



# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

# NEWSDROP

Week Ending 9th January 2026

## Welcome Back!

We would like to wish a very Happy New Year to all of our families and wish you all the best for 2026. It was lovely to see everyone on Tuesday morning looking refreshed, positive, and ready to learn. Even the cold weather didn't stop the enthusiasm. In fact, our pupils have had great fun playing in the snow at break and lunchtimes. It has been wonderful to see such a strong, settled start across the school. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive term ahead.



## Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 19th January - Year 7 STEM trip
- Tuesday 20th January- KS3 County X-Country Finals @ Temple Park LC
- Tuesday 20th January- 5K Multiskills (am) / 6S Multiskills (pm)
- Thursday 22nd January - Y8 Boys Futsal at Ponteland
- Thursday 29th January - Year 7 Theatre trip
- Thursday 29th January - KS3 Sportshall Athletics
- Thursday 5th February - KS2 French Workshops (La Petite Creperie)
- Friday 6th February - KS3 Careers Day
- 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.

## 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 09/01/2026

5C: Elijah B; 5K: Elliot W-H; 5L: Angel D;  
6E: Beau A; 6F: Ethan D; 6S: Adeline D;  
7H: Emily H; 7L: Sienna A; 7W: Jude J;  
8K: Charlotte W; 8Ro: Archie M; 8Ru: Archie B;  
Head of School SOTW: Reuben H (6E)



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## Attendance Prize Winners

At the end of the Autumn Term we awarded certificates to children who achieved 100% attendance over the course of the term. The names of each child are then entered into a prize draw by year group. The prize winners from each year group prize draw and who each get a non uniform pass to use at a time of their choice and a gift voucher are:

Year 5 - Annie H

Year 6 - Gracie B

Year 7 - Joseph M

Year 8 - Praise O-A

## Uniform Reminder

All items of clothing, bags and water bottles etc. should have your child's name in or on them. This helps us return 'lost property' to their rightful owner. By the end of each term, we have a large quantity of items that have lost their owner and are then donated to charity or unfortunately thrown away.

As it is the start of a new term and we should be starting how we mean to go on, we would also like to remind you about our school expectations around footwear and appearance.

- Trainers (running school style) should not be worn in school (pupils are only permitted to change into trainers during lunchtimes and for PE lessons). Leather/leather look trainers that can be polished are however permitted but should have no obvious branding.

Examples of footwear we DO accept:



Examples of footwear we DO NOT accept:



- Make up, false nails, fake tan and nail varnish should not be worn at all in school.
- During this cold weather please remember to send your child into school with a coat.



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## Job of the Week

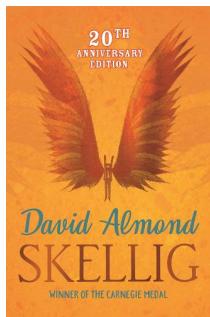
This week's Job of the Week is **Life Coach**. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also [here](#).



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.

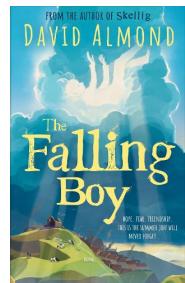
If any parents or carers would like to get involved in our Careers provision at Whytrig please contact Mrs Campbell at [wms@svf.org.uk](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)

## Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is '**Skellig**' by **David Almond**

Skellig is about 10-year-old Michael, who, after moving to a new, dilapidated house, discovers a mysterious, winged, owl-like creature named Skellig in the garage while his baby sister suffers a serious heart condition, leading Michael and his new friend Mina to secretly care for Skellig, who seems to represent life and healing, mirroring the precarious health of Michael's sister and revealing deeper connections between illness, faith, and the supernatural



If you liked '**Skellig**', you might enjoy **other books by David Almond**, such as '**The Falling Boy**'. You may also enjoy '**The Final Year**' by Matt Goodfellow

## Key Stage 2 Swimming Lessons

Year 5 and 6 pupils will have swimming lessons this half term with Mr Day in our fantastic new swimming pool:

Tues- 5L & 6E

Wed- 6S

Thur- 6F & 5K

Fri- 5C

Pupils will need an appropriate swimming kit and a swimming cap. Goggles if required.

## New Club - Performing Arts Club

We have a new club starting this half term - performing arts club! Pupils can sing, dance and act out scenes from popular theatre productions. The club will be held on Thursdays after school, from 3.30 - 4.40, starting Thursday 15th January with Mrs Kelly.

If you would like your child to take part, please click the link below to sign up, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

<https://forms.gle/pkMvz84djzkSHd619>



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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 Wednesdays (Week 1) KS2 Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard):  
<https://forms.gle/QnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

Alternate Tuesdays - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes:  
<https://forms.gle/xSvDnGRosKe9ziSUA>

**The football club will resume later in the year. School teams will still have fixtures when they are arranged.**

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.

KS2 swimming club will start after school on Monday, 12th Jan with Mr Day. All KS2 pupils have been given letters in class this week. If you wish your child to reserve a place, please return the letter to the school office ASAP. This club is capped at a maximum of 20 places on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a reserve list if places become available.

### 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.



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## This week's whole school attendance: 93%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
95.5%	92.4%	92.1%	92.2%

The best attending class this week is: 5C (98.8%)

### 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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