

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

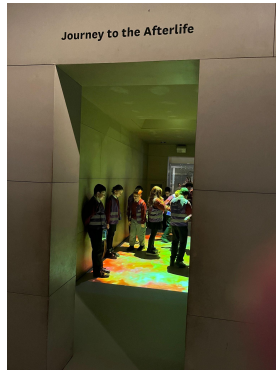
Week Ending 21st November 2025

Sad News

We are very sad to announce that one of our former teachers, Mr Davidson, passed away on Tuesday 4th November. Mr Davidson was an incredibly popular teacher, working at our school for many years when it was on the old site at Western Avenue and was greatly missed in our school following his retirement over ten years ago. Mr Davidson taught technology across the school but it was his tireless work as a pastoral lead and his engagement with our young people that we will remember, as will those who attended our school, some of which are now parents themselves of children who attend Whytrig. Mr Davidson also organised many ski trips to Voss and other destinations, which always helped to produce lasting memories for those who attended. A funny, kind and caring man whose loss will leave a big impact on everyone who knew him; our thoughts go out to his family at this sad time.

Year 5 Great North Museum Trip

On Wednesday, Year 5 visited the Great North Museum to supplement their learning in Humanities. We took part in 'TIME ODYSSEY': a new interactive learning experience which took us on a quest through the museum. Time Odyssey is played on a tablet and uses gaming techniques and impressive AR technology, to engage and learn through the power of play! We had to help the fun, interactive characters on screen get home through the SuperMega Portal! The children were impeccably behaved at the museum and enjoyed a day out in Newcastle learning all about the past!

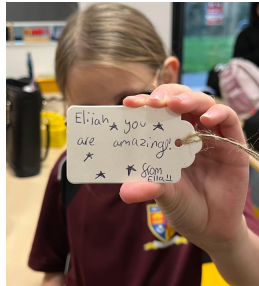


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Anti-Bullying Week - Positive Noticing

Last week, to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week, we took part in Positive Noticing. Pupils wrote thoughtful tags for one another, highlighting the positive qualities they see in each other. This simple but meaningful activity helped to boost self-esteem, build confidence, and encourage positive behaviour across our school community. It was wonderful to see everyone sharing kindness and recognising the strengths in others



Safeguarding Update - Tracking Devices



Tracking devices were designed to help people keep track of their belongings but they can also open up the door for potential misuse. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide explores how Bluetooth trackers like AirTags and SmartTags can be misused for stalking, bullying and invading privacy. View the help sheet on our X page at <https://x.com/WhytrigMS/status/1991079000354025679/photo/1>

Safeguarding Update - PREVENT

“Prevent” is a UK safeguarding programme that works to protect people who may be at risk of being drawn into extremism or radicalisation.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/radicalisation>

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/parents/>

<https://www.svf.org.uk/our-federation/safeguarding/prevent>

Safeguarding - WhatsApp

We kindly ask parents to keep an eye on their child's activity on WhatsApp. We've become aware of a few group chats where some unkind messages have been shared, and we want to make sure all our pupils feel happy and supported online. Please do take a moment to check your child's WhatsApp regularly and chat with them about what they send and receive. Your support in encouraging kindness in their online conversations is greatly appreciated. Further information for parents on the safe use of WhatsApp can be found at [Internet Matters - WhatsApp Safety Guide for Parents](#). The minimum age to use WhatsApp is 13 years old in most countries, including the UK. In our school, only older children in Year 8 should really be using WhatsApp.



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Autumn 1st Half Term Attendance Awards

One of the extra opportunities for children to be rewarded for attendance each half term is in the 100% Cup, where children get a token for every week of full attendance which they enter into the end of half term draw.

The winners of the 100% Cup for the Autumn 1st half term were drawn on Monday in assembly and are:

- Ben E (Year 5)
- Kayden B (Year 6)
- Cole W (Year 8)

Autumn 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Friday 21st November - Year 8 Boys National Cup v NSB.
- Thursday 27th November - Year 8 Boys Basketball at TBA.
- Wednesday 10th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children.
- Thursday 11th December - Bike Club Ride.
- Tuesday 16th December - Panto Visit.

