

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 3rd July 2026

KS3 French Trip

Last week we took a mix of 50 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils on a residential trip to France for the week. Leaving school at 10:15pm on the Sunday night, we travelled by coach to Dover to catch the first ferry across to Calais on the Monday morning. Our destination? The Chateau de Grande Romaine just outside of Paris. After stopping en route at the First World War memorial site of Vimy to have our lunch, we arrived at our destination just in time to get unpacked and have a swim in the pool (something we enjoyed on a daily basis) before our evening meal. On Tuesday we visited the town of Brie-Comte-Robert to do some shopping at the market, before venturing into Paris in the afternoon to visit Montmartre and the basilica Sacre Couer. On Wednesday we spent a whole day at the Parc Asterix theme park, with both pupils and staff enjoying the variety of exciting rides. On Thursday we spent the whole of the day in Paris, tackling the steps of the Eiffel Tower to the second floor, enjoying a boat ride on the Seine and a tour around the Arc de Triomphe and Champs d'elysee. And then on Friday we had an early start for the long journey home, fortunately catching an earlier ferry to arrive back at school at 10:15pm. Over the course of the week the children were good company and very resilient, especially given the extreme heat in France last week (in the 40 degrees) and the impact it had on sleep and our general ability to walk in those conditions! As usual, a big thank you needs to go out to the staff who give up a week away from their families to support our children 24/7 (Mr Souter, Mr Robinson, Mrs Telfer, Miss Davis and Miss Chicken). The next planned visit to France will be in 2028, which will be open to those children currently in Year 6 and 5; watch out for more information next year.



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Year 7 London Trip

On Wednesday 1st July, 15 Year 7 pupils and 4 staff enjoyed a fabulous trip to London for the day. The purpose of the trip was to visit the summer science exhibition at The Royal Society, building on some of the STEM work we have been doing in school. After a 5:15am meet at Newcastle Central Station we boarded the 5:56 train to London Kings Cross. On arrival, we caught the Tube to Picadilly Circus with just a short walk to the exhibition. After spending the morning being wowed by the exhibits (including the future of robotics by the Oxford Robotics Institute, laser driven radiotherapy to make cancer treatment more efficient by LhARA and watching Cardiff Uni demonstrate how lightning behaves using Tesla coils amongst many other things), we then spent the rest of the day exploring parts of London. A walk to Trafalgar Square and then along Whitehall, past Downing Street to parliament square for lunch. Then across Westminster Bridge to see the London Eye and do some souvenir shopping. Next, a walk back through St James's Park to Buckingham Palace, before walking up The Mall and a deserved ice cream stop! Finally it was back to Picadilly Circus to get a Tube to Kings Cross, McDonalds for 19 people and board our 4pm train back to Newcastle. Sadly the wifi didn't work on the train to watch the England game, but we returned safely after a really enjoyable, but tiring day. A big well done to the children, whose behaviour was exemplary and a huge thank you to Mrs Lowden and Mrs Sykes for organising the trip and Mrs Robson and Mr Souter for accompanying the group.



Year 6 Celebration Week

A huge well done to our Year 6 students for their exceptional participation and enthusiasm during this week's action-packed Activity Days! The adventure kicked off on Wednesday at Wickham Thorns, where students engaged in activities such as laser tag and orienteering. The excitement continued into Thursday with a carousel of activities: drama, swimming, cycling and sports. After two busy days, Friday provided the perfect opportunity to unwind, beginning with a lovely picnic at the park and wrapping up with a cosy movie afternoon. An absolutely brilliant time was had by all, and it was the perfect way to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the Year 6 pupils.



School Games Y6 Girls' Football

On Wednesday, a group of Year 5 competed in the Year 6 football competition at Northburn. As the Y6s were out at Wickham Thorns, the Year 5s volunteered to compete. It was a tough slog playing against older children with a lot of experience; however, the girls had a fantastic attitude, never stopped trying and competed fantastically well. What a great experience for next year! The competition was a 'round robin' format, so we played 6 games against 5 different schools. We didn't manage a win but we did manage to score! Well done Year 5!



