



# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 1st April 2026

## End of Term - Happy Easter!

As we reach the end of a very long term, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership in making this term a very successful one for all pupils at Whytrig Middle School. We hope that pupils and families have an enjoyable, safe and restful break, and we look forward to seeing all pupils back in school refreshed and ready to learn on **Monday 20th April**.



The school office will be closed throughout the school holiday. Should you need to contact us, please email [wms@svf.org.uk](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk) and we will respond as soon as possible when we reopen.

## Year 8 boys Football Cup Semi-Final

This will be played against Gosforth Central MS on Tues 21st April at Jesmond Park Academy, 3:45 Kick-Off.

## Spring 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 1st April - End of Term (school closes at usual time of 3:30pm)
- Thursday 2nd April - **School closed for staff training** - Start of Easter Holidays
- Monday 20th April - School opens at normal time. First- day of Summer term
- Friday 1st May - Year 8 Public Sculpture Trip
- Monday 4th May - **School Closed** - May Bank Holiday
- W/C Monday 11th May - Year 6 SATs week
- W/C Monday 25th May - **School Closed** - May Half Term Holiday

## 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 01/04/2026

5C: Leah D; 5K: Myla C; 5L: Ella A;  
6E: Ayden C; 6F: Willow A; 6S: Emily T;  
7H: Thomas P; 7W: Baker E;  
8K: Millie A; 8Ro: Ruby C; 8Ru: Lyra H;  
Head of School SOTW: Mika W (6F)

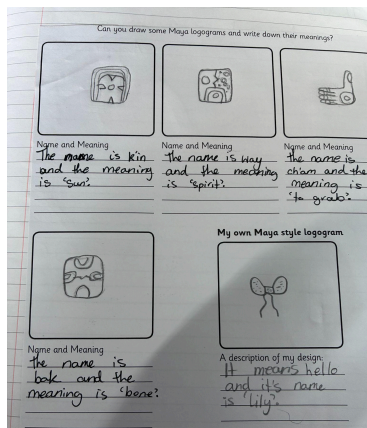
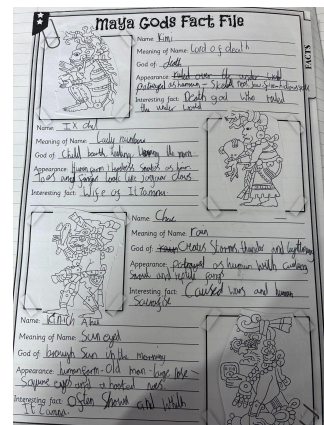
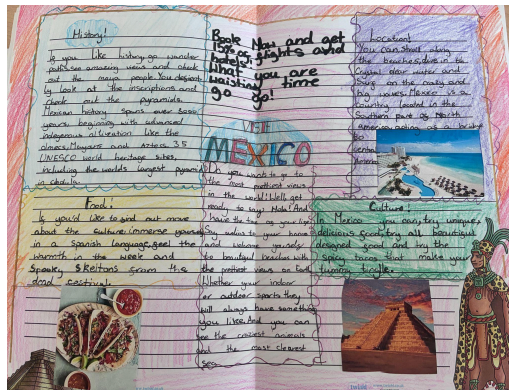
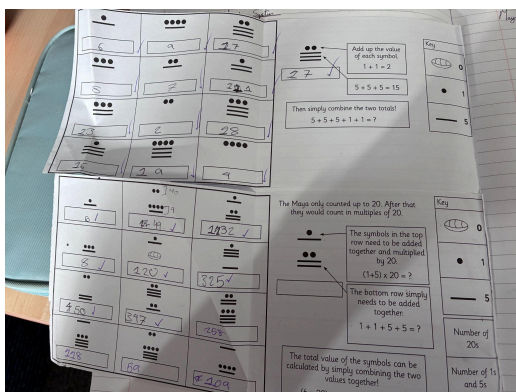


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## Maya Madness!

Year 5 have enjoyed studying 'The Maya Civilisation' this half term. Did you know that the Maya people lived in Mesoamerica (a historical region that covers the area from central Mexico down through Central America) during the same period as the "Stone Age" in Britain? We learned all about the geography of this region, and how we can use primary and secondary sources to learn about the past including the Maya gods, and the Maya number and writing systems. We even tried our hand at Pok-a-Tok - a traditional ball game dating back 3,000 years... we didn't sacrifice the losers though!



## Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Zoologist**. 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](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)

## Wake Up Wednesday - The Dangers of Vaping

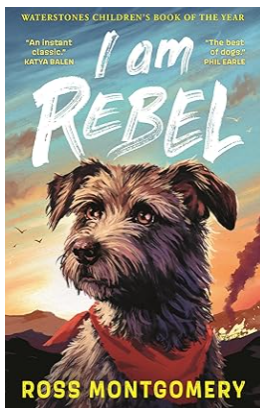
They've helped thousands of people successfully quit smoking; in laboratory tests, they've been found to be up to 95% less harmful than cigarettes; and they've been hailed as a "game changer for public health" by one independent review. So why exactly are vapes and e-cigarettes still regarded by many experts as controversial and potentially dangerous?

In terms of young people, the issue is availability. Vapes (containing nicotine) aren't supposed to be sold to under 18s: a fact at odds with the rising number of school-age users and the products' colourful packaging and child-friendly flavours. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide summarises what trusted adults need to know about the potential dangers of vaping for young people.

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 'I am Rebel' by Ross Montgomery

*I Am Rebel* is a heartwarming adventure told from the perspective of a loyal dog named Rebel. When his owner, 12-year-old Tom, leaves to join a rebellion against a tyrannical king, Rebel embarks on a dangerous journey to find him, navigating a war-torn landscape, making allies, and overcoming perils to reunite his family. This book was Waterstone's Childrens Book of the Year 2025.

If you enjoyed *I am Rebel* and enjoy stories told from an animal's perspective, you might like *I am Cosmo* by Carlie Sorosiak - available to borrow from Mrs. Campbell.



## Police Cadets (current Year 8)

Become a Volunteer Police Cadet with Northumbria Police!

Applicants must be 13/14yrs old on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2026 (going into year 9 or 10) and live within the Northumbria Police area.

For full details and how to apply, please visit [Police Cadets -Northumbria Police](#)

The closing date for applications is 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.

A PDF copy of the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme leaflet was also sent out to parents of Year 8 children via MCAS.



## Extra Curricular Clubs

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

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

Mon- KS3 Swimming Club- THIS IS NOW FULL- STARTS 20TH APRIL

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

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

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkvw8>

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 Boys Cricket Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall- STARTS 23RD APRIL

Fri- KS3 Girls Cricket Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall- STARTS 24TH APRIL

## Safety Reminder - Beaches

As the summer term approaches (and hopefully the better weather), some members of our school community will be taking advantage of the fact that we live so close to the coast and will plan trips to the beach. We are very lucky to live so close to excellent beaches on our doorsteps, and there is nothing better than spending time at the beach with friends, however we would ask parents and carers to talk through the many potential dangers around activities on and around the beach and of course water safety.

One of the dangers centers around jumping from the sand dunes to the beach. Injuries can arise when children jump from elevated positions in the sand dunes to the beach. The actual height of the sand dunes can be quite deceptive, especially when taking into account the slope of the beach and children can really hurt themselves if they land awkwardly. Back flipping when jumping can potentially result in serious injury. The message is to have fun, but do so safely!

## 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
95.6%	92.1%	92.6%	91.8%

The best attending class this week is: 5K (96.5%)



### 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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# 1000 (Blyth) Squadron RAF Air Cadets Spring Intake 2026



An organisation like no other for 12-17 year olds



**Rewarding experiences you wont get  
anywhere else**

**Gain an advantage for college, university and  
job applications**

**Take pride in wearing the RAF uniform**

**OPEN DAY, Saturday 11th April 2026, 10am-2pm  
(1 hour slots to be confirmed)**

To register interest for you  
or your child, please scan the  
QR code and complete the  
short form or call  
07794414933 to speak to our  
squadron recruitment officer!



We recently welcomed Flight Officer Matthew Whitehead into school to talk to Year 8 about the latest recruitment to the RAF Air Cadets. They are having an Open Day on 11th April if you would like to find out more. You can also use the following link to sign up:

[1000 \(Blyth\) Squadron RAF Air Cadets Open Day Registration of Interest – Fill in form](#)



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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.

