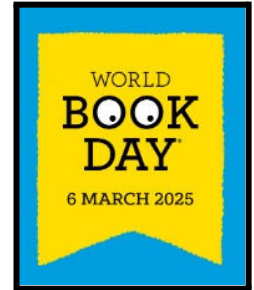


# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 21st February 2025

## World Book Day Thursday 6th March

We have some exciting arrangements planned to celebrate World Book Day this year. This year, the focus of our celebrations will be on *Reading for Pleasure*. We believe that reading should be a fun and enjoyable activity, and we hope to inspire our pupils to develop a lifelong love of reading.



To make the day even more exciting, we are inviting pupils to come to school dressed in comfortable clothes perfect for reading, such as pyjamas or loungewear. We want them to feel relaxed and ready to immerse themselves in the world of books!

As part of the day's activities, we will also be having some *'Drop Everything and Read'* sessions. Pupils are expected to bring a book with them that they can enjoy during this time, so please ensure they have one with them on the day. It can be any book of their choice—whether it's a current favourite or a new book they're excited to start!

*Additionally, we will be hosting a book swap where pupils can bring in a book to exchange for another one. Pupils are invited to bring in books on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th March to swap. They will be given a 'book swap voucher' in exchange, which they can use on World Book Day to choose a 'new' book.* We will also be holding a reading quiz in form classes and there will be reading activities in English lessons too.

Lastly, we will be holding a *book amnesty* on World Book Day. If your child has any school reading books or books that they may have misplaced, this will be the perfect opportunity to return them to school. We kindly ask that you encourage your child to check their bags, lockers, and shelves for any school books that need to be returned. As always, we welcome any donations of any books you have spare or would like to rehome in our classroom libraries.

We are excited for the celebrations and look forward to seeing the pupils embracing their love of reading! If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.



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## 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](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk) so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system.

**This week's whole school attendance: 93.2%**

| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 95.3%  | 94.1%  | 93.2%  | 90.6%  |

## LUNCH MENU - WEEK 3

[School Meals Menu](#)

### Broxfield Farm Trip

On Tuesday, 30 children from Year 5 visited Broxfield Farm: a working farm in Alnwick. The children were amazed to learn about the processes and hard work that goes into looking after a farm. The children learned about seed dispersal, had a chance to grind some flour, a trip on the tractor and even fed some of the 180 cows! Despite the cold, the children had a great day out and learned a lot. The trip was funded by Northumberland Coast, National Landscape - we hope to be involved in more projects like this in the future!



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## Bike Club Ride

On Wednesday Mr Edwards and 12 members of the bike club, consisting of children from KS2 and KS3, went out of school on their half termly bike ride. After leaving school, the group journeyed across country to arrive in Cramlington in time for a McDonald's lunch! The group then journeyed back to school via the Giant Spoon Sculpture, Seghill, Backworth and East Holywell before arriving back at school. Despite it being a little chilly (and muddy), everyone enjoyed the ride and are looking forward to the next one when it should be a little warmer. Bike Club meets every Tuesday night after school, covering bike maintenance, safety and skills as well as getting out on the bikes!

## E-Safety Reminder

Earlier in the week we were made aware of a WhatsApp group entitled 'Everyone, add everyone in your contacts. I'm trying to make the biggest group chat in the world.LOL', in which a number of our children have been added to it without their knowledge or consent. It contained inappropriate/harmful content for any child who accessed it.

We would encourage you to ensure that your child does not have access to this app and that you monitor their phone closely. Most social media apps require users to be at least 13 years old, which means that for the majority of our school population they should not be using some of these at all which will in turn keep them safe. The age rating for Whatsapp is 13+, meaning that only a small number of our school population are old enough to be using this form of communication. This is why it is important that mobile phone usage is monitored closely by parents and carers, to ensure that children who are not old enough to use the app are not vulnerable to the potential risks and dangers.

