



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Jonathan Souter

13 July 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

I wrote to you at this time last year reflecting on how it had not been the year we had wanted it to be and as I write this letter I am filled with the same feelings. We should have been enjoying end of year visits this week but the current situation has required our plans to continually change. Even the weather hasn't been on our side, unfortunately impacting on what we had planned for Year 5 on Monday afternoon.

At the end of an academic year, we say goodbye to our oldest pupils, who are ready to start High School in September. We should have been having our Year 8 leavers assembly on Friday morning and we had hoped this year we could again gather as a school to celebrate the achievements of these pupils over this and the last four years. Covid has now sadly impacted on their final week here; we are incredibly sad about this and we will now look at alternative ways in which we can mark the end of their time at Whytrig. They have been a fantastic year group and deserve that. However, for now, we would like to wish them all and their families every future success and happiness.

Friday 16th July is the last day of the academic year. School will close for the children in each year group at the following staggered times:

Year 5: 12:45pm

Year 7: 12:50pm

Year 6: 12:55pm

Year 8: 1:00pm

Please note staff will not be setting any work in Google Classroom for any child that is isolating on Friday 16th July.

We plan to have our usual end of year celebrations in each Years 5, 6 and 7 over the course of the week, where we will be awarding certificates of achievement to the children; one child is nominated from each teaching group in each year group by the member of staff that teaches them. We also award one 'Star of the Year' from each year group; these children are presented with a trophy that they keep for the year. We look forward to being able to announce the winners on Friday!

We are now looking forward to September and the opportunities a new school year will bring. For some children, they will look to maintain the progress from this year; for some they will be able to enjoy a fresh start and 'reset' after the summer break. Following announcements made by the Government last week, we are now formulating the plans for our return to school in the new academic year, which will be shared with parents and carers in due course. **Please note however, Monday 6th September is a Teacher Training Day and the children will not be in school on this day.**

All pupils will return to school in September, however the Government require us to test some pupils before they return, as they did before the schools reopened on 8th March. We are currently finalising our plans around this and we **will be writing to you on Friday 20th August**, as will the other schools in the Federation to their parents and carers, with the finer details of what this will look like for everyone. I would kindly that you do carefully read the information that we send out on **Friday 20th August**. It is important that everyone has an understanding of how school will operate in September and our expectations for the start of the school year, in order to continue keeping everyone healthy and safe. If you do not receive the communication on **Friday 20th August**, please check email communications from school are going to the correct folder. If the message has not been received, please contact school so that we can resend it.

Could I also remind parents/carers that pupils are expected to return in September smartly dressed in the **correct school uniform**, so please ensure this occurs. In particular, could I reinforce that all students must wear formal black shoes as part of their uniform. This year we are sending an electronic copy of the revised school parent information pack to parents in Years 5, 6 and 7 and we would kindly ask that parents read through the contents, especially around uniform expectations and the complete the return form online at ENTER ADDRESS. Uniform is now ordered directly via Emblematic, our chosen supplier and details of the uniform can be found on our website at <https://www.svf.org.uk/whytrig-middle-school/school-life/uniform>. You can also visit Whytrig page on the Emblematic website directly by clicking on <https://emblematic.co.uk/longbenton-store/whms/>.

As the summer holidays approach, parents and carers may choose to enrol their children with providers of extra-curricular activities such as sport, drama and dance clubs. We have been asked by The Prevention Through Education Team of Northumbria Police to highlight the importance of asking questions about the existence of safeguarding measures and policies with these providers. They are directing parents to a website that contains advice about what to look out for when signing up for sports activities for your children, which could apply to any extra-curricular club. Visit <https://stop-cse.org/tackling-cse-in-sports/>.

Finally, I would again like to thank parents, carers and friends of the school for their continued support throughout this year, especially during the Spring Term. We have very much appreciated all the kind messages of appreciation that have been shared with us throughout the year. We would also like to thank all of our pupils who have coped with the challenges and demands of the year so well; they have been a credit to themselves and you. Of course, this is not possible without the hard work of the team of staff in school and on this site who support them in and out of their learning; we thank them for all their hard work!

Finally, we hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday and wish you all the very best for the weeks ahead! We look forward to seeing our new year groups back here again in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr J K Souter
Head of School