



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSDROP

Week Ending 19th December 2025

End of Term - Thank you!

As we reach the end of our first full term at Prospect Avenue, we would like to thank all of our families and pupils for their continued support and positivity. We are now fully settled into our new school building and are very much looking forward to all that we have planned for the spring term. Thank you all so much for the many cards, gifts, and well wishes we have received. We really appreciate your kindness.

Please note that the school office will be closed throughout the holiday. Should you need to contact us during this time, please email wms@svf.org.uk, and we will respond as soon as possible when school reopens.

The new term will commence on Tuesday, 6th January. (School will be closed to pupils on Monday, 5th January, due to staff training). We are looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school, ready to learn and prepared for the term ahead.

We wish all of our pupils and families a peaceful break and a very Happy Christmas.



Panto Visit

On Tuesday, around 300 Whytrig pupils enjoyed a performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk" at The Exchange in North Shields. We clambered into a fleet of buses, filled the theatre and took to our seats to enjoy the performance. The atmosphere was electric and the children sang along to the catchy songs and showed off their dancing skills... oh yes they did! There was lots of laughter and frustration, especially when the performers really didn't believe that the baddies were behind them. The Y5 children couldn't believe that the water soakers appeared in the second half and were most taken aback! The children (and adults) thoroughly enjoyed it and can't wait to watch another pantomime.



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7H - Fundraising for UNICEF

7H raised £34 for UNICEF and used it to purchase the annual UNICEF Advent calendar. The Advent calendar features 24 life-changing gifts for children. Behind each window are examples of real-life-saving and life-changing supplies such as blankets, school supplies, and vaccines that UNICEF delivers for children worldwide. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and will to help others at this time of year.



Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 5th January - Teacher Training Day - **School Closed**
- Tuesday 6th January - School reopens for Spring 1 half term
- Friday 9th January - Non-Uniform behaviour reward (by invitation)
- Monday 19th January - Year 7 STEM trip (details to follow)
- Tuesday 20th January - KS3 County X-Country Finals @ Temple Park LC
- Thursday 5th February - KS2 French Workshops (La Petite Creperie)
- Monday 9th/Tuesday 10th February - KS3 Be Safe workshops
- Monday 9th- KS2 Skip 4 Fit Day

Mental Health Top Tip- Believe in Yourself!

Make a list of things that you like about yourself - this could be about your personality, what kind of friend you are, the way you look and things that you can do. If you find it hard to think of ideas, ask yourself, "If someone close to me was writing this list about me, what would they say?" Or ask your friends and family for ideas!

BELIEVE IN
yourself

Keep this list and look at it when you're finding it hard to believe in yourself .



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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 a chocolate bar.

Week ending 19/12/25

5C: Corben C; 5K: Adriana C; 5L: Freddie K;
6E: Amelia M; 6F: Cooper B; 6S: Penelope B;
7H: Alecia I; 7L: Joseph M; 7W: Amelia C-D;
8K: Ian H; 8Ro: Henry S; 8Ru: Lewis J;
Head of School SOTW: Jake C (8K)

Christmas Gadget Gift Guide and Online Safety Tips

Christmas can be an exciting time when many children are given new devices and gadgets. Ireland's online safety charity, CyberSafeKids, have put together a brand new guide for parents and carers covering:

- The benefits and risks of popular smart devices and toys.
- What you can do to make them safer.
- Age recommendations
- And more.

You can download the guide [HERE](#).

SEN children can be amongst those most vulnerable online, therefore more likely to become victims of things like scams. Internet Matters have put together a brand new free guide for parents which explores how neurodivergent children's unique traits can leave them open to scams, particularly in games.

You can download the free guide [HERE](#).

Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Kitchen Fitter**. 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



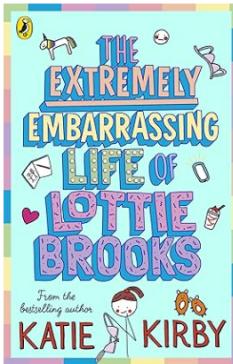
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Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is 'The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks' by Katie Kirby

The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks is a diary-style, illustrated book about 11-year-old Lottie navigating the awkwardness of starting secondary school after her best friend moves away, dealing with friendship drama, body image issues, embarrassing family moments, and the universal struggles of growing up, all while trying to fit in and find her place.

If you liked 'The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks', you might enjoy the rest of the books in the Lottie Brooks series (8 in total) available to borrow from Mrs Campbell or Mrs Harland.

Key Stage 2 Swimming Lessons

Year 5 and 6 pupils will have swimming lessons after Christmas with Mr Day in our fantastic new swimming pool:

Tues- 5L & 6E
Wed- 6L
Thur- 6F & 5K
Fri- 5C

Pupils will need an appropriate swimming kit and a swimming cap. Goggles if required.

Family Hubs - What's on Guide

Merry Christmas!

