



SSMS Newsletter

Spring (1)



Huge congratulations to Lauren in Y7, who won a Youth Sports Award at #LoveCramlington Awards for her skills in tennis! Well done— a future Wimbledon winner?

A recent KS3 assembly was delivered by Matthew Whitehead APO, from Blyth Air Cadets to recruit KS3 students to join the Blyth Squadron. Some of the amazing things you can do with the Cadets are: Use our flight simulator/gaming suite, gain knowledge of aviation, teamwork and leadership, achieve recognised qualifications, learn fieldcraft, adventure and survival training, go flying/gliding, practice target shooting, take part in sports.



Mrs Elliott

Well, here we are mid-way through February and already the nights are getting lighter, the weather is getting warmer (mmm...perhaps not!) but Spring is definitely on its way.

This half-term has been another enjoyable and active one, with all sorts of learning going on inside and outside of the classroom. I am delighted to share some of the opportunities and experiences the children have participated in and hope you enjoy reading about them.

Mrs McSparron

In Year 5, Daisy and Joshua were so enthused by stories, they requested to run a weekly book club for Y5 pupils. The club has been very popular so far and the children have been reading, discussing books and writing their own stories. We are so pleased to share a love for books and reading with our Year 5 pupils!



Mrs Middlemiss



Maths Mentors

Since the Autumn term, we have had a number of KS3 students supporting Y6 children with maths. The students volunteered to help and work with Y6 twice per week during afternoon registration to build the confidence of Y6 in areas like times tables and arithmetic. This also helps the mentors as they are having to think of different ways of explaining concepts. Well done to them for being excellent mentors and also to Y6 for working hard!

Money Charity Workshops

All our KS3 pupils have taken part in money management sessions offered by the money charity. To be savvy consumers, Y7 had to learn about how banks work, the difference between debit and credit cards and how to look out for the best deals in shops. Y8 had sessions on credit and savings, looking at the consequences of getting into debt and how to create a savings plan. We hope this will help them in the future.

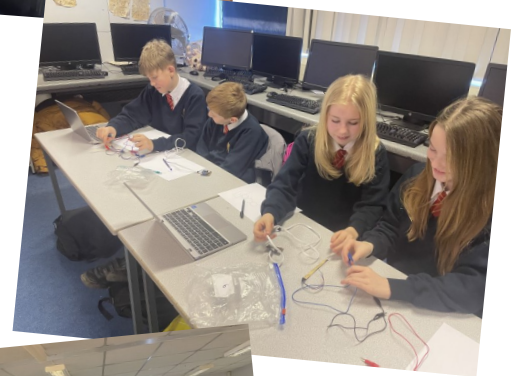
NSPCC Number Day

We held NSPCC Number day for KS2 on Friday 2nd February. The children were encouraged to 'dress up for digits' and wear something with numbers on or create a numerical costume. In lessons, the children either competed in a Times Tables Rockstars competition against each other and other schools or undertook a 'Trophy thief' challenge where they had to solve problems to find out the thief in Arithmetown! In total, we've raised £166.73 for the NSPCC so thank you to all the students who donated, including KS3 children.

Mr Porter

STEM computing workshop for year 7.

Students were learning about university, and computer science. They worked in pairs to program a Microbit. Making the LEDs change colour and flash. They used the Chromebooks to write code, they had to use their programming, teamwork and communication skills to complete the tutorials.



Mrs Elliott





Well-being mentors

To raise awareness and promote positive well-being across school we have a new peer support group ready to launch. Last term, the key stage 3 well-being mentors were involved in workshops including St John's Ambulance, Mental Health First Aid training and Helping Hands training in order to prepare them for their new roles. These workshops have given the well-being mentors lots of ideas and plans to help boost well-being as well as providing them with strategies to support those who may need it. Alesha and Matilda, two year 8 mentors commented, 'the training was really useful and made us realise the importance of positive wellbeing. We are looking forward to being mentors and helping others.' Watch this space for more information being shared in the coming weeks.

Miss Morgan

Reminder: Uniform

I would like to draw parents' attention to the uniform policy for the school, which is available on our website, particularly with regard to footwear, skirt length, jewellery, false nails/lashes, hair styles and fake tan.

Shoes for school should be **leather-type** material that can be polished, with no obvious branding.

Skirts should be **knee length** and non-stretch material.

Fake nails, lashes, false tan, obvious make-up are not allowed.

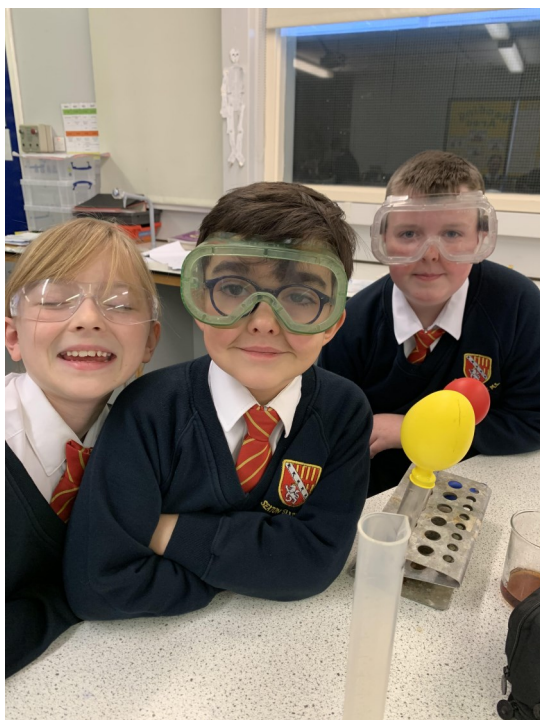
The only jewellery allowed is a watch and a single stud earring in each lobe.

