

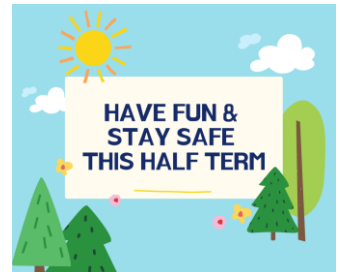


WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 13th February 2026

End of Spring 1 Half Term

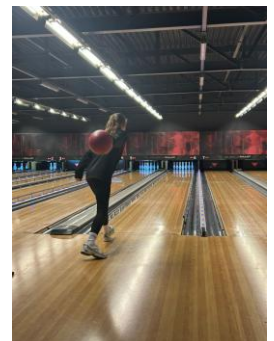
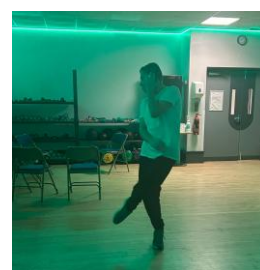
As we come to the end of the Spring 1 half term, we would like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support, and our pupils for their hard work, resilience and positivity. Despite what feels like endlessly rainy weather, the children have coped brilliantly and continued to approach school life with enthusiasm. The last six weeks have been full of activity and it has been wonderful to see how positively our pupils engage with and make the most of every opportunity. We hope you all enjoy a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed, motivated, and ready to learn for another busy and exciting Spring 2 half term.



Please note our school office will be closed over half term. Should you need to contact us please email wms@svf.org.uk and we will respond when school opens again on **Monday 23rd February**.

Making Active Memories Sports Visit

On Tuesday, a group of our Key Stage 3 pupils attended a Northumberland School Games event at Concordia, Cramlington. Pupils took part in a wide range of activities, including ten-pin bowling, boccia and squash. The clear favourite, however, was the silent disco, which was a huge hit with everyone involved! All pupils had a brilliant time, and it was wonderful to see them thriving, building confidence, and developing both their sporting ability and leadership skills.



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KS3 Be Safe Sessions

On Tuesday, Key Stage 3 pupils took part in personal safety workshops during our annual visit from Be Safe North East. The sessions were led by Dave Burn, who brings his professional experience and knowledge into the classroom, making the workshops extremely powerful and beneficial. The focus was on how to be 'safe on the streets, with pupils learning about the dangers and effects of gangs and antisocial behaviour.

In Year 7, the sessions focused specifically on the dangers of knife crime, while Year 8 explored County Lines and the impact criminality can have on young people's lives. Our pupils participated brilliantly, as always.



The following resources may be helpful if you are talking to your child(ren) about knife crime:

[Understanding Knife Crime | Information and Resources](#), [Knife crime advice for parents | LiveSafe](#)

The following resources may be helpful if you are talking to your child(ren) about County Lines:

[Protecting children from County Lines | NSPCC Learning](#), [Understanding County Lines and how to protect your child | Action for Children](#), [What Is County Lines? | The Children's Society](#)



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Lego Spike Prime Trip

On Monday, Year 5 took part in a Lego STEM session at Royal Grammar School. They were able to explore coding alongside Spike - Prime vehicles. Pupils were asked to complete different coding challenges, to develop their understanding of the program and how to work the vehicle. They were then set a challenge to move their vehicle across a path, pick up a block, move it to a point, drop it on a score board and then move their vehicle around the block to a finish line. The pupils were excited to take part in the challenge and be the team to complete it first! It was a great morning, with lots of positive collaborative group work.



Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - School closed - February Half Term
- Monday 23rd February - Year 6 Lego Spike Prime Visit
- Tuesday 24th February - KS3 Cyber Security sessions
- Friday 27th February - Behaviour non-uniform reward (invite only)
- Thurs 5th March- KS3 Sportshall Athletics County final at Blyth LC
- Thurs 5th March- Northumberland Cricket Board Secondary Cricket Day (Y7/8)
- Wednesday 11th March - Year 7 DWP Careers Workshop
- Friday 13th March - Year 8 DWP Careers Workshop
- Monday 16th March - Whole school parents evening
- Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th March - KS3 Groundswell Project
- Thursday 2nd April - **School closed for staff training** - Start of Easter Holidays



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Stars of the Week

Our Stars of the Week are nominated each week by staff for a variety of reasons, which might be contribution to the school community, school work, or something outstanding. Each week, their success is shared in school in the Star of the Week video, and they receive a certificate and a chocolate bar.

