



SSMS Newsletter

Spring 2025 (1)

NSPCC Number day and If U Care, Share

Many thanks to all who contributed on our non-uniform day for these charities. We raised a total of £182. This will be divided equally between the two.

SSMS

INSIDE OUT



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025.

Another busy half-term has come and gone, filled with all sorts of exciting opportunities and experiences for our children. Read on to see just a few of the highlights!

Mrs McSparron

The Battle of Hastings 2024

Year 7 students have been learning about the Norman Conquest of 1066 this year, so it seemed like an excellent idea to immerse ourselves in the world of the battle by re-enacting it on the yard just before Christmas. I was hugely impressed by those students who went to a great deal of time and effort to build weapons and armour for their homework - there were some truly impressive pieces constructed, and I'm very grateful to those parents who'd obviously helped and advised. I'm sure that the children would agree that they learned a lot about The Battle of Hastings from the whole experience, as well as having a lot of fun.

Mrs McCloskey



Y5 visit to Kielder Observatory

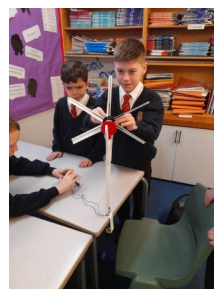
On Monday 10th February, our Key Stage 2 Space Club went to Kielder Observatory. Although it was a long journey, the children had a great time and were incredibly impressed by the many telescopes and presentations by the astronomers. Unfortunately, the snowy weather meant that stargazing was not possible but the virtual experience was still fascinating. Not only were the children able to touch and observe various space rocks but they were able to stand on Mars and touch the moon! At the end of the trip, the children were able to purchase souvenirs to remember the exciting experience!



Mrs Middlemiss

Green Careers Workshop

Connor Thompson from Northumberland College came in to deliver a whole school assembly and workshops to all our year six cohort. Mr Thompson introduced our year group to a range of careers within the green sector. The workshops were very well received by our pupils who put together wind turbines and tested them in small groups. We have some pupils who are really interested in green sector jobs after the workshops. Thank you Mr Thompson for inspiring our young people.



Mrs Allison



Young Enterprise

Pupils in Key Stage 2 have been involved in an exciting opportunity with Virgin Money's scheme, 'Make £5 Grow'. With Jeff Bezos for inspiration, all children who were interested were asked to form groups to develop their ideas then give presentations in a 'Dragon's Den' style. The most promising businesses were selected and pupils in the groups were each given £5 to spend. The businesses completed market research, selected and purchased items, then began their production lines. One business even employed an IT specialist to produce an online order form! We are incredibly proud of our entrepreneurs who have managed to make an impressive £532.55 profit. The winners were the business 'Pink Tropical Pineapples' with a massive profit of £170.77! The successful team sold a range of products such as, mystery bags, bracelets and their own lip scrubs. The project allowed all teams to develop brilliant business skills which we know they will take into their future employments!



Mrs Middlemiss and Mr Porter



Zambezi Sunrise Trust

In January, Year 7 pupils wrote letters to the children who attend Linda Community School in Zambia and on Friday 14th February, 7N took part in a video call to their pen-pals in Zambia. It was a great experience and we learned a lot about Zambia. Before our call, we prepared 10 questions. We were surprised to learn that it was 29 degrees at 1pm, that the children walked up to 1.5 hours to and from school everyday and that an elephant entered the school grounds and ate a banana tree causing lots of damage!

Some of the questions that we asked were:

What or who are your inspirations?

What is your favourite meal? What would you like to do when you are older?



Mrs Elliott

KS2 Space Club

Space Club has been a huge success! There has been so much interest that the club is maxed out to 30 pupils. Every Thursday, after school our Key Stage 2 children join other schools to enjoy a live presentation from an astronomer from Kielder Observatory. Inspired by the various topics, the children are always excited to put forward their questions and receive expert answers live in the classroom! Following the presentation, activities are always very practical and creative. Whilst learning about different aspects of space, members of the club have designed and made their own planet, built and launched rockets, explored the night sky constellations using stellarium, created artwork to display satellite impacts in the sky, made spectroscopes, and designed and built their own satellites, rovers, landers and lunar bases. As well as all of the activities, our space club have been roleplaying as members of a Space Agency, completing their mission logs themed around different aspects of space exploration and engineering and tracking their progress by collecting stickers. It has been an enjoyable experience for all!

Mrs Middlemiss





New Hartley Pit Disaster Memorial Service.

Sunday, January 19th, was the annual memorial service for the New Hartley Hester pit disaster. This year, some of our Y5 pupils took part in the singing at the service and there was a display of their art work in the Memorial hall afterwards., along with refreshments and some singing from local folk groups.



Pupil achievements outside of school



Huge congratulations to Matthew E in Y8, who, during the Christmas holidays, competed at national level playing ice-hockey for England.

His team won all 4 of their games, taking the cup for the tournament! On a personal level, Matthew picked up 2 points for 2 goal assists, which is a fantastic achievement!

Dates for the Diary:

- Friday, February 21st** – school closes for half-term
- Monday, March 3rd**— return to school
- Tuesday, March 4th**—KS3 Parents' Evening 4-6pm
- Thursday, March 6th**— World Book Day
- Wednesday, March 12th** – KS3 Parents' Evening 4-6pm
- Friday, March 21st**—Comic Relief
- Thursday, April 10th** – school closes for Easter