Hair should be a natural colour; for those with short hair, no shaved patterns are allowed.

We have always been very proud of how smart our pupils are but we are seeing an increasing number of pupils not following the uniform guidelines and this makes it unfair on those who do.

We would very much appreciate your support in maintaining our high standards.

Mrs McSparron



5 North had fun investigating some irreversible changes in science.

Mrs Cook



I adore politics. I find it endlessly fascinating to watch, read about, and talk about, on all sides of the political spectrum. Sometimes it inspires me; other times it maddens and frustrates me. It never bores me. What is inescapable is that it impacts every single area of our lives, whether we want it to or not.

Feeling as passionately as I do, I am beyond delighted to have been a successful applicant for the UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Programme.

To kick-start the programme, I spent three days working at the Houses of Parliament in London, with the other teacher ambassadors from all across the country - from the Highlands of Scotland, all the way down to Cornwall. We were given access to all kinds of amazing places that the public wouldn't usually be allowed to visit, and we met a wide range of amazing people who work there. I learned an incredible amount, and was truly inspired by the tales of the people who work in the Commons, the Lords, at the Supreme Court, as part of select committees, in ceremonial and security jobs, and a multitude of other roles - most of whom never saw themselves in the jobs they currently hold, and all of whom are passionate about getting young people to become more engaged and to make a difference.

Now that I'm back in our lovely school, my job is to get our children even more informed about and connected with what happens in Parliament and beyond. I'm aiming to secure us a very prestigious Gold Award for being Parliamentary Ambassadors, but (far more importantly) to help our children to see that they play a very important role in the democracy of our country.

Watch this space for all kinds of exciting events heading their way!

Mrs McCloskey



SSMS Food Champions

We have a new cohort of School Food Champions. They are ready to tackle food inequalities and make positive changes in our school and around the community. Over the following few months, the SFC will be working hard, campaigning for a better canteen system, healthier food and drinks. They have already met with our Head of School, Mrs McSparron, Executive Head, Mr Barnes, Business Director, Mr Watson and the catering staff to gather their views and opinions on what changes need to be made. They will be conducting surveys from the pupils and parents in the near future to find out their views. An exciting time is ahead for our SFC.

Mrs Allison



THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS 2024

Year 7 students have been learning about the Norman Conquest of 1066 this term, so it seemed like an excellent idea to immerse ourselves in the world of the battle by re-enacting it on the yard. 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

SEN Updates

We will be holding an SEN coffee afternoon for parents on the 12th March from 2pm till 3.30. This is an opportunity for you to come into school and informally chat with the SEN team, meet other parents and engage in some light hearted games with your children. Please keep the date free and look for invites being sent out to all parents of SEN children in the first week back.

Our SEN bungalow has now been up and running since September and is proving to be a huge success with the children. The Sensory room has given many children time and space and has supported many individuals sensory needs, on those occasions when they have been struggling. Many children are benefitting from the quieter but supported space during unstructured times.

We have been successful in receiving a couple of grants which have also allowed us to purchase, in recent months, a variety of SEN resources to support sensory needs, materials for interventions, activities for unstructured times and outdoor sports equipment for around the bungalow.

Additionally with the grant money we have purchased some outside furniture, a greenhouse, bird feeders and some raised beds. As the better and warmer weather arrives the SEN children will be involved in a number of gardening projects to support the community garden, the outdoor wildlife area, along with creating a small allotment area garden space around the bungalow itself.

Ms Tennant

We are always thrilled to celebrate Y5 successes and achievements out of school. Erin B has been playing well for her football club and was awarded with the 'Player of the Match' trophy after being nominated by the coach from the opposition. Olivia R and Evvey D have been awarded some magnificent trophies in their recent dance exams. Both girls were also awarded with several certificates and more trophies for their achievements in ballet, tap and jazz dancing.



Mrs Middlemiss

Another busy sporting half term! The two highlights were a Multiskills final and a Kurling competition.

6N took part in the Multiskills School Games final on the 26th January. We competed against 9 other schools in balancing, catching and running based activities. Despite everyone trying their best, we just missed out on making first place. We had a lot of fun taking part though!

Following this, 12 pupils from across the school took part in a Kurling event on the 7th February. Even though we were new to this sport, we were experts by the end of the day. We put up a great fight, despite some of the competition being high school pupils, winning quite a few of our matches but just didn't quite make the final. We had the best day though, and hope to compete again next year.

Miss Curry



Dates for the Diary:

Friday, February 16th—
School closes for half-term

Monday, February 26th—
return to school

Tuesday, March 5th—KS3
Parents' Evening 4-6pm

Wednesday, March 13th —
KS3 Parents' Evening
4-6pm

Thursday, March 28th—
school closes for Easter
holiday