



# Whytrig Newsletter

## End Of Term @whytrig MS

### Autumn Term 2019

Friday 20 December  
End of Autumn Term

### Spring Term 2020 7 January to 2 April

Monday 6 January  
Teacher Day

Tuesday 7 January 2020  
Start of Spring Term

Wednesday 8 January  
NDAS KS3 Workshop

Thursday 9 January  
NDAS KS3 Workshop

Friday 10 January  
NDAS KS3 Workshop

Monday 13 January  
NDAS KS3 Workshop

Monday 13 January  
Y5 Shakespeare Workshop

Wednesday 15 January  
Y5 Art Workshop

Tuesday 28 January  
KS2 G&T Maths

Tuesday 28 January  
NDAS KS3 Workshop

Friday 31 January  
NDAS KS3 Workshop

Tuesday 4 February  
NDAS KS3 Workshop

Wednesday 5 February  
Sports Leader Training

Friday 7 February  
Y5/6 Cycling

Tuesday 11 February  
Safer Internet Day

Friday 3 April  
Teacher Day

### Summer Term 2020 20 April to 17 July

KS2 SATs Week 2020  
11 to 14 May

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### So This Is Christmas

The end of term is finally upon us and what a term it has been. From the new beginnings in September to the cold and dark nights of December, we have crammed as much as we can into the last fifteen weeks, as we continue to try to ensure that our pupils can be the best they can be and that there are lots of opportunities for all. We now look forward to a busy 2020, with in school events planned as soon as the first week back in January!

### It'll Be Alright On The Night

On Wednesday evening, performers from all year groups in school put on an extra-special Christmas performance to showcase all of their talents. We had a Christmas hamper of variety including dancers, singers, violinists and soloists, scenes from the alternative nativity and a song from Oliver in full costume. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we would like to thank all of our talented children for their hard work and effort. Of course, such evenings would not be possible without the hard work of the staff who work with the children and behind the scenes. And of course thank you to the many parents and friends who supported the show – it was very much appreciated by all of us!

### Cinema Visit

We had a whole school visit to the cinema on Tuesday, which is a logistic feat in itself. As always our children were well behaved and excellent ambassadors for our school. We hope they enjoyed a welcome treat at the end of a busy term.

### LEGO League

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December we took four pupils from Years 6 and 8 to compete in the First Lego League tournament at Nissan Sunderland. This is the second time we have taken part in the competition, which is designed to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) work in school. Nissan donated a new LEGO MINDSTORM Education set, three expansion kits and a City Shaper LEGO League Challenge set earlier in the term and our pupils have been working in their own time to learn to program a robot to take on the challenges. This year it was themed around designers finding solutions to everyday problems that affect where we live. On the day our children had to present their robot and their ideas to Nissan engineers and then compete against other schools in a timed challenge using their robots. They were superb on the day and we look forward to developing this work in school over the next twelve months. Well done to Finlay Richardson, Charlotte Simmons, Chloe Bell and Miah Wilkie, who were presented with their medal and certificate in assembly today.

### End of Term Merit Total

During the Autumn Term, staff have handed out a massive 15881 merits in total. We have awarded 224 Gold badges, 170 Excellent badges, 76 Superstars, 32 Owls, 10 CXXV badges and 3 children have earned the 150 'Wilkie' award. It is tradition at the end of every term to add up all the merit totals to find out which was the most successful house:

Final Overall Results – 1<sup>st</sup> Hastings (4052 merits), 2<sup>nd</sup> Seaton (3997 merits), 3<sup>rd</sup> Delaval (3960 merits), 4<sup>th</sup> Blake (3872 merits).

### Attendance

Our attendance as a school currently sits at 93.98%, which is well below our 96% target. This can be largely attributed to all the bugs and illnesses around school in the lead up to the holiday. We hope for a more settled term in the spring!

### Looking forward to next year....

Please note that we have a training day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. **The children return to school at the normal time on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

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Friday, 20 December 2019

### **Cycle To School Raffle**

Mr Edwards has been running a competition for children who cycle to school each day. We held the draw in assembly today and Findley Belshaw was the winner of an accessory for his bike. Well done!

### **Night Before Christmas Competition**

Well done to Tamsin Summers in 5C who won the Night Before Christmas drawing competition, organised by Mrs Lloyd in the library. She has won a copy of the book for her interpretation of Santa Claus. Well done.

### **Goodbyes**

And we also say goodbye today to Mrs Lloyd who is leaving us to take on a new role elsewhere. As always we thank her for all she has done for us and wish her all the very best for the future.

### **Little Inventors Pioneers**

Well done to Leon Hunter-Roberts who has been chosen by the Little Inventors Pioneers judging panel to be offered one of only 15 places on the exciting Pioneers programme starting in January. Leon was chosen out of thousands of entries across the North East in a competition he entered recently. The fantastic thing is that as a school we will also benefit from his success through professional development for our staff. We look forward to working together in 2020!

### **Uniform/Naming Of Belongings**

It is always a good opportunity in a school holiday to ensure your child's uniform is correct ready for the start of the new term. You can find our uniform list on pages 20/21 of your child's planner. Can we please draw particular attention to your child wearing the correct footwear for school. We would also respectfully ask parents/carers to ensure their child is wearing a coat for school in the winter months. A number of children have been arriving at school over recent weeks in changeable weather conditions in only their sweatshirts, which we would like to ensure does not happen as the winter days get colder and colder. We would also like to take the opportunity to politely remind parents/carers to ensure your child's name is written clearly on all uniform and lunchboxes (and any other appropriate property) as it makes it much easier to return lost belongings to the children, which inevitably happens over the course of a term.

### **Dates For Your Diary**

Please visit our school website at <https://www.svf.org.uk/calendar> where you can see dates of upcoming school and Federation events. You can subscribe to our school calendar by selecting the WMS option on the drop down menu in the bottom left hand corner. We will also highlight key events in our newsletters as well as listing upcoming dates, as you can see, on the left hand side.

Finally, from all of us at Whytrig Middle School, thank you for all the cards and gifts that have been sent into school. It is very kind and very much appreciated. We sincerely hope that everyone has a very enjoyable Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!