



# SSMS Newsletter

## Spring (2)



### Kooth Assembly



KS3 had an assembly delivered by a representative from Kooth.

Kooth is an online mental health and wellbeing service for children and young people and they aim to support children with their emotional health.

Further information can be found on their Website: [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

[www.kooth.com/parents-faqs](https://www.kooth.com/parents-faqs)

We have had another very successful half-term at SSMS, with a wide range of activities in school to enrich our pupils' education, from hatching live chicks and Shakespeare 'flashmob', to sporting events and a KS3 visit to London, to name but a few!

I would like to wish all of our families a very happy Easter!



### Linda Community School, Zambia—update

This half-term, some Y7 pupils linked up with pupils in Linda Community School in Zambia. There were a few technical issues, which meant we couldn't ask/answer all the questions we had prepared, but pupils were given a real insight to what it's like being at school in Zambia.



For example, Rosie asked how hot do the classrooms get? We were shocked to learn that they have no air conditioning and the temperature was 34 degrees! The students were huddled together in the head teachers' small office, as it was the only place they could get a signal. A rather humbling experience.



Mrs Elliott

### Ted Weekes Community Grant

A huge thank you to Angela Hall (partnerships and marketing officer) who successfully secured a grant of £3915 from the Ted Weekes fund. We have used this money to buy supplies for extra-curricular facilities and wet break facilities.

Below are some pictures of some of our pupils making the most of the new games in school for wet break times.





## Comic Relief

This year's Comic Relief raised £370.50. Pupils were allowed to come to school in non-uniform for a suggested £1 donation and we had a bake sale of cupcakes and biscuits at lunchtime.

Below are some pictures of the Food Champions baking for the sale.



Mrs Allison



Board games and miniatures club is one of the wide range of extra curricular activities on offer at Seaton Sluice Middle School. Children come after school on Thursdays to participate in a range of activities from learning how to assemble plastic miniatures, how to paint the models and then how to play games using the figures they have created. We also play more traditional board and card games.

Mr Anderson

## Shakespeare flash mob

In order to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, 30 pupils in year 6 were invited to Alnwick Castle to take part in a Flashmob. Hannah, from Bigfoot Arts Education, worked with the pupils on a dance inspired by Macbeth. The dance included a big battle as well as our very own three witches brewing their potion.

We performed the Flashmob in front of a small group of other year 6 pupils as well as another school and the staff of Alnwick Castle. Everyone involved was amazing!



After the Flashmob, Alnwick Castle invited us to take part in two workshops. We predicted the future and looked at magic potions while learning about Henry Percy 'The Wizard Earl of Northumberland'. We also headed out to the gatehouse to re-enact an attack on Alnwick Castle inspired by the big fights in Macbeth. I'm not sure who enjoyed throwing balls at each more – the pupils or our school staff?

Miss Curry and Mrs Daghish



## Sporting Events

Yet again, another busy and successful sporting half term!

A small group of KS2 pupils took part in a Bowling tournament, competing against 8 local schools. With a number of strikes and spares we finished in first place. Well done to the team, especially Oakley in year 5 who achieved the highest score of 99.

Following this, the year 7 netball team attended the finals night for the league we have been competing in this academic year. We played against 3 other teams on the night, all tough matches, and finished third in the league in the end. Watch this space for next year!



Miss Curry

On 26th February, we were very excited to have 10 chick eggs delivered to SSMS to aid in the learning of our Life Cycles topic in Year 5. Watching fragile tiny chicks hatch from their eggs was an incredible experience for us all with many children finding themselves 'hooked' by the live stream to see if another would hatch! After the suitable incubation period, the children were then able to handle the chicks and learn about their development. Chick handling was offered to the whole school at breaks so that no missed out on this lovely opportunity. As the chicks grew, Year 5 pupils did some 'worm charming' to not only extend their learning about other creatures, but also to feed our hungry chicks! This first hand learning has been invaluable to the children and such an enjoyable experience for all.



Mrs Middlemiss



## London Visit

Earlier this month, 58 very excited children (and 6 almost as excited members of staff) set off on this year's residential trip to London.

After a long but fun-filled coach journey down, we arrived at our hotel and just had time to relax a little before we headed into theatre land for dinner and to see 'Back to the Future The Musical' at the Adelphi Theatre. As a long-time fan of the film, I was sceptical as to how well they'd be able to stage it, but I can confidently state that it was one of the most amazing productions I've ever seen. The flying DeLorean had us all leaning out of our seats in wonderment!

Following the sounds of some very happy giggling from bedrooms, exhaustion seemed to hit everyone, and there were some tired faces around the breakfast table the next morning. Luckily we had an exciting day ahead of us, packed with sight-seeing opportunities.

Firstly we visited The Globe, having a fact-packed tour of the reproduction of Shakespeare's own theatre - a great chance for Year 8 students to see how they're currently staging a production of 'Romeo and Juliet', which we're studying in English lessons. Most importantly, it houses my favourite gift shop in the whole of London, where I stocked up on Shakespeare-themed stuff, to the great amusement of the children.

