below). According to the organiser, staff were asked many times if the artwork was for sale as they were so impressed and genuinely wanted to purchase them.

The Royal British Legion raised over £1000 more than last year's appeal in the Blyth Community and SSMS raised £157.64.

Well done to all our budding artists!



Miss Gibson



Newcastle Eagles

Following training sessions with ex-Eagle player Louis Sayers, year 6 braved a cold and snowy Friday night to take part in the Thunder in the Valley basketball tournament. Despite both teams playing their socks off, Sluice Warriors just missed out on a place in the final with the Blue & White Army close behind them.

Following the tournament, everyone stayed behind to watch a tense match between the Eagles and the Surrey Scorchers. Unfortunately, they just missed out on a win with the final score being 88-93.

We couldn't be prouder of our basketball team: they were wonderful representatives of SSMS; behaviour, as always, was impeccable; and the pupils worked hard during the games showing we have a very talented team. We are already thinking about next year - watch this space!

Miss Curry



Cinderella and Rockerfella

The cast and choir of Cinderella and Rockerfella wowed audiences with their acting and singing in two spectacular performances to parents and carers. A huge well done to all involved, particularly Izzy, Jake, Bo, Matilda, Ellie-Jo and Thomas for being amazing in their leading roles.



Primary Maths Challenge

Well done to 60 children who took part in the recent primary maths challenge, a problem solving maths paper. The following students are the certificate winners in each year group.

Y5 **Bronze**— Grayson, Harrison, Thomas H, Finley M, Lola, Emily T **Silver**—Reuben, **Gold** —Bo

Y6 **Bronze**— Erin, Oliver **Silver**—Johnny, Sophia **Gold**— Sam P

Times tables Rockstars 'England Rocks'

Overall winner—Mason H in Y7!

Mr Porter

Dates for the Diary:

December 22nd— school closes for Christmas at 1.30pm

January 8th—Teacher training Day

January 9th—pupils return to school

January 14th— Remembrance of New Hartley Pit Disaster

January 23rd and 31st— KS2 parents' evening