

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 12th June 2026

Year 5 Gibside Trip

On Tuesday, Year 5 visited Gibside in Rowlands Gill for our Summer term curriculum trip. We did a carousel of activities including pond dipping (a real highlight as the first newts were found in a long time!). We also located different animal species around the Walled Gardens and considered their natural habitats. This fits in well with our humanities field work where we can compare the species found in our school grounds. We also managed to squeeze in a trip to the park (which was a lot of fun!). A great day was had by all and even the downpours couldn't dampen our spirits! 5C said, "this has been the best trip ever!"



Toys in School

Further to the letter recently sent home regarding not bringing toys and fidgets in school, we would like to remind families that this guidance applies specifically to toys—such as figures, squishies, and vehicles—and non-essential fidget toys. While we understand these items are popular, they can unfortunately cause distractions in the classroom, create mess, and lead to disputes between pupils.

Please rest assured that any essential support tools or sensory aids agreed upon with our SEND team or teaching staff to support a child's specific learning needs are, of course, still fully permitted.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in maintaining a calm, focused learning environment for all pupils.



Medications in School - Antihistamines

As hayfever season is in full swing, we kindly ask for your cooperation in keeping our students comfortable and ready to learn. If your child suffers from hayfever, **please ensure they are given their allergy medication before arriving at school in the morning.** Our front office staff currently do not have the capacity to administer daily hayfever medication or call home for individual treatments. Managing preventable hayfever symptoms during the day is unfortunately taking up a significant amount of valuable classroom and learning time.



Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep the school day running smoothly for everyone.

End of Day Arrangements

To help our afternoons run as smoothly as possible, please could you ensure your child knows their home-time and after-school club arrangements before they arrive at school in the morning. Please double-check with your child that they know exactly who is picking them up, where they need to go, or if they are attending an after-school club.

Our office staff are currently receiving a very high volume of last-minute messages about the end of the day. They simply do not have the capacity to safely deliver so many individual reminders.

We completely understand that plans can occasionally change at the last minute due to emergencies and we will always pass on any emergency messages, but we ask, where possible, that children know the end of the day arrangements before they come to school.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and support!

Summer 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 15th June - Year 5 Bikeability
- Tuesday 16th June - Year 6 STEM trip to RGS
- Wednesday 17th June - Year 8 Careers trip Tharsus Blyth
- Monday 22nd June - France Residential Trip
- Wednesday 1st July - Year 7 London STEM trip
- Wednesday 1st July - Year 5 Girls' Football Competition at Northburn



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Netball

Well done to our fantastic netballers in Year 5,6 and 7 who played Seaton Sluice Middle School and Bede Primary in a series of matches. They played very well and were a credit to our school.
Special mention must go to Evie in 5L for her great attitude and a fantastic goal.



Job of the Week

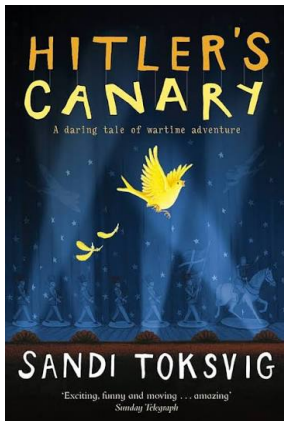


This week's Job of the Week is **Genetic Counsellor**. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also [here](#).

We encourage you to watch the Job of the Week with your children so you can take part in the discussions we are having in school about future education and work.

If any parents or carers would like to get involved in our Careers provision at Whytrig please contact Mrs Campbell at wms@svf.org.uk

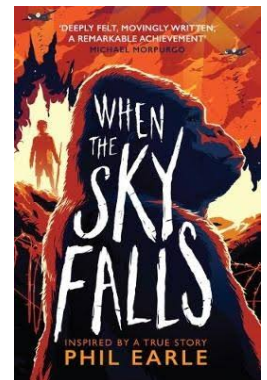
Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is 'Hitler's Canary' by Sandi Toksvig

Hitler's Canary is an inspiring World War II novel set in occupied Denmark. It follows a young boy named Bamse and his theatrical family who risk everything to resist the Nazi regime. Based on a true story, this fast-paced book shows how ordinary people bravely hid and smuggled their Jewish neighbours to safety. It is a powerful tale of friendship, courage, and standing up for what is right.

If you enjoy stories from World War 11s, you might like books by Phil Earle, such as **When the Sky Falls**, or **Until the Road Ends**, available to borrow from Mrs Campbell or Mrs Harland.



