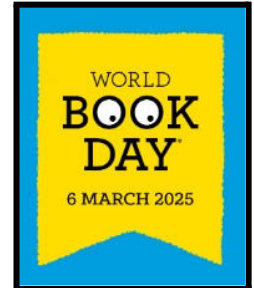


WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 14th February 2025

World Book Day Thursday 6th March

We have some exciting arrangements planned to celebrate World Book Day this year. This year, the focus of our celebrations will be on *Reading for Pleasure*. We believe that reading should be a fun and enjoyable activity, and we hope to inspire our pupils to develop a lifelong love of reading.



To make the day even more exciting, we are inviting pupils to come to school dressed in comfortable clothes perfect for reading, such as pyjamas or loungewear. We want them to feel relaxed and ready to immerse themselves in the world of books!

As part of the day's activities, we will also be having some '*Drop Everything and Read*' sessions. Pupils are expected to bring a book with them that they can enjoy during this time, so please ensure they have one with them on the day. It can be any book of their choice—whether it's a current favourite or a new book they're excited to start!

Additionally, we will be hosting a *book swap* where pupils can bring in a book to exchange for another one. Further details on this event will be sent to you closer to the date, so keep an eye out for more information. We will also be holding a reading quiz in form classes and there will be reading activities in English lessons too.

Lastly, we will be holding a *book amnesty* on World Book Day. If your child has any school reading books or books that they may have misplaced, this will be the perfect opportunity to return them to school. We kindly ask that you encourage your child to check their bags, lockers, and shelves for any school books that need to be returned. As always, we welcome any donations of any books you have spare or would like to rehome in our classroom libraries.

We are excited for the celebrations and look forward to seeing the pupils embracing their love of reading! If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.



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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/medication to wms@svf.org.uk so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system.

This week's whole school attendance:93.3%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
95.4%	94.3%	93.0%	90.9%

LUNCH MENU - WEEK 2

[School Meals Menu](#)

Key Stage 3 Be Safe Workshops

Key Stage 3 pupils took part in some personal safety workshops this week with our annual visit from Be Safe. The sessions are facilitated by Dave Burn, who is able to bring his own professional experience and knowledge into the classroom, making the sessions extremely powerful and beneficial. The workshops focussed on how to be 'safe on the streets' and taught our pupils about the dangers and effects of gangs and antisocial behaviour. The focus in Year 7 was specifically around the dangers of knife crime and in Year 8 on County Lines and the impact criminality has on young peoples lives. Our pupils participated brilliantly as always.



We have also have some sessions planned for Year 8 in the next half term around knife crime, which will build upon the work they did last year when Be Safe visited them in Year 7. They will be delivered in school by Northumbria Police. Well done everyone.

The following resources are useful if you were talking to your child(ren) about knife crime:
[Understanding Knife Crime: Information and Resources | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#)
[Knife crime advice for parents | LiveSafe](#)

The following resources are useful if you were talking to your child(ren) about county lines:
[Protecting children from county lines | NSPCC Learning](#)
[Understanding county lines and how to protect your child \(actionforchildren.org.uk\)](#)
[What Is County Lines? | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](#)



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Matilda Junior - School Musical

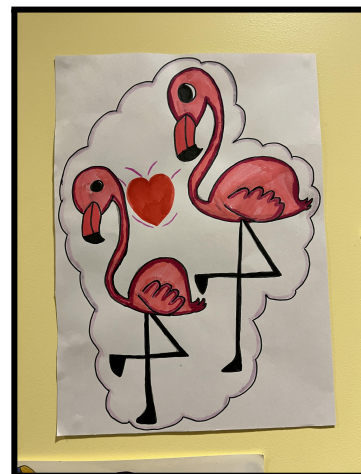


Rehearsals are well under way for this year's school production of Matilda Junior. The show will be on for two nights after half term - Wednesday 5th March and Thursday 6th March. Tickets will be on sale from next week from the school Finance Office.

Mental Health Tip!

The benefits of drawing & colouring in!

- Drawing & colouring in can help with mental health by reducing stress, improving mood, and helping you express emotions.
- Drawing can help you focus on the present moment and take a break from worries.
- Drawing can help you distract yourself from negative thoughts and feelings.
- Drawing can also be pleasurable, which can improve your mood.
- Click on the link for some ideas-<https://theartofeducation.edu/2017/04/100-silly-drawing-prompts-engage-students/>



Job of the Week

We have introduced 'Job of the Week' at Whytrig to raise awareness of careers and educational routes with our pupils. 'Job of the Week' will be posted in Google Classroom every Monday and will include a short video outlining what is involved in the Job of the Week, the skills and qualifications needed in that job and information about working hours and salary. 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.



