



# Spring Newsletter 2023

Welcome to the last newsletter before the Easter break.

We hope you enjoy finding out about what has been happening in school over the last few weeks, as well as some important messages.

## Bottle tops wanted



Please save all your plastic bottle tops and bring them into school.

Mrs Cassidy is creating a wall mural and requires large amounts of these in all different colours

So instead of throwing them in the bin, let's recycle them

Mrs Cassidy

## THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS 2023

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/carers 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



### Y8 Mock Trials



Congratulations to the very talented group of Y8 pupils who entered the Young Citizens Mock Trials competition, where pupils go to the Crown Courts in Newcastle and compete against another school in a 'mock trial'. Pupils are given a case and take on roles such as solicitor, defendant, magistrate etc and compete against pupils in similar roles from different schools. Our team didn't win but we are immensely proud of them for taking part in such a prestigious competition.

Mr Anderson

### **SEN Coffee Morning**

After the success of the last SEN coffee morning in February, we are going to hold another one on Monday, May 15th, between 9.15 and 10.45am.

We will be sending out invites to all parents who have a child with a SEN need in the school, via email. We request that you complete an online acceptance through a google form, which will be sent at the beginning of next term. We would like people to confirm their attendance by Monday the 8th of May.

The coffee morning will be an opportunity for you to meet myself, Clare Tennant, the new SENCO appointed to replace Joe Elliot, who is leaving us following promotion. It also provides a chance to meet and get to know other parents within the school community, who have a child with a special educational need. The learning assistants who work with the children, as well as the children themselves, will also be present during this morning. We would like to celebrate the successes of the children at this event and therefore there will be displays of the excellent work that your children are doing in school for you to take a look at.

This would be a perfect time to come along and have a chat, seek out advice and informally discuss any concerns or issues you may have.

We look forward to seeing you at this event.

Ms C Tennant

### **Polite Notice– for the safety of our children:**

Please adhere to our new parking restrictions and do not drive into Alston Grove to drop off /pick up your children (unless you have prior permission) and please do not park on the double or single yellow lines on St Ronan's Drive during the designated times (please see road signs.)

## New catering Options

With the arrival of our new Catering Manager, pupils and staff have been introduced to some exciting new menu ideas linked to celebrations, including:

- Chinese New Year in January.
- Valentine's Day in February.
- St. David's Day & St. Patrick's Day in March.
- British Pie Week & National Meatball Day in March.

We have also been looking at expanding our vegan options and following taste tests with students and staff, we will be introducing a new plant-based range into our kitchens. This British company uses sustainable pea protein instead of soya, so the range is rich in protein and suitable for vegans, vegetarians, and those requiring a dairy-free or gluten-free diet. Loaded with taste and texture, flavours are not compromised for these healthier and sustainable options.



Zoe Lockett (SVF Catering Manager)

### Fundraising this term:

**Scholastic book fair**—£443.15

**PTFA**— £3312.80 towards our £12,000 target for new dining hall furniture

**Comic Relief:** £191 but still to include Mr Thompson's beard shave sponsorship.

**COMIC  
RELIEF**

### Online Safety



We have sent out several messages this year regarding online safety.

In recent days, we have become aware of some WhatsApp groups that pupils are members of, where some of the language being used is racist, homophobic, misogynistic and generally worrying. This has caused upset and concern for pupils and parents. I would urge all parents to be aware of the groups their children are in and monitor the content of messages, to keep them safe.

In addition, it is worth noting that young people are expected to be 16+ years before being using WhatsApp.

There are many internet safety guides available online, that are useful for parents.

Further information can be found at:

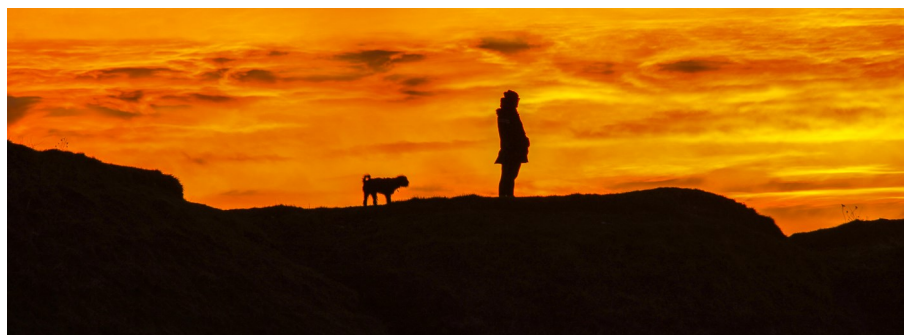
[internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org)



Amazing photos from our talented Y8 photographer, William H.

The insect pictures were taken in the Jubilee Community Garden and the sunset is in Seaton Sluice.

William has recently entered the Seaton Valley photography competition and we wish him the very best of luck!



### **HELP....work experience opportunities for Yr 8.**

It is never too early for our students to get an insight into the world of work, especially for pupils who are keen to develop practical skills rather than follow an academic route.

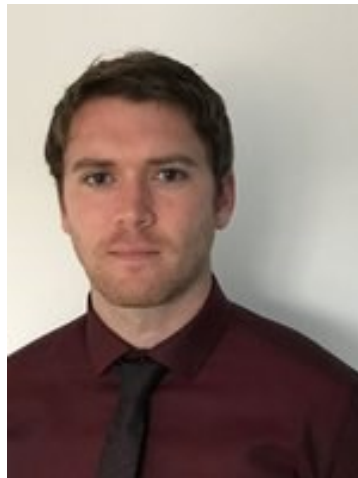
In Key Stage 3, pupils are introduced to careers and further educational opportunities within our school to begin to help them understand the huge variety of jobs and opportunities that are out there waiting for them as they get older. We would like to see if we are able to take it one step further and see if we can provide opportunities for individuals to get some real life work experience in areas of work they may be interested in.

We are therefore looking for parents and carers, who feel they can offer an opportunity for pupils to learn practical skills in school. We are particularly looking for people who work as gardeners and trades people

A work experience opportunity could provide individuals with the motivation and direction in and out of school to work towards their goals throughout their school years, thus enabling them to achieve the jobs they wish to do when they get older.

Please email [clare.tennant@svf.org.uk](mailto:clare.tennant@svf.org.uk) if you think you can help.

# Goodbye Mr Elliott!



It is with a great deal of sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Elliott this half term.

Mr Elliott has been an amazing member and is very highly regarded by staff, pupils and parents alike.

For the last 11 years, he has revolutionised the PE and SEND departments and been an excellent member of the SLT.

From his quick wit, sense of humour, motivation and drive, to his ability to problem solve and organise, he will be truly missed.

Mr Elliott has been promoted and we congratulate him on this thoroughly deserved new role. He will be an asset in his new school.

We would like to thank Mr Elliott for everything he has achieved and been part of during his time here and wish him all the very best and every success in his future career.

Mrs McSparron

And finally, from us all at Seaton Sluice Middle School, we wish you a very Happy Easter!



## **Dates for the diary:**

**Thursday, March 30th**—  
school closes for Easter break

**Friday, March 31st**—  
Teacher Training Day

**Monday, April 17th**—return  
to school

**Friday, April 21st**— PTFA-  
Bingo Bonkaz 7pm

**Friday, May 5th**—  
Community Coronation  
Event—details to follow

**Monday, May 15th**, SEN Cof-  
fee Morning 9.15 -10.45am  
Invitations to follow