Parents and carers may find the information on the following webpages helpful, especially if you are having conversations with your child(ren) about social media, and in particular, WhatsApp:

[Helping your child with WhatsApp - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Is WhatsApp safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

[Everything you need to know about WhatsApp | Parent Zone](#)

[Dealing with underage account - advice for young people | Internet Matters](#)

## 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.





## Year 7 Reading Scrapbook

Mrs Harland's year 7 English class have been working on sharing their love of reading by producing a reading scrapbook. Each time a book is completed, a member of the class completes a page in the scrapbook, outlining the plot and giving their personal review for other pupils. We are so impressed by their hardwork and the range of books they have read. Keep up the excellent work!



## Reading Awards

Well done to everyone who has achieved their next level on Accelerated Reader. Super reading!

**Rising Readers:** Isla O, Layla N-B, Toby H., Thomas D., Amara D., Willow A, Ava W, Thomas P

**Super Readers:** Kayden B, Sienna D

**Advanced Readers:** Joshua K, Jitesh L, Spencer D, Alfie M-R

**Star Reader:** Mason H



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## Matilda Junior - School Musical



Rehearsals are well under way for this year's school production of Matilda Junior. The show will be on for two nights after half term - Wednesday 5th March and Thursday 6th March.

Tickets are on sale from the school Finance Office. Please note that any pupils who wish to watch Matilda should be accompanied by an adult.

### Mental Health Tip

Remember: There's no such thing as the wrong weather - just the wrong clothes!  
This half-term, wrap up, get your wellies on and get out into nature for an hour or two.  
Getting back to nature is so good for the soul!



### 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 Disaster Manager. 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](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)



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## 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

### KS3 Leadership

We had 40 KS2 pupils from local schools attend a School Games Badminton festival on Monday 17th. Our KS3 Sports Leaders were fantastic in running and leading this event. We had lots of super comments from visiting teachers about the behaviour and leadership skills of our pupils.

Well done to:

Year 8-Rowan Mc, Charlie D, Shaun M, Len P, Amy & Georgia C, Aubree ES, Maggie R  
Year 7- Harry S, James E, Jess K, Cora B, Zoe F, Charlotte W, Declan DK, Cole W, Bailee K

### KS3 Girls Football results

WMS 0-2 Newminster  
WMS 2-3 Bede  
WMS 0-2 Blyth  
WMS 3-0 Dukes

### KS2 Boys Football results

WMS 0-1 SSMS  
WMS- 0-2 Shanklea PS  
WMS 0-3 Northburn PS  
WMS 0-0 Cragside PS

### 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 4th March 2025 - Book Folding  
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](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)



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### After-School Clubs after Half-Term

**PUPILS WILL AUTOMATICALLY HAVE A PLACE IF THEY HAVE ATTENDED THIS 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

### 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 21/02/25:

5C: Isla O; 5K: Connor S; 5L: Jaylen M;  
6E: Daniel F; 6F: Sofie F; 6L: Robbie T;  
7M: Elsa B-B; 7Ro: Harry E; 7Ru: Jack D;  
8H: Chloe H; 8L: Lily D; 8T: Alfie M;  
Head of School SOTW: Olivia D-J (6L)

### 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.





## Celebrating Good Attendance at WMS

We currently recognise children who have 100% attendance over the term by rewarding them in the following way:

- Each term children with 100% attendance receive a certificate. Children can achieve three certificates over the course of a year: bronze (1st 100%), silver (2nd 100%) and gold (3rd 100%). Children who do not have 100% attendance in one term have the chance to gain the first/next certificate in the next term (for example if they have an absence in T1, but then have 100% in T2 they would get their bronze certificate in T2).
- At the end of each term 100% attenders are entered into a prize draw for a non uniform pass and prize to be used at a time of their choice (one per year group).
- Children who have all three certificates (because they have had 100% attendance all year) receive a medal and 100% badge in the end of year assembly on the last day of term.

