



# Whytrig Newsletter

## Spring Term 2018

Friday, 8 February  
Sports Leaders at First  
School Festival

Friday, 15 February  
NUFC Y6 Football  
Competition

Friday, 15 February  
End Spring 1<sup>st</sup> Half Term

Monday, 25 February  
Start Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term

Tuesday, 26 February  
Arts Award Artist Visit

Wednesday, 27 February  
KS3 STEM Visit  
Powering Transformation

Thursday, 28 February  
Arts Award Artist Visit

Thursday, 7 March  
World Book Day

Friday, 15 March  
Red Nose Day

Thursday, 21 March  
School Games Y6 Hockey

Thursday, 28 March  
Year 8 Art Trip

Wednesday, 3 April  
Theatre Trip: Joseph

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

13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
END OF KS2 TESTS (SATs)

Tuesday, 4 June  
Year 8 Girls HPV 2

## Spring Term @whytrig MS

### First Lego League STEM Success



On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January we took a group of pupils representing three different year groups to compete in the First Lego League tournament at Nissan Sunderland. In October, we applied and were selected to take part in an exciting initiative this year, in conjunction with Nissan, The Reece Foundation and Lego, the FIRST LEGO league challenge. The purpose was for teams of up to ten 9-16 year olds to use skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to compete against other schools, using skills developed over a number of weeks.

Nissan donated two LEGO MINDSTORMS Education sets, a FIRST LEGO League

Challenge set and other resources in the Autumn Term in order for a group of pupils to research a real-world problem. This year it was themed around space exploration. Our children were then challenged to develop a solution. During the process we also had to design, build and program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to undertake a number of challenges and then compete against others on a table-top playing field. The main purpose was the selected pupils to learn and apply Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) concepts to solve a problem, but in a fun way which used their imagination. During the process they also had to be seen to practise the Program's signature Core Values around team work, as well as learning to develop critical thinking and presentation skills.

A number of children have worked on two lunchtimes per week and one night after school to build the models and to develop and program the robots. On Thursday five of them took part in a number of sessions at Nissan; a presentation to Nissan engineers about a space problem they had identified around space debris and a suggested solution, a presentation to competition organisers about the understanding of the Core Values, another presentation to Nissan engineers about the design of their robot and three head to head competitions against other school in which they were scored for the tasks their robot could perform. We think they worked really well together on the day. They constantly were evaluating the success of and developing their robot so that by the time we took part in the final robot task we scored 56 points, our highest of the day and only 2 points less than the previous day's competition winner. We now look forward to our pupils sharing their knowledge and to being involved in the competition again next year.

### Key Stage 2 Shakespeare Performance

Last Tuesday a number of our Year 6 students performed at the Whitley Bay Playhouse in front of a packed audience, which included all of our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Miss Rutter has been working hard with them and a drama professional for some weeks, as they learned to perform Romeo and Juliet as a series of short scenes. They were excellent and we were also privileged for some of our Year 6 pupils to take part in a live debate, hosted by children's author Michael Rosen. Our children have been brilliant and this experience will stand them in good stead for their continuing work in English.

### Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day which was the theme for our Wednesday assembly this week. This year the theme was 'Together for a better Internet'; we discussed and promoted internet safety with all the children across school, with a focus on the types of messages that are sent electronically and the possible consequences for everyone at an age appropriate level. More information can be found at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019>

### Children's Mental Health Week

This week has also been children's mental health week with a theme of 'Healthy: Inside and Out' to raise awareness about looking after our minds to ensure our mental well being. We are sending two files out along with our newsletter, one from Place2Be with tips about staying 'Healthy: Inside and Out' and one on strategies that can be used around calm breathing. Our Year 5 pupils have now started Yoga sessions in school to support work in this area and we have again booked in sessions with Year 6 as they lead up towards the End of Key Stage 2 tests. More information can be found at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

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Friday, 08 February 2019

### **Spring Homework Projects**

We have sent a School Gateway message today with details of the Spring Homework Projects for Years 5, 7 and 8. The projects should be completed and returned to the class teachers or nominated staff by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Arts Award Trip**

Mrs Lawton and Mrs Telfer recently took a number of our pupils to Newcastle to view the galleries as they start work on their Arts Award project. We look forward to updates throughout the year, which will next be when we are visited in school by a professional artist at the end of the month.

### **Year 6 Futsal Competition**

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January our Year 6 boys played in a Futsal Competition at Churchill Community College against other North East Schools. The standards were high and out of the five games played, we won two and lost three. It's fair to say that it took a couple of games to get used to the slightly different rules and heavier ball. Results were: v Hexham Middle lost 1-3 (French), v Ovingham Middle lost 1-4 (Brown), v Richard Coates won 4-2 (French 2, Brown, H Lord), v St Aidans won 2-1 (og, Brown) and v Byker lost 0-4. Key Stage 2 Futsal club runs every week

### **U11 County Cup Football Result**

Our Key Stage 2 9 a side played a very competitive County Cup fixture against Highfield Middle School at home on Tuesday, losing 1-4. After coming back from 0-2 down at half time to 1-2 with a goal from Brown, we conceded two goals on the counter as we chased an equaliser. Our team showed great character and work rate in difficult conditions and can now look forward to the resumption of the 7 a side central venue league very soon.

### **Gold Pupils**

We have a number of our pupils who have now reached the 25 merit mark this term. Well done to Daniel Beattie, William Allan Dunbar, Louis Foster, Findley Belshaw, Jimmy Tweedy, Joe Turner, Talia Green, Joseph Henderson, Logan Wails, Zane Duigan, and Dom Dickinson.

### **Excellent Pupils**

Well done to Jimmy Tweedy who has also reached the 50 merit mark this term.

### **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 25/1/19 and for hot chocolate and biscuits with the head:

5Delta: Vincent Bowery; 5Eta: Talia Green; 5Pi: Macy Pyle;

6E: Derren Farrell; 6L: Devon Small;

7Ro: Cai Pattison; 7Ru Ciaran Park;

8C: Charlie Leighton; 8L: Matthew Towart;

### **Half Term Leisure Activities**

Please see the attached flyer for Half Term Leisure activities run by Seaton Valley Sport,

This half term they are providing some fantastic free sports camps in Seaton Valley (including a tennis camp with a free meal!). The activities are for ages 6 plus.