



# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP



Week Ending 13th December 2024

## End of Term Notice

We are now firmly into December and are approaching the end of the calendar year. Today, children have been taking part in the Annual Santa Dash and it has been great seeing them moving around our yard keeping fit to Christmas songs. Yesterday we supported Save The Children by wearing our Christmas jumpers and it was wonderful to see such a variety in school. On Wednesday we enjoyed our Festive Lunch and our kitchen staff did a brilliant job as usual in ensuring all of our children had the opportunity to have a traditional 'turkey and all the trimmings' dinner if they wanted, as well as catering for the High School too in the sitting after ours! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support over the Autumn Term as well as share with you details of things that are happening in school over the remaining days as well as our End of Term arrangements. We would especially like to pass on our gratitude to all who supported our Christmas Fayre this week, with donations or in attendance. We raised over £1300 for our school, which is truly humbling and will enable us to buy additional resources for school, something we can look forward to in the Spring Term.

## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Final Day of Term

The Autumn Term again ends very close to Christmas as it did last year, with school breaking up for the holidays on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December! The final day of term will be spent in form classes as is usually the case and we will be organising some Christmas themed activities that will be completed in this time, as well as readying the classrooms for our return in January. **Children are permitted to wear a Christmas jumper if they choose. This should be worn instead of their school sweatshirt but with the rest of their correct school uniform.** The end of term arrangements are as follows:

- At 9:05 to 10:05 we will have our end of term assembly, where we will celebrate the successes of the term and present the House awards.
- 10:05 to 10:45 in form classes. **Children are permitted to bring in toys/games which must be agreed with their form teachers. Any toys/games which are brought into school are done so at their own risk; the school will not take any responsibility for damaged or lost items. We would advise against children bringing valuable items into school for that reason.**
- Break 10:45 to 11:00.
- 11:00 to 11:45 in form classes for the Annual Christmas Quiz.
- Lunch 11:45 to 12:30. As the kitchen will not be providing a canteen service on this day, the **children should bring a packed lunch which will be eaten in our School.** Children who would normally have a Free School Meal will have a packed lunch provided for them by the school canteen.
- 12:30 to 1:00 in form classes. Clear up and ready to go!
- **Whytrig will close at 1.00pm for the Christmas Holidays.** Please ensure that arrangements are in place for your child when they leave school at this earlier time than the normal end of the school day. As usual we expect the highest standards of behaviour from our students as they go home. We would also like to remind them that they must not go to any of the other schools or cause a nuisance in the community.



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## Attendance

Please remember to call in 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.

Please also send evidence of medical/dental appointments to [wms@svf.org.uk](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk) so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system.

**This week's whole school attendance: 93.15%**

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
95.70%	93.69%	92.28%	91.22%

## Uniform Reminder

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.

As it begins to get colder, please remember to send your child into school with a coat.

## 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.

## Mental Health Tip of the Week

Make a playlist of all the songs that cheer you up and take you to a 'happy place'. When you're feeling a little low, make sure you have these tunes on; listening will release those endorphins and lift your mood.

## LUNCH MENU - WEEK 3

[School Meals Menu](#)

## Breakfast Club

Can we take this opportunity to remind you that our breakfast club is open from 8:00am every morning during term time, at a cost of £2 per session. This cost includes breakfast for your child e.g. bagels, toast etc. The breakfast club is run by the school and staffed by existing members of staff, and can be booked using MCAS, under the 'Wraparound Care' section of the app.



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## Free School Meals - Eligibility

If you feel you may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) it is important that you apply immediately as FSM eligibility means other resources may be available to the school and your child including pupil premium. Please consider an eligibility check for FSM. Check the website below for the criteria.