Week ending 13/02/2026

5C: Annie H; 5K: Mehman M; 5L: Amelia D;
6E: Olivia W; 6F: Gracie A; 6S: Emily G;
7H: Darryl E; 7L: Isla-Rose C; 7W: Oliver P;
8K: Bradley N; 8Ro: Maya G; 8Ru: Lyra H;
Head of School SOTW: Bobbie F and Archie B-M (8K)

Fixtures and Results

Year 8 boys football progressed to the $\frac{1}{4}$ finals of the NCSFA County Cup, with a fantastic 4-3 victory over RGS Newcastle on Thursday. The boys came back from 1-0 and 2-1 down to lead 4-2 with 2 minutes to go, when RGS converted a penalty. A deserved win after an excellent performance. Goals from Reece Y (x3) and Will Pople, and assists from Daniel Y and Liam S. We play Ovingham MS in the next round after HT, a team who have already beaten us on penalties in the ESFA National Small Schools Cup.



Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Secretary**. 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



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Safeguarding Update - Fostering a Sense of Belonging

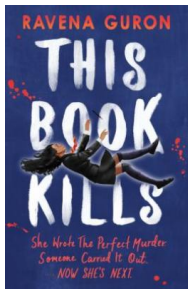
This Wake Up Wednesday guide explores why belonging matters and how small, everyday interactions can make a meaningful difference in helping children feel accepted and included. [#WakeUpWednesday](#)

View the help sheet on our X page at <https://x.com/whytrigms/>

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

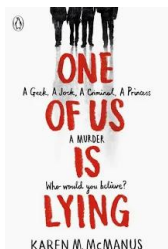


Book of the Week

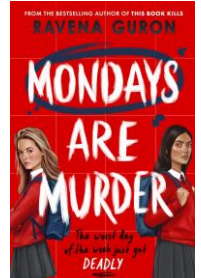


This week's Book of the Week is 'This Book Kills' by Ravena Guron

***This Book Kills* by Ravena Guron** is a gripping young adult mystery set in a prestigious London school, where a student's death exposes the dark secrets behind its polished reputation. When quiet scholarship student Jess Choudhary is drawn into the investigation, she uncovers a world of privilege, power, and hidden truths. Tense, fast-paced and full of twists, this is a brilliant read that explores justice, identity, and the courage to stand up for what's right.



If you liked 'This Book Kills', you might enjoy other YA murder mysteries such as 'Mondays are Murder' also by Ravena Guron - available to borrow from Mrs Campbell, or ***One of Us Is Lying*** by Karen M. McManus - available from the school library.



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Mon- Y5/6 Dodgeball- Mr Robinson + Dodgeball Coach- starting Mon 12th Jan

<https://forms.gle/Gse7Sv3YDymrc9UFA>

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

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

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkwv8>

Tues- KS3 Boys Fitness Club- Mr Robinson- Fitness Suite- starting Tues 13th Jan

<https://forms.gle/pb1ehervDmhnvjWN6>

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>

UPDATED KS2 Netball Dates for the Spring term: 4th March, 18th March, 1st April

The football club will resume later in the year. School teams will still have fixtures when they are arranged.

Thurs- Performance Club - Mrs S Kelly:

<https://forms.gle/pkMvz84djzkSHd619>

Thurs- Dance Club with Miss Lamb- Dance Studio- starting Thurs 15th Jan

<https://forms.gle/XvGiDZPwyTyjWcD76>

Fri- KS3 Badminton Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall

<https://forms.gle/hBF3w6zdMk6v3meX6>

KS2 Swimming Club - Mr Day- This club is now full. We have a reserve list if places become available. If you are collecting a child after swimming, please wait at the green gate

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.



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This week's whole school attendance: 91.73%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
92.33%	92.07%	93.03%	89.38%

The best attending class this week is: 7L (96.33%)

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
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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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