



# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 6th February 2026

## Northumberland Youth Elections

This week's assembly focused on democracy and the importance of having a voice. Pupils learned about the Northumberland Youth Parliament and the Northumberland Youth Cabinet, and we were pleased to hear from candidates from Seaton Valley High School who are hoping to be elected to the Northumberland Youth Parliament. We listened carefully to their pledges and discussed the voting process. Voting will take place on Wednesday 11th February, giving pupils the chance to take part in a real democratic experience.



## KS3 Careers Fair



On Friday, our Year 7 and 8 pupils were able to visit our onsite Careers Fair, organised by Mr Drought at the High School, as part of the Careers Advice, Information and Guidance programme that we have in school. They were able to visit stands from a variety of organisations such as universities (eg Durham and Newcastle), employers, (eg NHS, Nissan, KPMG) and colleges and have meaningful conversations with employers and education providers about a wide variety of careers and career routes. The children were really well engaged as they start to think about their futures.



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## Nature Park Project

This week we were excited to launch our Nature Park project as part of the National Education Nature Park programme, a nationwide initiative that supports schools in developing green spaces and monitoring local biodiversity. Pupils began work on developing our Forest School area, where we will be planting a variety of plants and creating an environment that encourages wildlife to thrive. The project began with pupils mapping the area, and this will guide the next stages of development. Stay tuned for further updates as the project grows!



## Dance City Ballet Sessions

On Monday, we were very lucky to be visited by members of a professional ballet company from Dance City, Newcastle, who led inspiring workshops with our pupils focused on developing ballet skills. For some pupils, this was their first opportunity to try ballet and to meet professional dancers, making the experience especially memorable. The sessions were engaging, inclusive, and full of enthusiasm, and a wonderful time was had by all.



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## La Petite Crêperie

Bonjour! On Thursday, Key Stage Two had a brilliant time in their sessions with La Petite Crêperie. They learnt a lot about French culture and how to order crêpes with various different toppings in French. The pupils engaged well with the activities and tried really hard to speak in French. What's more, everyone seemed to enjoy eating their crêpes!



## Number Day

Many thanks to Key Stage 2 children, parents and carers for supporting Number Day on Friday. We raised £80 for the NSPCC.



## Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

- 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
- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - School closed - February Half Term
- Monday 23rd February - Year 6 Lego Spike Prime Visit
- Tuesday 24th February - KS3 Cyber Security sessions
- Friday 27th February - Behaviour non-uniform reward (invite only)

## 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 06/02/2026

5C: Libby M; 5K: Constance K; 5L: Bobby M;  
6E: Indie-Rae S; 6F: Amara D; 6S: Alfie M;  
7H: Alexandria W; 7L: George H; 7W: Kaitlin H;  
8K: Kaycee L; 8Ro: James E; 8Ru: Jenson S;  
Head of School SOTW: Melissa S (7H)

## Fixtures and Results



Last Friday, our Year 8 boys travelled to Ponteland to take part in a rugby tournament. Despite the awful weather, the team played fantastically well, winning all four games.

WMS vs John Spence : 4-2  
WMS vs Park View: 4-3  
WMS vs Ashington: 4-1  
WMS vs Ponteland: 2-0

Well done to everyone who took part.



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## Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Prison Officer**. 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](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)

## Safeguarding Update - Supporting safe use of AI

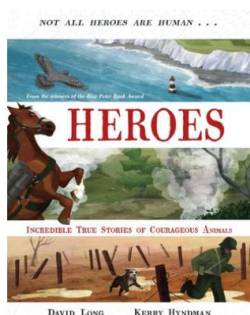
Artificial intelligence is becoming a familiar part of young people's online experiences, with a myriad of school tools and entertainment platforms in use. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide breaks down what AI really is, helping adults explain it clearly and realistically so children don't overestimate its abilities or trust it unquestioningly. It explores how AI systems work, where they appear online, and why understanding them matters. 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 '**Heroes**' by David Long



David Long's '**Heroes: Incredible True Stories of Courageous Animals**' is an illustrated non-fiction collection that explores the extraordinary roles animals have played alongside humans, particularly during wartime. The book features 33 true accounts of diverse creatures—including dogs, cats, horses, pigeons, and even a bear—that demonstrated immense bravery and loyalty in the face of danger.



If you liked '**Heroes**', you might enjoy other true story books by David Long such as **Rescue: Daring Missions from On, Under and Above the Earth**- available to borrow from Mrs Campbell and Mrs Harland.



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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](mailto: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: 93.2%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
96.6%	91.9%	92.7%	91.9%

The best attending class this week is: 5K (97.3%)

### 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

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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