



SSMS Newsletter

Summer(2)



PTFA Summer Fun Day

A huge thanks to everyone who came along and supported the PTFA Summer Fun Day. The sun shone and a great time was had by all. We managed to raise £502.28. We are currently fundraising for new play equipment for the field. We are always looking for new members to join us. Our next meeting will be in September. Watch out for a message about this if you're interested in coming along.

SSMS PTFA



Welcome to the final SSMS newsletter of the year and what a fantastic year it has been, filled with some amazing experiences for our pupils that will hopefully have created a lifetime of memories.

We are saying goodbye to Year 8, which is always a sad time for us, as we have watched these young people grow and blossom over the last 4 years. I would like to say a particular well done and thank you to this year's cohort, who have been outstanding and a credit to the school. We wish them every success in their new schools.

We are also saying goodbye to three members of staff who have been with us for many years, Mrs Pearson, who works in the kitchen (27 years), Mrs Hart, who has worked with our SEN children (25 years) and Mrs Emmonds, who works in the school office (20 years). We wish them all a very happy retirement and thank them for all they have done for the school during their years with us.

We would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing everyone in the Autumn term.

Mrs McSparron

Young Writers Competition

Several of our students entered the Young Writers Competition, 'Once Upon a Dream'. After completing sessions about poetic techniques, they all wrote poems linked to the title. Some pupils decided to write about wonderful dreams whilst others wrote about terrifying nightmares. The poems were sent off to the competition and many of our pupils' work was then published in a poetry book. This is a massive achievement and we are really proud of our pupils!



Mrs Daglish

Year 8 Careers Fair

In June we invited people from a wide variety of professional backgrounds to participate in a careers fair for Y8. This was useful and informative and gave our pupils a great insight into the world of work. Some of them may even have found inspiration for a future career!

Mrs Allison





Year 8 Heritage Project

Reflections on Seaton Sluice

Newcastle University, Northumberland Archives and Historic England worked with our Year 8 pupils to inspire creative responses to Seaton Sluice. These are now available to view in Seaton Sluice Community Centre throughout the summer. The week-long project offered students the opportunity to immerse themselves in their local area and directly reflect on its unique details by responding to it creatively in some way. Responses included watercolour paintings, poetry and sand art. The school has now been awarded a prestigious Heritage School Award from Historic England -the only school in the area to have been awarded this.

Mrs Elliott





Pupil news outside of school!



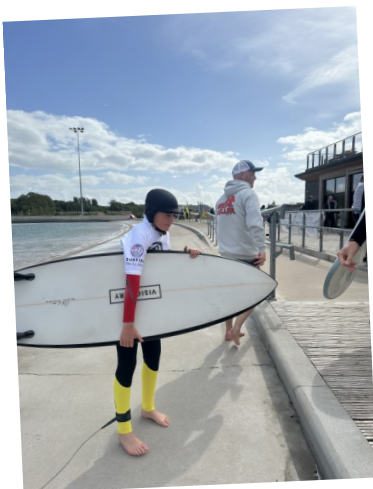
Huge well done to Luca in Y5. He signed up to do the 50 mile Scooby Doo Walking Challenge. He had to measure and record his walks every time he went out and add it to the software provided. He was absolutely delighted to complete the challenge in 6 weeks, while on holiday in Florida, and to celebrate he visited Scooby Doo and Mystery Inc, where they made him feel very special. His medal was waiting for him when he returned home!

Congratulations to Matthew in Y7 for receiving the Music Partnership North Star Learner Award this month for his exceptional drumming skills.

David Francis from Music Partnership North was delighted to come into school and present the award.



Huge congratulations to Finn in Y6, who participated in Surfing England's National Final Para Open Division and won his category: VI Open. A tremendous achievement! Well done!





As the nation primed itself to go to the polls on July 4th, election fever hit SSMS when the whole school had the opportunity to take part in our own Mock Election.

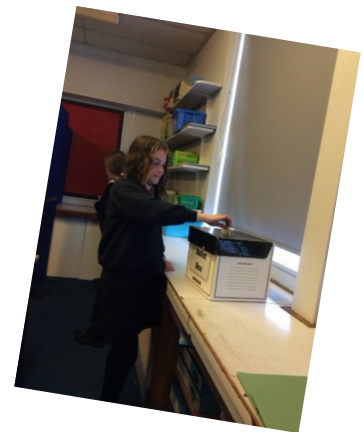
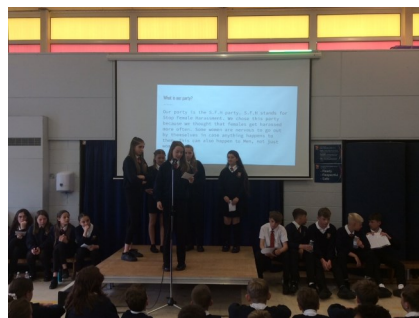
In the run up to the election, Year 7 pupils formed political parties and produced their own manifestos. The best parties (as chosen by their classmates) were put forward into the main election and they began their election campaigns: preparing speeches, presentations and promotional materials and talking to voters to try to gain their support.

