



Whytrig Newsletter

End of Term @whytrig MS

Autumn Term 2020

Friday 18 December
End of Autumn Term
(School closes at 1pm)

Spring Term 2021 5 January to 26 March

Monday 4 January
Teacher Day

Tuesday 5 January 2021
Start of Spring Term

Friday 12 February
End of half term

Monday 22 February
Start of half term

Friday 26 March
End of Spring Term

Summer Term 2021 13 April to 16 July

Monday 12 April
Teacher Day

Tuesday 13 April 2021
Start of Summer Term

Monday 3 May
Bank Holiday

KS2 SATs Week 2021 10 to 13 May

Friday 28 May
End of half term

Monday 7 June
Start of half term

Friday 16 July
End of Summer Term

This week we have been working hard finishing units of work and end of term assessments. We have also been able to enjoy some festive celebrations in our settings, with Christmas Lunch on Tuesday and Christmas Movie afternoon yesterday. Not to mention our final Year 6 cycle ride of 2020 with Mr Edwards and Mr Rothwell on Tuesday! We finished the term this morning with our virtual End of Term Assembly and an inter-class Christmas Quiz. This term the children have been a credit to you and to themselves as we worked together in unfamiliar territory for our school, with the vast majority of our school population showing a good understanding of why there has been a need to have the school organised in the way it is and why we have had certain expectations for them this term. The arrangements that we have in place will continue into next term and until we are told that we can return to some sort of normality. So I would like to congratulate the whole school on getting to this point of the year, during a time where we have really pulled together as a school community; certainly a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes to try to ensure we keep the disruptions to learning to a minimum. Special thanks must go to our fantastic teachers and support staff, who have ensured the children have been given the care and support they need to be successful in this difficult time. I would also like to thank the unsung heroes in our team of staff who have kept our building clean and safe and our children fed. So it goes without saying that we wish each and everyone of you and everyone associated with Whytrig Middle School the very best Christmas and we hope that you all stay safe and well. We really do hope that 2021 can be a good year for everyone!

Message From Father Phil

Hello everyone, it has been a long time since I visited you in School, I miss seeing you all. I send this message to you and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Our World has suffered a lot over this past year and many people and businesses have been affected by the Coronavirus. However, with Vaccines we should hopefully recover in 2021. Keep safe everyone, and remember at Christmas we celebrate the gift of the Christ Child-Jesus. Jesus came into our world to bring Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. Have lots of fun, and keep safe! I look forward to seeing you all again next year when I can visit school. I pray for you and ask God to bless each and every one of you and all your families too. Father Phil

Accelerated Reader

We would just like to highlight the fact that we are so proud of the effort all of the children have shown in their reading in this first term. We introduced them to a new program, Accelerated Reader and they have embraced it, making excellent progress towards their personalised targets. In the Autumn Term we ran a whole school competition and the winners were 7L. They won a lesson off timetable to enjoy themselves in the ICT room as a reward. The competitiveness (some classes more than others!) and enthusiasm all of the children have demonstrated has been a joy to see. We really are lucky to have such talented and hard-working students and we can't wait to see how their reading is going to progress when we return after their well-deserved Christmas break. We would also like to say a huge 'thank you' to all of the parents who purchased books through our book club, earning money for our school to buy even more books for our children to read. It really is appreciated. Thank you for your continued support. This term is just the beginning of our new reading adventure and there are plenty more competitions and prizes to look forward to in 2021. Well done everyone and keep reading!

Accelerated Reader Competition

Well done to 7L who won the class reading competition and earned a lesson off timetable in the ICT room as a reward.

5B: 87.1%;	5C: 83.1%;	5M: 80.1%;
6E: 77.7%;	6L: 82.6%;	
7L: 87.6%;	7Ro: 80.5%;	7Ru: 74.3%;
8C: 82.7%;	8L: 67.3%;	

Gold Pupils (25 Merits)

Well done to Joseph Smith, Lenox French, Ethan Shipley, Lexi Brown, Skye Hunter, Lucy Allen, Maggie Mackay, Ryan McKee, Derren Farrell and Sebastian Rutter-Close on reaching gold status this term.

