



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2024/2025 - Spring term

Friday 7th March 2025

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Lost property - uniform to take

We have a large amount of jumpers, cardigans and black PE hoodies in our lost property that still have not been claimed from the autumn term and the first half of the spring term. As we have done previously, we will put this uniform out on the KS2 playground on Tuesday (weather dependent) before school and after school. This is to allow anybody to take any items that they would like. Unfortunately, charity shops do not accept uniform items and we couldn't even use 'Cash for Clothes' as they too do not accept uniform. **So if you need spare jumpers or hoodies, please come along and help yourself.**

To prevent the need for us to do this again, **please can you make sure that every item that is easy to remove during the day (coats, hoodies, jumpers, cardigans etc) are named.** Named items can be returned - unnamed ones can't.

We are not putting any coats out so if you have lost a coat, please ask as there are many that have been found! These will remain in the building and we can direct you to them if your child has lost theirs.

Uniform expectations - jewellery and nails

Yet again, we are seeing an increase in the number of children coming to school with nail varnish, false nails and jewellery. As stated in our correspondence (via website, newsletters and prospectus) we have a uniform expectation we would like the children to adhere to. If you are in any doubt, please see the following regarding the wider uniform expectations:

- No necklaces, rings or bracelets to be worn in school.
- Small studs for pierced ears - these must be removed or covered by tape on PE days.
- Long hair tied back.
- No nail varnish or false nails.



The Whinstone Farm Shop

Mr Carlton has been working on a new community project and will be running a 'Pop-up Farm Shop'. The goals of this are to help save food from being wasted and going to landfill and also to support our school community with some well priced food options.

Our Pop-Up will have many fabulous deals on tinned, canned, dried and fresh produce including toiletry items. Prices are £1 for 5 items, £2 for 10 items and £1 for 3 toiletry items.

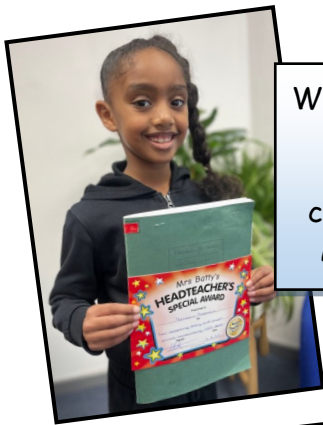
All of these products are sourced from local community champions including things such as fruit and vegetables donated by local shops. This is something that we hope will become a larger project in the future, but initially we are running some trial Pop-Ups to gauge take-up and to see the types of products people are interested in.

Please come along and have a look on Thursday from 3:00 - 3:45 on the KS2 playground.

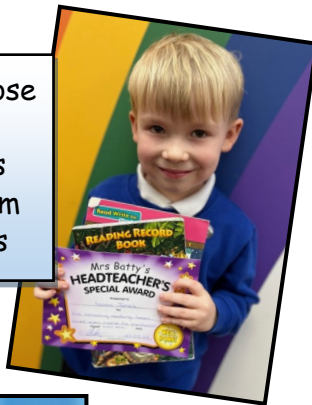
But remember, **it is cash only!**



Around Whinstone this week.



Well done to those who earned a Headteacher's certificate from Mrs Batty this

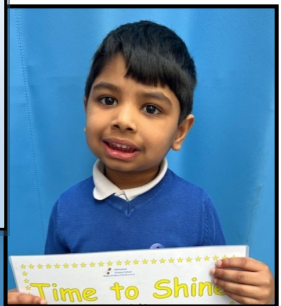


Time to Shine awards

This week we gave Time to Shine certificates to a special group of children. These are awards that are given once each half term and are focused on our school rules of 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'.

The recipients of the Time to Shine certificates for the first half of the spring term were children who always show they are ready to learn and do the right thing.

Congratulations to all of the winners - we are very proud of you.



Year 3 have started their new RE topic learning about Jewish celebrations..



We had a dance instructor come in and do a dance session with classes all across the school.





Pre-school children enjoyed some fun activities on pancake day.



We had some fun at lunchtimes in our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) zones and with the animals.



World Book Day

A huge thank you to Mrs Gibson and our Reading Ambassadors for putting together activities such as quizzes, reading bingo and treasure hunts. They also gave an amazing assembly with their performance of Room on a Broom.

