

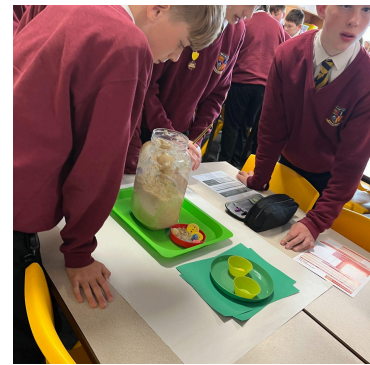
# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 22nd May 2026

## Year 8 RTC Chemical Engineering Workshop

Last Friday, a group of our Year 8 pupils took part in a chemical engineering-based workshop delivered by RTC North. The exciting event aimed to raise awareness of the diverse and vital careers within the chemical engineering industry.

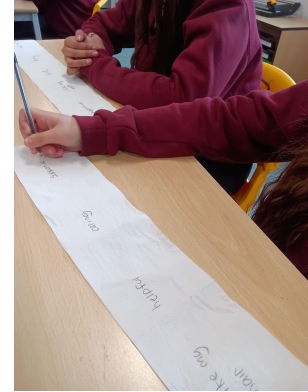
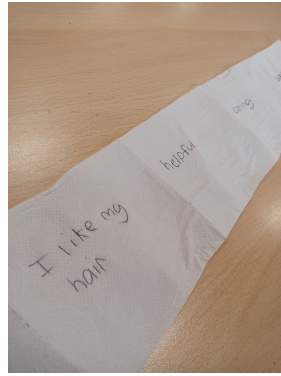
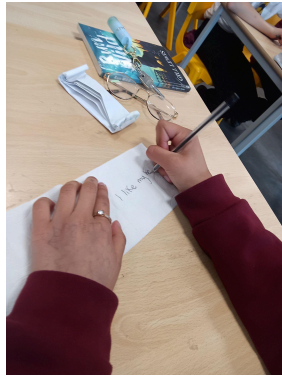
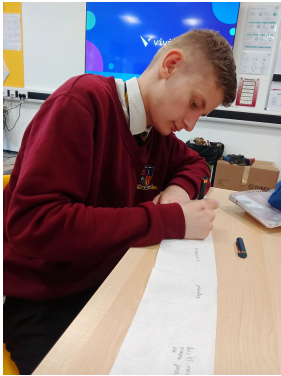
Throughout the day, pupils jumped into a variety of hands-on activities, including a simulated metal and mineral extraction challenge where they had to adhere to the strict, real-life regulations that surround modern mining. The day culminated in impressive group presentations, with students pitching innovative ways that chemical engineering can solve real-world problems across the globe. Our pupils were absolutely brilliant; the organisers even went out of their way to comment on how well they participated and approached each complex task. Well done, everyone!



## Year 8 NDAS Sessions

This week was the final session of a very impactful PSHE unit for Year 8, focused on Positive Relationships and Self-Esteem, delivered by Karen from the Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS). Over the course of the program, pupils have explored how to recognise healthy connections, build supportive relationships, and nurture their own positive self-worth.

For their final task, students wrote heartwarming, positive messages to themselves to look back on whenever they need a self-esteem boost. As always, our pupils' behaviour and participation were exemplary throughout the workshop. A huge thank you to Karen and NDAS for providing such valuable life skills to our students!



## KS3 Family Sessions

Over the last 4 weeks, a group of Key Stage 3 children and their family members have been working in school to create some fantastic arts and crafts. The event was another resounding success, providing families with a wonderful opportunity to engage in creative activities and strengthen their bonds within the school community. The quality of the crafts produced was exceptional, and a memorable time was had by all. Thank you to Mrs Chicken for hosting these events; we hope to have more in the future.



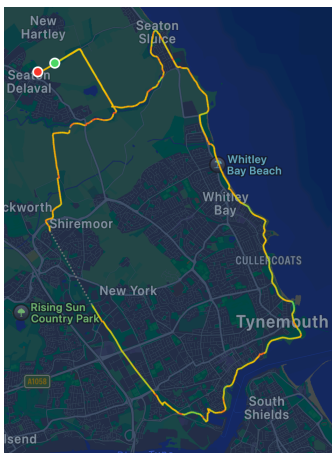
## Year 5 Rugby

The Year 5 tag rugby team traveled to Kingston Park for an action-packed tournament. The team put on a fantastic display of skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day, facing some tough competition but holding their heads high. They drew their first game 4-4, won the second and third 5-3 and 5-2. They just missed out, losing their last game 9-8. Well done to all involved!



