



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 23rd January 2026

Year 7 Northumbria University STEM Trip

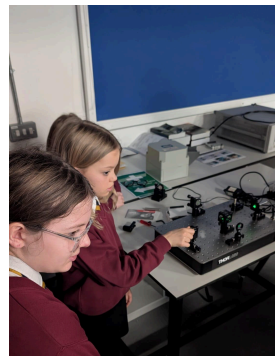
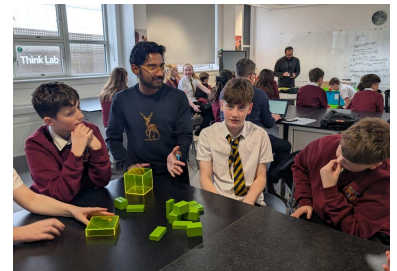
On Monday, Year 7 visited Northumbria University as part of a project that will be run throughout the year 7 curriculum over the upcoming terms. The purpose of the visit was to explore various aspects of space, including research, careers, and experiments. The pupils had the opportunity to see specialist equipment and experiments that are being used as part of worldwide projects to explore communication in space. They were given time to talk with lecturers, students, and researchers, to ask questions about what they do, why they do it, and their career paths.

We explored a CubeSat Music torch, where pupils used light to send music to a satellite. Pupils worked together to try to fit different components into toy plastic CubeSats, and they had the opportunity to use an interferometer educational kit to observe interference patterns on a wall. It was a really interesting day and a great time was had by all.

Some of our pupils said:

'I loved learning about the other space careers you could have, and to be honest, I didn't even know some of them existed!'

I didn't realise that being an artist to write space fact books for kids could be a space-like career. That is the type of career that I would like in the future.'



Northumberland Multi-Skills



On Tuesday, 5K and 6S took part in the Northumberland Virtual Multi-Skills Final after qualifying (during PE lessons) in the Autumn term. Each class had to take part in 4 activities - which we had trained for - plus one surprise activity. We competed against 10 other schools from all over Northumberland. The children were excellent ambassadors for Whytrig, showed fantastic determination and resilience, and worked hard on their team-work skills. Well done 5K and 6S!



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Active Travel Ambassadors programme

On Wednesday we held an assembly by Lou from Modeshift Stars, which helps encourage Active Travel to school. She delivered a very informative session about sustainability and climate change and how we will be running an Active Travel Ambassadors programme this year. Pupils in Y7/8 are able to apply for a role in this and they will then work towards delivering a Dragons Den pitch at County Hall in Morpeth to help try to win funding towards their school project.



Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

- 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.

Important Reminders

1. **Drinking water:** We would like to remind parents and carers to ensure pupils come to school each day with a suitable water bottle. We are seeing an increasing number of pupils requesting cups to get a drink, and unfortunately we do not have the capacity to provide these. Staying well hydrated is important to help pupils remain focused and to avoid headaches during the school day. Please send your child in with a reusable water bottle with a sports cap, which they can refill at the school water fountains throughout the day.
2. **Paracetamol/Calpol:** As outlined in the medication permission form, the school does not administer paracetamol or Calpol to pupils until at least break time. If your child requires medication before break time, please ensure this is given at home before they come into school. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us to manage medication safely.

Thank you for your support in these matters



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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 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 23/01/2026

5C: Isabella R; 5K: Ivy S; 5L: Cole D;
6E: William M; 6F: Poppy H; 6S: Mason B;
7H: Melissa S; 7L: Thomas D; 7W: Finlay J;
8K: Millie A; 8Ro: Mya A-J; 8Ru: Evan B;
Head of School SOTW: Emily G (6S)

Fixtures and Results

Our Year 7 X-Country runners took part in the Northumberland Schools Athletics County finals on a sunny Tuesday at Temple Park LC, South Shields. A fantastic run from Jude P (7H), saw him qualify to run for Northumberland in 12th place. The regional finals are to be held at the prestigious Sedbergh School in Cumbria next month.



Safeguarding Update - Roblox



Roblox is hugely popular with children, offering millions of user-created games and social experiences. This [#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. View the help sheet on our X page at <https://x.com/whytrigms/>

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 be 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 **Nutritionist**. 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

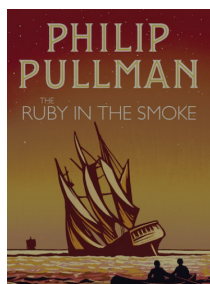


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Book of the Week

This week's Book of the Week is 'The Ruby in the Smoke' by Philip Pullman



The Ruby in the Smoke follows 16-year-old Sally Lockhart as she uncovers secrets surrounding her father's mysterious death in Victorian London, encountering a deadly jewel, treacherous villains, opium dens, and assassins while seeking the truth about the cryptic "seven blessings" and the legendary Ruby of Agrapur. Along with new friends, photographer Frederick Garland and assistant Jim, Sally navigates a dark underworld of intrigue and danger, discovering her father was involved in shadowy dealings, all while pursued by the ruthless Mrs. Holland who also seeks the gem.



If you liked 'The Ruby in the Smoke', you might enjoy other Sally Lockhart mysteries by Philip Pullman, such as 'The Shadow in the North' or other books with strong protagonists like the 'Enola Holmes' series, which is also available to watch as a series on Netflix.

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/OnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

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: 92.27%

| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 95.33% | 89.07% | 92.58% | 92.67% |

The best attending class this week is: 5L (97.69%)

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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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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