WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL
NEWSDROP

Week Ending 23rd October 2026

End of Autumn 1 Half Term

It has been a busy and exciting first half term, and we cannot believe how much we have packed into the last eight weeks! From out-of-school visits and whole school events, a disco, Author Week, and various sporting events, our pupils have thrown themselves into school life with incredible energy and enthusiasm.We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support and encouragement throughout this term. We are now eagerly looking forward to the second half of the term, with plenty more exciting learning opportunities, events, and festive activities planned as we head towards Christmas!

Halloween Disco

Our Halloween Disco was a massive success this week, filling the hall with music, dancing, and fantastic spooky energy! Pupils put an incredible amount of effort into their costumes—from spooky classics like ghosts and zombies to creative characters, like Men in Black and Mario, everyone looked absolutely fantastic. The dance floor was packed all evening, and pupils were wonderfully behaved while enjoying the music, stocking up on treats at the tuck shop, and lining up for the glitter tattoo station, which proved to be an overwhelming favorite!

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Kelly for her hard work in organising such a brilliant event, as well as to all of our dedicated staff who gave up their evening to help run and support the disco. Your time and enthusiasm made it a truly memorable night for all of our children!













SCHOOL GAMES PLATINUM 2021/22 - 2022/23
MUSIC MARK INFLUENCING SUPPORTING & CONNECTING
PSQM Primary Science Quality Mark Valid 2022 - 2026 PSQM
2024-27 BRONZE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AWARD
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Halloween Disco winners

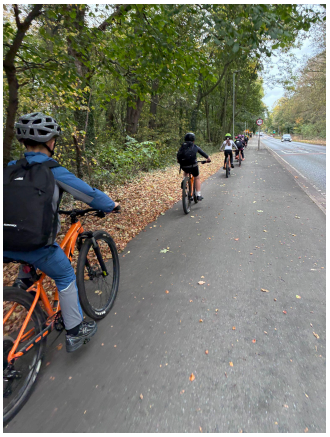
Congratulations to the following pupils:

Key Stage 2 best dancer: Amelia K (5L)
Key stage 2 best costume: Elijah B (6S)

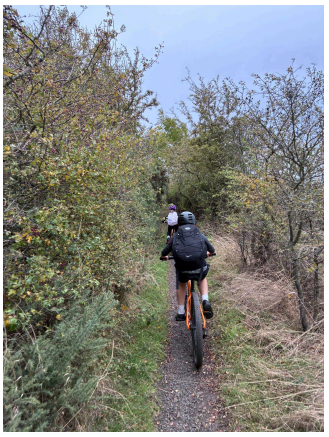
Key Stage 3 best dancer: Vinnie B (7H)
Key stage 3 best costume: Ava L (7W)

Bike Rides

Our Y6 cyclists have been busy again with Richard Rothwell recently. They have enjoyed some challenging bike rides in the local area, with pupils taking part in ½ day and full day rides. Full day rides took the groups on a loop in and around Bedlington, Cambois and Blyth, finishing with 24 miles of tough cycling under their belt. Some excellent cycling skills and resilience and perseverance shown from our pupils in some tough conditions.







Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

- W/C Monday 26th October - HALF TERM holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
- Monday 2nd November - Start of Autumn 2 half term
- Thursday 5th November - Year 6 trip to Northern Stage

Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Volunteer Coordinator**. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also here.

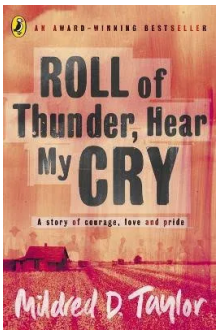
We encourage you to watch the Job of the Week with your children so you can take part in the discussions we are having in school about future education and work.

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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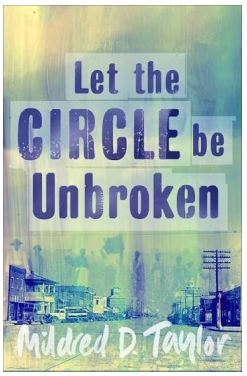
Book of the Week



This week's book is **'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry'** by Mildred D. Taylor, from our Year 8 challenge.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is a powerful story set in 1930s Mississippi during the Great Depression. It follows nine-year-old Cassie Logan and her family as they struggle against racism and injustice while trying to keep their land and dignity.

