



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 19th September 2025

KS3 BAE Systems AI Roadshow

This week we were delighted to welcome the AI Roadshow from BAE Systems, who worked with our KS3 pupils on an exciting programme of activities. Students learned about both the benefits and dangers of AI, contributed to writing a song; including the creation of a music video, discovered how easy it is to create a deep fake, and even met a robot dog! They also gained valuable insights into careers in engineering and the different pathways into this field. A great time was had by all, and the organisers praised our pupils for their excellent engagement and participation throughout the day.



Reading Challenge - Accelerated Reader Update

We are pleased to report that Accelerated Reader is now up and running for all pupils to quiz on their Reading Challenge books, however all quizzes should be taken in school and not at home.

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.



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Pens

We would like to remind parents that paint pens such as 'Posca' and permanent markers like Sharpies, are **not allowed in school**. This is because they are not appropriate for use in books due to transfer through several pages and also they have a tendency to leak and are very difficult to remove from furniture and clothing. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter



Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 29th September - Year 7 Nissan Visit (details in the MCAS app)
- Monday 29th September - Year 4 Open Evening (5:30 to 7:00pm)
- Wednesday 8th- Friday 10th October - Year 5 Residential Visit
- W/C Monday 13th October - Year 6 Bikeability (selected pupils)
- W/C Monday 27th October - Autumn half term
- Monday 3rd November - Start of Autumn 2 ½ term



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!

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 19/09/25:

5C: Callum D; 5K: Dominic B; 5L: James I;
6E: Ava L; 6F: Mika W; 6S: Adeline D;
7H: Bobby M; 7L: Zach F; 7W: Nolan D;
8K: Jake C; 8Ro: Harry S; 8Ru: Kai P;
Head of School SOTW: William B (8Ro); Logan C (8Ru);



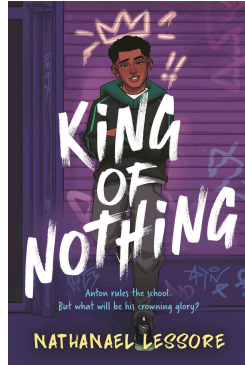
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Book of the Week

Every week, we will be highlighting one of our fantastic new Reading Challenge books. This week's book is **'King of Nothing'** by **Nathanael Lessore** from our Year 8 challenge.

'King of Nothing' was voted Waterstones 2025 Children's Book Award Winner for older readers.



Anton and his friends are the kings of Year 9. They're used to ruling the school and Anton wears the crown. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it - he's got a reputation to live up to after all.

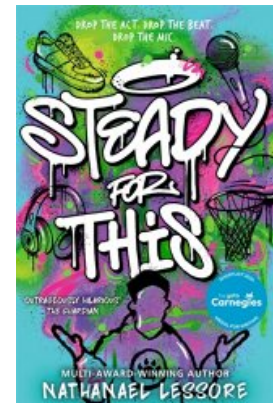
So when he gets into serious trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does. She decides it's time for Anton to make some new friends and join the Happy Campers, a local activity group. Anton would quite literally rather do anything else, especially when he finds out Matthew, the biggest loser in school, is also a member.

But after Matthew unexpectedly saves Anton's life, Anton figures maybe this kid is worth a shot. Teaching him some game is the least Anton can do to repay the debt.

As the boys strike up an unlikely friendship, Anton finds himself questioning everything he thought was important. Does he want ruling the school to be his crowning glory or should he set his sights on better things?

If you liked 'King of Nothing' try ...

Available to borrow from Mrs Harland, Mrs Campbell and the school library.



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Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Zookeeper**. 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



Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Tues- Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard)

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>

School Immunisations

Please click the links below for information about school vaccinations from the school immunisation team.

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/toolkits/flu-vaccinations/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBbkrk_1wZY

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 it's 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.



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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.

Mental Health News

The Be You Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is now working in schools across Seaton Valley and Cramlington. Be You is a partnership between the NHS and Northumberland County Council. Since 2019 they have worked with schools to help build a positive, practical approach to supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

The Wave 11 launch events for families will take place on 18th September between 9:00am and 3:00pm in Cramlington Library. Here you will be able to meet members of the team.

Be You offer targeted support for young people such as:

- 1:1 support for mild to moderate mental health concerns.
- clear, evidence based assessments and planning.

We have sent out the Wave 11 Launch Parent Edition leaflet to all parents and carers today to give you a little more information about the service and the team involved.

Click on the follow link to see Megan and Sarah giving some top tips on managing anxiety
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1-VA-bTGTk>

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.

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.

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): %			
Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
98.9%	94.8%	95.7%	94.6%
Current best attending classes are: 95.9%			
<h3>Lunch Account Balance</h3> <p>Please check your child's lunch account balance, and top up as necessary.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
<h3>Labelling Uniform and Belongings</h3> <p>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.</p>			
<h3>MCAS Contact Details</h3> <p>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.</p>			
<h3>Social Media Channels</h3> <p>Don't forget to keep up to date with everything else on our social media channels</p>			
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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