



## SSMS Summer (2) Newsletter 2023



We are delighted to announce that one of our teachers, Miss Glynn, got married during the June half-term holiday and is now Mrs Devanney.

Huge congratulations to her and her husband and we wish them a happy future together.

### Goodbye

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Naguib, who has been with us for 18 months, teaching French. We are also saying goodbye to Ms Fairbrother who has been working in Y5.

We would like to thank them both for all their hard work at SSMS and wish them every success in the future.

Dear parents and carers,

Here we are at the end of another very busy and successful year. As always, this year our pupils have had a huge range of activities, in and out of the classroom to be involved in and many will have developed new knowledge and skills, as well as growing in confidence, from participating in these.

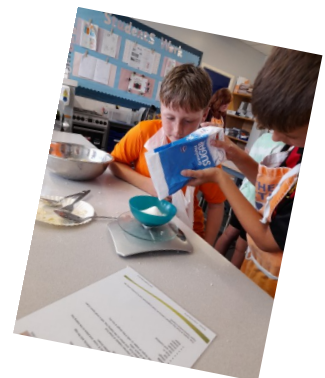
This half-term, we have welcomed our new Y5 cohort for transition; they thoroughly enjoyed their days with us and we are looking forward to them becoming members of our school community in September.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our Y8s, who have also been to transition events at their new high schools. It doesn't seem very long at all since they joined us in year 5. We wish them good luck and every success for the future.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at SSMS, I would like to wish you happy summer!

Mrs McSparron

At SSMS, we recognise the successes of our pupils and love to celebrate with an afternoon of rewards. Within Key Stage 2, the children were lucky to enjoy some favourite activities, including: films, writing/colouring, computers, sports and baking. Staff and children embraced the fun!



Mrs Middlemiss

### Mock Elections

Election fever hit Seaton Sluice on 15<sup>th</sup> June when the whole school had the opportunity to take part in our own mock election.

In the run up to the election, the Year 7 parties produced their own manifestos, prepared their speeches and talked to voters to try to gain their support. Each party bravely presented their speech to the whole school and then, class by class, the students swapped their polling cards for ballot papers and cast their votes in the private voting booths.

The Y7 election administrators were extremely efficient and by lunchtime the votes were all cast and counted. All parties had attracted a respectable number of votes however, the winning party was the FPE party whose policies for improving politics and financial education in schools proved extremely popular with their constituents.

“Well done!” to everyone involved in the election: you all did a fantastic job and helped us all to experience how a real election works.



Mrs Mills



### French Fun!

In July some of KS2 had a visit from a theatre company, *Théâtre sans Frontières*, who put on a performance of *Les Aventures de Lapin* entirely in French! The hall was transformed into *L'île du Paradis* - a tropical paradise island where Monsieur Lapin undertook a series of challenges to win Mademoiselle Christelle's hand in marriage. The show was really fun to watch, with lots of audience participation, and a particular highlight was a scene with a 12 foot zombie zooming around the hall! I was really impressed by how much French our pupils were able to understand and it was fantastic to see some of them joining in with the very catchy song “*Moi, j'adore les bananes*”. *C'était fantastique!*

Mrs Young



Year 7 English classes took part in a medieval Scottish feast tasting as part of the food cross curricular days. In English lessons we wrote a menu for King Duncan (from Macbeth) and sampled foods such as: porridge, fish, seeds, breads, broth, potatoes, pastries, berries, pork scratchings that would have been eaten during the 12th Century.



Mrs Elliott

## My Child At School (MCAS) is changing...

You will be aware that to use the MCAS app or the website you have to mess around with school ID's, usernames and passwords, which can cause issues for lots of users, especially new users to the system. If you have children at 2 different schools, then it just gets even more confusing. We then have a number of parents who set this all up then change phones and have to start all over again.

Bromcom have finally listened and are changing the process. We understand that the new process will be based around the email address we have on the schools system for parents/carers and as long as the same email address is used for any of your children across our 3 schools, you will be able to see them in the same app or webpage without any messing around.

At the time of writing this article, a new APP will be released on 15th July and the website will change very soon after to the new login page. Once we receive more information we will circulate this to parents/carers and post an update on the federations MCAS webpage.