Winter Weather

As the winter approaches, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for school in their regulation school uniform and a coat which is suitable for the conditions. It has been noticeable that some children have been arriving at school without a coat (some, without their sweatshirts too), which really isn't appropriate as it has been quite cold recently especially when children are outside at break and lunchtimes. The snow that has fallen this week has also highlighted that children should be wearing suitable footwear which is in line with our uniform policy. The children should be wearing the correct footwear in school, so it might be that they wear something else to walk to school, but ensure they change into their correct school uniform footwear once inside the school building. Details of school uniform expectations can be found in the Parent Information Pack at <https://www.svf.org.uk/whytrig-middle-school/parent-information-pack>

Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is Geoscientist. 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.



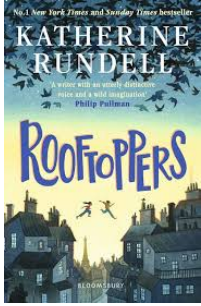
If any parents or carers would like to get involved in our Careers provision at Whytrig please contact Mrs Campbell at wms@svf.org.uk



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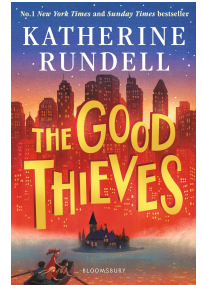
Book of the Week



Every week, we will be highlighting one of our fantastic new Reading Challenge books. This week's book is **'Rooftoppers'** by **Katherine Rundell** from our Year 5 challenge.

Rooftoppers, is about a girl named Sophie who believes her mother survived a shipwreck and travels to Paris to find her. After being rescued from the shipwreck as a baby in a cello case, she grows up with her guardian, Charles, but is convinced her mother is still alive. When a welfare agency threatens to send Sophie to an orphanage, she and Charles flee to Paris to search for answers, where Sophie meets a boy named Matteo and a network of children who live on the city's rooftops. Together, they search the city, navigating the rooftops in a thrilling quest to find Sophie's mother before she is caught.

If you liked **'Rooftoppers'** try some other stories by Katherine Rundell, such as **'The Explorer'** and **'The Good Thieves'** - available to borrow from Mrs Campbell, Mrs Harland or the school library.



Mental Health Update - Kooth

This week we welcomed Michael Briourde from **Kooth** into school to talk to the children in assembly about their Mental Health and to make them aware of **Kooth**, which is a free and safe web-based resource to support young people aged between 10 and 25. **Kooth** provides free, anonymous online mental health and wellbeing support, including one to one chats with counsellors, self-help articles and online forums. Click on www.kooth.com to find out more.

We would also like to make you aware of Qwell, which is Kooth's adult service and offers professional mental health and wellbeing support for adults - go to www.qwell.io



Mental Health Top Tip

Three easy tips to boost self confidence - play the video from the link in Google Classroom or directly here at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNyRWqUR40&authuser=0>

Fixtures and Results

Our Y8 boys had a fantastic result in the U13 Northumberland Schools FA County Cup, defeating Valley Gardens MS 6-2 on Monday. Goals from Codd x3, Sienko x2 and Young. The boys host RGS in the next round.



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Tues- KS3 Netball- Mrs Harland and Miss Waterfall (Sportshall/yard):

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkww8>

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 Basketball club (Mr Robinson)-Starting 7th November:

<https://forms.gle/vuzifyEHWNzFctEBA>

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

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

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.



This week's whole school attendance (YTD): 93.8%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.0%	92.8%	94.1%	91.6%

Current best attending class is: 5C (97.4%)



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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 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.

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.

How to Contact School

If you need to get in touch with your child's teacher, please send a message in the MCAS app, or you can send an email to wms@svf.org.uk and it will be passed on to them. We aim to reply to all emails and messages within 48 hours of receipt.
Please continue to use your child's planner to leave notes for their teacher, such as if they are unable to take part in PE.

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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