### Attendance Pupil Voice

We surveyed all pupils in school this month as we wanted to know their views on attendance as we look to improve overall attendance in school. What we learned from the survey is that the majority of pupils attend because they think learning is important, but the social aspect (seeing friends) is also very important to them. We also asked them if good or improved attendance should be recognised in school. 70% thought that it should be recognised (with 23% who didn't know). We also asked how should good attendance be rewarded and 66% answered 'rewards' (eg. non uniform passes, vouchers etc), 16% thought 'awards' and 11% answered 'certificates'.

### New for Spring 2025!

As a result of the feedback in the attendance survey, we are introducing two new strategies this term to further encourage good attendance:

Next week we will start 'The 100% Cup', which will give children the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw if they have 100% attendance over the course of a week. This is because we recognise that some children have very good attendance in school but are ineligible for the existing 100% reward if they have a single short absence in a term. Each week form teachers will issue a voucher to children in their form class who had 100% attendance in the previous week. The more weeks of 100% attendance they have, the more opportunities they will have to win a prize. We will ask the children to write their name on the voucher and enter it into the prize draw box (which will be their responsibility to do so). There will then be three prizes each half term and they will be drawn on the first week back after a holiday.

We are also going to introduce 'The Progress in Attendance' award in this half term, which will recognise the children who have made the greatest improvement in their attendance over the course of a half term. This will be done by comparing overall attendances at the end of one half term against overall attendances at the end of the next half term. There will be two prizes each half term for the top two most improved attenders, presented in the first week back after a holiday.



# ABILITY2PLAY FEBRUARY HALF TERM

**\*\* Please note these sessions have a maximum capacity and operate on a first come first served basis. You must wear weather appropriate clothing, bring a packed lunch and plenty to drink to every session.**

6+yrs



Monday 24th February

**Freestyle Multi-Sports  
@ Northburn Sports and  
Community Centre**

11:00am - 12:00pm  
£4

18+yrs



Monday 24th February

**Adult Multi-Sports  
@ Blyth Sports Centre**

-Basketball  
-Football  
-Cricket  
13:00pm - 14:30pm  
£4

8+yrs



Tuesday 25th February

**STAY ALL DAY  
@ Blyth Sports Centre**

-Dodgeball  
-Cricket  
-Football  
10:00am - 15:00pm  
£25

8+yrs



Wednesday 26th February

**Youth Club  
@ Ashington Family Hub**

Pool  
Football  
-Xbox  
17:00pm - 19:00pm  
£5

8+yrs



Thursday 27th February

**STAY ALL DAY  
@ Concordia Leisure Centre**

-Bowling  
-Clip'n'Climb  
-Sports  
10:00am - 15:00pm  
£25

8 - 16 yrs



Friday 28th February

**Comets Football  
@ Northburn Sports and  
Community Centre**

10:00am - 12:00pm  
£6

To book, please email:  
bayley.milligan@northumberland.gov.uk  
or visit our Facebook @Ability2Play

**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.



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### 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.

### Lost Property

These are the items we currently have in lost property at Whytrig reception. If you recognise any of the items listed below, please ask your child to come to reception to collect them as soon as possible, as any unclaimed belongings will be donated or disposed of at the end of this half term:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Black Decor water bottle</li> <li>● Justice League glasses</li> <li>● Rockstar white glasses</li> <li>● Pink stitch packed lunch with a clear lid</li> <li>● Blue and grey glove inside each other</li> <li>● Neck warmer-Black with grey fluff inside</li> <li>● White school shirt (10-11 years)</li> <li>● Pale Blue packed lunch with yellow and white dots.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Green/grey Asda small coat black mesh inside</li> <li>● Original air up (orange strap and grey bottle)</li> <li>● Black metal air up</li> <li>● Pink air up</li> <li>● Black plastic bottle with a green lid</li> <li>● Neon lime glove</li> <li>● School jumper (11-12 years)</li> <li>● Pe jumper (11-12 years)</li> <li>● Black joggers from Next (12 years)</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



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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.