[Northumberland County Council - School meals](#)

## School Sports Events & Clubs

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CLUBS HAVE NOW FINISHED FOR THE TERM. THEY WILL RESTART IN THE 2ND WEEK BACK. PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR SIGN-UP FORMS FOR YOUR CHILD'S CLUB(S)**

### Fixtures & Results

Year 8 Boys Football  
Whytrig 0-0 Ponteland A  
Whytrig 1-0 Ponteland B (McNally)  
Whytrig 1-0 CLV (Pyle)

### 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 13/12/24:

5C: Harrison C; 5K: Eva O'M; 5L: Lewis H;  
6E: Sienna A; 6F: Ella H; 6L: Ruby M;  
7M: Layla O; 7Ro: Daniel Y; 7Ru: Cole W;  
8H: Summer C; 8L: Louis V; 8T: Amy C;  
Head of School SOTW: Nolan D (6F)

### Lost Property

We have lots of lost property items in school, so if you think your child has lost something please ask them to check at reception. Any items which are not claimed by the end of next week will be donated to charity, or disposed of. Here are some of the items we currently have:

PE hoodies x2 (XS & S)  
Cream Shein t-shirt with blue printed back (M)  
Grey pom pom hat  
Black Primark beanie hat  
Black pencil case  
One black glove  
White and green hat  
Various water bottles



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## School Games National Santa Dash

All of our pupils took part in the School Games National Santa Dash this week. This is a “fun run” initiative organised by the School Games network, trying to encourage pupils to be Active60 and taking part in as much physical activity as they can each day at school.

**Physical activity**  
for children and young people  
(5-18 Years)

BUILDS CONFIDENCE & SOCIAL SKILLS  
DEVELOPS CO-ORDINATION  
IMPROVES CONCENTRATION & LEARNING  
MAINTAINS HEALTHY WEIGHT  
STRENGTHENS MUSCLES & BONES  
IMPROVES HEALTH & FITNESS  
IMPROVES SLEEP  
MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD

**Be physically active**

Spread activity throughout the day  
All activities should make you breathe faster & feel warmer

**Aim for at least 60 minutes everyday**

PLAY  
RUN/WALK  
BIKE  
ACTIVE TRAVEL  
SWIM  
SKATE  
SPORT  
PE  
SKIP  
CLIMB  
WORKOUT  
DANCE

Include muscle and bone strengthening activities  
**3 TIMES PER WEEK**

**Sit less**  
LOUNGING  
**Move more**

Find ways to help all children and young people accumulate at least 60 minutes of physical activity everyday

UK Chief Medical Officers' Guidelines 2011 Start Active, Stay Active: [www.bit.ly/startactive](http://www.bit.ly/startactive)

## Wraparound Childcare

As you may be aware, we have been trying to identify a third party provider to deliver an after school provision from 3:30pm each day. We have approached several organisations who have all concluded that the level of interest from parents doesn't make it viable for them to do this. We would therefore like to apologise to anyone who might have been considering this for their child. We will send out a questionnaire each term and if more families indicate they are interested, this is something we might be able to offer in future.



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## Polite reminder: requesting meetings/phone calls:

Should you wish to meet with a member of staff or to speak to someone during the school day, please contact Reception in the first instance to make an appointment.

**Behaviour Towards Staff  
by Parents, Carers and Visitors:  
Expectations and Procedures**

**Acceptable Communication by Telephone**

- Be civil in your communication; do not become frustrated or rude to our Reception Staff
- Be respectful in the tone and language you use; do not raise your voice or use aggressive or threatening language
- Staff will get back in touch with you as soon as they can
- Staff will try to return your call within 24 hours

**Expectations of Parents, Carers and Visitors to the SVF**

- We will always listen to parents and seek to address things as quickly as possible
- However, abusive, threatening or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated

**Acceptable Communication by Email**

- Address each member of staff respectfully
- Do not use bold text or capitalisation to emphasise concerns
- Do not expect an instant response
- Staff will respond as soon as they can
- Staff are not expected to respond to emails outside of working hours which are 8.30am to 4.30pm
- If a member of staff does respond outside of the above hours, it is their choice to do so
- We advise emails are not sent late at night or early in the morning
- Emails sent at weekends or during school holidays will not be responded to until the next working day

**Definitions of Unacceptable Behaviour**

- Shouting and/or swearing
- Aggressive emails in tone and language
- Constant emails and/or phone calls which amount to a threat, harassment and intimidation
- Inappropriate electronic activity on social media
- Any form of physical violence or intimidation
- The use of rude or aggressive hand gestures
- Allegations that turn out to be vexatious or malicious
- Discussing your concerns/ frustrations with your child in an inappropriate manner; this undermines the school and its staff

[www.svf.org.uk](http://www.svf.org.uk)

### 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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