On the morning of June 19th, the candidates bravely presented their speeches to the whole school and then the voting began. Year 7 pupils ran the polling station and, class by class, the students swapped their polling cards for ballot papers and cast their votes in the private voting booths.

The election administrators were extremely efficient and by lunchtime the votes were all cast and counted. Everyone gathered in the hall or around their screens to hear the results. All parties had attracted a respectable number of votes, however, the winning party was the Men's Mental Health, whose policies to encourage men to talk about their problems and be proud to be gentlemen, proved extremely popular with their constituents.

A massive "Well done!" to everyone involved in the election: you all did a fantastic job and helped the whole school to experience how a real election works.

Mrs Mills





Our school has a
TEACHER
Ambassador

I am delighted to report that my work with the Houses of Parliament this academic year means that I am now a Gold Ambassador, having achieved the highest level available to teachers across the country.

Of course the title is lovely, but what it really represents is all of the work that our children (and staff!) have put in across this year. I was incredibly lucky to be building on the fabulous work already done here, in which our children are given a wide range of opportunities to engage with politics and the world around them.

Since January alone, they have: held mock elections; learned about how Parliament works: how laws are made: why General Elections are so important; put questions to a real life member of the House of Lords; and made some of the best board games I've ever seen to show their understanding of it all.

Please continue to talk to your children about politics and elections - it really does make such a difference to their lives.

Mrs McCloskey

Maths news:



KS2

In a bid to help our KS2 children become more financially aware, they took part in some Natwest money lessons earlier in the term. Y5 looked at banking and the importance of saving that will help them in the future. Y6 began to look at what borrowing money or credit is, how they can be safe when spending money and also the importance of saving.

KS3

To help KS3 enjoy maths, in an alternative way, they took part in some problem solving activities. Y7 worked on number riddles, a crossnumber (similar to a crossword but with numbers), spotting patterns and ski runs. Y8 also attempted different crossnumbers, plus shape patterns and puzzles.

Mr Porter

General Election day is always one of my very favourite days: I adore the buzz of speculation about who might get into power; the hope of having a government who will do a good job for the next five years; the thrill of going to the polling station to cast my vote; and the sheer drama of watching the results from each constituency roll in across the night. So, to be lucky enough to be invited to take 15 students to the Houses of Parliament on 4th July this year was one of the genuine highlights of my teaching career!

Every member of staff was asked to nominate students who have shown interest and engagement about politics and the world around them, and then the lucky 15 names were pulled out of hat - five from each of Years 6, 7 and 8.

We had a very long day, meeting at 7.30am and not getting back to Newcastle until 9.25pm that night, but the children were absolutely marvellous throughout the whole day. We travelled by train and tube, squeezed in a visit to the Natural History Museum in the morning, and had a picnic lunch in Parliament Square, where they desperately tried to get caught on camera by some of the news crews assembled there.

Then for the big event: our visit to Parliament. We had an amazing tour of the Palace of Westminster, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We learned loads about what it's like to work there, and heard some amazing stories about the history of the palace (including about Henry VIII playing tennis inside one of the halls!). Once back at the Education Centre, we did a workshop all about the important work of the House of Lords, and why they are selected for their roles.

We were then visited by Baroness Garden of Frognall (or Sue, as she asked us to call her) who started her career as a teacher and was extremely passionate about her work in the Lords. She told the children that they could ask her anything at all about her work, or her life in general, and they rose to the challenge magnificently. The room was a sea of hands up for over half an hour, as they posed questions to her about her views of other Lords (she really admires how they work together regardless of their political affiliations, but is quite angry about those who want the title but don't do the work), her own political views (she's a proud Liberal Democrat), and her background (her husband was high up in the RAF and also a member of the House of Lords). I was immensely proud of all of our children for the mature and thoughtful questions they asked, and for their incredible manners right across the day.

Then came the journey home - changing tubes in rush hour was stressful, but we were ably assisted by Baroness Garden who happened to be on the same platform as us, and who was only too happy to chat to us again! The train back to Newcastle was full of happy chatter, and it was lovely to see the children mixing across the year groups.

