

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 12th December 2025

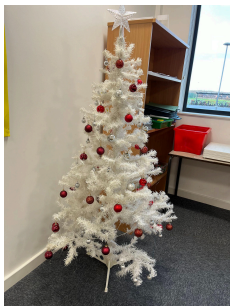
Santa Dash

Today, we took part in the National School Games Active 60 Santa Dash—a festive celebration of movement designed to bring pupils together for a fun and inclusive event that encourages physical activity. Each class enjoyed an hour of running or walking around a school route, proudly wearing Christmas jumpers and festive hats. Great fun was had by all, and a big thank you goes to Mr Robinson for organising such a wonderful event!



Christmas in School

Last week representatives from each year group beautifully decorated our tree, and we couldn't be more impressed with the wonderful job everyone has done. The pupils worked together to add lights, baubles and festive touches. It's a lovely reminder of the teamwork and Christmas spirit across our school! We also have some great class trees too!



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Christmas Jumper Day

We had a fantastic day on Wednesday celebrating Christmas Jumper Day, with pupils and staff showing off their most festive knits before enjoying a delicious Christmas lunch together. We'd like to say a big thank you to our kitchen staff for a fantastic lunch. We're also delighted to share that, thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised an impressive £90.89 for Save the Children. Well done, everyone!



KS3 Police Workshops

This week, our KS3 pupils took part in workshops delivered by Northumbria Police focusing on anti-social behaviour. They learned about the laws surrounding anti-social behaviour, their role in helping to prevent it, and how to keep themselves safe. We would like to thank Kerry from Northumbria Police for delivering such informative and engaging sessions. Our pupils were fantastic throughout, offering mature and thoughtful responses and showing excellent engagement.



Food Bank Donations

Thank you all so much for your recent donations to the food bank. We are always blown away by the kindness and generosity of our school community and it is wonderful to be able to give something back to our local area at this time of the year. There is still time to donate! Please send in any donations in with your child by Tuesday 16th December, so we can drop off the donations before Christmas.

Autumn 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 16th December - Panto Visit.
- Friday 19th December - Last day of term- **school closes at 1pm (Pupils may wear Christmas Jumpers instead of their school sweatshirt, please note this is NOT a non-uniform day)**
- Monday 5th January - Teacher Training Day - **School Closed**
- Tuesday 6th January - School reopens for Spring 1 half term
- Friday 9th January - Non-Uniform behaviour reward (by invitation)
- Monday 19th January - Year 7 STEM trip (details to follow)
- Thursday 5th February - KS2 French Workshops (La Petite Creperie)
- Monday 9th/Tuesday 10th February - KS3 Be Safe workshops



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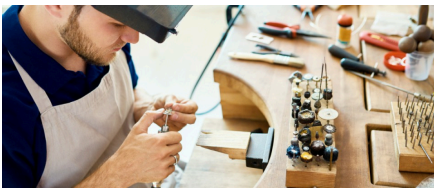
Stars of the Week

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 12/12/25

5C: Ethan G; 5K: Logan S; 5L: Noah H;
6E: Reuben H; 6F: Eve W; 6S: Averie S;
7H: Bailey G; 7L: Olly E; 7W: Elliot C;
8K: Lauren W; 8Ro: Harry B; 8Ru: Isla H
Head of School SOTW: Desmond O (6F)

Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Jewellery Designer**. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also [here](#).

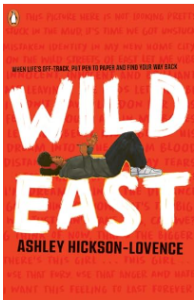
We encourage you to watch the Job of the Week with your children so you can take part in the

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

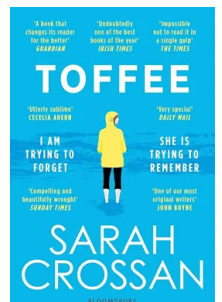
Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is 'Wild East' by Ashley Hickson- Lovence, part of our year 8 reading challenge.

