

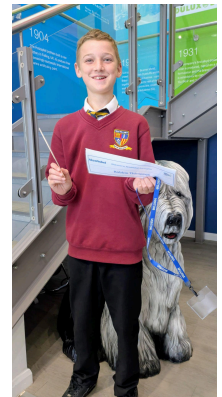


WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 9th October 2026

Year 8 Akzo Nobel Visit

On Tuesday, a group of our Year 8 pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to AkzoNobel in Ashington, the manufacturer behind iconic brands like Dulux, Cuprinol, and Hammerite. Our pupils made history by becoming the first-ever school group to be taken on a tour of the manufacturing plant! They observed the entire process firsthand—seeing how paint is mixed from raw materials, tinted to exact shades, and canned. Beyond the tour, pupils gained valuable insights into standardised manufacturing methods, operational efficiency, and the vast array of career opportunities available within the manufacturing industry. A fantastic and educational time was had by all!



Aim High Maths Day

Six of our pupils from KS2 joined children from other local schools for a hands-on mathematical challenge day. They tackled a variety of fun problem-solving activities, including magic squares, geometric puzzles, Soma cubes, dominoes, word problems, and more! A fantastic maths specialist led the day and brought new life to learning maths. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves—with a special shout-out to one of our pupils who impressed everyone with their unexpected and brilliant knowledge of Roman numerals! Our pupils were exceptionally well-behaved, hardworking, and resilient, persevering through every tricky task and representing Whytrig wonderfully throughout the day.



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Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

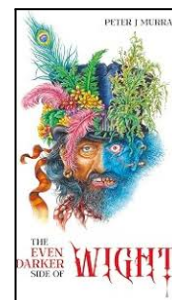
- W/C Monday 12th October - Author Week
 - Phil Earle Tuesday- 13th October
 - Peter J Murray - Friday 16th October
- Monday 12th October - Whole School Parents' Evening
- Thursday 15th October - Y6 cycle ride (am)
- Friday 16th October - Y6 cycle ride (am)
- Monday 19th October - Peter Murray book sale/signings
- Tuesday 20th October - Halloween Disco
- 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.

Author Week - Next Week

We are so excited to welcome two brilliant authors to Whytrig during Author Week w/c **Monday 12th October!** 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):** We are excited to welcome author Phil Earle to school next Tuesday! Phil will be discussing his hilarious new book, *Downhill from Here* (from the *Finn's Epic Fails* series). If you have pre-ordered one of Phil's books or a bundle, your child will have the opportunity to meet Phil and get their book signed! **For anyone who would still like to purchase a book, there will be limited copies available to buy on the day:**
 - 1 Book: £5
 - Bundle of 2 Books: £8 Please ensure your child brings correct change only.
- **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. *Payment by cash or cheque directly to Peter on the day*



Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Town Planner**. 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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Halloween Disco - Tuesday 20th October

Get ready for a spooky night of fun! Our annual Halloween Disco takes place on Tuesday 20th October.

- **Key Stage 2:** 3:40 pm - 5:00 pm
 - KS2 pupils should bring their party clothes or costumes to school in a bag. They will get changed after school and head straight to the disco.
- **Key Stage 3:** 5:10 pm - 6:30 pm
 - KS3 pupils should go home at the end of the school day and return for 5:10 pm.

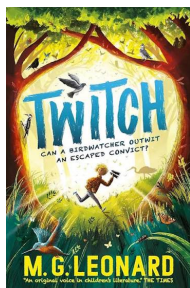
Tickets & Extras: Tickets are £3 and can be purchased in advance via the MCAS App. Please also send your child with a small amount of spending money if they would like to buy treats from the tuck shop!

Please note: Attendance at the disco is dependent on continued positive behaviour in school.

We look forward to having a brilliant, spooky time!



Book of the Week



This week's book is 'Twitch' by M G Leonard, from our Year 6 challenge.

Twitch is a mystery adventure about a bird-loving boy named Twitch who uses his exceptional birdwatching skills to help the police search for an escaped convict hiding in the local nature reserve, Aves Wood.

His plans for a quiet summer training his pigeons are disrupted when he stumbles upon the convict, who is on the run and looking for missing loot. Exploring themes of friendship, courage, and nature, this thrilling story follows Twitch and his new friends as they pool their unique skills to solve the mystery!



