



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSDROP

Week Ending 16th January 2026

Autumn 2nd Half Term Attendance Awards

One of the extra opportunities for children to be rewarded for attendance each half term is in the 100% Cup, where children get a token for every week of full attendance which they enter into the end of half term draw.

The winners of the 100% Cup for the Autumn 2nd half term were drawn on Monday in assembly and are:

- Gracie B (Year 6)
- Alfie M (Year 6)
- Alara Y (Year 8)

KS3 Rugby

Our KS3 classes have enjoyed their first taste of Rugby Union this half term. We have Drew from Newcastle Red Bulls and Nyle from the Coastal Rugby Partnership delivering sessions in PE lessons this term, with the aim of developing rugby skills and team-work. Pupils taking part will need football boots for the 3G pitch, and please make sure they wear a warm PE kit.



Royal Academy of Arts - Young Artists' Summer Show

Mrs Allison has registered Whytrig Middle School on the Royal Academy of Arts website. They are running a competition for pupils aged 4-18. If any pupils would like to submit their artwork they can do this before 4th March 5pm. The link is <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>



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Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 19th January - Year 7 STEM trip
- Tuesday 20th January- KS3 County X-Country Finals @ Temple Park LC
- Tuesday 20th January- 5K Multiskills (am) / 6S Multiskills (pm)
- Thursday 22nd January - Y8 Boys Futsal at Ponteland
- Thursday 29th January - Year 7 Theatre trip
- Thursday 29th January - KS3 Sportshall Athletics
- Thursday 5th February - KS2 French Workshops (La Petite Creperie)
- Friday 6th February - KS3 Careers Day
- Monday 9th/Tuesday 10th February - KS3 Be Safe workshops
- Monday 9th February - KS2 Skip 4 Fit Day
- Monday 9th February - Year 5 Lego Spike Prime visit.

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 16/01/2026

5C: Leo I; 5K: Mila D; 5L: Abby G;

6E: Penelope D; 6F: Tristan C; 6S: Lia F;

7H: Olivia D-J; 7L: Peyton D; 7W: Sebastian T;

8K: Zoe F; 8Ro: Layla M; 8Ru: Will P;

Head of School SOTW: Callum I (7L)

Safeguarding Update - Digital Devices and Wellbeing



Digital devices are woven into everyday life for children and young people, but balancing the benefits with potential risks can feel challenging. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide explores how screen use can influence sleep, emotional regulation, physical health and online experiences, offering clear context around why concerns about wellbeing are growing. View the help sheet on our X page at <https://x.com/WhytrigMS/status/2011555491751895119/photo/1>

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



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Uniform Reminder

All items of clothing, bags and water bottles etc. should have your child's name in or on them. This helps us return 'lost property' to their rightful owner. By the end of each term, we have a large quantity of items that have lost their owner and are then donated to charity or unfortunately thrown away.

As it is the start of a new term and we should be starting how we mean to go on, we would also like to remind you about our school expectations around footwear and appearance.

- Trainers (running school style) should not be worn in school (pupils are only permitted to change into trainers during lunchtimes and for PE lessons). Leather/leather look trainers that can be polished are however permitted but should have no obvious branding.

Examples of footwear we DO accept:



Examples of footwear we DO NOT accept:



- Make up, false nails, fake tan and nail varnish should not be worn at all in school.
- During this cold weather please remember to send your child into school with a coat.

Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Mortgage Advisor**. 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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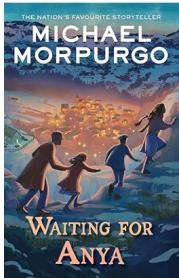


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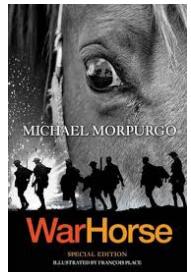


Book of the Week

This week's Book of the Week is 'Waiting for Anya' by Michael Morpurgo



Waiting for Anya tells the story of young Jo, a shepherd boy in the French Pyrenees during WWII, who discovers Benjamin, a Jewish man hiding and smuggling Jewish children to safety in Spain while waiting for his lost daughter, Anya, to arrive. When German soldiers occupy the village, the perilous rescue operation becomes even more dangerous, forcing Jo and the villagers to risk everything, including their lives, to help the children escape, culminating in a poignant reunion and a testament to community bravery.



If you liked 'Waiting for Anya', you might enjoy other books by Michael Morpurgo, such as 'War Horse' - available to borrow from the school library

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>

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.



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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 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: 93.4%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.1%	90.9%	93.4%	92.7%

The best attending class this week is: 5K (99.6%)

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.



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PSQM



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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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