

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 21st March 2025

We value your feedback

In order to improve the relationships between school and families we want to regularly engage with parents and carers; next week we have our Spring Term face to face meetings so that you can find out how your child is progressing in school this year. We would also like to invite you to give feedback through our annual parent survey, which is now live online. This is a good way to let us know where we can improve, but also what is working well. For example, last year only 52% of parents and carers agreed or strongly agreed that 'the school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year'; in response to this, we have introduced curriculum overview sheets in KS2 which are shared at the start of each half term, as well as updating and improving the curriculum information on our school website. You can access the survey by clicking on the link [here](#). You can also scan the QR code on the right on a mobile device, which will open the survey in a browser for you.



Whamba! Logo Winner

Huge thanks to everyone who took the time to enter our logo competition for our samba band - Whamba! We have our new t-shirts on order and hope to be wearing them for our first booking next week! It was really difficult for the Blyth Valley Samba band to judge but they finally declared Danny W (8L) to be the winner!

Here are our shortlisted entries and our winning design:



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Red Nose Day

Thank you so much for your kind donations to Comic Relief, we have had a fantastic day raising money for such a great cause. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised an amazing **£250.42!** It was lovely to see so many pupils involved in our 'Costumes from the last 40 years' competition. It was very difficult to judge, and we'd like to say a big thank you and well done to everyone who took part. After some discussion, the winners were declared TJ AC (7Ro), Elliot C (6F), Abigail T (5K) and Gracie B (5C) to be the winners!



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Sports Results/Fixtures/News

Great football by our Y7 boys on Wednesday at Ponteland HS. After a delayed start, the boys played really well and continued their excellent form across both games against Ponteland HS.

Ponteland A 1-3 Whytrig
Ponteland B 2-4 Whytrig

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



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 so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system.

This week's whole school attendance: 92.67%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
92.15%	93.50%	96.49%	89.10%

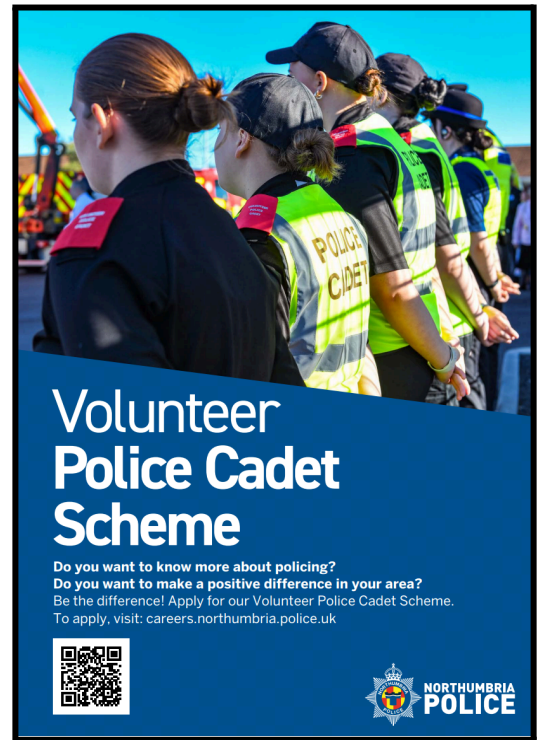
Parent Evening Meetings

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended parents evening on Monday 17th March. We must apologise to parents and carers who were not aware that the appointment system had gone live on 4th March and who did not get the reminders. We would encourage parents and carers to check the MCAS app at least on a weekly basis if notifications for the app are switched off, however we will put in additional measures also for future meetings to ensure this does not happen again. If you were unable to attend you can view your child's Spring Term Report in the MCAS app; if you would like a paper copy please do not hesitate to contact school for one.





Year 8 ONLY - Become a Volunteer Police Cadet with Northumbria Police

The following notice is for any Year 8 pupil who might be interested. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Police Cadet with Northumbria Police you have until the 20th April to apply! You must 13/14yrs old on 1st Sept 2025 (going into year 9 or 10) and live within the Northumbria Police area. For full details and how to apply, please visit Police Cadets - Northumbria Police by clicking on the link to the following website: [Police Cadets - Northumbria Police](#). This information and the website link has also been added to the Year 8 Google Classroom.



**Volunteer
Police Cadet
Scheme**

Do you want to know more about policing?
Do you want to make a positive difference in your area?
Be the difference! Apply for our Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme.
To apply, visit: careers.northumbria.police.uk



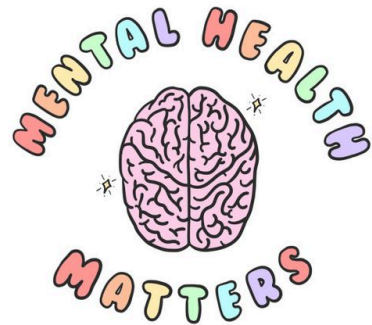
Mental Health Tip

How to reframe from unhelpful thoughts!

The way we think, feel and behave are linked. Sometimes we develop patterns of thoughts or behaviours that are unhelpful so recognising them, and taking steps to think about things differently, can improve your mental health and wellbeing.

[Top tips to improve mental wellbeing - Every Mind Matters - NHS](#)

- ▶ Reframe Unhelpful Thoughts
- ▶ Reframing Negative Thoughts

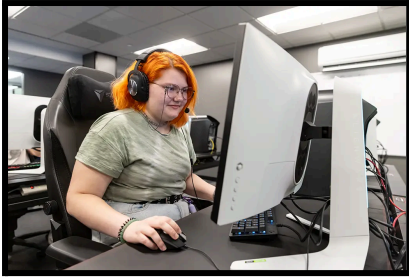


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Job of the Week

This week's Job of the Week is **Games Tester**. 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



LUNCH MENU - WEEK 2

[School Meals Menu](#)

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.

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 14/03/25:

5C: Emily G; 5K: Willow A; 5L: Amber H;
6E: Bobby M; 6F: Charlie SM; 6L: Brooke E;
7M: Morgan W; 7Ro: Liam S; 7Ru: Mya J;
8H: Kish D; 8L: Macey R; 8T: Daniel H;
Head of School SOTW: Gracie B (5C)



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Breaktime Snacks - Reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers that while we do allow pupils to bring a small healthy snack to eat at breaktime, **we do not allow sugary snacks and chocolate, salty snacks such as crisps and soft drinks.** Pupils should instead bring a small piece of fruit or a healthy cereal bar.

We have a number of children in school who suffer from severe allergies to nuts. People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

We must not have nuts in school in any form. So please can we ask for your support in ensuring you do not include nut products in your child's breaktime snacks, packed lunch boxes, or any treats brought in on special occasions. This might include some cereal bars or granola bars, so please check the packaging carefully.

We appreciate that this is an additional thing for parents to check but we know that you will recognise the importance of it. We thank you for your continued support.

Craft Club

Our last after school craft club is on Tuesday 1st April where the pupils will be enjoying and learning the art of Book Binding. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

If your child has not yet signed up and would like to join in please email wms@svf.org.uk

After-School Clubs in this Half-Term

PUPILS WILL AUTOMATICALLY HAVE A PLACE IF THEY HAVE ATTENDED LAST 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

PLEASE NOTE- SWIMMING CLUBS WILL FINISH 26TH MARCH

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.



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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.



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.



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.



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.

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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