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Friday, 18 December 2020

Excellent Pupils (50 Merits)

We have had lots of pupils who have now reached the 50 merit mark this year. A very well done to Layla Rutherford, Abi Hunter-Roberts, Bailey Wright, Lily Ferguson, Alana Graham, Aston Collier, Casey Wilson, Jacob Thomas, Kai Watt, Joseph Maloney, William, Allan-Dunbar, Heidi Dalgarno-Todd, Jamie Derrick, Molly Park, Annalise Watson, Georgina Gordon, Summer Murray, Jaden Watson, Carly Pears, Lana Coppen-Gibb, Lewis Nielsen, Keira Pentolfe, George Queenan, Zak Wyness, Grace Adams, Charlie Towns, Ellie Adam, Lexie French, Lewis Dawson, Reiss Mason, Kim Hutchinson, Hannah Wardle, Ellie Byford, Caroline Peddie, Taylor Bowery and Lilly Twizell.

Superstar Pupils (75 Merits).

Well done to Ella Taylor, Leo Senior, Alfie Henderson, Gwen Peddie, Lily Coates, Daniel Norris, Lily Thornton, Ryan Read, Caitlin Barnes, Lara Boxill, Kate Turner, Joe Turner and Alesha Slater on earning 75 merits this term.

Owl Award (100 Merits)

Well done to Ava J Miller, Bethany Collins, JJ Maloney, Luke Stewart and Katie McInerney who have all reached 100 merits in the Autumn Term. Great work everyone!

End of Term 2020

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Forrest, who has been covering for Mrs Chadwick when she was on maternity leave. Mrs Forrest has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience into school, as well as being responsible for settling in one of our new intake classes in Year 5 in the middle of these extraordinary times. We have all been very grateful to benefit from everything she has brought to school, including arranging some fantastic 'virtual' assemblies with authors to raise aspirations in the year group. I am sure that the school community as a whole, but in particular the children of 5C would like to wish Mrs Forrest all the very best for the future. Of course, as Mrs Forrest leaves, we welcome back Mrs Chadwick from maternity leave, who will return to 5C as their form teacher in January. It has been great seeing her back in school over the last fortnight as she gets to know the children in the Year group.

Sad News

We have sadly learned today that one of our former teachers, Mrs Rickard, sadly passed away last night. Mrs Rickard taught French for many years when we were based on our old site and was a fantastic personality to have as part of a school staff. She regularly attended school trips, including French residentials and will be a great loss. Our thoughts go out to her family at this sad time.

Start of Spring Term 2021

We return to school in the New Year and we would like to remind parents of the following:

Monday 4th January 2021 is a Teacher Training day - Pupils are not in school on this day.

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Due to the last minute decision yesterday from the Government about our return in January there have been some changes to information that we have previously sent out. School will re-open for all pupils in Key Stage 2 on 5th January but Year 7 and 8 will be at home for that week where online work will be set for them. Mr Barnes has sent out a message today to parents to explain what will happen. We are very sorry about this and the short notice of it. We are sending out a number of email communications around key worker and vulnerable children and online learning provision. We expect all Year 7 and 8 children to be back in school on Monday 11th January 2021 at this moment in time.

Could we please ask all parents/carers to ensure that all pupils return to school (whenever they do return), smart and organised for the year ahead. This includes making sure that pupils are following our school's policies on uniform, hairstyles and jewellery. In particular, can you please ensure your child is wearing the correct footwear for school. **Children should not wear trainers for school unless it is a PE day.** We appreciate there have been some issues replacing footwear during the lockdown and closure of non-essential retailers and our approach this term has reflected that. However, as the lockdown has ended today, there is now enough time and opportunity to ensure the children have the correct uniform for their return in January. We appreciate your support in this area in order to maintain our very high standards.