

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 19th June 2026

Alnwick Gardens

Last Friday, a group of Key Stage 2 children visited Alnwick Castle and Gardens as part of our School Games initiative for #makingactivememories. The children enjoyed playing in the water fountains, playing football, pickle ball, cricket, archery and even visited the Dragon Quest and tried their hand at the 'broomstick training'! We were lucky to go on a lovely sunny day and the children were a credit to the school with their behaviour.



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Key Stage 3 France Trip

A final reminder for those travelling to France with the school on Sunday evening:

The school site will be open so that the children can arrive **between 9:10 and 9:30pm**. The gate for the main car park will be open to park on site. Parents and carers should allow space for the coach at the front of the building. Please **enter the site through the brown feature gates and meet in the lunch hall** where children should check in with their group leader and go through the pre-travel checks. Don't forget passports!! The bus is expected to arrive at 9:45 pm with an estimated departure time of 10:15pm. Please refer to the communication sent out this week regarding what to bring. For our trip to Parc Asterix on Wednesday 24th June, a digital map can be downloaded in advance on the app here:

<https://www.parcasterix.fr/en/parc-asterix-mobile-app>

Year 8 Careers Trip to Tharsus

On Wednesday, a group of our Year 8 pupils enjoyed a brilliant visit to Tharsus in Blyth to learn all about the exciting career opportunities within the engineering industry. The students were treated to a fascinating behind-the-scenes factory tour, where they got to see advanced robotic machines being manufactured right on the shop floor. Pupils then put their own skills to the test in a hands-on engineering challenge. A great time was had by all, and our students came away with a fantastic insight into the future of engineering and automation!



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North East Book Awards

We are incredibly proud of the ten students from Years 6-8 who were selected to judge this year's North East Book Awards. It was no small task—each student read all five shortlisted titles before casting their final votes. This week, we came together to celebrate their hard work and discover the winning book, marking the occasion with a well-deserved treat of bacon rolls, waffles, and hot chocolates. A huge well done to everyone involved for your fantastic reading and enthusiasm!



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.



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Year 5 Fieldwork

In Humanities, Year 5 are currently carrying out fieldwork. Our enquiry question is: 'Which animal species live in our school environment?'. So far, we have written hypotheses, methods, equipment lists and risk assessments. This week, we have conducted the practical aspect. We visited each of our chosen areas to look for different animal species to see what we would discover. We noted our data down in tally charts and carried out some field sketches of what we found. We were able to use a range of tools and equipment such as magnifying glasses, bug finders, vacuum catchers and tweezers.



PE Kit Donations

Are you in Y8 and leaving WMS in a few weeks? If you have any PE kit that you are not using or passing onto younger siblings, we will happily take PE kit (maroon t-shirts, ¼ zip tops and black shorts) which we can use as spares for next year, enabling all of our students to take part in lessons. Please send any donations Mr Robinson's way in school in the last week of term.



Summer 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 22nd June - France Residential Trip
- Tuesday 23rd June - NDAS workshops (year 5)
- Friday 26th June - Quadkids Final Sports Event
- Friday 26th June - Fire Brigade Assembly (water safety)
- Monday 29th June - U11 Girls Summer Football Festival
- Tues 30th June- KS3 Sports Leaders at HVFs Sports Day (pm)
- Wednesday 1st July - Year 7 London STEM trip
- Wednesday 1st July - Year 5 Girls' Football Competition at Northburn
- Thursday 2nd July - Year 8 Transition Evening Event at Seaton Valley High School (5 to 7pm)



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Job of the Week



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

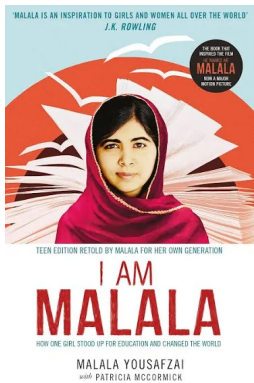
If any parents or carers would like to get involved in our Careers provision at Whytrig please contact Mrs Campbell at wms@svf.org.uk

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.



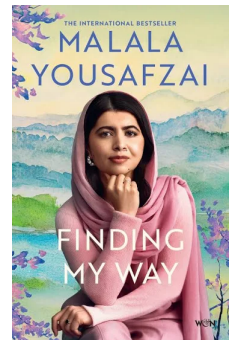
Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is '**I am Malala**' by Malala Yousafzai, from our year 8 Reading Challenge.

I Am Malala is the autobiography of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai. It details her early life in Pakistan's Swat Valley, her father's encouragement of her education, her peaceful activism for girls' rights, and her miraculous survival after being shot by the Taliban

If you enjoyed **I am Malala**, you might like to read, Malala's memoir, **Finding my Way**, the official follow up to her story, available to borrow from the school library.



Wake up Wednesday - Roblox (latest version)



Roblox is hugely popular with children, offering millions of user-created games and social experiences. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide explains how the platform differs from traditional video games, and why its scale, self-rating system and automated moderation can expose young users to inappropriate content or unsafe interactions .

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



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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 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 19th June 2026

5C: Ava N; 5K: AJ A; 5L: Madilyn M;
6E: Indie'Rae S; 6F: Ethan D; 6S: Aaron H;
7H: Darryl E; 7L: Josh C; 7W: Emily B;
8K: Kaycee L; 8Ro: Dan Y; 8Ru: Aaron F;
Head of School SOTW: Amelia D (5L)

Week ending 12th June 2026

5C: Alannah M; 5K: Sophie S; 5L: Noah H;
6F: Henry B; 6S: Isla F;
7H: Freya S; 7L: Michael R; 7W: Warren H;
8K: Leah H; 8Ro: Annabelle R; 8Ru: Olivia M;
Head of School SOTW: Alex F (7H)

Extra Curricular Clubs

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

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

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/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: 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_lxROSamYRazKgw/viewform?usp=header



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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: 92.7%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
95.0%	92.1%	92.4%	91.5%

The best attending class this week is: 5K (96.3%)

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.



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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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