

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 24th October 2025

End of Autumn 1

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for their wonderful support throughout the first half term in our new building. It has been a busy and exciting start, and we're delighted to see how well our pupils have settled into their new surroundings. We're now looking forward to the second half of the term, with lots of exciting events and activities planned as we head towards Christmas!



Wear Red Day - Show Racism the Red Card



Last Friday, we enjoyed taking part in Show Racism the Red Card's Wear Red Day by wearing red to school. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to come together and show support for equality, kindness, and respect. By wearing red, we helped raise awareness about the importance of standing up against racism and promoting inclusion in our school and community.

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes and joined us for our Coffee Afternoon in support of Macmillan Cancer Care. Your generosity and community spirit made the event a wonderful success – we raised a fantastic £544.81 for Macmillan! Thank you for your kindness and for making the afternoon so enjoyable.

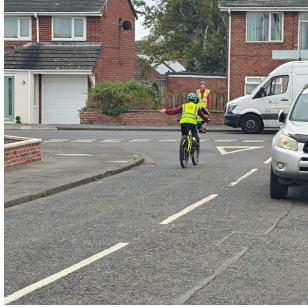


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Year 6 Bikeability

Last week, some of our Year 6 pupils took part in Bikeability training, developing their confidence and skills to ride safely on the road. During the sessions, they learned how to check their bikes, signal clearly, start and stop safely, and navigate junctions and parked cars with care. The children showed great enthusiasm and responsibility as they practised their new skills, preparing them to become safe and independent cyclists.



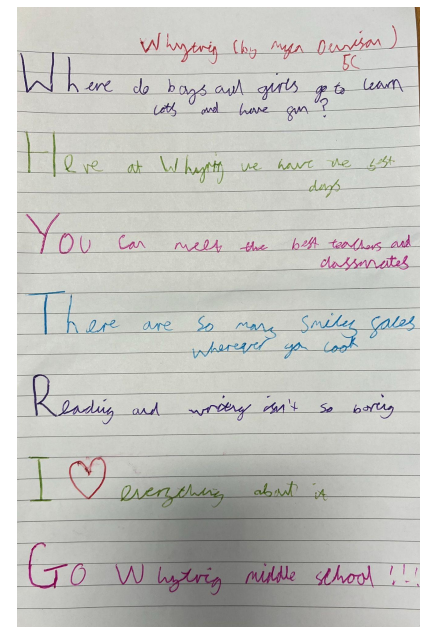
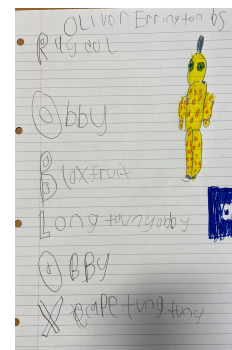
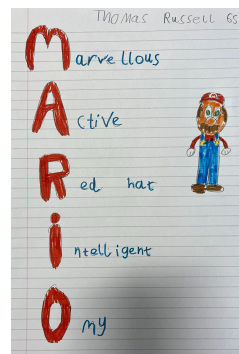
National Poetry Day Competition

To celebrate National Poetry Day, we held an exciting competition challenging pupils to write a “5 Minute Poem.” We were thrilled to receive so many creative entries and were impressed by the talent and imagination shown across the school. After much deliberation, we selected four runners-up: Oliver E (6S), Thomas R (6S), Myla D (5C), and Bailee K (8K). Our overall winner was Ella W (5C) with her wonderful poem “Whytrig Middle School.” Well done everyone who took part – your poems were fantastic!

Whytrig Middle School - By Ella W

*Middle School is a new journey of my life
For everyone it's a new school
New teacher, new building and new friends.
First school ends and middle school is here.*

*Mrs Hurst, Mrs Chadwick and Mrs Kelly
All of the teachers are nervous, it is their new
class aswell
Hopefully it goes well and
I make new friends.*



Autumn 2 - Dates for your Diary

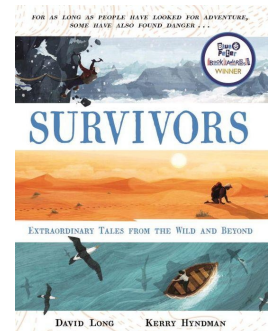
- W/C Monday 27th October - Autumn half term holiday.
- Monday 3rd November - Start of Autumn 2 ½ term.
- Thursday 6th November - KS3 Badminton Event.
- Friday 7th November - Behaviour non-uniform (by invite only).
- Thursday 13th November - Boccia Tournament.
- W/C Monday 17th November - Scholastic Book Fair (details to follow)
- Wednesday 19th November - Year 5 Family Sessions start.
- Wednesday 10th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children
- Tuesday 16th December - Panto Visit

Book of the Week

Every week, we will be highlighting one of our fantastic new Reading Challenge books. This week's book is '**Survivors**' by David Long and Kerry Hyndman from our Year 7 challenge.

Survivors: Extraordinary Tales from the Wild and Beyond is a non-fiction anthology of true stories about people who overcame incredible odds to survive extreme situations. The book features over twenty accounts of human resilience, courage, and ingenuity from various times and locations around the world. The collection includes both classic survival tales and more modern-day accounts. Examples include, **The Man Who Sucked Blood from a Shark: A sailor who was stranded for 133 days on a raft in the Atlantic after his ship was torpedoed during World War II. He survived by using shark's blood in place of fresh water.**

If you liked '**Survivors**' try some other anthologies from David Long such as **Heroes: Incredible True Stories of Courageous Animals** or **Rescue: Daring Missions from On, Under and Above the Earth: available to borrow from Mrs Campbell or Mrs Harland**



Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Drama Therapist**. 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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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 student 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>

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 24/10/25

5C: Myla D; 5K: Evie W; 5L: Marlee T;
6E: Penny K; 6F: Cleo S; 6S: Thomas R;
7H: Charlie A; 7L: Callum I; 7W: Aaron S;
8K: Archie B-M; 8Ro: Henry S; 8Ru: Joel G;
Head of School SOTW: Lochlann S (5K)

Week ending 17/10/25:

5C: Luca H; 5K: Abdullah A; 5L: Ella A;
6E: Zara K; 6F: Georgia M; 6S: Kyron S;
7H: Emily H; 7L: Joshua C; 7W: Mia P;
8K: Cydney L; 8Ro: Maya G; 8Ru: Evan B;
Head of School SOTW: Carlton G (5L)

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!



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Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

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

Alternate Wednesdays (Week 1) KS2 Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard) - <https://forms.gle/QnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

Alternate Tuesdays - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes

If you would like to sign your child up to Coding Club, please follow this link:
<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.

If you would like to sign your child up to football, please follow this link:
<https://forms.gle/89kGSTqCE8Kg6Rxr8>

Fri- KS3 Basketball club (Mr Robinson)-Starting 7th November

If you would like to sign your child up to football, please follow this link:
<https://forms.gle/myHh3Gvwt5ptQMwt6>

Please see the school website for the latest club information at:
<https://www.svf.org.uk/whytrig-middle-school/extra-curricular>

Fixtures & Results

Year 6 Boys 7-a-side league

WMS- 0-0 Pont CPS

WMS 0-2 Hareside

WMS 0-1 Northburn

WMS 0-2 St Peter/Paul

Year 6 Girls 7-a-side league

WMS 0-0 SSMS

WMS 0-4 Shanklea

WMS 0-0 Pont CPS

WMS 0-0 Cragside



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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.

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 student 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): 91.91%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97.4%	93.3%	94.2%	91.9%

Current best attending class is: 5C (97.7%)



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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.

Labelling Uniform and Belongings

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.

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.

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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