Thanks to all the parents and families for supporting our day with amazing costumes. Here are just a few...

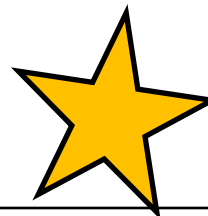




We were overwhelmed with the response to the paper plate activity. Winners will be announced next week and plates will be displayed in the corridors for all to see. They are all fantastic.



Whinstone Stars



William earned 'Man of the Match' when he played for his team last weekend. Well done!



Skyla did her first dance competition at the weekend. She goes to Craggs Dance School. The competition was at St. Patrick's in Stockton and Skyla came second in solo modern dancing. A fantastic achievement - well done!



Whinstone next week

Uniform—help yourself event

All items of unclaimed lost property from the autumn term will be out on the KS2 playground **before and after school on Tuesday** (weather permitting). Help yourself to any items you want - it's always good to have spares!

Music Monsters Concert

Our children who do piano lessons with Music Monsters will be doing a concert to their parents and Y3 and Y4 on Friday.

Pop-up Farm Shop

Thursday after school on the KS2 playground.

WHINSTONE FARM SHOP

Pop up on the KS2 playground

£1 FOR 5 ITEMS

£2 FOR 10 ITEMS

£1 FOR 3 TOILETRY PRODUCTS

Thursday 13th March

3:00pm-3:45pm

Come and help us save food from landfill and work towards a sustainable future.

At Whinstone Primary, we are starting a new venture to help to work towards a sustainable future.

We would like to ask for donations towards our farm shop. This could include:

- Tins/Cans
- Packets of rice, pasta or anything with a long life.
- Long life milk.
- Cleaning products.
- Toiletries.



Out and about



Ormesby Hall free World Book Day event

This weekend is FREE ENTRY for all at Ormesby Hall in Middlesbrough, as they host an exciting World Book Day® weekend.



Take all the family along on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March, when there will be storytelling, fun workshops, poetry and book themed crafts until 3pm.

Ormesby Hall will be open from 10.30am - 4pm, with last entry onsite and into the house at 3pm. The cafe closes at 3.30pm.

Look for a book throughout the garden - in partnership with the National Literacy Trust Middlesbrough, there'll be hidden books around the garden and those who find them will get to keep them!

The new storybook trail for families to enjoy around the house, garden and stables will be open, which features some of the most well-known storybook characters, including Red Riding Hood, Peter Pan, Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz and the Queen of Hearts from Alice in Wonderland!



Find out more from the website link [here](#).

Safeguarding and Family Support

30 | FREE

Hours per week

Childcare

Working parents of children aged 3 and 4 years old could be entitled to up to 30 hours free childcare a week, if they meet eligibility criteria.

Visit www.stockton.gov.uk/30hours or call the Families Information Service on Tel: 01642 527225 for more information about eligibility.



 Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Find out more
www.stockton.gov.uk/30hours

Don't forget to apply or reconfirm for your 30 hours free childcare before 31st March!

For more information visit www.stockton.gov.uk/30hours or call 01642 527225.

Safeguarding :

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the school is **Mrs Hardy**.



Our other safeguarding leads in school are:



Mrs Batty



Mrs Wilson- Dukes



Mr Carlton



Mrs Squires



Mr Ford

If you are worried about a child, please call the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub on **01429 284284 / 01642 130080** or out of office hours call **01642 524552**

In an emergency, please contact the Police on **101** or **999**.

Attendance



Whole school attendance (year to date)

95.0%

National average = 94.6%

We have had an increase in the number of parents trying to avoid telling us they are on holiday. Many report holidays as illness, but unfortunately for a lot of those families, we often find out the truth!

We are regularly made aware by others (you would be surprised how many 'anonymous tip offs' we receive), we see social media posts, we do home visits, your child's friends tell us about the holidays their friends are on, even your own child on their return can let it slip that they have been away! Just telling us the truth about any holiday is so much easier, saves so much time and means your child isn't put in the awkward position of having to lie about being away .

Please, just tell us when you are going away.

I do feel it is important that you understand that, as a school, we **do not benefit at all from fining anyone** for term time absences - **not a single penny comes to school from fines**. However, attendance is a new focus for the Government and it is now a statutory requirement for schools to check any absences and report to the authority as necessary.