

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 14th November 2025

We Remembered



On Tuesday 11th we marked Remembrance Day with a well-respected 2 minute silence at 11am and our annual Remembrance Assembly, this year delivered virtually, in form time. Four of our Year 8 pupils contributed to the assembly by reading poetry associated with World War I, Who's for the Game?, Anthem for Doomed Youth and For the Fallen. It was also wonderful to have three of our Year 8 pupils show further respect by attending school in their Air Force and Army cadet uniforms on the day.

Book Fair

We are holding a Scholastic book fair in our library from Monday 17th November to Friday 21st November. Pupils can browse and purchase books and stationery supplies at breaks and lunchtimes everyday this week. There will be numerous titles available, both Non-Fiction and Fiction available at a range of prices from £2.99-£9.99.

On **Thursday 20th November** the library will be open after school **3.40pm-4.30pm** to enable parents, carers and siblings to come and browse alongside their children.

Books can be purchased with **card or cash (correct change where possible please)** during the school day at the book fair, or via online payment via the QR code. For online payments, pupils can collect their chosen books by bringing the proof of payment along with their list of books to the school library. See below for payment information.

We hope that you will all appreciate this exciting opportunity and enjoy the book fair and support our school library.



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ONLINE PAYMENT AT YOUR BOOK FAIR

WHETHER YOU'RE ATTENDING THE BOOK FAIR IN PERSON OR ORDERING FROM HOME, YOU CAN NOW PAY FOR YOUR BOOKS SECURELY ONLINE

Once you've selected your books, simply scan the QR code on the right or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and enter your school's name or postcode. Then, follow the instructions below based on where you're making your payment.



OPTION 1

I AM ATTENDING THE BOOK FAIR IN PERSON AND WOULD LIKE TO PAY AT THE FAIR

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am paying at the Book Fair'. Enter your details, along with the total amount you are paying for your books. Once payment is complete, show your payment reference and the books you are purchasing to your Book Fair Organiser. Then, take your brand new books home!



OPTION 2

MY CHILD HAS ATTENDED THE BOOK FAIR AND ADDED BOOKS TO THEIR WISH LIST. I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE SOME/ALL OF THESE BOOKS

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am paying for books from a Wish List'. Enter your details, along with the total amount you are paying for your books. Once payment is complete, forward your payment reference and details of the books you have purchased to your Book Fair Organiser at school. They will arrange getting your brand new books to you!





To find the payment page on the Book Fair website, simply scan the QR code or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay. If you're unsure of which payment method to use, please speak to your Book Fair Organiser or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents

Autumn 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Friday 14th November - Thunder In The Valley at Newcastle Eagles.
- W/C Monday 17th November - Scholastic Book Fair .
- Wednesday 19th November - Year 5 Family Sessions start.
- Wednesday 19th November - Year 5 trip to Great North Museum.
- Wednesday 10th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children.
- Thursday 11th December - Bike Club Ride.
- Tuesday 16th December - Panto Visit.



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Boccia Success

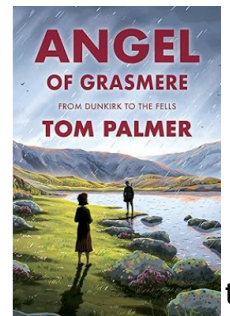
On Thursday, our school's Boccia team took part in the annual Boccia tournament at Gateshead Leisure Centre. They were fantastic representatives of the school winning 3 of their 5 games. Unfortunately, we didn't progress to the regional finals (like we did last year!); however, the players had a great day and it was smiles all round!



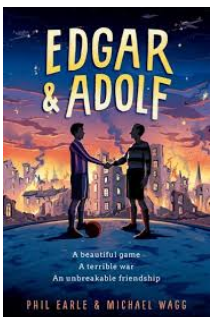
Book of the Week

Every week, we will be highlighting one of our fantastic new Reading Challenge books. This week's book is '*Angel of Grasmere*' by Tom Palmer from our Year 5 challenge.