We then had a lovely walk up the Thames to the Tower of London, where we boarded a boat for a trip back down the river to the London Eye. While some people's legs turned a little jelly-like as we rose into the sky, everyone loved the view of the whole of London from the top.

For some, the highlight of the trip was a chance to hit the shops in Covent Garden, while others preferred to watch the street theatre and get caught up in some magic shows. Everyone was ready for dinner at Byron Burger and then an amazing production of 'The Lion King' that evening. It's hard to say whether they were most excited by the amazing music and costumes, or by the cast of 'The Traitors' who were sat right in front of us.

After a slightly less giggly night (all that walking around seemed to have worn them out a bit) we checked out of the hotel and headed for a morning at Harry Potter Studios. We all enjoyed the indoor fireworks and special talks themed around their 'Magical Mischief' exhibitions. Being on the real sets, surrounded by the authentic props and knowledgeable staff is always mind-blowing for fans of the films, and Potter-novices alike.

I can honestly say that the behaviour of the children was exemplary throughout the entire trip. Their great senses of humour, kindness and lovely manners made them an absolute pleasure to spend the three days with, and I know that they managed to build some amazing memories while we were away.

Mrs McCloskey



## Science week

During British Science Week (8th to 17th March) all of the pupils at SSMS had fun considering time and time travel. Everyone designed their own time machine and thought about where and when in time they would like to travel. Prizes were awarded by Mr. Barnes for the best design in each of the classes. During the week the pupils also took part in Science quizzes. The winners in each year group were 8 East, 7 North, 6 South and 5 South. The week concluded with pupils and staff dressing up in Science themed outfits and Albert Einstein even travelled through time to pay us a visit!

Mrs Cook



### Polite reminder:

Please could we ask that anyone contacting the school, or talking to staff, do so in an appropriate way.

We understand that people can be angry and frustrated at times but speaking unpleasantly to staff is upsetting and unhelpful.

We would very much appreciate your support in making sure our staff are treated with respect.

SSMS

### SEN Blog

We held a coffee afternoon on the 12th March for SEN parents to come along and spend some time with their children in school and have informal chats with Clare Tennant (SENCO) and the TA staff who work with the SEN children. It was a lovely hour and half. We will be holding this event every term, so please look out for information on the next coffee morning/afternoon. We will send the dates out after May half term. We would love to see as many parents as possible as it is a lovely opportunity for you to meet staff and other parents who have children with an SEN need.

Spring is coming and in the last newsletter, it was mentioned that we were purchasing a variety of resources, including gardening equipment. Well, the warmer weather is starting to arrive and some of our SEN children are starting to use the resources and get involved in gardening projects including vegetable growing and producing wild flower patches in their breaks and lunches.

We are also trying to empower the children to look after and support our wildlife and learn about animal care. Our children are showing a huge interest and involvement in supporting the birds around our school by building and maintaining bird feeders. We also have some new fish residents in the bungalow and the children are taking their turn in feeding our fish and maintaining and cleaning the fish tank.

Miss Curry took a number of our SEN children to an inclusion festival, where both the staff and children who went, had an enjoyable day, participating in Kurling, Boccia, bowling and dancing at the silent disco that was held.

We are also looking at holding a Support evening for parents of SEN children in the run up to the SATS. Information on this will come out after Easter. We would value your thoughts on this and what you think we could do to help you as parents to support your children. Please email Clare Tennant (school SENCO) [clare.tennant@svf.org.uk](mailto:clare.tennant@svf.org.uk) if you have any specific requests/ thoughts or suggestions in regard to this.

Clare Tennant

## Our talented Year 5 pupils!

Mrs Middlemiss



We are so pleased to share that one of our talented dancers in Year 5 has been working hard to pass her exams. Daisy G has succeeded in passing her Pre-Grade 1 exams for ballet and tap!! Such a wonderful achievement with magnificent trophies awarded.

Congratulations to Reuben G for attaining his blue belt in karate!



Erin B in 5 North has been working hard on her ice skating!

Recently, she came SECOND in a freestyle competition and received this impressive trophy. We are incredibly proud of her and hoping to see her skills when we go on the reward trip to the ice rink!



Huge well done to Bo in Year 5. Bo has played the lead boy, Jeremy Potts in Blyth Music & Theatre Company's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, the musical. The show was sold out over five performances. Bo was delighted to be part of such a thrilling musical with a flying car. This is a role he really wanted to play after starring as Oliver in the Tyne Theatre last year. He has been rehearsing with the cast for six months, alongside Matilda in year eight, who is also a talented performer.

At half term, Bo took part in a Les Misérables workshop in the West End and a Macbeth workshop at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. He has also just been awarded distinction in his Grade 1 piano exam last week (thanks to Mr. Peacock's tuition) and a distinction in his GCSE-level LAMDA acting exam (thanks to his LAMDA teacher).



### Dates for the Diary:

**Thursday, March 28th**— school closes for Easter holiday

**Monday, April 15th**— Teacher Training Day

**Tuesday, April 16th**— pupils return to school

**Monday, May 6th**— May Bank Holiday— school closed

**Monday May 13th**— 17th— Y6 SATs week