This week's job is Cardiologist. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also [here](#).

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



Sports Results/Fixtures/News

Well done to our KS3 netball team on Tuesday, who got back into action, with a close defeat to Cramlington Learning Village. A great performance from the girls, who play Seaton Sluice MS next week. Netball club is on for all year groups on Tuesday evenings with Mrs Harland

Our Y7 boys fought valiantly in the Northumberland Schools County Cup at Ponteland HS, losing 6-2 to a very strong Ponteland team.

Huge congratulations to our Y7 and Y8 Sportshall Athletics teams, who have taken part in events recently. Our Y7 Boys and Y8 Boys & Girls teams qualified for the County Final, by winning their area round. At the County final, held at Blyth LC last week, we had some great success, with our Y7 Boys finishing in Silver medal place, our Y8 Boys finishing 5th and our Y8 Girls also claiming a brilliant Silver medal place. Well done everybody!



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Craft Club

Our next after school craft club is on Tuesday where the pupils will be enjoying and learning the art of Book Folding. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Tuesday 4th March 2025 - Book Folding

Tuesday 18th March 2025 - Paper Making

Tuesday 1st April 2025 - Book Binding

If your child has not yet signed up and would like to join in please email wms@svf.org.uk

After-School Clubs

Mon- KS2 Dodgeball & KS3 Boys Swimming

Tues- KS3 Boys Fitness, Netball Club & Y6 Swimming

Wed- KS2 Boys football

Wed - Samba Club

Thurs- KS3 Badminton

PE Kit

Please remind your child(ren) that the correct PE kit should be:

Black shorts

Plain Black Joggers/Leggings

White School PE T-shirt

Black School PE jumper/Hoody

Trainers

Black football socks

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 14/02/25:

5C: Mason B; 5K: Smith D-C; 5L: Lacey R;

6E: Isabelle A; 6F: Rory W; 6L: George H;

7M: Jake C; 7Ro: Omar A; 7Ru: Mason O;

8H: Lucy W; 8L: Shaun M; 8T: Tyler M;

Head of School SOTW: Charlie D (8L)



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Library Books

Please can you take a look around your home and see if you have any outstanding library books. We're missing quite a few books from our collection and we want to have a refresh before we move to the new school. Fiction books will often have a Green or Yellow Star on the spine so you can identify them as a school book.

New Build Photo of the Week



This week's photograph is looking across the new build from the car park. In the foreground is Art & Technology on the ground floor, Humanities and Maths on the first floor. In the distance, you can see Whytrig (still white walls), The Avenue and then the North Sea! It's coming on and is still on track for completion this summer.



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Celebrating Good Attendance at WMS

We currently recognise children who have 100% attendance over the term by rewarding them in the following way:

- Each term children with 100% attendance receive a certificate. Children can achieve three certificates over the course of a year: bronze (1st 100%), silver (2nd 100%) and gold (3rd 100%). Children who do not have 100% attendance in one term have the chance to gain the first/next certificate in the next term (for example if they have an absence in T1, but then have 100% in T2 they would get their bronze certificate in T2).
- At the end of each term 100% attenders are entered into a prize draw for a non uniform pass and prize to be used at a time of their choice (one per year group).
- Children who have all three certificates (because they have had 100% attendance all year) receive a medal and 100% badge in the end of year assembly on the last day of term.

Attendance Pupil Voice

We surveyed all pupils in school this month as we wanted to know their views on attendance as we look to improve overall attendance in school. What we learned from the survey is that the majority of pupils attend because they think learning is important, but the social aspect (seeing friends) is also very important to them. We also asked them if good or improved attendance should be recognised in school. 70% thought that it should be recognised (with 23% who didn't know). We also asked how should good attendance be rewarded and 66% answered 'rewards' (eg. non uniform passes, vouchers etc), 16% thought 'awards' and 11% answered 'certificates'.

New for Spring 2025!

As a result of the feedback in the attendance survey, we are introducing two new strategies this term to further encourage good attendance:

Next week we will start 'The 100% Cup', which will give children the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw if they have 100% attendance over the course of a week. This is because we recognise that some children have very good attendance in school but are ineligible for the existing 100% reward if they have a single short absence in a term. Each week form teachers will issue a voucher to children in their form class who had 100% attendance in the previous week. The more weeks of 100% attendance they have, the more opportunities they will have to win a prize. We will ask the children to write their name on the voucher and enter it into the prize draw box (which will be their responsibility to do so). There will then be three prizes each half term and they will be drawn on the first week back after a holiday.

