



Whytrig Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

Monday, 21 January 2019
Year 8 Futsal Comp

Tuesday, 22 January
Arts Award Trip

Wednesday, 23 January
U11 County Cup v Highfield

Monday, 28 January
Shakespeare Rehearsal

Monday, 28 January
Y6 SAT Meeting – 6pm

Tuesday, 29 January
Shakespeare Event
(Y5 and Y6 visit to view)

Wednesday, 30 January
Year 6 Boys Futsal Comp

Thursday, 31 January
LEGO League STEM Event
Nissan, Sunderland

Friday, 1 February
NSPCC Number Day

Friday, 8 February
Sports Leaders at First
School Festival

Friday, 15 February
End Spring 1st Half Term

Monday, 25th February
Start Spring 2nd Half Term

Wednesday, 27 February
KS3 STEM Visit
Powering Transformation

Thursday, 4 April
Easter Egg Day
End of Spring Term

Friday, 5 April 2019
Training Day

23 April to 19 July 2019
SUMMER TERM

Monday, 6 May 2019
May Bank Holiday

Saturday, 11 May
Y6 Saturday School

13th to 16th May 2019
END OF KS2 TESTS (SATs)

Elsdon Avenue
Seaton Delaval
Northumberland
NE25 0BP
Phone: 0191 237 1402
Fax: 0191 237 1830

New Year @whytrig MS

School Evacuation Update

Many thanks to everyone for your support on Friday in what was a challenging and very unexpected situation for all to deal with. We would like to say how impressed we were with the attitude and behaviour of our fantastic pupils in difficult conditions and to the staff who were brilliant. Our primary concern then, as always, was the safety of all on site.

To put things in perspective for everyone, things developed very quickly on Friday morning. After a slight initial smell of gas near the finance office in the main Astley building, the emergency gas engineers were sent for and their initial testing revealed that everyone had to be out of the buildings immediately. Senior staff had already met and put together a plan for the notification and dismissal of students, but this was obviously amended when full evacuation was necessary. Students, as always in an evacuation, did not take their belongings with them and we all assembled on the yard as per fire drill procedures. At this stage, nobody at all was allowed back in the buildings apart from the experts. Given the very cold conditions outside, as a staff we were very aware that pupils could not be kept out there for too long. Not long afterwards, the engineers gave the go-ahead for staff and students of both schools to be contained in the sports hall and we were allowed access to the swimming pool toilets also. Everywhere else was out of bounds. At this point, we sent some of our admin staff down to Seaton Sluice Middle School to coordinate communication from there as best we could. As there was no electricity on our site, we had no access to computers, e-mails, student records or communication systems with parents. Senior staff liaised with staff at SSMS via mobile telephone to communicate information to parents/carers from there.

In consultation with the gas engineers and Northumberland County Council, we then made the obvious decision that school would have to close and inform pupils and parents/carers as soon as we could. Our initial plan was to seek parents'/carers' permission for your child to be released, however, once we realised most of our systems were down and our capacity to receive information was significantly reduced, we took the decision to say that students on site would be released at 1pm unless you informed us otherwise and we needed to retain them safely in school for you. This process appeared to work reasonably well, although we appreciate communication was not always possible in the form some might usually expect. In particular, we apologise for any confusion with regards to the release of our pupils. Because of the younger age of our pupils and the fact that it became apparent that some parents had not seen school communications, it was necessary for parents to confirm they were happy for their child to go home before we could release them. We hoped at some point that we would be able to gain access into school once everything had been made totally safe. This indeed happened and clearance was given for pupils and their teachers to be escorted by a gas engineer with a monitor back to class to retrieve their belongings. This process took well over an hour with pupils being taken from the sports hall in stages and then returned once they had their belongings. Throughout this process all pupils were absolutely amazing - well done everyone!

When parents arrived at the Whytrig school gate to collect their children, communication was by mobile phone between staff at the gate and staff in the sports hall. We accept this process took a little longer than we had wanted but we felt it was best to keep the children in the relative warmth of the sports hall rather than assembling on the yard for collection. Once again, our safeguarding of the children was the priority here.

Staff and gas engineers have been on site throughout the weekend to establish the fault and monitor the situation. It was discovered that the source of the problem was a fault with the gas mains on Elsdon Avenue, not the school site. Engineers have now carried out remedial work and once final safety checks had been carried out, we put a notification on social media yesterday that the Schools would be open for business as usual today. We would like to thank everyone for their support, patience and understanding in this matter.

Stars Of The Week – Well Done!

Well done to the following pupils who have been nominated as Stars Of The Week for the week ending 18/1/19 and for hot chocolate and biscuits with the head:

5Delta: Liam Fawcett; 5Eta: Ella Turnbull; 5Pi: Daniel Norris;

6E: Aditi Sarkar; 6L: Summer Hobson;

7Ro: Ellise Hill;

8C: Charlie Leighton; 8L: Jake Lord;

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