Wild East is the story of a 14-year-old boy called Ronny. After a serious situation in London, Ronny and his mum move to a new city – a place where everything feels different. Written in verse (with an accompanying playlist), this is a story about friendship, writing and finding out who you are and what sort of person you want to be.

If you liked 'Wild East', you might enjoy 'Toffee' by Sarah Crossan, available to borrow from Mrs Campbell. *(Please note these books contain mature themes and are only suitable for year 8 readers.)*



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Are you interested in playing Badminton? Are you in KS2?



SHUTTLE STARS

TYNESIDE
Badminton Centre

Date: Saturday 24th January
Time: 09:00 - 17:00
Location:
Tyneside Badminton Centre
Bowness Rd,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 2TA

Sessions:
09:30 - 10:30 Y1/2
10:30 - 11:30 Y3/4
11:30 - 12:30 Y5/6
---- BREAK ----
13:30 - 14:30 Y1/2
14:30 - 15:30 Y3/4
15:30 - 16:30 Y5/6

SIGN UP TODAY

Badminton ENGLAND

Badminton England's Junior Programme For 7-11 Year-Olds
badmintonengland.co.uk/shuttlestars

FOR ALL

Music Tuition

Side by Side Arts is offering high-quality music tuition at Whytrig. If your child would like to learn a musical instrument, simply scan the QR code to sign up and get started. Or you can email info@SideBySideArts.org for more information.



Side By Side Arts
Music Tuition

New Starters and Existing Student registration QR

Side By Side Arts will be offering high-quality music tuition at **Seaton Valley High School** throughout the **2025/26 academic year!**

If your child is eager to learn a musical instrument and explore their creativity through music, simply scan the QR code to sign up and get started in September.

Email
Info@SideBySideArts.org
For more information

SIDE BY SIDE ARTS

WWW.SIDEBYSIDEARTS.ORG



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Fixtures and Results



KS2 Girls Football

Our KS2 girls played on Monday night at home in very cold conditions! They were absolutely brilliant and managed our first win of the season!

WMS v SSMS 0-0
WMS v Hareside 0-0
WMS v Northburn 1-0
WMS v Shanklea 0-1

Our Y5 and Y6 boys played fixtures on Thursday night against Ponteland CPS. Some great goals scored, saves made and football played. Well done boys!!

WMS Y6 0-0 Pont Y6
WMS Y5 0-0 Pont Y6
WMS Y6 0-3 Pont Y6
WMS Y5 8-0 Pont Y6

Key Stage 2 Swimming lessons

Year 5 and 6 pupils will have swimming lessons after Christmas with Mr Day in our fantastic new swimming pool:

Tues- 5L & 6E
Wed- 6L
Thur- 6F & 5K
Fri- 5C

Pupils will need an appropriate swimming kit and a swimming cap. Goggles if required.



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Safeguarding Update - Prevent

What is Prevent?

- A Government Strategy: Prevent is a UK government strategy aimed at stopping individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting extremist ideologies.
- **Protects from Radicalisation:** It focuses on identifying and preventing individuals, especially young people, from being drawn into terrorism by extremist groups, which can include far-right, religious, or other extremist causes.
- If you'd like to access any training about Prevent, you can do using the following website: [Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training](#)

Safeguarding professionals in school

If you have any safeguarding concerns these can be reported to Mrs Lennon (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mr Souter or Mrs Telfer.



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Mon- Y5/6 Dodgeball- Mr Robinson + Dodgeball Coach- starting Mon 12th Jan

<https://forms.gle/Gse7Sv3YDymrc9UFA>

Tues- KS3 Netball- Mrs Harland and Miss Waterfall (Sportshall/yard):

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkwv8>

Tues- KS3 Boys Fitness Club- Mr Robinson- Fitness Suite- starting Tues 13th Jan

<https://forms.gle/pb1ehervDmhvjWN6>

Alternate Wednesdays (Week 1) KS2 Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard):

<https://forms.gle/QnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

Alternate Tuesdays - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes:

<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:

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

Fri- KS3 Badminton Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall

<https://forms.gle/hBF3w6zdMk6v3meX6>

KS2 Swimming Club

We will be starting a KS2 swimming club after-school on Monday 12th Jan with Mr Day. All KS2 pupils have been given letters in class this week. If you wish your child to reserve a place, please return the letter to the school office ASAP. This club is capped at a maximum of 20 places on a first-come first-served basis. There will be a reserve list if places become available.