We are also going to introduce 'The Progress in Attendance' award in this half term, which will recognise the children who have made the greatest improvement in their attendance over the course of a half term. This will be done by comparing overall attendances at the end of one half term against overall attendances at the end of the next half term. There will be two prizes each half term for the top two most improved attenders, presented in the first week back after a holiday.



ABILITY2PLAY FEBRUARY HALF TERM

**** Please note these sessions have a maximum capacity and operate on a first come first served basis. You must wear weather appropriate clothing, bring a packed lunch and plenty to drink to every session.**

6+yrs



Monday 24th February

Freestyle Multi-Sports
@ Northburn Sports and Community Centre

11:00am - 12:00pm
£4

18+yrs



Monday 24th February

Adult Multi-Sports
@ Blyth Sports Centre

-Basketball
-Football
-Cricket
13:00pm - 14:30pm
£4

8+yrs



Tuesday 25th February

STAY ALL DAY
@ Blyth Sports Centre

-Dodgeball
-Cricket
-Football
10:00am - 15:00pm
£25

8+yrs



Wednesday 26th February

Youth Club
@ Ashington Family Hub

Pool
Football
-Xbox
17:00pm - 19:00pm
£5

8+yrs



Thursday 27th February

STAY ALL DAY
@ Concordia Leisure Centre

-Bowling
-Clip'n'Climb
-Sports
10:00am - 15:00pm
£25

8 - 16 yrs



Friday 28th February

Comets Football
@ Northburn Sports and Community Centre

10:00am - 12:00pm
£6

To book, please email:
bayley.milligan@northumberland.gov.uk
or visit our Facebook @Ability2Play



ADELLE HICKS & ROBYN ROBINSON

We are Autism Family Support Workers that are a part of the Autism Support Team within HINT at Northumberland County Council.

We run our Autism Family Drop in sessions across all of Northumberland. Each session is free, two hours long and is a chance to come along to meet us and other parents for an informal chat over a cuppa. There is no set agenda for the drop ins. It is a chance to seek support and advice from us and other parents, however there is no expectation to talk about your child if you don't want to. Any parent/carer or family members are welcome to attend any session, you do not need to attend the session in the area that you live in. The sessions are not for professionals.

FAQ

Do I need to book?

No, just turn up on the day.

Do I need to stay for the two hours?

No, you can drop in at any time that is convenient for you.

Can I bring my child with me?

We normally advise parents/carers not to bring their children if they can, as this allows you to speak freely. However, if childcare is preventing you from attending then please bring them along. Please be aware that other parents may want to discuss sensitive topics.

What happens if I can't attend?

We try and alternate days and times of the drop ins at each location so hopefully the next session will be more convenient for you. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer advice via email or telephone due to our capacity. However, please bring any questions or queries along to the drop in session. We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions, please contact your local Family Hub or email us at:
robbyn.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk or adelle.hicks@northumberland.gov.uk

Inclusive Education Services

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Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

JOIN US ON:

Wednesday 15th January 2025 10am-12 at Alnwick Family Hub

On St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, NE66 1DJ

Thursday 13th February 2025 1-3pm at Berwick Family Hub

Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2AE

Tuesday 14th January 2025 10am-12 at Hexham Family Hub

On Hexham First School Site, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Wednesday 29th January 2025 1-3pm at Haltwhistle Family Hub

On Haltwhistle Primary Academy Site, Park Avenue, NE49 9BA

Tuesday 21st January 2025 10am-12 at Ashington Family Hub

Alexandra Road, NE63 9EF

Monday 3rd February 2025 1-3pm at The Community Hub at Cramlington

Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)

Tuesday 18th February 2025 10am-12 at Morpeth Library

Morpeth Sports and Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane, NE61 1SR

**If you have any questions, please contact your local Family Hub or email us at:
robyn.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk or adelle.hicks@northumberland.gov.uk**

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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.



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.



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.



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. During this cold weather please remember to send your child into school with a coat.

Lost Property

These are the items we currently have in lost property at Whytrig reception. If you recognise any of the items listed below, please ask your child to come to reception to collect them as soon as possible, as any unclaimed belongings will be donated or disposed of at the end of this half term:

- Black Decor water bottle
- Justice League glasses
- Rockstar white glasses
- Pink stitch packed lunch with a clear lid
- Blue and grey glove inside each other
- Neck warmer-Black with grey fluff inside
- White school shirt (10-11 years)
- Pale Blue packed lunch with yellow and white dots.

- Green/grey Asda small coat black mesh inside
- Original air up (orange strap and grey bottle)
- Black metal air up
- Pink air up
- Black plastic bottle with a green lid
- Neon lime glove
- School jumper (11-12 years)
- Pe jumper (11-12 years)
- Black joggers from Next (12 years)



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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.

