



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 17th October 2025

Parents Evening

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our first parent evening of the new academic year. If it was the first time you have been in our new school, or if you attended one of the tours taking place on the evening, we hope you like what you have seen and understand why we are all so thrilled to have these new facilities for your children and for those who work within the school. If you were unable to attend for whatever reason and want to know how your child has settled into the new year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form teacher. We hope to be able to arrange more tours for parents who missed out later on in the school year.

Year 5 Visit Ford Castle

Year 5 had an incredible few days at Ford Caste. From team-building activities to challenging themselves with adrenaline tasks, Year 5 truly outdid themselves and their enthusiasm was contagious. A huge thank you to the children for such an amazing time and to the staff who gave up time with their families to take us.



Wake Up Wednesday

The Wake up Wednesday guide this week is about Memes. Memes may seem like harmless fun, but they can carry hidden risks. This week's guide explores how meme culture affects young people - from misinformation to inappropriate content and digital footprints.

Please check your electronic communications to open the pdf.



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Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

- W/C Monday 27th October - Autumn half term holiday.
- Monday 3rd November - Start of Autumn 2 ½ term.
- W/C Monday 17th November - Scholastic Book Fair (details to follow)
- Wednesday 10th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children
- Tuesday 16th December - Panto Visit

Book of the Week

Every week, we will be highlighting one of our fantastic new Reading Challenge books. This week's book is **'Twitch'** by **MG Leonard** from our Year 6 challenge.

Twitch is a mystery adventure about a bullied, bird-loving boy named Twitch who uses his exceptional birdwatching skills to help police find an escaped convict hiding in the local nature reserve, Aves Wood. His plans for a quiet summer of training his pigeons are disrupted when he finds the convict, who is hiding from police and after some missing loot. The story explores friendship, courage, and nature, and involves Twitch and his new friends using their combined skills to solve the mystery

If you liked **'Twitch'** try ... **'Spark', 'Clutch'** and **'Feather'** from the *Twitchers* series, available to borrow from Mrs Campbell or Mrs Harland



Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Charity Fundraiser**. 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



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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 student 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 & Results

Our Y6 boys had their first football fixtures of the season on Thursday night at Highfield MS, Prudhoe on Thursday. Our boys played with great determination and effort and played really well as a team, but unfortunately did not qualify for the next round. They have fixtures on Wednesday evening at home.

Our U13 girls went out of the Malcolm Berry County Cup on Thursday, losing to a very strong Kenton School.

Our U11 Girls play their first round of South/West Northumberland CVL 7-a-side on Monday at home, 4-5pm.

Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Tues- Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard)

Alternate Tuesday's - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes

If you would like to sign your child up to Coding Club, please follow this link:

<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.

If you would like to sign your child up to football, please follow this link:

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

Fri- KS3 Basketball club (Mr Robinson)-Starting 7th November

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

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



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Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am each morning for children who have been signed up for it. Children should enter the school through the main reception door, where they will be taken to the breakfast club room in room G07, which is very close to the main reception and staff by Mrs Robson and Miss Gales. Children are able to have their breakfasts with a selection of food available.

We do however also provide a free bagel to any child in school on a morning who would like one, once the general population has entered our site from 8:30am!

Road Safety

The safety of all children attending our school is our main priority. If your child is making their own way to and from school, please reinforce with them at home, as we will in school, to take care on their daily journeys. Astley Road is a very busy road. There are 3 traffic light crossings placed along this road near the school, including the brand new one opposite the new cafe on the corner of Prospect Avenue. Children are expected to use these traffic light crossings to cross the road. They must wait for the lights to turn red and then cross the road after checking it is safe to do so.

We actively encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Children who travel to school on bikes must ensure that they ride in a safe manner. This includes not riding in the middle of roads and pulling wheelies. When they come on to the school site they must dismount and push their bikes on our site, around the sports block and to the cycle store nearest our school. Pupils must also push their bikes/scooters off the school site at the end of the school day. Children have been told that they should not be riding out of school on the road in the turning circle because of the one way system in place. Please support school and your child's safety by reaffirming these expectations at home.

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.



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2024-27

SCHOOL
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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 student 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): 94.3%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.8%	93.4%	94.3%	92.2%

Current best attending classes are: 5C and 5K (97.9%)

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.

Labelling Uniform and Belongings

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.



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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.

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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