Through Cassie's eyes, we see the harsh realities of prejudice alongside the immense strength of family, friendship, and courage in the face of unfairness. It is an extraordinary novel that highlights the vital importance of standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult.



If you liked 'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry', try... Other fantastic historical books by Mildred D. Taylor, such as ***Let the Circle Be Unbroken*** or ***The Road to Memphis***.

Extra Curricular Clubs

- Singing Club - Monday 3.30-4.30 https://forms.gle/6sEQxuaPkBwQe9ao7
- KS2 After School Dodgeball Club starts Monday 21st September - Sign up here: https://forms.gle/SKyHFFCFxrR2pfNT9 - THIS CLUB IS NOW FULL.
- Girls Football Club - Thursday 3.30-4.30 https://forms.gle/1RJEUABcYKh288XW9
- KS3 Darts- Friday lunchtime- 12:45-1:05 (Darts arena)
- Netball - Friday 3.30 - 4.30 Link to Netball Club Form

More clubs coming after half term, watch this space……..

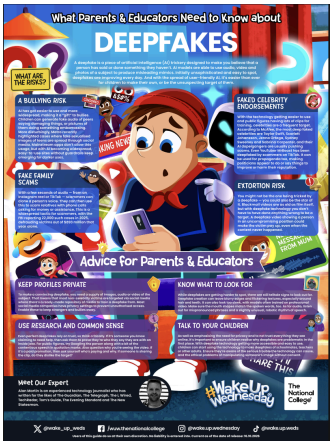
Stars of the Week

Our Stars of the Week are nominated each week by staff for a variety of reasons, which might be contributions to the school community, schoolwork, 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 23rd October 2026
5C:Freya C ; 5K: Rosie-Rae R ; 5L: Kacie R ;
6E: Adriana C; 6F: Ryan H ; 6S: Sienna B ;
7H: Jasmine C; 7L: Ava W ; 7W: Zara K ;
8K: Joshua M ; 8Ro: Sonny T ; 8Ru: Robyn R ;
Head of School SOTW: Emily DP (7L)

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Safeguarding Update - Deepfakes



Deepfakes use AI to create convincing fake images, videos and audio recordings, making it appear that someone has said or done something they haven't. As this technology becomes increasingly accessible, young people face growing risks from online bullying, fabricated explicit images and sophisticated impersonation scams. From bogus celebrity endorsements to cloned voices and digital blackmail, deepfakes can have serious consequences for unsuspecting victims. With children potentially becoming both targets and creators of this misleading content, understanding the dangers is essential. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide explores the risks and offers practical advice on spotting deepfakes, protecting personal information and encouraging responsible AI use.

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

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: 89.73%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
96.10%	88.83%	87.50%	87.11%

The best attending class this week is: 5K (97.41%)

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

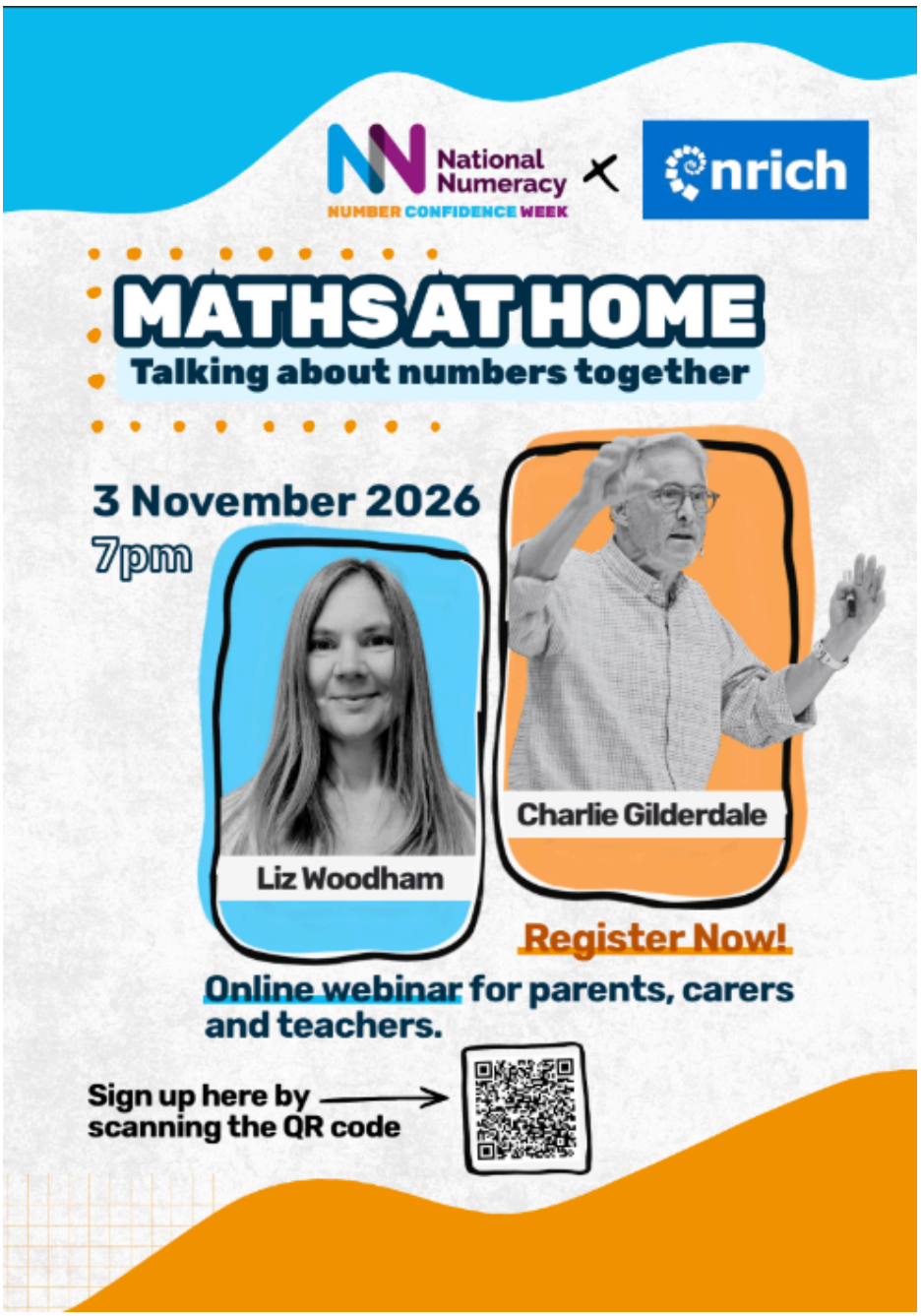
For every pupil who is eligible they receive a lunch credit every day. You can read more about the school's strategy here: https://svf.org.uk/our-federation/pupil-premium

Maths at Home - Talking about numbers together

A free webinar for parents, carers and teachers of children aged 5-13

We are delighted to share a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to join a **FREE online webinar on Tuesday 3rd November at 7pm**, hosted by **National Numeracy** in partnership with **NRICH**. Led by Liz and Charlie from NRICH, this relaxed and friendly session requires absolutely no prior maths expertise and is designed for everyone—whether you love numbers, feel out of practice, or prefer to avoid them altogether.

With no pressure or tests, you can simply sit down with a cuppa to discover easy ways to spot maths in everyday life, fun activities that encourage curiosity, and simple conversation starters to help children think positively about numbers. Developing this positive attitude can have a lasting impact on your child's learning, and you can play a part by **scanning the QR code on the attached flyer or clicking here to register** and secure your joining link.



Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Safety Warning

With Bonfire Night approaching, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging parents and carers to talk to their children about the dangers of deliberate fire setting. Deliberate fires can put people, property, and the environment at risk, while placing additional pressure on emergency services.
Please take a moment to read the attached Deliberate Fire Setting Leaflet, which highlights the risks and consequences of fire setting and provides details of support services available.
We also encourage families to celebrate Bonfire Night safely by attending organised displays where possible and ensuring any fireworks used at home are handled responsibly and under adult supervision.
Thank you for helping us keep our communities safe this Bonfire Night.



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Music Mark Influencing Supporting & Connecting
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Bronze School Mental Health Award 2024-27
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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.