



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 10th October 2025

Parents Evening - 13th October

Our first parents evening of the year is taking place on Monday 13th October. Booking is available on the 'parent's evening' section MCAS app. This will give you the opportunity to meet your child's form teacher for this academic year and discuss how the term has started. We will also be running some short tours of the new site on parents evening, which can be booked through the 'clubs' section of the MCAS app. Spaces for the tours are limited and must be booked in advance.

Please enter our site through the brown feature gates and you will be directed to the hall through one of the outer doors, as the main reception is not staffed after 4:30pm.

Please note that Ms Thompson will be taking all of Mrs Lawton's Meetings (7L).

Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 13th October - Whole school Parent Evening (4 to 7pm).
- W/C Monday 13th October - Year 6 Bikeability (selected pupils).
- Friday 17th October - Wear Red Day (supporting Show Racism The Red Card).
- Friday 17th October - Macmillan Coffee Afternoon (2:30 pm).
We are asking for donations of shop-bought nut-free cakes please. Further details to follow.
- W/C Monday 27th October - Autumn half term holiday.
- Monday 3rd November - Start of Autumn 2 ½ term.

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 student who is eligible they receive £2.60 lunch credit every day and the school receives additional funding which can be used to support learning and progress through the pupil premium grant. You can read more about the school's strategy here: <https://svf.org.uk/our-federation/pupil-premium>



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Stars of the Week

Our Stars of the Week are nominated each week by staff for a variety of reasons, which might be contribution to the school community, school work or something outstanding. Each week their success is shared in school in the Star of the Week video and they receive a certificate and chocolate bar.

Week ending 3/10/25

8K: William G;

Week ending 10/10/25:

5C: Leo I; 5K: Ivy B; 5L: Evie F;

6E: Jayden B; 6F: Desmond O; 6S: Kyron S;

7L: Zach F; 7W: Ava O;

8K: Mason H; 8Ro: Praise O-A; 8Ru: Alara Y;

Head of School SOTW: Sofie F (7H)

Safeguarding Alert

The children's publisher Puffin has issued an alert regarding books authored by Andy Cope including those in the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pup series.

Within the books, there is a link which encourages children to find out about additional information told during the story. The link is intended to take children to Mr Cope's webpage, however the domain is no longer owned by him and instead the link will direct children to a webpage now owned by a third party. This third party is publishing pornographic content. There is no suggestion that Puffin or Mr Cope are responsible for the pornographic materials, and the content of the actual stories are fine to read, however if any children access the link with the intent to learn more about the story online they will be exposed to highly inappropriate materials.

Puffin has paused sales, and libraries and retailers have removed these books from their shelves until further notice.

We have been advised to make you aware and ask that you check your child's books at home and speak to them about talking to an adult first before following any links within books that they read.

Puffin books have been blocked by the Federation so no pupil will be able to access these materials.

Wake Up Wednesday

The Wake up Wednesday guide this week offered compassionate, practical advice for helping children cope with traumatic or challenging events - such as bereavement, bullying, or family upheaval - and begin the healing process. Please check your electronic communications to open the pdf.



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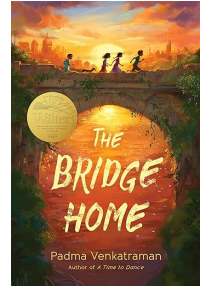
Book of the Week

Every week, we will be highlighting one of our fantastic new Reading Challenge books. This week's book is 'Bringing Back Kay-Kay' by Dev Kothari from our Year 7 challenge.



What would you do if your brother went missing? Lena's older brother Kay-Kay disappears and the police are treating it as a teenage runaway. But Lena knows her brother and they are wrong about him!

She begins to investigate Kay-Kay's disappearance and sets off on her own to bring him home. Will she be able to find him before it's too late?



If you liked 'Bringing Back Kay-Kay' try ... 'The Bridge Home' by Padma Venkatraman.

Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Barrister**. 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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Secondary Sports Leadership

Our KS3 Sports leaders had a great day at Morpeth RFC on Tuesday. They worked with other schools from around Northumberland, designing and planning their Leadership offers in school. They also listened to an inspirational speech from ex-World Thai Boxing Champion and British Champion, Rachael McKenzie.



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Fixtures & Results

Our Y8 boys got their football season off to a fantastic start on Wednesday, with two great victories at Seaton Sluice MS:

Whytrig 5-1 SSMS

Whytrig 5-0 Blyth Academy

All of the boys played their part in the games. Goals were shared amongst several players.



World Mental Health Day

Every year, World Mental Health Day takes place on 10th October. This week in assembly and registration we have talked about it being just as important to look after our mental health as our physical health. We have shared resources on each year group Google Classroom which will be there for reference if and when they are needed. Amongst other things, this week we shared:

- We all have mental health video from the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families which can be found here at <https://www.youtubeeducation.com/watch?v=DxIDKZHW3-E>
- Kooth - which is a free to use website/app which offers free advice/support and activities to boost well-being to support young people which can be found here at <https://www.kooth.com/>



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Tues- Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard)

Alternate Tuesday's - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes

If you would like to sign your child up to Coding Club, please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/xSvDnGRosKe9ziSUA>

Thurs- Boys' Football- Mr Robinson. Girls' Football (Mrs Kelly) - please bring correct boots for 4G and trainers in case it rains. Shin-pads are also needed.

If you would like to sign your child up to football, please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/89kGSTqCE8Kg6Rxr8>

Fri- KS3 Basketball club (Mr Robinson)

If you would like to sign your child up to basketball, please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/bj7C5Bwhw67BEUfQ6>

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am each morning for children who have been signed up for it. Children should enter the school through the main reception door, where they will be taken to the breakfast club room in room G07, which is very close to the main reception and staff by Mrs Robson and Miss Gales. Children are able to have their breakfasts with a selection of food available.

We do however also provide a free bagel to any child in school on a morning who would like one, once the general population has entered our site from 8:30am!



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Road Safety

The safety of all children attending our school is our main priority. If your child is making their own way to and from school, please reinforce with them at home, as we will in school, to take care on their daily journeys. Astley Road is a very busy road. There are 3 traffic light crossings placed along this road near the school, including the brand new one opposite the new cafe on the corner of Prospect Avenue. Children are expected to use these traffic light crossings to cross the road. They must wait for the lights to turn red and then cross the road after checking it is safe to do so.

We actively encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Children who travel to school on bikes must ensure that they ride in a safe manner. This includes not riding in the middle of roads and pulling wheelies. When they come on to the school site they must dismount and push their bikes on our site, around the sports block and to the cycle store nearest our school. Pupils must also push their bikes/scooters off the school site at the end of the school day. Children have been told that they should not be riding out of school on the road in the turning circle because of the one way system in place. Please support school and your child's safety by reaffirming these expectations at home.

Double parking puts our children at risk. When double parking occurs around schools, it makes it harder to see children and those who might be on wheels (buggies, cycles, wheelchairs etc).

As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.

Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone.

Fewer cars at the school entrance will help make it safer for everyone

What you could do instead....

- ✓ Try walking, cycling or scooting – even if its just one day a week, it can make a big difference.
- ✓ If you need to drive your child to school, consider parking away from school and walking the remainder of the way or car share with other families.

Walking, cycling or scooting to school contributes to the recommended daily physical exercise for you and your children.

It also helps to **reduce congestion** around school and **improves air quality**, providing benefits for everyone.



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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 student absence.

Please also 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 (YTD):

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
98.2%	93.4%	94.1%	92.4%

Current best attending class is: 5K (98.9%)

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.

Labelling Uniform and Belongings

All items of clothing, bags and water bottles etc. should have your child's name in them. This helps us return 'lost property' to their rightful owner. By the end of each term, we have a large quantity of items that have lost their owner and are then donated to charity or unfortunately thrown away.



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Lockers

Replacement keys are now £4, if your child loses their key they must pay £4 for a replacement.

Year 6 - locker key rental is £5, payable via MCAS.

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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