Alan Dennis

IT Dept



Transition week at SSMS was a great success!

Prior to transition week, SSMS staff and Year 5 pupils visited first schools to meet the children. Year 4 pupils were reassured about the upcoming week and were able to ask questions to hear about what it was like as a Year 5 pupil.

Transition week began with a trip to the local area which of course meant the beach! The children took part in some 'getting to know you' activities so that when they arrived at middle school, they would see some familiar faces. Beach fun included collecting interesting objects to classify and then to use them to create sand structures.

On Wednesday, very excited Year 4 pupils arrived then waved goodbye to anxious parents! After meeting their form teacher, the children met new friends and enjoyed a fun-packed week. As well as a hunt around school to become familiar with their new setting, the children were given the opportunity to explore our specialist areas, with activities including: rock decorating, creating recycled murals, watercolour painting, baking rock cakes, experiments in the lab and a range of PE games to allow classes to build team spirit. Of course, the highlight for the children was lunch. The new independence of being able to make their own choices is always the best part of the week!



Prior to our Transition week, we like to offer an additional visit for some first school pupils who would benefit from meeting our support staff and to become familiar with the middle school setting. When Year 4 arrived, some current pupils across SSMS shared their experiences of middle school life and they did a fabulous job! Following this, there was the opportunity for Year 4 pupils to mix with children from other schools whilst working with our support staff to decorate a plant pot. Then they planted a sunflower seed to represent the personal growth that they will do as they make this journey in this next stage of their education. In order to reduce worries, the children had a tour of the school before enjoying some refreshments with their parents and staff. This extra session allowed both children and parents to feel more at ease with the enormity of reaching the next milestone in their lives.

Mrs Middlemiss



## Seaton Sluice Music Celebration Evening

A wonderful evening was held in July, where we celebrated the musical talents of some of our students. There was some amazing singing from KS2 pupils, including a mix of traditional Geordie songs and some individuals solos playing a variety of instruments. Well done to all for their fantastic performances.

Mrs Docherty





Some year 6 and 7 students have been investigating shapes, surface area and weight distribution in their recent STEM lessons. They were challenged to design and build a boat from tin foil, which had to stay afloat once weights (in the form of dice) were added.



Mrs Porter

## Y8 Careers Event

Over 30 professionals came into school in June to attend a careers event for Y8. These were people from a wide range of occupations such as construction, fire service, beauty industry, health service and many more. Pupils spent time in groups interviewing each person and were given useful information about a variety of career choices and future options after high school.

Mrs Allison



### Wilderness School

With the sun coming out to play, somewhat briefly, KS2 pupils took the opportunity to move our learning outside into the wildlife area. Year 5 spent time identifying leaves, working out the height & age of the trees on our school field; and completed a sketch of our surroundings. Pupils in year 6 designed their own garden shapes before working out the perimeter and area of their creations. They also took the time to pond dip, catch bugs in nets and identified the different creatures living on our site.

Miss Curry



### Adventure Challenge

After a year of preparing for the main event, including a number of bike rides each increasing in length and difficulty, two groups of pupils cycled all the way from school to Selby Wood, a campsite in Stanton. Only 22 miles. :-)

Throughout the year, they also took part in first aid sessions, deliberator training and team building exercises.

On arrival at the campsite, the pupils pitched their own tents (to varying degrees of success) and cooked tea not only for themselves but staff too. After surviving the first night, pupils were split into their teams and instructed previously prepared sessions in either archery or rifle shooting. The instructors were not only very knowledgeable, but clear and concise too.

Following two very successful weekends, the pupils were given the chance to use their new found skills and confidence to lead sessions for staff.

Miss Curry



We always have so much success to celebrate in Key Stage 2 and what a better way than to enjoy our beautiful locality? On Monday, we set off for the beach and along the way, all children excitedly took part in a game of 'Hide and seek tag!' The children were in their element; running freely and enjoying the thrill of the chase. A 'chippy lunch' was much appreciated followed by play in the park then the pleasure of fun at the beach. Sand structures were impressive and enjoyed by all!

Mrs Middlemiss



### Dates for the diary:

**Fri, July 21st :** School Closes for summer holiday - 1.30pm

**Mon, September 4th :** Teacher training Day

**Tues, September 5th:** Pupil return to school