



Whytrig Newsletter

Welcome Back @whytrig MS

Autumn Term 2018

Monday, 3 September
Training Day

Tuesday, 4 September
Start of 1st Half Term

Wednesday, 12 September
Year 8 HPV vaccines

Friday, 14 September
School Photographer

Wednesday, 26 September
European Day of Languages

Friday, 28 September
MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Wednesday, 10 October
Open Morning

Thursday, 11 October
Open Evening

Friday, 26 October
End of 1st Half Term

Monday, 5 November
Start of 2nd Half Term

Monday, 5 November
Year 5 Woodhorn Visit

Monday, 12 November
Anti-bullying Week

Tuesday, 13 November
Year 5 Nasal vaccines

8 January to 4 April 2019
SPRING TERM

Monday, 7 January 2019
Training Day

Friday, 5 April 2019
Training Day

23 April to 19 July 2019
SUMMER TERM

Monday, 6 May 2019
May Bank Holiday

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

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A New Term

We would like to welcome back everyone to Whytrig Middle School for the 2018-19 Academic Year. And it really has been quite a start for everyone involved with the school following the building work that took place over the holiday period. It was only seven weeks ago to the day that we left our site and now we have two brand new state of the art classrooms for our staff and pupils to use on site. Unfortunately they were not completed on time as we had expected and we



would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused on the first two days of term for our parents and students. We are still waiting for some equipment to be installed in the classrooms, however they are now timetabled to be used by a number of our classes and the children seem to enjoy having lessons in the new buildings. Some remedial work has also been done to the site following the building work, for example new turf has been laid near the main entrance, which should create a lovely space for the children to use in the summer term when it beds in. Throughout the week, teachers and site staff

have worked very hard to ensure everything was up and running, whilst also having to learn about changes to the IT infrastructure, safeguarding updates and the usual cascade of information that happens at the start of an academic year. Fortunately, we have a fantastic team of staff at Elsdon Avenue and we have a school that we are extremely proud of; of course our plan this year is to make it even better still.

On Tuesday morning we welcomed our new intake Year 5 pupils into school at 8:50am. After being greeted by our staff and waving goodbye to parents at the gate, our Year 5 group became the first children to occupy Whytrig this year. They have been superb and Mrs Chadwick, Mrs Kerridge and Mrs Lowden say they have settled in really well and can be proud of their first week. At 9:50am the remaining three quarters of the school arrived and after briefly lining up and being met by their new form teachers, entered their new classrooms (apart from Year 8 who are with their form teachers for the second year). If you are new to the school and have been at the gates in a morning you might have noticed that we have asked classes to line up before registrations, where they are met by form teachers and taken into school. We feel this helps to start the day in a calm, organised manner, especially as lessons start straight after the registration periods at 9:05am. All of the children have been excellent this week and have probably coped with coming back after the six week holiday better than the adults – it is something children just manage to do so well!

Photographer

On Friday 14th September we will welcome the annual visit of the school photographer, to take individual, group, class and family photographs. The photographer will be available from 08:30 to take family photos with siblings in other schools; please enter through our reception for this. All other photos, including individual, class and siblings within our school will take place over the morning.

Good Luck Runners

It is The Great North Run this weekend so we would like to wish all the Junior Great North Run runners from our School good luck on Saturday as well as anyone who is tackling the Great North Run on Sunday. That includes our own Mr Robinson who is doing the event this year to raise money for The Royal British Legion. We look forward to hearing all about it on Monday when we see everyone, hopefully injury free!

E: Admin@whytrig.northumberland.sch.uk W: www.whytrig.northumberland.sch.uk T: @whytrigms

Friday, 07 September 2018

Packed Lunches

We have completed our first week in school with the children and already our routines are working well. Our new Year 8 monitors have done an excellent job so far. We would ask that if your child brings a packed lunch to school that it is brought in a **lunch box which is clearly marked with their name and class**. The children need to remember to put them in the containers on a morning when they come in, as we have a really good group of monitors who ensure the containers are moved to the hall ready for lunch time. **We will continue to remind children to collect them on an evening but we would appreciate your help in this matter too!** Your child would also benefit from having their own clear water bottle which can be taken into lessons, given the benefits to learning when children are well hydrated. We have cold water dispensers in both key stages to refill them. **Bottles should be clear, have sports tops on them and should be clearly marked with your child's name.**

Road Safety

We will continue to work with our children to ensure they are safe travelling to and from school and will again be supporting Road Safety Week in November, the theme this year being 'Bike Smart'. We kindly ask parents and carers to also reinforce safe ways to walk to and from school at home, especially if your child is walking unsupervised for the first time this year, or needs to cross a road on their daily journey.

Parking Outside School

In the interests of road safety, we would also like to respectfully remind parents that cars should not be parked outside our school on the yellow zig zag lines, even for drop offs or pickups. For children who travel to school by car, we encourage them to 'park and stride', which helps support the work we do around travel sustainability. Parents can park a short distance away from the school and children can be encouraged to walk the short distance to school, helping the congestion issue and starting the day with some healthy exercise. Thanks you, your support is greatly appreciated.

Breakfast Club

Our School Breakfast Club runs from 8:20am every morning. Any child wanting to use the facility is welcome to. They should enter school through the main school gate and come into the building at the Key Stage 3 door. Breakfast Club takes place in the Food Technology Room where a variety of food for breakfast can be purchased. More information can be found on our website at <https://www.svf.org.uk/whytrig-middle-school/extra-curricular> .

Swimming At Whytrig

Two of the Year 5 carousel groups start swimming lessons next week with Mr Day up to half term. 5P will have their swimming lessons on Mondays with 5E having their lessons on Tuesdays (the children have been informed which group they are in). 5D will start their block of lessons after half term. Year 6 will have their swimming lessons in the Spring Term.

Year 5 Kingswood Trip

We would like to remind parents of our Year 5 children going on the trip to Kingswood in October that the final balance payment is due on Friday 14th September. Thank you. We will be holding an information meeting on 8th October at 6pm in the main hall for parents of children attending the trip.

School Website

Over the summer holiday period Mr Watson and his team have redesigned the school website so that it now is part of a Federation wide website however it is still at an early stage in its development. News articles and photographs will appear on our school website as well as other valuable information for parents and children. We have a calendar on the website which gets regularly updated with key dates that you need to know about. Visit us at www.svf.org.uk to see for yourself.

Twitter Feed

Don't forget, we also have a Twitter feed which gets updated regularly, mainly to keep you informed about special events or visits we have been taking part in. We have already been tweeting about sports activities that will be starting to run after school in the very near future. You can follow us at: @whytrigms

We are really excited about working with you and your children this year and look forward to seeing the children back at school at 8:50am on Monday.