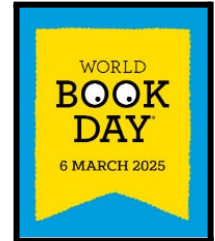


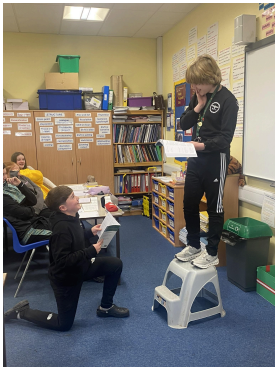
# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 7th March 2025

## World Book Day



We had a brilliant day celebrating World Book Day at Whytrig. The focus was reading for pleasure and the pupils read some fantastic books in their comfy reading clothes throughout the day during our Drop Everything and Read sessions. The book swap was very successful and lots of children were able to swap a book they have already read for a new one, which was fantastic to see. In lessons, pupils took part in a variety of reading based activities, including designing book covers and book marks, creating top trump cards for books characters and using them in a 'character battle' and even dramatic reading of Romeo and Juliet in year 8. The day was rounded off with a World Book Day quiz in form classes. Pupils were able to show off their knowledge of books and also try to figure out which members of staff were 'Masked Readers'. It was wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying reading and we look forward to carrying on the enthusiasm for reading as the school year progresses.



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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
95.2%	94.1%	93.3%	90.4%

## LUNCH MENU - WEEK 4

[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.

## Chronicle Live - Article

Following information we shared in the Newsdrop on 31st January, we would like to share an article which appeared in the Chronicle over the half term break.

**'My son went to A&E with a bad chest and suffered rare infection that left him in hospital for a month'**

[Link to article](#)

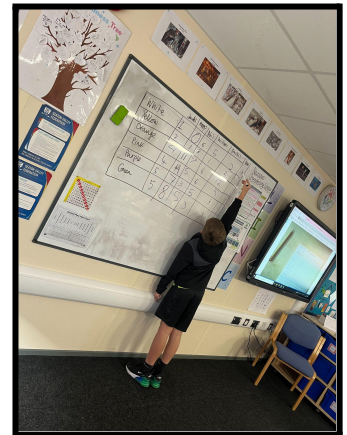
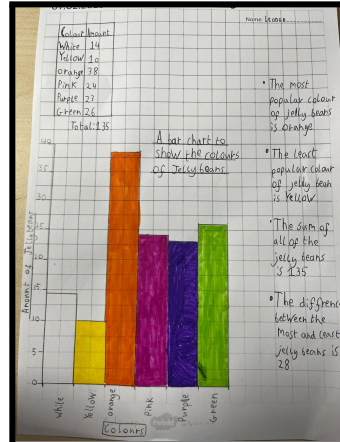
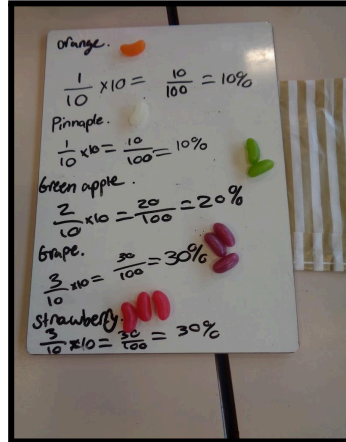
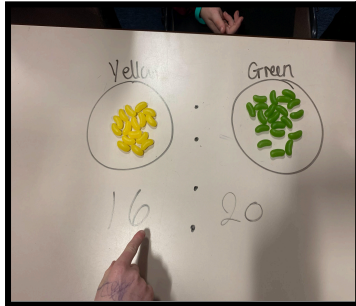


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## Number Day

We raised **£255.48** for the NSPCC - well done! In Key Stage 2, we carried out investigations related to jelly beans, based on the book 'How many jelly beans?' Congratulations to 5K, who won the Times Tables Rock Stars competition, and to all of the top-scoring pupils in each class who earned certificates.



## Matilda Junior - School Musical



It was an absolute pleasure to welcome family and friends into school this week on Wednesday and Thursday evenings to see the joint Whytrig Middle and Astley Community High production of Matilda. With a cast of children from Year 5 all the way to Year 12, we were all wowed by the dancing, singing and acting performances. So much so, that we arranged for all of Whytrig Middle to see the show on Friday morning in lesson time. We really have a talented group of pupils in our schools, coming from our performance club, which runs on a Monday night after school. We thank them for all their hard work and efforts, learning their lines and practising all the routines over many weeks, including time in the half term holiday. Of course, none of this would be possible without our team of fantastic, dedicated staff, who make all of this possible in the first place. A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone involved!



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CONNECTING



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## Mental Health Tip

If you feel your mind is too busy, here is a technique that may help:

[Thought Bubbles! For Anxiety & Worry.](#)



## 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 **Employment Advisor**. 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

### Year 8 Boys Basketball Success

Our Y8 boys played their first round of fixtures in the Northumberland basketball league on Thursday evening at Blyth Academy. The squad consisted of Kish D, Josh N, Joseph H, Michael M, Shaun M and Jay Mc. The boys played 5 games, winning 4 and drawing 1. The 2nd round of fixtures will take place next Thursday evening at Blyth Academy

Whytrig 12-0 Newminster MS  
Whytrig 10-2 Bede A  
Whytrig 12-8 Ponteland HS  
Whytrig 14-0 Dr Thomlinson MS  
Whytrig 6-6 Marden Bridge MS

## **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 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)

## 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 07/03/25:

5C: Thomas R; 5K: Eve W; 5L: Bobbi B;  
6E: Ross S; 6F: Emily H; 6L: Alecia I;  
7M: Mason H; 7Ro: Layton S; 7Ru: Oliver S;  
8H: Jenson A; 8L: Charlie D; 8T: Tylan R;  
Head of School SOTW: Sonny T (6E)

## 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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## 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.



**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.

**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.



**Northumberland**  
County Council

**Schools**  
**GoSmarter**

### 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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