South East Family Hubs December 2025

Monday 22nd Of December - Tuesday 23rd of December

FREE

MONDAY 22 nd Dec	TUESDAY 23 rd Dec
Weigh Clinic (Health Team) Blyth Central Family Hub 9:30-11:30am Cramlington 0300 3724880 to book	PEEP Stay & Play 0-5 years (previously known as LTTP 0-5) Sessions for families to play and explore together, gain tips and techniques to support your child's development.
Family Christmas Movie Night 'POLAR EXPRESS' Blyth West Family Hub Movie starts at 3:30pm *Booking Required	Calm Stay & Play 0-5 years A quieter and more relaxed Stay and Play session for those with additional needs and/or disabilities
Teenage Christmas Movie Night 'POLAR EXPRESS' Blyth Central Family Hub Movie starts at 6pm *Booking Required	Calm Movie night A calmer and more relaxed showing for Children with additional needs and/or disabilities
Teenage Christmas Movie Night 'Red One' Blyth West Family Hub Movie starts at 6pm *Booking Required	Feeding Friends Come along for infant feeding advice and support, to have a chat and share tips with other parents
Weigh & Stay Free session for parents/carers, have your babies weighed, speak to a health professional. Stay and play together to explore activities and receive your baby book start pack. Book your appointment by ringing the single point of contact Health Team on 0300 3724880.	Free to Be For young people 13-18 years who identify as LGBTQIA. Get support and advice, take part in activities and lots more. Free food/drink refreshments.
Sensory Chilli Out (Additional Needs & Disabilities) For the whole family who have children with learning or physical disabilities.	Worries & Stay Free session for parents/carers, have your babies weighed, speak to a health professional. Stay and play together to explore activities and receive your baby book start pack. Book your appointment by ringing the single point of contact Health Team on 0300 3724880.

Navigating Parenthood

A positive, practical parenting course for families with children aged 6+

- Stages of behaviour
- Effective communication
- Building relationships
- Clear boundaries and expectations
- Parenting styles and temperaments
- Reconciliation gestures
- Understanding brain development
- Co-regulation and de-escalation techniques
- Online safety
- Useful, practical help and support



Starting 12th Jan at 6.30pm Online

Family Hubs
Here for everyone



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Music Tuition

Side by Side Arts is offering high-quality music tuition at Whytrig. If your child would like to learn a musical instrument, simply scan the QR code to sign up and get started. Or you can email info@SideBySideArts.org for more information.



Side By Side Arts will be offering high-quality music tuition at **Seaton Valley High School** throughout the **2025/26 academic year!**

If your child is eager to learn a musical instrument and explore their creativity through music, simply scan the QR code to sign up and get started in September.

Email
Info@SideBySideArts.org
For more information

WWW.SIDEBYSIDEARTS.ORG



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Mon- Y5/6 Dodgeball- Mr Robinson + Dodgeball Coach- starting Mon 12th Jan
<https://forms.gle/Gse7Sv3YDymrc9UFA>

Tues- KS3 Netball- Mrs Harland and Miss Waterfall (Sportshall/yard):
<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkwv8>

Tues- KS3 Boys Fitness Club- Mr Robinson- Fitness Suite- starting Tues 13th Jan
<https://forms.gle/pb1ehervDmhnvjWN6>

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 Badminton Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall
<https://forms.gle/hBF3w6zdMk6v3meX6>

KS2 Swimming Club

We will be starting a KS2 swimming club after-school on Monday 12th Jan with Mr Day. All KS2 pupils have been given letters in class this week. If you wish your child to reserve a place, please return the letter to the school office ASAP. This club is capped at a maximum of 20 places on a first-come first-served basis. There will be a reserve list if places become available.

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.



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This week's whole school attendance (YTD): 92.3%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
96.9%	92.3%	92.9%	91.4%

The current best attending class is: 5K (97.3%)

100% Attendance

Each term we recognise and reward children who have 100% attendance over the course of a term. The system allows children to receive a tiered set of certificates (a bronze for their 1st 100%, a silver for their 2nd 100% and a gold for their 3rd 100%), a termly prize and entry into a termly prize draw in each year group.

The 64 children who achieved a **bronze certificate** for 100% attendance over the course of the Autumn Term (a super achievement!) are:

Year 5: Abdullah A, Zara B, Adriana C, Amelia D, Evie F, Carlton G, Ivy G, Ethan G, Noah H, Annie H, Jessica H, Nova M, Savannah P, Logan S, Sophie S and Simone S.

Year 6: Gracie B, Penelope B, Bobbi B, Kayden B, Tristan C, Ethan D, Freya D, Adeline D, Lia F, Zara K, Ava L, Isla O, Martha R, Lacey R, Thomas R, Jacob S, William S, Eve W and Ava W.

Year 7: Safia A, Ariana A, Elliot C, Isla C, Isla-Rose C, Sienna D, Thomas D, Bailey G, George H, Toby H, Josh K, Joseph M, Ava O, Wealth O-A, Emily P, Oliver P, Sebastian T and Alexandria W.

Year 8: Millie A, William B, Jake C, James E, Bobbie F, William G, Lewis J, Cydney L, Praise O-A, Annabelle R and Charlotte W.



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Free Days Out - December 2025

Below is a list of free days out across the North East in December 2025, which may interest families and friends:

20 Dec - FREE Hexham Christmas Window Trail.

20 Dec - FREE Christmas Pony in the Barn with treats, arts, crafts and pony cuddles (Stepney Bank Stable).

20 Dec - FREE Make a Christmas Decoration at Oriental Museum Durham.

20 Dec - FREE 12 Days of Christmas Trail at National Glass Centre Sunderland.

20 Dec - FREE A Christmas Night at the Museum (Hopetown Darlington).

20 Dec - FREE Snow Play at Theatre Hullabaloo.

20 Dec - (ad) FREE Celebrate Christmas in Blyth with Live Music, Advent Trail, Christmas Crafts with Mrs Claus, Face Painting and more.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Santa's Grotto at Manor Walks Cramlington.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Silent Disco at Newcastle Christmas Market.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Christmas Tree Decoration Making at IKEA.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Once Upon a Winter Trail in Sunderland.

20 & 21 Dec - FREE Gingerbread Decorating with Complimentary Tea, Coffee & Squash at BALTIC Front Room.

22 - 24 Dec - FREE Once Upon a Winter Trail in Sunderland.

22 - 24 Dec - FREE Snow Play at Theatre Hullabaloo.

22, 23, & 24 Dec - FREE Santa's Grotto at Manor Walks Cramlington.

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>

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.

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.



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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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