We had such a marvellous day that I am going to desperately apply for places for another visit next year (they're very hard to secure!) in the hope of taking a different 15 children next time. Watch this space...



Mrs McCloskey



Uniform reminder for September 2024

Boys	Girls
School Jumper (purchase from Emblematic only)	School Jumper (purchase from Emblematic only)
Black or dark grey trousers -standard length -no jeans, tracksuit bottoms, jeggings etc	Black school skirt -knee length (purchase from Emblematic only) Mini skirts or skirts made with stretch material are not allowed.
	OR
	Black or dark grey trousers –straight legged -no jeans, tracksuit bottoms, jeggings etc
White shirt (polo shirt in summer)	White blouse or shirt (polo shirt in summer)
School Tie (clip on)	School Tie (clip on)
Black shoes (including trainer type but must be leather –look that can be polished). Boots can be worn in winter but these must be covered by trousers. No <u>obvious</u> branding, no designer logos	Black shoes (including trainer type but must be leather – look that can be polished). Boots can be worn in winter but these must be covered by trousers. No <u>obvious</u> branding, no designer logos, no platform shoes/heels
Black or white socks	Black or white socks/Black tights

PE Kit

Essential PE kit to be brought to every lesson:

Royal blue round neck t-shirt with school emblem (only available from Emblematic)

Plain navy blue shorts or SSMS navy blue leggings (leggings only available from Emblematic)

Clean training shoes, suitable for physical activities – not school shoes.

Additional required PE kit:

Royal blue sports hoodie with school logo (only available from Emblematic)

Navy blue football socks.

Optional PE kit:

Plain tracksuit bottoms, preferably navy blue. These are only to be worn in cold weather outdoors with the permission of the PE staff.

PE shorts / SSMS leggings must be worn for all PE lessons. No tracksuit bottoms will be allowed in lessons for the first half term.

Notes about PE kit :

No leggings are permitted for PE other than SSMS leggings from Emblematic.

If your child is unable to bring the correct PE kit for a lesson due to unforeseen circumstances, it is expected that they bring suitable clothing , as close to the PE kit as possible, to take part in the lesson and the school is informed by parent/carer.

Non Participation :

Physical Education is a **statutory requirement** and it is expected that all students will take part. If, for medical reasons, your child cannot take part in a lesson, the school office must be contacted. This may be via the MCAS APP or by telephone. If the office is not contacted, it will be assumed your child will be taking part in the lesson. If there is a longer term medical reason for non-participation, a medical note from a medical professional will be required.

Lilidorei

To celebrate the end of the academic year, all of KS2 visited Lilidorei at Alnwick Gardens. Lord Elfwin rules this village from high up in his tower at the very top of Elfwin Drin, which also happens to be the World's largest play structure! We all enjoyed climbing, swinging and sliding our way around the magical playground before taking part in a Quest around the surrounding villages. We hunted out answers to a number of questions, avoiding jail, and listened to a tale about an Elf party.

Miss Curry & Mrs Middlemiss



Lockerbie Manor

Following a busy week of SATs, 41 excited pupils and 4 enthusiastic members of staff travelled to Lockerbie, Scotland for a busy weekend of adventure. During our stay, we took part in a number of activities including: canoeing, climbing, abseiling, as well as axe throwing and tackling the high ropes trail. We also managed to get soaking wet building our very own rafts to cross the lake. We all had a wonderful weekend throwing ourselves into every activity, trying new things and sleeping in cosy little pods. The pupils were a credit to our school and we couldn't be prouder of them! :-)

Miss Curry



Message:

There will be no pupil planners issued next year. Instead most homework will be on Google Classroom. All pupils must have a pencil case with a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber. They will also be given a timetable that must be carried in their pencil case and be taken to every lesson.

Dates for the Diary:

School closes for Summer - Friday, July 19th -1pm

School reopens for Autumn Term - Wednesday , September 4th

Traffic and Parking

Traffic and parking are two particular safety hazards that concern us at the beginning and end of the school day. We operate a safe streets school zone in the streets immediately around school. Please follow the guidance outlined on the signs. Alston Grove must not be entered during the hours of 8.15 and 9.15am and 2.45 and 3.45pm during term time, without prior permission. In addition, St Ronan's Drive is a no parking zone between 8 and 9.30am and 2.30 and 4pm during term time. Please be considerate of local residents in the streets around school if you are parking.

There is also concern in the local community about speeding on the Links Road, as people leave and enter Seaton Sluice. Local residents would like to reposition the speeding camera. If you would like to support them with this, please report any unsafe driving concerns by typing in this address, which will take you to an online link.

https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=road_signs