Angel of Grasmere, is a historical novel set in World War II in which a girl struggles with the grief of losing her brother at Dunkirk while the local community is helped by an anonymous "guardian angel". The "angel" is revealed to be a deserter, forcing the characters to confront the complex realities of war, including PTSD and the true nature of bravery.



to



If you liked '*Angel of Grasmere*' try some other stories by Tom Palmer, such as '*Armistice Runner*' or '*D-Day Dog*'. You might also like some books by Phil Earle, such as '*Edgar and Adolf*' - available to borrow from Mrs Campbell or the school library.



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Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Financial Advisor**. 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

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 14/11/25

5C: Simone S ; 5K: Sophie S; 5L: Noah H ;
6E: Keiron T; 6F: Jacob S ; 6S: Harrison C ;
7H: Alex F ; 7L: Michael R ; 7W: Lexi C ;
8K: Fatima M ; 8Ro: Austin C ; 8Ru: Luke S ;
Head of School SOTW: Ava W (6F)

Purple Mash KS2 Christmas Card Competition

We invite all of our KS2 pupils to take part in Purple Mash's Annual Christmas Card competition. Pupils are asked to submit their own designs about what this time of year means to them, using the Purple Mash paint tool 2Paint a Picture.

Who Can Join in the Fun? - Children aged 12 and under are invited to join.

How to Enter - From 9am(GMT) 3rd November 2025 - 5pm(GMT) 21st November 2025, pupils and staff can submit their designs on the 'Festive Card Competition' Display Boards on Purple Mash. They can work on their masterpieces as much as they like before hitting submit, so there's no rush to finish until it's just right!



Design Tips - With 17 styles to choose from in 2Paint a Picture, pupils can let their frosty creativity flow. From snowflakes to reindeer, all we ask is that it's their own original art!

What's Up for Grabs? -Three winners (one from each age group) will receive 50 printed copies of their card, a £20 Amazon voucher, and a 2Simple goody bag.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.2simple.com/au/blog/festive-card-competition-2025-au/> and remember to upload your entries via the 'festive card competition' link on Purple Mash. Good luck!!



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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>

Fixtures and Results

Mon 17th Nov- Y8 Boys Football-County Cup v Valley Gdns MS-3:30pm (home)

Wed 19th Nov- Y7 Boys County Cup Futsal @ Ponteland HS- 2:45-4:30pm

Fri 20th Nov- Y8 Boys National Small Schools Cup v NSB- 2:15pm (home)

Wednesday saw our Y6 boys football team play Northburn Ps Rd 1 of the NCSFA County Cup. The boys came up against a very strong Northburn team, so unfortunately were knocked out. Next fixtures for this group are in December, another round of 7-a-side games.

Our Y8 boys basketball team got their season underway at Blyth Academy on Thursday evening:

WMS- 4-6 Dukes

WMS 8-12 Ponteland

WMS 2-20 Valley Gdns



Thursday saw 12 Y8 pupils take part in the KS3 School Games badminton event at Blyth LC, with 32 other school teams. Our Y8 Girls finished 6th in the Develop event, our boys finished and excellent 4th in the Develop event and our Y8 Compete team finished 5th. A really good day for all the players and some super badminton played.



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Mon - Y6 Dodgeball Club (Mr Robinson):

<https://forms.gle/yTbbkDjkLEcQc1h2A>

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

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkwv8>

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 Basketball club (Mr Robinson)-Starting 7th November:

<https://forms.gle/vuzifyEHWNzFctEBA>

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.



This week's whole school attendance (YTD): 93.8%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.0%	92.9%	94.1%	91.4%

Current best attending class is: 5C (97.4%)



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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.

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.

How to Contact School

If you need to get in touch with your child's teacher, please send a message in the MCAS app, or you can send an email to wms@svf.org.uk and it will be passed on to them. We aim to reply to all emails and messages within 48 hours of receipt.

Please continue to use your child's planner to leave notes for their teacher, such as if they are unable to take part in PE.

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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