

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 14th March 2025

Spring 1st Half Term Attendance Awards

We have created two new extra opportunities for children to be rewarded for attendance each half term. The first is the 100% Cup where children get a token for every week of full attendance which they enter into the end of half term draw. The second is the Progress in Attendance award, where the two most improved attenders over a half term are rewarded.

The winners of the 100% Cup for the Spring 1st half term were drawn on Wednesday in assembly and are:

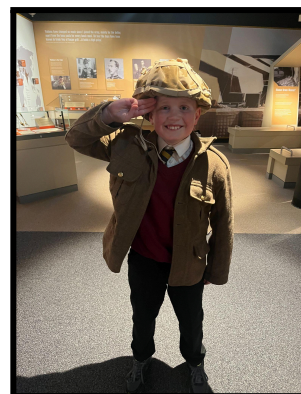
- Ayan M (7Ro)
- Penelope-Jane D (5L)
- Amy C (8T)

The winners of the Progress in Attendance award for the Spring 1st half term are:

- Harry B (7Ro)
- Nicole H (8T)

Year 5 Discovery Museum Trip

Year 5 had an excellent trip to The Discovery Museum in Newcastle last week and we enjoyed delving into the fascinating history of the River Tyne and its shipbuilding past. The children particularly enjoyed learning about its significance to our local community and the various industries that blossomed along its banks. The children asked lots of insightful questions and actively engaged with the exhibits. We learned so many interesting things during our trip and loved seeing (and eating our lunch alongside) the Turbinia, the first steam turbine-powered steamship. A lovely day was had by all!



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Parent's Evening Monday - Monday 17th March

Bookings are still open for our Parent's Evening on Monday 17th March. Please make an appointment via the Parent's Evening tab in the MCAS app to see your child's form teacher to discuss their progress over this half term. We look forward to seeing you there! *(please note that bookings will close on Sunday 16th March)*

Mrs Kerridge (Head of Key Stage 2 Maths) will be available to speak to any parents of Y6 pupils about how their child is doing in maths ahead of the upcoming SATs.

Red Nose Day -Friday 21st March

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Comic Relief which was established in 1985. To celebrate, we are inviting pupils to come into school in non uniform in exchange for a voluntary donation to raise money for this fantastic cause.

As this is the 40th Anniversary of Red Nose Day, we will be holding a special competition. If pupils choose, instead of non-uniform, they can attend school in a costume or fancy dress to represent one of the decades of the last 40 years. The costumes will be judged and the winner will receive a small prize.



Useful Website Updates

We are continually updating our [school website](#) to ensure you have the most up to date information about what your child is learning in school. Please have a look at the following pages to find out more about our school curriculum.

- [Updated curriculum information](#). This page outlines the curriculum plans for the academic year so you can find out more information about what your child is learning in different subject areas throughout the year.
- [Curriculum information for parents and pupils](#). This page contains all of our curriculum overview sheets that have been shared with parents of Key Stage 2 pupils. We hope parents of our Key Stage 2 pupils have found these useful. Please watch this space as we are hoping to roll this out to Key Stage 3 in the summer term.
- [Personal Development](#). This page outlines how we support your child's wider personal development and we will be updating the document at the bottom of the page each half term to showcase all of the opportunities our pupils have taken part in.



Our aim is to ensure that our website is a useful source of information for you. Please keep your eye on it for more updates coming soon. If you have any comments or feedback please contact us at wms@svf.org.uk



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Breaktime Snacks - Reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers that while we do allow pupils to bring a small healthy snack to eat at breaktime, **we do not allow sugary snacks and chocolate, salty snacks such as crisps and soft drinks.** Pupils should instead bring a small piece of fruit or a healthy cereal bar.

We have a number of children in school who suffer from severe allergies to nuts. People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

We must not have nuts in school in any form. So please can we ask for your support in ensuring you do not include nut products in your child's breaktime snacks, packed lunch boxes, or any treats brought in on special occasions. This might include some cereal bars or granola bars, so please check the packaging carefully.

We appreciate that this is an additional thing for parents to check but we know that you will recognise the importance of it. We thank you for your continued support.

We value your feedback

In order to improve the relationships between school and families we want to regularly engage with parents and carers; next week we have our Spring Term face to face meetings so that you can find out how your child is progressing in school this year. We would also like to invite you to give feedback through our annual parent survey, which is now live online. This is a good way to let us know where we can improve, but also what is working well. For example, last year only 52% of parents and carers agreed or strongly agreed that 'the school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year'; in response to this, we have introduced curriculum overview sheets in KS2 which are shared at the start of each half term, as well as updating and improving the curriculum information on our school website. You can access the survey by clicking on the link [here](#). You can also scan the QR code on the right on a mobile device, which will open the survey in a browser for you.



