

# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 15th May 2026

## Kurling - Regional Finals

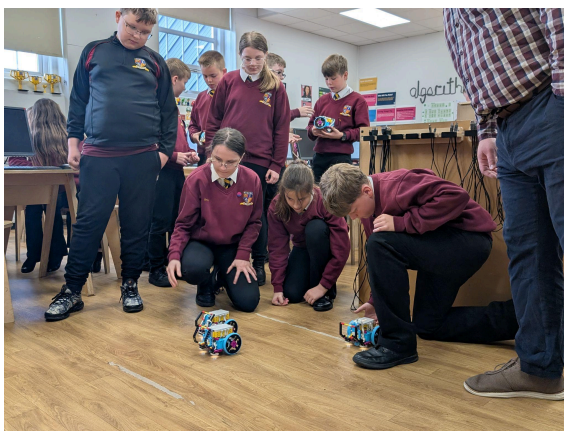
On Tuesday, a group of 8 children (from Year 5 to Year 8) travelled to Temple Park in South Shields to take part in the Kurling Regional Finals. They competed against teams from all over (from Bamburgh to Gibside) and represented the school fantastically. Although we didn't progress to the quarter finals (like we did in the qualifiers), the children won lots of games and showed fantastic team spirit and resilience.



## Year 7 STEM Trip

Our Year 7 pupils took part in an exciting STEM visit to RGS Newcastle on Monday. Putting their programming knowledge to the test, pupils were challenged to code a precise route across a complex grid. The mission required high-level problem-solving: starting from a set position, navigating to pick up a block, delivering it to a specific target, and finally racing to the finish line.

It was great to watch our students collaborate so effectively, and they proved to be outstanding representatives of our school through their teamwork and persistence. Well done to all involved for successfully navigating the challenge!



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## Year 5 Bike Rides

On Thursday, Year 5 headed out to put their cycling skills into practice with an out-of-school bike ride. 5L completed a full 10-mile trek to Blyth and back while successfully dodging the rain clouds! 5K weren't quite as lucky with the weather and unfortunately had to head back after three miles as the heavens opened. Despite the change in plans, a great time was had by everyone—there were plenty of smiles as they navigated the puddles and cycled through the mud. Well done to all our riders for their resilience!



## NUT ALLERGIES - URGENT REMINDER

We have a number of children in school who suffer from severe allergies to nuts. People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

**We must not have nuts in school in any form.** So please can we ask for your support in ensuring you do not include nut products in your child's breaktime snacks, packed lunch boxes, or any treats brought in on special occasions. This might include some cereal bars or granola bars, so please check the packaging carefully.

We appreciate that this is an additional thing for parents to check but we know that you will recognise the importance of it. We thank you for your continued support.

## Summer 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May - Scholastic Book Fair
- Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th, Thurs 21st May- Y6 full-day bike rides
- Wednesday 20th May- Y7/8 Boys hardball Cricket @ Ponteland HS
- Thursday 21st May - Y5 Tag Rugby (Kingston Park)
- Friday 22nd May - Y8 Yearbook Photos
- W/C Monday 25th May - School Closed - May Half Term Holiday



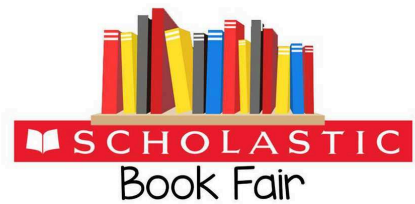
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## Scholastic Book Fair - Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May

We are holding a Scholastic book fair in our library for the pupils to browse and purchase books and stationery supplies. The fair will be open every day from **Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May** during school hours. There will be numerous titles, both Non-Fiction and Fiction available at a range of prices from £2.99-£9.99.

On **Thursday 21st May** the library will be open after school **3.40pm-4.30pm** to enable parents, carers and siblings to come and browse alongside their children if they wish. Books can be purchased with card or cash (correct change where possible please) during the school day at the book fair, or via an online payment system. Further payment information was sent to parents via MCAS earlier this week.



We hope that you will all appreciate this exciting opportunity and enjoy the book fair

### Job of the Week

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

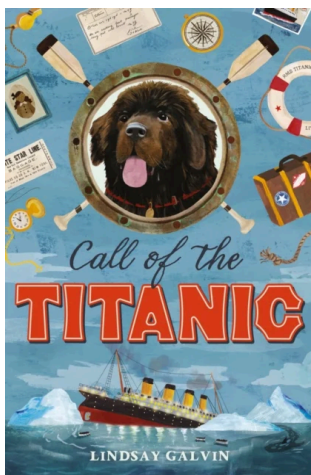
We encourage you to watch the Job of the Week with your children you can take part in the discussions we are having in school about future education and work.

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](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)



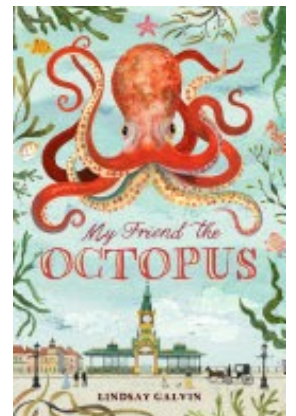
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### Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is '**Call of the Titanic**' by Lindsay Galvin

*Call of the Titanic* follows Sid, a cabin steward on the Titanic, and Clara, a stowaway on the rescue ship Carpathia. When the disaster strikes, their lives collide in a desperate fight for survival. Alongside a brave Newfoundland dog named Rigel and a mysterious sea creature, they face the icy Atlantic in a daring rescue mission.



If you enjoyed *Call of the Titanic* you might enjoy other books by Lindsay Galvin, such as *Darwin's Dragons* and *My Friend the Octopus*. Available to borrow from Mrs Campbell or the school library.



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## Safeguarding Update - Online Grooming



Online grooming is a growing and deeply concerning threat, with thousands of offences recorded each year in the UK. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores how offenders build trust with children through fake identities, flattery, gifts and group chats before exploiting that relationship. It also examines the rise of sextortion and how gaming platforms and social media can become gateways for harm.

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

## Extra Curricular Clubs

Mon- NEW CLUB KS2 CRICKET- Mr Robinson + Northumberland CB Coach- STARTS 27TH APRIL

<https://forms.gle/8oyC5KuXfZDWQoFv7>

Mon- KS3 Swimming Club- **We now have 5 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/GocrSTHaau5fxkvw8>

### 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: 29th April, 13th May, 3rd June, 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



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## 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](mailto: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: 92.9%**

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
95.3%	92.3%	92.5%	91.7%

**The best attending class this week is: 5K (96.6%)**

## Stars of the Week

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

Week ending 15th May 2026

5C: Jackson H; 5K: Logan W; 5L: Nicole E;  
6E: Ayda C; 6F: Smith D-C; 6S: Vinnie B;  
7H: Emmie M; 7L: Leon D; 7W: Reuben C;  
8K: Bobby F; 8Ro: Maverick H; 8Ru: Olivia M;  
Head of School SOTW: Evie K (7W)

## 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>



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### 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.