## Year 6 Bike Rides

Year 6 have been out on their bikes this week on their full day bike ride. The route involved going through Holywell Dene, along the Wagonways all the way to North Shields Fish Quay and then back through Tynemouth and all along the coast. The children showed real resilience on this 23 mile route and, luckily, the weather stayed bright for us! Well done to everyone involved.



## Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Epidemiologist**. 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)



Proud to be a  
**Schools North East**  
Partner School



## Nature Group

Our dedicated Nature Group has been working incredibly hard to plant over 500 native bushes, including Hawthorn and traditional hedgerow species, in our Forest School area. The students have thoroughly enjoyed putting our brand-new gardening kit to good use to get the job done. This fantastic project will provide a vital habitat for local birds and insects, and we are hoping to see plenty of new wildlife using the garden very soon. A massive thank you to our green-fingered team for their hard work in enhancing our school environment!



## 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 2 - Dates for your Diary

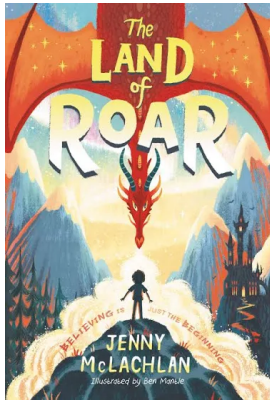
- W/C Monday 25th May - **School Closed** - May Half Term Holiday
- Monday 1st June - School reopens for Summer 2
- Tuesday 2nd June - Area Athletics Monkton Stadium
- Tuesday 2nd June - Year 5 Learning Showcase
- Thursday 4th June - Y5/6 Quadkids Athletics at SSMS
- Tuesday 9th June - Year 5 Gibside trip
- Friday 12th June - Make Active Memories Trip to Alnwick Castle
- Monday 15th June - Year 5 Bikeability
- Wednesday 17th June - Year 8 Careers trip Tharsus Blyth
- Monday 22nd June - France Residential Trip
- Wednesday 1st July - Year 7 London STEM trip
- Wednesday 1st July - Year 5 Girls' Football Competition at Northburn



Proud to be a  
**Schools North East**  
Partner School



## Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is 'Land of Roar' by Jenny McLachlan

**Land of Roar** follows twins Arthur and Rose, who discover that the imaginary world they created as young children is actually real after their grandfather is kidnapped into it through an old attic camp bed. To rescue him, the siblings must travel to this magical world, overcome their growing real-world distance, and use their shared imagination to defeat Crowky, a terrifying villain born from Arthur's childhood nightmares.



**Land of Roar** is the first in a series of books. Sequels are available to borrow from Mrs Campbell and the school library.

## Safeguarding Update - Minecraft 2026



Minecraft remains hugely popular with young players, offering creative freedom and social interaction. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide explores how features like public servers, in-game chat and multiplayer modes can introduce risks, including contact with strangers, exposure to inappropriate behaviour and privacy concerns linked to independent server hosting .

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

## Mental Health Top Tip - Creativity and Confidence

Research shows that creative activities can support children's wellbeing and confidence. They give children a safe way to share feelings, try new things, and build self belief. Creative activities can help children: share their thoughts and feelings, try new things and build confidence.

As we start the summer half term holiday, here are some ideas to try at home:

- Drawing or painting feelings
- Quick doodles or short stories
- Building or making something new



## 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 22nd May 2026

5C: Leah D; 5K: Nova M; 5L: Jaxon B;  
6E: Penny K; 6F: Emily M; 6S: Jasmine C;  
7H: Joshua M; 7L: Joseph M; 7W: Keevah S;  
8K: Archie B-M; 8Ro: James E; 8Ru: Evan B;  
Head of School SOTW: Charlotte H (5C)



Proud to be a  
**Schools North East**  
Partner School



## Extra Curricular Clubs

Mon- KS2 CRICKET- Mr Robinson + Coach-

<https://forms.gle/8oyC5KuXfZDWOqFv7>

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/GocrSTHaau5fxkwv8>

### 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**

## 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: 92.8%**

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
<b>95.2%</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>91.7%</b>

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



Proud to be a  
**Schools North East**  
Partner School



### 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

Links to external agencies are provided in good faith. We do not take any responsibility for the content of these links.