INFLUENCING
SUPPORTING &
CONNECTING



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Wake up Wednesday - Building School Ready Language Skills



Strong oral language skills help children feel confident, connected and ready to learn. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide explores simple, everyday ways that parents, carers and educators can support children's speaking, listening and understanding, from shared conversations and story time to naming feelings and building vocabulary through play and routines.

A PDF copy of the #WakeUpWednesday leaflet was also sent out this week via MCAS.

The Big Future Survey

Dame Rachel de Souza, The Children's Commissioner for England, wants all children to complete the Big Future Survey, which can be done by using the QR code or clicking on the link <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/>. The survey gives young people the opportunity to share their thoughts about their lives, including the things they like/don't like, the challenges they face, their hopes for the future and what it is like to be a child today, which will help inform national decisions made about young people across the country.



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Extra Curricular Clubs

Mon- KS2 CRICKET- Mr Robinson + Coach (No club last week of term0

<https://forms.gle/8oyC5KuXfZDWOqFv7>

Mon- KS3 Swimming Club- **We now have 10 spaces available. Please see Mr Robinson or reception for a letter.**

Mon- Chess Club- Mr Robinson- 12:30- Rm 02

Tues- KS3 Netball- Mrs Harland and Miss Waterfall (Sportshall/yard):

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkwv8>

NEW CLUB

Tues- Y8 Darts Club- Mr Robinson. This is limited to 12 people only and is a trial club to judge appeal and success.

<https://forms.gle/qfdjdHmJd6WeZTYm6>

Alternate Tuesdays - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes:

<https://forms.gle/xSvDnGRosKe9ziSUA>

Alternate Wednesdays (Week 1) KS2 Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard):

<https://forms.gle/QnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

KS2 Netball Dates for the Summer Term

Wednesdays - Week 1: 17th June, 1st July

Thurs- Performance Club - Mrs S Kelly

<https://forms.gle/pkMvz84djzkSHd619>

Thurs- KS3 Cricket Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall- Boys and Girls. NO CRICKET ON FRIDAY DUE TO LOW NUMBERS

NEW CLUB

Thurs- Girls' Football Club- Mrs Kelly. 3.30pm-4.30pm. All year groups are welcome.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkY7bkXTGJ-ep-rL5XIFtfx4fXoLBhStb_lxRQSamYRazKgw/viewform?usp=header

Attendance

Please remember to call in to the Middle School attendance line or send a message via MCAS if your child is unwell and will not be attending school by 8:30am. It is important that we have evidence for each day your child is absent, even if they were sent home the previous day.

To report an absence via telephone call please dial 0191 2371402, select 5 for Whytrig Middle School then select 8 to report a pupil absence.

Please send evidence of medical/dental appointments/medication to wms@svf.org.uk so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system. If you are submitting a Leave of Absence request please ensure any documentation supporting the exceptional circumstances is handed in at the same time as the Leave of Absence form.



This week's whole school attendance: 93.12%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
94.79%	91.67%	93.72%	92.59%



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The best attending class this week is: 5C (97.20%)

Free School Meals

It is always worth double checking if your child is eligible for free school meals. If your circumstances have recently changed or whether you've never checked before, the process is very straight forward:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/schools/school-meals>

For every pupil who is eligible they receive £2.60 lunch credit every day and the school receives additional funding which can be used to support learning and progress through the pupil premium grant. You can read more about the school's strategy here: <https://svf.org.uk/our-federation/pupil-premium>

Lunch Account Balance

Please check your child's lunch account balance, and top up as necessary. We will never allow your child to go hungry, and should they not have enough money on their account then we will ensure they are able to buy a Main Meal Deal by granting them a temporary overdraft for that day of £2.60. You will then receive a message via MCAS advising you that you need to top up their account. This temporary overdraft facility will not be extended for additional days and should your child not have enough funds in their account the following day they will only be provided with a basic sandwich and drink. Our expectation is that you will top their account up immediately so they have a positive balance again.

MCAS Contact Details

Please remember to double check that your details are correct on MCAS. When you make a change in My Child At School, it updates the systems that we use to contact home. This also means that we don't make a mistake in the spelling of an email address or taking down a number incorrectly.

Social Media Channels

Don't forget to keep up to date with everything else on our social media channels

X - @WhytrigMS

Facebook - @Whytrig Middle School

Links to external agencies are provided in good faith. We do not take any responsibility for the content of these links.



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