Year 8 Chess Club

Monday lunchtime- Mr Robinson- Room 02. Starting Monday 12th Jan.

Please see the school website for the latest club information at:

<https://www.svf.org.uk/whytrig-middle-school/extra-curricular>

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 pupil absence.

Please 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.



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This week's whole school attendance (YTD): 93.0%			
Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.4%	91.2%	91.1%	92.9%
The current best attending class is: 5C (98.8%)			

Free Days Out - December 2025

Below is a list of free days out across the North East in December 2025, which may interest families and friends:

13 Dec - (ad) FREE Celebrate Christmas in Blyth with Live Music, Advent Trail, Christmas Crafts with Mrs Claus, Face Painting and more.

13 Dec - (ad) FREE Red Riding Hood Christmas Theatre at Wallsend Library.

13 Dec - (ad) FREE Meet The Snowman and The Snowdog at The Beacon Centre, North Shields.

13 Dec - FREE Saltburn Ice Trail & Letter Writing to Santa with an Ice Post Box.

13 Dec - FREE Christmas Tree Decoration Making at IKEA.

13 Dec - FREE Make a Window Decoration at Oriental Museum Durham.

13 Dec - FREE 12 Days of Christmas Trail at National Glass Centre Sunderland.

13 Dec - FREE Festive Crafts & Post Your Letter to Santa at National Glass Centre Sunderland.

13 Dec - FREE Darlington Ice Trail (inc Peppa Pig and Spongebob) & Interactive Ice Sculpting.

13 Dec - FREE Snow Play at Theatre Hullabaloo.

13 & 14 Dec - FREE Morpeth Reindeer Trail (with free hot choc for kids).

13 & 14 Dec - FREE Santa's Grotto at Manor Walks Cramlington.

13 & 14 Dec - FREE Elf Trail at Eldon Square Newcastle.

13 & 14 Dec - FREE Silent Disco at Newcastle Christmas Market.

13 & 14 Dec - FREE Hexham Christmas Window Trail.

13 & 14 Dec - FREE Once Upon a Winter Trail in Sunderland.

13 & 14 Dec - FREE Gingerbread Decorating with Complimentary Tea, Coffee and Squash at BALTIC Front Room.

14 Dec - (ad) FREE Carols around the Christmas Tree at Fountains Abbey Courtyard.

20 Dec - FREE Hexham Christmas Window Trail.

20 Dec - FREE Christmas Pony in the Barn with treats, arts, crafts and pony cuddles (Stepney Bank Stable).

20 Dec - FREE Make a Christmas Decoration at Oriental Museum Durham.

20 Dec - FREE 12 Days of Christmas Trail at National Glass Centre Sunderland.

20 Dec - FREE A Christmas Night at the Museum (Hopetown Darlington).

20 Dec - FREE Snow Play at Theatre Hullabaloo.

20 Dec - (ad) FREE Celebrate Christmas in Blyth with Live Music, Advent Trail, Christmas Crafts with Mrs Claus, Face Painting and more.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Santa's Grotto at Manor Walks Cramlington.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Silent Disco at Newcastle Christmas Market.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Christmas Tree Decoration Making at IKEA.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Once Upon a Winter Trail in Sunderland.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Gingerbread Decorating with Complimentary Tea, Coffee & Squash at BALTIC Front Room.

22 - 24 Dec - FREE Once Upon a Winter Trail in Sunderland.

22 - 24 Dec - FREE Snow Play at Theatre Hullabaloo.

22, 23, & 24 Dec - FREE Santa's Grotto at Manor Walks Cramlington.



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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 pupil 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>

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.

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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