Ice Cream Reading Reward Party

🍦 Ice cream + sunshine = the perfect celebration! ☀️

Huge congratulations to our amazing Advanced Readers on their incredible reading achievements this year. You've earned it!



Summer 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 6th July - Reading Challenge Prize Winners Pizza Party
- Wednesday 8th July - Friday 10th July- Transition days for Year 4 and Year 8
- Wednesday 8th July - New class afternoon
- Wednesday 8th July - New Intake Parent Evening 6pm
- Monday 13th July - Gold Pupil Trip
- Tuesday 14th July - Year 5 Trip
- Wednesday 15th July - Year 6 Trip
- Thursday 16th July - KS3 Trip
- Friday 17th July - End of Term. School closes at 1pm

PE Kit Donations

Are you in Y8 and leaving WMS in a few weeks? If you have any PE kit that you are not using or passing onto younger siblings, we will happily take PE kit (maroon t-shirts, ¼ zip tops and black shorts) which we can use as spares for next year, enabling all of our students to take part in lessons. Please send any donations Mr Robinson's way in school in the last week of term.



Job of the Week

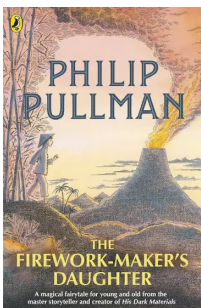
This week's Job of the Week is **Location Manager**. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also [here](#).

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

Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is 'The Firework-maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman, from our year 7 Reading Challenge.

The Firework-Maker's Daughter tells the story of a young girl named Lila who defies her father's traditional beliefs by embarking on a dangerous quest to Mount Merapi. She seeks Royal Sulphur from a fire demon, ultimately realizing that the true ingredients of a master firework-maker are talent, courage, and friendship.



If you enjoyed *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, you might enjoy other fantasy stories such as ***The House with Chicken Legs*** by Sophie Anderson: A beloved fantasy about a young girl who lives with her grandmother in a walking house and must learn to embrace her destiny as the next Yaga - available to borrow from Mrs Campbell of the school library.



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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 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 3rd July 2026

5C: Ben E; 5K: Ivy G; 5L: Amelia E;

6F: Ava L; 6E: Jacob S;

7H: Toby H; 7L: Ella M; 7W: Nolan D;

8K: Sarya Z; 8Ro: Abigail P; 8Ru: Isla H;

Head of School SOTW: Leah H (8K)

Extra Curricular Clubs

Mon- KS2 CRICKET- Mr Robinson + Coach (No club last week of term)

<https://forms.gle/8oyC5KuXfZDWQoFv7>

Mon- KS3 Swimming Club- **We now have 10 spaces available. Please see Mr Robinson or reception for a letter.**

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

Netball has now finished for this year.

NEW CLUB

Tues- Y8 Darts Club- Mr Robinson. This is limited to 12 people only and is a trial club to judge appeal and success.

<https://forms.gle/qfdjdHmJd6WeZTYm6>

Alternate Tuesdays - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes:

<https://forms.gle/xSvDnGRosKe9ziSUA>

Thurs- Performance Club - Mrs S Kelly

<https://forms.gle/pkMvz84djzkSHd619>

Thurs- KS3 Cricket Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall- Boys and Girls. NO CRICKET ON FRIDAY DUE TO LOW NUMBERS

NEW CLUB

Thurs- Girls' Football Club- Mrs Kelly. 3.30pm-4.30pm. All year groups are welcome.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkY7bkXTGJ-ep-rL5XIFfx4fXoLBhStb_lxRQSamYRazKgw/viewform?usp=header



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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: 92.7%

| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 95.0% | 92.1% | 92.5% | 91.4% |

The best attending class this week is: 5K (96.2%)

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.