If you liked 'Twitch', try... 'Spark', 'Clutch', or 'Feather'—the other fantastic books in *The Twitchers* series! Available to borrow from Mrs Campbell, Mrs Harland, or the school library.



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Extra Curricular Clubs

- Singing Club - Monday 3.30-4.30
- KS2 After School Dodgeball Club starts Monday 21st September - Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/SKyHFFCFxrR2pfNT9> - **THIS CLUB IS NOW FULL.**
- KS3 Darts- Friday lunchtime- 12:45-1:05 (Darts arena)
- Netball - Friday 3.30 - 4.30 [Link to Netball Club Form](#)

More clubs coming after half term, watch this space.....

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, schoolwork, 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 9th October 2026

5C: Thea A; 5K: Nola R; 5L: Jackson M;
6E: Mehman M; 6F: Nicole E; 6S: Simone S;
7H: Ruben S; 7L: Flynn W; 7W: Indie'Rae S;
8K: Bobby M; 8Ro: Seb T; 8Ru: Ella M;
Head of School SOTW: Amber C (5K)

Be You Northumberland - Autism Family Drop-In Sessions

Northumberland County Council Autism Team will be offering a family drop-in session at **Cramlington Community Hub on Tuesday 20th October 10am -12pm.** Go along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

Please see the leaflets sent out through MCAS on Tuesday 6th October for more details or go to Be You Northumberland at <https://www.beyounorthumberland.nhs.uk/about-us> for more information about available services.

Safeguarding Update - Wellbeing Conversations



This week's [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide has a mental health focus and explores how warm, trusting relationships and a safe environment can help pupils feel able to share their worries, alongside practical considerations such as choosing an appropriate place and making conversations feel less intense. .

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



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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: 93.7%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.1%	93.3%	89.6%	95.2%

The best attending class this week is: 5L (100%)!

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>

Breakfast Club Survey

Your voice matters, and you could win £100 by telling us about your family's morning routines!

Whytrig Middle School now runs a free breakfast club, and we're taking part in a national study to help inform how they are run both here and across the country.

Take the 10-minute survey: [click here](#)

We need your help. Independent researchers at Ipsos want to hear from parents and carers about what your family's mornings look like. Whether or not your child attends our free breakfast club, we'd like to hear about your morning routines and before-school childcare.

Researchers worked closely with parents to make sure this survey asks the right questions and doesn't take up too much of your time.

- **The ask:** complete a 10-minute survey [here](#)*

- **The thank you:** a chance to win a £100 voucher.

- **Who:** everyone! We'd like to hear from you, whatever your mornings look like.

Please complete the survey by 23 rd October 2026. Your answers will help inform the national rollout of free breakfast clubs. *If completing the survey online does not work for you, please email

UK-PA-BreakfastClubs@ipsosresearch.com.



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Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Safety Warning

With Bonfire Night approaching, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging parents and carers to talk to their children about the dangers of deliberate fire setting. Deliberate fires can put people, property, and the environment at risk, while placing additional pressure on emergency services.

Please take a moment to read the attached Deliberate Fire Setting Leaflet, which highlights the risks and consequences of fire setting and provides details of support services available.

We also encourage families to celebrate Bonfire Night safely by attending organised displays where possible and ensuring any fireworks used at home are handled responsibly and under adult supervision.

Thank you for helping us keep our communities safe this Bonfire Night.



Deliberate fire setting puts lives, property, and wildlife at risk.

Deliberate fires:

- Distract firefighters from high priority emergencies
- Risk lives and communities
- Are classed as anti-social behaviour
- Can lead to involvement with Youth Justice, impacting their future
- Fires set in grass, bins or rubbish are dangerous and illegal.

Spot the signs of Fire Setting:

- Matches or lighters hidden in rooms
- Burn marks on clothes or carpets
- Melted items or charred paper in bins
- Smell of smoke on clothing
- Fascination or obsession with fire
- Small unexplained fires in the home

In 2020/21 over 29% of NFRS callouts were for outdoor fires.

Over 75% of these fires were started deliberately

Typically started in woodland, involving rubbish and grass.

**Concerned about a young person?
Scan the QR code for advice and support.**

SCAN ME



Northumberland County Council

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



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2024-27

SCHOOL
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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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