



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSDROP

Week Ending 30th January 2026

Year 7 Theatre Visit

On Thursday, 40 of our Year 7 pupils visited the Theatre Royal in Newcastle to watch the opening performance of *Weird*, a new musical inspired by Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The bus journey was exciting as the bus driver had everyone cheering and singing and got us ready for the performance! From the start, the show was fast-paced, full of twists and turns and was very upbeat, with catchy songs and fancy costumes. It was a marvellous way of introducing the children to *Macbeth*, which year 7 will be studying next half term in English. The children were well-behaved, fully engrossed and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 2nd February - Ballet Workshop with Dance City
- Thursday 5th February - KS2 French Workshops (La Petite Creperie)
- Friday 6th February - KS3 Careers Day
- Friday 6th February - KS2 NSPCC Number Day (Non-Uniform)
- 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.

NSPCC - Number Day

On Friday, 6th February we are raising money for the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) and celebrating maths through Number Day. Children in Y5 and Y6 can come in non-uniform in exchange for an optional donation of £1. Even better if they would like to wear something related to maths or numbers. Children may like to dress as a rock star, linking to Times Tables Rock Stars. There will also be a TTRS competition - NSPCC Rocks.



Use of WhatsApp

We would like to inform parents and carers of some concerns regarding pupils' use of WhatsApp. We are keen to ensure that all pupils remain safe and focused during the school day, and inappropriate interactions on WhatsApp outside of school can often have a negative impact on learning and wellbeing in school. We would also like to remind parents and carers that the legal age to use WhatsApp is 13, meaning that many of our pupils are not legally old enough to use the app. For these reasons, we strongly advise that use of WhatsApp is avoided and, where it is used, that it is closely monitored by parents and carers.



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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 30/01/2026

5C: Ava N ; 5K: Logan W ; 5L: Evie F ;
6E: Lewis H; 6F: Eva O ; 6S: Leland F ;
7H: Alex F ; 7L: Joshua F; 7W: Ava O ;
8K: Mollie M; 8Ro: Archie M ; 8Ru: Bobby O ;
Head of School SOTW: Harry S (8Ro)

Fixtures and Results

Our KS3 pupils took part in the Cramlington & Seaton Valley School Games Sportshall Athletics events on Thursday, held in our Sportshall. These events include lots of track events- 1 lap, 2 lap, 4 lap, 6 lap and 8 lap Parlauf + relays, as well as field events- Speed Bounce, Triple & Long Jump, Vertical Jump and Shot Putt. Teams from Seaton Sluice MS and Cramlington LV also took part

We had some fantastic success, with 3 of our teams winning their competitions and qualifying for the Northumberland School Games Finals in March.

Y7 Girls- 1st
Y7 Boys- 1st
Y7 Girls- 3rd
Y8 Boys- 1st

Well done to all our athletes, who competed with great enthusiasm and effort during their events.



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KS3 Rugby Sessions



Our KS3 groups are continuing to enjoy their contact rugby sessions with Nyle Godsmark from Coastal Rugby Partnership and Drew Hayton from Newcastle RedBulls. We are looking to introduce tackling into the game, with technique being developed by the coaches.

Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Ophthalmologist**. 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

Safeguarding Update - Mental Health Mis-information

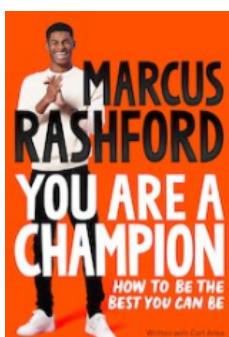
This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores how adults can support children and young people to recognise and challenge mental health misinformation online.. View the help sheet on our X page at <https://x.com/whytrigms/>

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



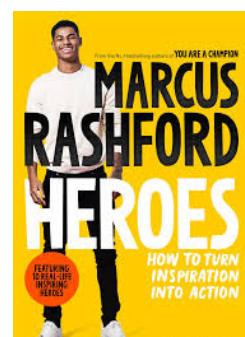
Book of the Week

This week's Book of the Week is 'You are a Champion' by Marcus Rashford



'*You Are a Champion: How to Be the Best You Can Be*' by Marcus Rashford and Carl Anka is an uplifting, non-fiction guide designed to inspire confidence, resilience, and ambition. The book shares personal stories from Rashford's life, including overcoming adversity, alongside advice on pursuing dreams, teamwork, and learning from mistakes.

If you liked 'You are a Champion', you might enjoy other motivational books by Marcus Rashford like 'You can do it!' and 'Heroes' - available to borrow from Mrs Campbell and Mrs Harland.



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PSQM



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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

Valley Moves

FREE KIDS CAMPS

FUN AND ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AGED 6YRS +

February Half Term 2026
16 - 20 FEB 2026
9:30am - 11:30am

Activities

- ✓ Team Games
- ✓ Multi Sports
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Loads More!

Venues

- Seaton Sluice
- New Hartley
- Seaton Deleval
- Seghill
- Holywell

For more info & to book
scan here

Contact - SeatonValleySD@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council



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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/QnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

UPDATED KS2 Netball Dates for the Spring term: 28th January, 11th February, 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

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.



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This week's whole school attendance: 92.31%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
94.93%	89.30%	90.45%	95.19%

The best attending class this week is: 5K (97.20%)

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.



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