



Whytrig Newsletter

Autumn @whytrig MS

Autumn Term 2020

Friday 9 October
World Mental Health Day

Friday 23 October
Non Uniform Event
End of half term

Monday 2 November
Start of half term

Wednesday 11 November
Remembrance Day

Friday 13 November
Children In Need

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

Our Autumn Term is fully underway and our children have made a great start to the year in difficult circumstances. We are trying very hard to make school as 'normal' as we can, despite the constraints the children and staff are working in. So this week it has been great to see children taking part in weekly guitar and violin lessons again and the restart of some of our reward systems, such as the Star of The Week. Unfortunately, circumstances dictate that we can not run these in the same way as we have in previous years at the moment, but hopefully we can return to those routines at some point in the future.

Welcome!

Welcome to Miss Jensen who started with us at the beginning of September working as a technician in the Science department. We know that our children will enjoy working with her and will benefit from her scientific knowledge. We are also looking forward to welcoming a number of learning support staff in school very soon; we look forward to working with Miss Shieba, Mrs Eckert and Mrs Robinson.

Parent and Open Evenings

Unfortunately the current local restrictions have meant that we have had to cancel our planned KS2 and KS3 parent appointments, which would have taken place this week and in a fortnight. We will however be sending home a communication after half term once we have had our first data collection to let you know how your child has started the year, both generally and academically. Of course, should you have anything you need to discuss in relation to your child, please contact school at any time and arrange to speak with their class teacher. The planned open morning and evening in October has also been cancelled for the same reasons. Currently we are updating our website with information and presentations for parents who are applying for their child to start in September 2021. We hope to hold our annual open morning at some point next year if circumstances allow us to.

COVID Update

We greatly appreciate the support we have had from our pupils and parents in trying to keep our school population safe. From Monday 21st our Key Stage 3 children have been asked to wear face masks as a result of the local restrictions in the North East. They have been excellent and are a credit to themselves and you; it is fair to say that neither staff nor pupils would ever want to wear masks in school, but it is good to see that everyone has been willing to do their bit to keep each other safe. We realise that wearing masks on the yard has been the most difficult change to overcome, however in an area where children do struggle to remember to remain socially distant, it is just another measure to add to everyone's safety.

We are still experiencing some difficulties at our gate in the morning, with a number of children arriving a lot earlier than the time they have been asked to arrive in a morning. This creates a little congestion and the potential for year group bubbles to mix, which we do not want. In order to prevent this happening, **from Monday 5th October we require children in Years 7 and 8 to enter the site from the gate access at the far end of our yard on the corner of Whitfield Road and Swinburn Road.** This will help to further prevent any congestion at the gates and mixing of bubbles and will allow each year group to enter straight into their allocated area of the yard. We will have staff on both gates. Children in Year 7 and 8 are reminded that because their entrance to school is along a residential street, their behaviour and conduct should be appropriate at all times. All children will leave the site on an evening through the main gate due to the controlled release of year groups on an evening.

We are now also displaying our own unique QR code for any visitors to our site. We would like to remind everyone that visits are by appointment only and visitors to our site should wear a face mask and scan the QR code on entry. To do so you will need the new NHS app on your phone which can be downloaded from <https://www.covid19.nhs.uk/>.

Currently we are having to follow local restrictions in the North East of England. If you are unsure how these affect you and your family you can visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-east-of-england-local-restrictions> to find out what you can do in our area. This week the Government announced a further tightening of the rules, including situations which are now illegal which came into force on Wednesday 30th September and include indoor mixing between households in any setting. It is therefore important that everyone is aware of the current legalities and their own responsibilities within our community. Please also reinforce these with your children, so that the efforts that we are going to, to keep them and everyone else safe in school, are not going to waste if they are freely mixing outside of school.

Merit Awards

Well done to Louie Bell and Katie McInerney who are the first pupils this year to earn their Gold Pupil badges on reaching 25 merits. We also have Charlie Kidd, Alfie Dawson, Jimmy Tweedy, Martyna Flisikowska and Summer Bowman earning theirs too! They will have their badges presented in class as we are unable to hold whole school assemblies at present. Well done everyone.

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Friday, 02 October 2020

Stars Of The Week

Each week a 'Star of The Week' is nominated in each form class. They are each presented with a certificate in form class to celebrate their achievement. Unfortunately we are currently unable to get them all together to have hot chocolate and a biscuit with the Head of School, so they will each receive a bar of chocolate with their certificate.

Week ending 2/10/20

5B: Millie Eaton;

6E: Gracie Smith;

7L: Savannah Dunn;

8C: Reiss Mason;

5C: Jacob Knox;

6L: Kelsey Rochester;

7Ro: Liam Fawcett;

8L: Coral Oldham;

5M: Alyssya Sibley-Mather;

7Ru: Molly Park;

Accelerated Reader

We are excited about the launch of our new reading program: Accelerated Reader. Every child has been given a personalised reading book that is matched to their ability and it is very encouraging to see how enthusiastic and excited all of the children have been about this new venture! Well done everyone! There will be more information coming home soon to explain everything you need to know.

KS2 Music

Year 6 are learning guitar in music and we definitely have some budding rock stars in 6L. The children are enjoying it and have already learned how to play the bass lines to songs from Iron Maiden and ACDC. Year 5 have taken up the violin and are learning the different parts of the instrument, how to hold it correctly and are starting bow work soon. We are very lucky to be given the opportunity to invite our peripatetic teachers into school and enable our children to learn an instrument. Children who learn an instrument are more likely to be successful in other areas of their learning.

Walk To School Week

October is International Walk To School Month, so next week we are encouraging all of our children to walk to school if they can. Walk to school week is a five-day walking challenge endorsed by Living Streets around the theme this year of 'health and wellbeing'. During the week we will be celebrating the incredible physical and mental health benefits walking brings to every individual. As in previous awareness weeks, each pupil will be challenged to walk, cycle, scoot or 'park and stride' to school every day next week, and of course, doing so safely.

World Mental Health Day

Next weekend it is World Mental Health Day so in order to mark this event we plan to introduce children to the '5 Ways of Wellbeing' on Friday 9th October in School. They are 'connect', 'get active', 'be mindful', 'keep learning' and 'give to others'. Over the course of the day, children will be introduced to each way in each one of their five lessons in order to help support the children understand more about themselves and what they can do to have a healthy mental state. In these difficult times, it is more important than ever that we all know what we can do to try to ensure our mental wellbeing.

Non Uniform Day – 23rd October

It is our intention to hold a non-uniform day on the last day of this half term, in order to support our Accelerated Reader programme in school. However on this occasion, instead of children paying to wear non-uniform as a fund raiser, we are asking for them to donate at least one paperback book to the school's collection of reading resources, in order to give our pupils more choices when they engage with their daily reading. If books could be brought to school on the last day of term, we will be able to allow the recommended quarantine period of 72 hours (over the half term holiday) before we prepare them for the Accelerated Reader selections in each class. We will send a school communication out to parents nearer the time with more details about the day.

School Meals

We are offering the opportunity for school meals to be purchased on site at lunch times, with an ever expanding choice of meals. For more information please visit our website at <https://www.svf.org.uk/our-federation/school-meals>

**We must keep on
protecting each other.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE