



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 31st January 2025

Medical Awareness Information

At this time of year we usually have a number of children (and adults) in school with colds, coughs and sneezes as we head out of the winter towards the spring. However, we would like to share some information with parents following an ongoing situation that is very close to us all in school. The parents of a child in Year 8 have asked us to raise awareness by sharing what they are currently going through as their child is seriously ill in hospital. After a normal week of attendance last week, they developed flu-like symptoms last weekend. Their condition then deteriorated very quickly with symptoms of a high temperature and respiratory problems, resulting in emergency hospitalisation. It is believed to be Influenza B despite the child being fully up to date with flu immunisations. Their consultant has asked us to share that if your child has flu symptoms and develops a high temperature (above 38/39°) and has distress when breathing (e.g. over 18+ breaths per minute) you should not delay in seeking medical attention. More information can be found on the NHS website at [Flu - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) including what to do in an emergency. It is not our intention to cause unnecessary worry or distress, however we also do not wish to see any more children or families go through the same ordeal. Currently we are praying and keeping everything crossed that the child can keep fighting and make a recovery. We are sure that you will do the same as we all send out lots of love at this difficult time.

Newcastle University Assembly

As part of our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance provision (CEIAG), Year 7 enjoyed an informative assembly from Newcastle University. They thought about what university is, why people go to university and what life is like for students at university. They were also given the opportunity to ask questions, find out about what university costs and what it's like to live in university accommodation. It was an excellent opportunity for our pupils to start to think about their future education and careers.



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

This week's whole school attendance: 93.4%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
95.4%	94.3%	93.1%	91.1%

Autumn Term 100% Attendance

Each term we recognise and reward children who have 100% attendance over the course of a term. The system allows children to receive a tiered set of certificates (a bronze for their 1st 100%, a silver for their 2nd 100% and a gold for their 3rd 100%), and entry into a termly prize draw in each year group. The children who achieved a bronze certificate for 100% attendance in the Autumn Term are:

Year 5:

Jayden B, Vinnie B, Kayden B, Henry B, Mason B, Tristan C, Harrison C, Smith D-C, Ethan D, Freya D, Adeline D, Lia F, George G, Amber H, Zara K, Amelia M, Georgia M, Isla O, Eva O, Lacey R, Thomas R, Jacob S, Cleo S, Lola T, Amelia T, Keiron T, Eve W, Ava W and Olivia W.

Year 6:

Owen B, Reuben C, Joshua C, Sienna D, Sofie F, George H, Toby H, Emily H, Joshua K, Ava O, Oliver P, Michael R, Aaron S, Robbie T and Alexandria W.

Year 7:

Ben A, Lewis J, Amara M, Layla O, William P, Annabelle R, Oliver S, Charlotte W and Jayden W.

Year 8:

Casey A, Harry B, Ethan B, Sebastian C, Amy C, Georgia C, Charlie D, Adam H, Daniel H, Joshua H, Abbie L, Tyler M, Josh N, Esme S, Aubree'Eve S and Louis V.

The prize winners from each year group prize draw and who each get a non uniform pass to use at a time of their choice and a gift voucher are:

Year 5 - Adeline D

Year 6 - Robbie T

Year 7 - Annabelle R

Year 8 - Casey A



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.



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 Dentist. 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



Year 5 Violin Tuition

5K have started their violin tuition this term. We have some very talented prospects!



Year 8 Shakespeare Workshop

Year 8 students have participated in a super session today, learning about 'Romeo and Juliet' through graffiti art. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and developed their teamwork, leadership and presentation skills. Well done to all who took part!



Year 5 Family Sessions

Thank you to the parents who came along to the first family session in school this week with the Northern Learning Trust. Both the parents and children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and said they were insightful. We are looking forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 4th February for the next one (4 weeks in total).



Craft Club

Students have really enjoyed the first two Craft Club sessions making Origami Boxes and Decoupage Jars. There are still places on the dates below, classes are £4 each and cover the cost of the materials. All clubs are 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Tuesday 11th February 2025 - Domino Art

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



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 24/01/25:

5C: Everly R; 5K: Abigail T; 5L: Ayda C;

6E: Lucy M; 6F: Freya S; 6L: Peyton D;

7M: Harry T; 7Ro: Maya G; 7Ru: Zoe F;

8H: Kalisi K; 8L: Joy E; 8T: Harry F;

Head of School SOTW: Rowan M (8H)



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ADELLE HICKS & ROBYN ROBINSON

We are Autism Family Support Workers that are a part of the Autism Support Team within HINT at Northumberland County Council.

We run our Autism Family Drop in sessions across all of Northumberland. Each session is free, two hours long and is a chance to come along to meet us and other parents for an informal chat over a cuppa. There is no set agenda for the drop ins. It is a chance to seek support and advice from us and other parents, however there is no expectation to talk about your child if you don't want to. Any parent/carer or family members are welcome to attend any session, you do not need to attend the session in the area that you live in. The sessions are not for professionals.

FAQ

Do I need to book?

No, just turn up on the day.

Do I need to stay for the two hours?

No, you can drop in at any time that is convenient for you.

Can I bring my child with me?

We normally advise parents/carers not to bring their children if they can, as this allows you to speak freely. However, if childcare is preventing you from attending then please bring them along. Please be aware that other parents may want to discuss sensitive topics.

What happens if I can't attend?

We try and alternate days and times of the drop ins at each location so hopefully the next session will be more convenient for you. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer advice via email or telephone due to our capacity. However, please bring any questions or queries along to the drop in session. We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions, please contact your local Family Hub or email us at:
robyn.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk or adelle.hicks@northumberland.gov.uk

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Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

JOIN US ON:

Wednesday 15th January 2025 10am-12 at Alnwick Family Hub

On St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, NE66 1DJ

Thursday 13th February 2025 1-3pm at Berwick Family Hub

Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2AE

Tuesday 14th January 2025 10am-12 at Hexham Family Hub

On Hexham First School Site, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Wednesday 29th January 2025 1-3pm at Haltwhistle Family Hub

On Haltwhistle Primary Academy Site, Park Avenue, NE49 9BA

Tuesday 21st January 2025 10am-12 at Ashington Family Hub

Alexandra Road, NE63 9EF

Monday 3rd February 2025 1-3pm at The Community Hub at Cramlington

Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)

Tuesday 18th February 2025 10am-12 at Morpeth Library

Morpeth Sports and Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane, NE61 1SR

**If you have any questions, please contact your local Family Hub or email us at:
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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.



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 library book.

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



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