



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 2nd October 2026

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

A huge thank you to all the family members who attended our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon last Friday. It was fantastic to see so many of you in school, enjoying a coffee and cake with your children!

Together, we raised a brilliant £409.98 for Macmillan Cancer Support. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the families who generously sent in delicious cakes and other contributions—your support made the event a resounding success!



Jeans for Genes

We are also delighted to share that our recent non-uniform day raised a fantastic £236.55 for Jeans for Genes! Thank you so much to all of our families for your continued kindness and generous donations toward this brilliant cause.

Open Evening Success

On Monday, we held a fantastic Open Evening, welcoming prospective Year 4 children and their families to get a real taste of middle school life. There were so many exciting activities on offer throughout the night—the treadmill in the fitness suite, neutralisation experiments in the science lab, and the 'guess the environment' challenge in geography were particular hits!

We would also like to say a huge congratulations and thank you to all of our WMS pupils who gave up their evening to help out. Whether you were guiding families around or helping the younger children with activities, you were absolutely brilliant and a true credit to our school!

Compass + Careers Education Tracking

Please remember to complete the Google Form regarding our careers education tracking system, which was sent via MCAS earlier this week. You can also find the form linked directly on the link below.

[Compass+ Careers Education Tracking Parents Form](#)

COMPASS
CAREERS BENCHMARK TOOL



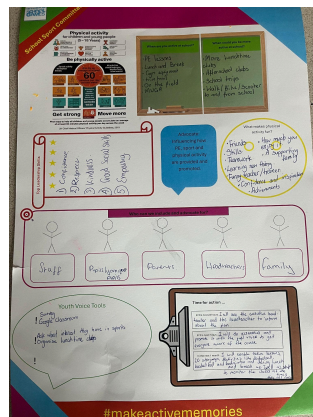
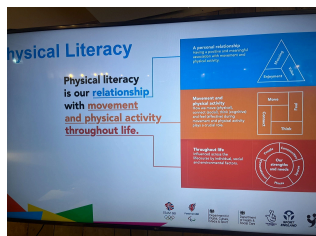
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Secondary PE Influencers

Our Y8 Sports Leaders had a great day on Tuesday at Morpeth RFC, where they worked with other schools on how they can become better PE and School Sport Influencers, trying to increase children's physical activity in school to meet CMO Active 60 recommendations.

They also worked alongside staff from Northumberland School Games and ex-Thai Boxing World Champion, Rachael Williams, who provided lots of ideas and some great insight to her life and how she became World Champion.

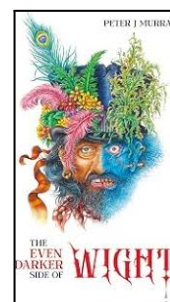


Author Week is Coming - MCAS Book Orders!

We are so excited to welcome two brilliant authors to Whytrig during Author Week w/c Monday 12th October! (Please see the full letter sent via MCAS on Monday for further details)

Every pupil will be taking part in these inspiring workshops, regardless of whether a book is bought. However, if your child would like copies of the books, please note the key details and payment methods:

- **Phil Earle (Visiting Tuesday 13th Oct):** Phil will be discussing his hilarious new book *Downhill from Here* (Finn's Epic Fails series). Books must be ordered in advance via the MCAS app or by cash to the school office by Wednesday 7th October. At just £5 for a single book or £8 for the two-book bundle, these fantastic discounted sets make ideal early Christmas presents or stocking fillers, please order before the deadline to guarantee your copy before they sell out.
- **Peter J. Murray (Visiting Friday 16th Oct):** Peter will be sharing his thrilling new release, *Even Darker Side of Wight*. He will return on Monday 19th October to hand out and personally sign books. *Even Darker Side of Wight* hardback: £12 | Two-book bundle: £20. Payment by cash or cheque directly to Peter on the day



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MCAS: Contact Details and Photo Permissions



A quick reminder to all parents and carers to check that your information is up to date on **MCAS (MyChildAtSchool)**.

It is vital that we have accurate phone numbers, emergency contacts, and email addresses on file so we can reach you quickly when needed. You can also manage and update your child's **photo permissions** directly within the app!

Please take a moment to log into MCAS to review your contact details and permission settings. Thank you for your continued support!

Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 5th October - Y5 Ford Castle Residential Parents Meeting (5pm).
- Tuesday 6th October - Year 8 Akzo Nobel Visit
- W/C Monday 12th October - Author Week
 - Phil Earle Tuesday- 13th October
 - Peter J Murray - Friday 16th October
- Monday 12th October - Whole School Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 21st October - Friday 23rd October - Year 5 Residential Trip to Ford Castle
- 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 **Sustainability Consultant**. 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.

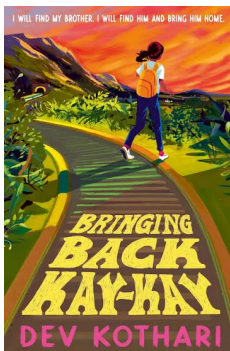
If any parents or carers would like to get involved in our Careers provision at Whytrig please contact Mrs Campbell at wms@svf.org.uk



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Book of the Week



This week's book is '**Bringing Back Kay-Kay**' by Dev Kothari, from our Year 7 challenge.

What would you do if your brother went missing?

Lena's older brother, Kay-Kay, disappears, and the police are treating it as a standard teenage runaway. But Lena knows her brother better than anyone, and she knows they are wrong about him! She decides to investigate Kay-Kay's disappearance herself, setting off on a brave journey to bring him back home. Will she be able to find him before it's too late?



If you liked '**Bringing Back Kay-Kay**', try '**A Kind of Spark**' by Elle McNicoll - Available to borrow from Mrs Campbell and the school library

Extra Curricular Clubs

- KS3 Darts- Friday lunchtime- 12:45-1:05 (Darts arena)
- Netball - Fridays [Link to Netball Club Form](#)
- KS2 After School Dodgeball Club starts Monday 21st September - Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/SKyHFFCFxrR2pfNT9> - THIS CLUB IS NOW FULL.
- Boys football club will start after Half-Term

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 2nd October 2026

5C: Alfie C ; 5K: Ollie W ; 5L: Leo L ;

6E: Myla C 6F: Ryan H ; 6S: Sienna B;

7H: Gracie B; 7L: Georgia M ; 7W:Lewis H ;

8K: Callum I; 8Ro: Finlay J; 8Ru: Safia A;

Head of School SOTW: Sienna A (8Ru)



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Safeguarding Update - Looksmaxxing



Looksmaxxing encourages people - particularly young men - to 'improve their appearance' through everything from grooming, skincare and exercise to far more questionable techniques. As this trend becomes increasingly visible on social media, this [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide explores how appearance-focused content can affect boys' confidence, self-worth and body image, while exposing them to misleading or potentially dangerous advice.

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 year's whole school attendance: 94.3%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.2%	93.3%	92.9%	93.9%

The best attending class this year is: 5K (98.4%)

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>



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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.



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SCHOOL OFFER

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WHERE TO PLAY



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AT A CLUB NEAR YOU?**

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INFLUENCING
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2024-27

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