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: 91.89%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
91.39%	95.33%	94.68%	86.93%

Panathlon Kurling Sports Event

On Tuesday, 6 pupils from Y6-Y8 visited The Lakeside Centre in Killingworth to take part in the 'New Age Kurling' competition. This was an activity that none of our pupils had taken part in before and they represented the school brilliantly! The team won 2 of our 4 games and even won 10-5 in our local derby against Seaton Sluice Middle School. We hope to enter more New Age Kurling competitions in the future!



U13 Girls Indoor Cricket

We have recently had Northumberland Cricket Board in to work with some KS3 classes in PE lessons. They invited our KS3 girls to take part in the local Indoor Cricket round of games at Ponteland HS on Thursday, coming away in 3rd place. Results were as follows:

- Newminster- lost
- Duchess HS- won
- Ponteland HS- lost
- Bede Academy- won
- St Marys HS- won

All the girls played really well, showing great determination, improvement and encouragement against some very strong teams.

If your daughter is interested in playing girls/ladies cricket, Bates Cottages CC have an excellent and rapidly expanding girls section.

Please contact them via @BatesCottages for more information.



U13 Boys Northumberland Basketball League Winners!

Our Y8 boys have competed in the Northumberland Basketball league in the last couple of weeks. Games were held at Blyth Academy. We have had great success with this group of boys, remaining undefeated across 10 games and beating Marden Bridge MS 12-10 in the play-off on Thursday evening. Excellent performances all round.



World Girls Football

Last week, 18 of our KS3 girls headed to Blyth Academy to take part in a friendly football tournament. Amongst the girls, were lots of players who don't play for a regular team or have the confidence to approach a club. It was fantastic to see the high level of competition from all of the players and lots of girls were saying they'd like to get back to training or even join a club outside of school! Well done girls!

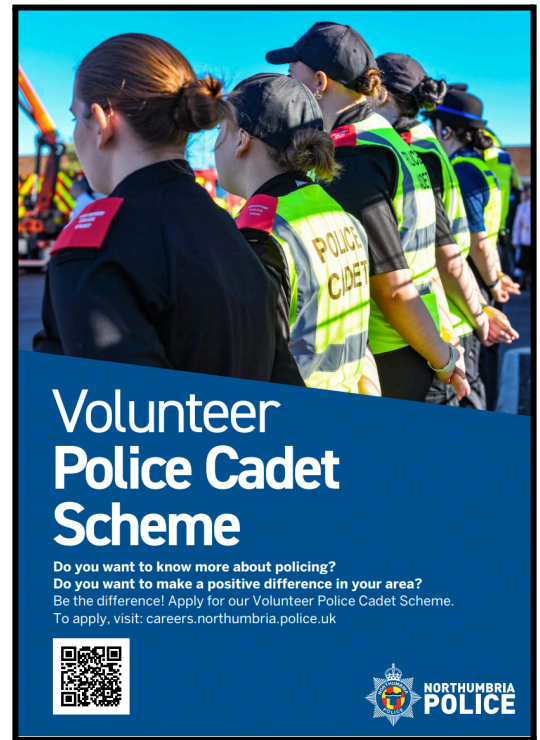


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Year 8 ONLY - Become a Volunteer Police Cadet with Northumbria Police

The following notice is for any Year 8 pupil who might be interested. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Police Cadet with Northumbria Police you have until the 20th April to apply! You must 13/14yrs old on 1st Sept 2025 (going into year 9 or 10) and live within the Northumbria Police area. For full details and how to apply, please visit Police Cadets - Northumbria Police by clicking on the link to the following website: [Police Cadets - Northumbria Police](#). This information and the website link has also been added to the Year 8 Google Classroom.



**Volunteer
Police Cadet
Scheme**

Do you want to know more about policing?
Do you want to make a positive difference in your area?
Be the difference! Apply for our Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme.
To apply, visit: careers.northumbria.police.uk



Mental Health Tip

Reframe unhelpful thoughts: The way we think, feel and behave are linked. Sometimes we develop patterns of thoughts or behaviours that are unhelpful, so recognising them, and taking steps to think about things differently, can improve your mental health and wellbeing.

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 **Firefighter**. 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



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LUNCH MENU - WEEK 1

[School Meals Menu](#)

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 £2.40. 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.

Sports Results/Fixtures/News

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

Wed 19th March- Y7 Boys Football at Ponteland HS (3:45ko)

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 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



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After-School Clubs in this Half-Term

PUPILS WILL AUTOMATICALLY HAVE A PLACE IF THEY HAVE ATTENDED LAST HALF-TERM

Mon- KS2 Dodgeball & KS3 Boys Swimming

Tues- KS3 Fitness (Boys and Girls), Netball Club & Y6 Swimming

Wed- KS2 Boys football (outdoors-boots and shin-pads required. Please bring trainers as well, in case of bad weather)

Wed - Samba Club

Thurs- KS3 Badminton

PLEASE NOTE- SWIMMING CLUBS WILL FINISH 26TH MARCH

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.

Safety Outside Our School

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.



 Northumberland
County Council

 Schools
GoSmarter

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.



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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.

