

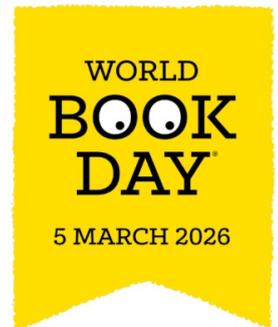


WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 27th February 2026

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March is World Book Day, with this year's theme, 'Go All In', focusing on encouraging children to read for fun and enjoyment. Research shows that many children feel reading is something they *have* to do rather than something they *choose* to do, so the emphasis is on building a love of reading as a daily, social habit—supported by the National Year of Reading 2026 initiative.



Reading builds confidence, boosts imagination and supports learning across all subjects. When children read regularly they develop stronger vocabulary, better focus and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

In school, we will be celebrating World Book Day by including DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) sessions in every lesson throughout the day—*please ensure your child brings a reading book with them - this can be their reading challenge book or another book from home.*

Pupils will also take part in reading activities in English lessons, and the day will end with a book quiz during afternoon intervention. We hope it will be an enjoyable and inspiring day that celebrates reading for pleasure across the whole school. Please note: **this is NOT a non-uniform day.**

Please visit our school website [Reading Page](#) for further information about the value of reading and ways you can support your child with reading at home.

National Careers Week



Next week is National Careers Week, and across school we'll be focusing on learning about work, opportunities, and future career pathways. This half term, all of our Talk Topics will also be based on the theme of work and careers. In PSHE, pupils will be exploring careers within the NHS, gaining insight into the wide range of roles available in the UK's largest employer.

A group of Year 8 pupils will also be visiting a careers event focused on the highways industry at Newcastle College. In addition, we have workshops coming up for Key Stage 3 pupils focused on building employability skills, and we will be sharing a wide range of careers-related information in Google Classroom.

We encourage parents and carers to talk with their children about the world of work, including any jobs they do now or careers they have had in the past, to help inspire aspirations and support future choices.

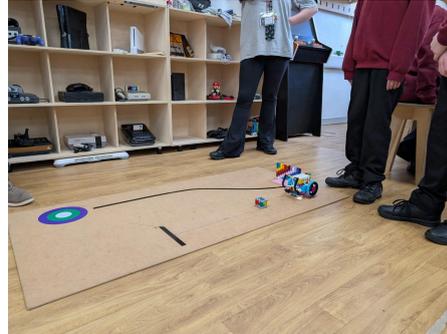


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Year 6 Lego Spike Prime Trip

On Monday, it was Year 6's turn to visit the Royal Grammar School to take part in a Lego STEM session. They were able to explore coding alongside Spike - Prime vehicles. Pupils were asked to complete different coding challenges, to develop their understanding of the program and how to work the vehicle. They were then set a challenge to move their vehicle across a path, pick up a block, move it to a point, drop it on a score board and then move their vehicle around the block to a finish line. The pupils were excited to take part in the challenge and be the team to complete it first and one group made it to the finish line, which was a brilliant achievement!



KS2 Skipping Workshops

Year 5 and 6 took part in skipping workshops with Skip4fit to improve their skipping technique and also work on their fitness. Skipping is a great way to keep fit and stay healthy and goes a long way towards the Govt. daily Active60 target- pupils trying to have 60 minutes a day of activity. We worked on skipping forwards, backwards, speed bounce and used the longer skipping rope to work as a team. We have many skipping ropes available in school so it was great to see lots of the children skipping at break and lunchtimes following this session: keeping fit and having lots of fun!



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Police Cadets (current Year 8)

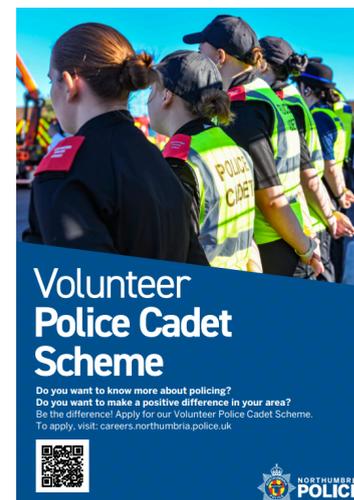
Become a Volunteer Police Cadet with Northumbria Police!

Applicants must be 13/14yrs old on 1st 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 3rd May 2026.

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



Spring 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 4th March - Panathlon - New Age Kurling (Y8)
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Thursday 5th March- KS3 Sportshall Athletics County final at Blyth LC
- Thursday 5th March- Northumberland Cricket Board Secondary Cricket Day (Y7/8)
- Friday 6th March - Year 8 Newcastle College Highways Event Trip
- Wednesday 11th March - Year 7 DWP Careers Workshop
- Friday 13th March - Year 8 DWP Careers Workshop
- Monday 16th March - Whole school parents evening
- Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th March - KS3 Groundswell Project
- Thursday 2nd April - School closed for staff training - Start of Easter Holidays

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 27/02/2026

5C: Robyn M; 5K: Jessica H; 5L: Amelia E;
6E: William M; 6F: Ava J; 6S: Oliver E;
7H: Freya S; 7L: Josh F; 7W: Isabelle A;
8K: Harry T; 8Ro: Maverick H; 8Ru: Logan C;
Head of School SOTW: Lauren W (8K)



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Year 8 Drainpipe Challenge

Our Year 8 pupils rounded off their Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) unit, with the high-stakes Drainpipe Challenge. Tasked with transporting water through a 20m course of disconnected pipes trying not to spill a drop, students had to demonstrate exceptional teamwork, leadership, and resilience.

They showed brilliant communication and quick thinking and the persistence shown by everyone to complete the challenge was truly impressive. Great job, Year 8!



Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Toxicologist**. 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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Safeguarding Update - Adult Animated Content

Adult animated content is increasingly visible on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and streaming services. While the bright visuals and cartoon style may seem harmless at first glance, many of these shows are clips created specifically for mature audiences, featuring strong language, sexual references, graphic violence and unsettling themes. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide helps parents and educators understand the risks, from misleading visuals and algorithm-driven recommendations to desensitisation and edgy humour. It also offers practical advice on platform settings, open conversations and building children's critical thinking, so young people can navigate online animation safely and confidently.



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.

Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is 'The Secret of Golden Island' by Natasha Farrant

The Secret of Golden Island is a thrilling adventure about two children, Skylar and Ukrainian refugee Yakov, who compete to win a private island. Aiming to secure a safe haven and help a sick grandfather, they face dangerous obstacles and secrets, ultimately discovering the power of hope, friendship, and resilience.

If you liked 'The Secret of Golden Island', you might enjoy other books by Natasha Farrant, such as 'Voyage of the Sparrowhawk' or 'The Rescue of Ravenwood' - available to borrow from the school library.



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Mon- Y5/6 Dodgeball- Mr Robinson + Dodgeball Coach

<https://forms.gle/Gse7Sv3YDymrc9UFA>

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

Mon- KS2 Girls Rugby Club-Coastal Rugby Partnership

<https://forms.gle/aRKNuYJh2dbnF66g7>

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

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkqw8>

Tues- KS3 Girls Fitness Club- Mr Robinson- Fitness Suite- starting Tues 3rd March

<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/QnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

UPDATED KS2 Netball Dates for the Spring term: 4th March, 18th March, 1st April

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. If you are collecting a child after swimming, please wait at the green gate**



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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: 91.46%

| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 93.46% | 90.57% | 88.76% | 93.58% |

The best attending class this week is: 8Ro (97.04%)

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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