



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Jonathan Souter

Notices - Week Beginning 4th March 2024

Exciting times ahead!

On Wednesday 28th July a groundbreaking ceremony took place to mark the latest milestone in the construction of our new Whytrig Middle School which will again be co-located on the same site as the new Astley Community High School. Accompanying Mr Barnes to the site, were two ambassadors from each school to report on what was taking place, who were invited to take a tour of the site of their new "super-school"

You can hear what they had to say on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoXJh6z-m4>

Over the coming months there will be more opportunities for our pupils to engage with what is going on, as well as regular news updates for parents and carers. We can not wait to see the finished result!

World Book Day Thursday 7th March 2024

We would like to remind parents and children that our World Book Day theme this year is linked to the topics each year group is studying in English. As always, we do not expect anyone to go out and buy anything elaborate - things you can find around the house will suffice.

The themes are as follows:

Year 5: Oh Maya Gods - Mayan Theme (headdresses)

Year 6: WW2 (evacuees - school uniform, cap, waistcoat, gas mask box and label; Land Girls, British Soldiers; Red, White and Blue theme).

Year 7: Gothic Theme - witches, ghosts, monsters (Halloween costumes would be great!)

Year 8: Shakespeare-inspired (donkey ears from A Midsummer Night's Dream; mask from the masquerade ball in Romeo and Juliet; Shakespeare himself!)

If you are struggling for ideas, Pinterest has some great ideas for easy homemade costumes! We look forward to seeing everyone's efforts! On the day there will also be some fun activities taking place in school and as usual we will be handing out World Book Day tokens.



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The MIGHTY Whytrig Book Swap

On Thursday 7th March (World Book Day), we are also holding 'The MIGHTY Whytrig Book Swap'. Please could pupils bring in a book that they would like to swap on Tuesday 5th or Wednesday 6th March. Please ensure the book is in good condition and suitable for ages 9-13. Pupils will then be able to choose a different book to take home on World Bok Day Thursday.

Fantastic writing in Year 7

Well done to Carter in Year 7 for a piece of writing this week which was so good, we just had to share it with you!

As I nervously crept in, there was a spine-chilling breeze. A candle flickered and the great grandfather clock ticked and tocked. Miserably, the sun seeped through the magnificent window, trying in vain to reach the corner. It couldn't. The corner was in complete darkness. The eerie creaking sound of the armchair terrified me.

Back and forth, the creaking got louder and faster as if someone was on it. Was someone on it? The stench of old decaying wood filled the area. In an attempt to stop the maddening chair, I reached out my hand but - with a single touch - the decrepit wood disintegrated into dust.

Like a soldier guarding a place, the grandfather clock stood majestically, looming over the magnificent room and casting a shadow over the creaky floorboards. On the hour, a slow anguished chime broke the rhythm of the constant tick tock....tick tock...tick tock...

Home time Arrangements

We frequently receive messages to pass to children telling them to go somewhere else after school, and it can sometimes be difficult to deliver the messages, especially if there are a lot of them. Often we receive them near the end of the day, which doesn't leave me much time to track down the children. We would therefore greatly appreciate your support if information regarding home times can be given to the children on a morning before they come to school. We do however appreciate that on some occasions, circumstances can change over the course of a day and an updated message may need to be passed on, where we will be more than happy to help.

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



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Year 5 Swimming Reminder

Year 5 will be doing swimming during their PE lessons this term. Please ensure that your child brings an appropriate swimming kit to school on this day.

The classes are:

Mon - 5L Tues - 5C Tues - 6F Wed - 5K

Parents Supporting Parents

**Everyone Welcome
Join Us for a Chat**

**Working together
to be the best we
can be**

*Join Us for a Focus
Group Discussion on
Children's
Relationships and
Friendship Circles.*

**Wednesday
13th March 2024
from 6pm**

Where?
Pavillion, Bates Cottages
Cricket Club, Tranwell Drive,
Northumberland, NE25 0HU

Onsite and street parking is available.

We look forward to meeting you!

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In response to the questionnaire sent out to parents regarding mental health and wellbeing, we have a number of parents who have been working behind the scenes to facilitate some informal workshops for parents and carers.

We hope you are able to attend and will find the session useful.



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Swimming Clubs are also continuing next half term for those who have signed up

Monday - KS3 Girls
Tuesday - Year 6
Wednesday - KS3 Boys
3.30 - 4.30

Internet Safety Reminder

We have this week been reminding children in assembly and in person about their responsibilities when they are online or using social media. We would ask parents and carers to ensure they know what their children are doing online, particularly around social media they might use. The majority of social media accounts require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can create an account, which would mean only a number of Year 8 pupils in our school community should be using them. Platforms like WhatsApp now require users to be 16 years of age, when it thought users are mature enough to use them appropriately. Guidance on WhatsApp can be found on the UK Safer Internet Centre at:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/helping-your-child-with-whatsapp>

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 01/03/24:

5C: Sienna D; 5K: Lucy T; 5L: Olivia D-J;
6E: Layton S; 6F: Jake C; 6L: Amari M;
7H: Harry B; 7L: Evelina T; 7T: Cody S;
8M: Harry E; 8Ro: Ava M; 8Ru: Cory F;
Head of School SOTW: Charlotte W, Lewis J, Carter B

NHS Advice on Measles

There is currently an outbreak of measles in the UK, please read the NHS guidance below on how to identify measles and how to look after your family if there is an outbreak.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

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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