



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2024/2025 - Summer term

Friday 9th May 2025

Whinstone Wide - General school information

SATs next week for Year 6

Next week, our Year 6 pupils have their SATs. The children have worked exceptionally hard to prepare for these and we are all very proud of them. Although SATs are important, we must always remember they just measure one aspect of your child and their journey through life - they are not the full picture. The children in Y6 will undoubtedly do their best and that is all we can ask.

If you have a Year 6 pupil, here are some things you can do to help their tests go smoothly:

*Please make sure they arrive on time each day - we don't want children to undertake tests stressed because they have arrived late.

*Encourage your child to have a good breakfast - food is fuel for the brain!

*If they suffer from hay fever, please make sure they have had the necessary medication prior to coming in.

This weekend should be about resting and relaxing - having lots of fresh air, getting some good sleep, enjoying the sun - just being a child!

I have found this poem and it sums things up perfectly:

SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.
SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.
SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.
SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.
So sitting at your table, with a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are, remember you're the best.

Short shorts reminder

This week, we are still seeing some very short shorts being worn for PE. Shorts should be of an appropriate length (mid thigh at least) - no hot pants please. Hot pants are fine for the beach or holiday, but not suitable to wear in school. Staff have spoken to the children about this, so please can you reiterate this message with them at home.

Parent Governor

We have had no response to the vacancy for a parent Governor. Governor volunteers work alongside the school's senior leadership team to set targets, formulate school policy and plan for future development.

To apply for this position, please complete the Parent Nomination form which has been sent out to you all.



Thank you from the Friendship Café at St Francis

Following our KS2 visit to St Francis of Assisi church last week, we received the following email that I would like to share with you.

*I would just like to say a huge thank you to the staff and pupils for the beautiful flowers and plants that they brought to our Friendship cafe at the church of St Francis of Assisi this morning.
Please pass on my appreciation for the generosity and thoughtfulness of everyone involved. It was lovely to see the children.*

I would also like to thank you all for your generosity. These little acts of kindness make a big difference to people in our community.

Around Whinstone this week.



We had our VE day celebrations in school to commemorate the 80 year anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. In school, children had an assembly, observed the two minute silence, wore red, white and blue and took part in various activities throughout the day.





Year 2 had a Forest School session and ate marshmallows!



Our Art Ambassadors and some of the Crafty Explorers worked hard on the scenery for the school's drama club production of 'Joseph'.



One of our pupils planted a very young Horse Chestnut tree which he has grown from a conker.

Friends of Whinstone held their Ice Cream Friday.



Our reception children did some amazing homework.





A new OPAL zone - the Dig Zone - opened this week.



Other OPAL zones continued to be popular.



Whinstone Stars

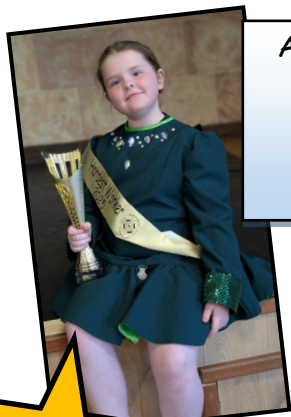


Ella-Rose had a dance exam in jazz. She took the Bronze Bar examination and achieved a distinction. Well done, Ella-Rose.



Haneen's football team won their league. She is off to Middlesbrough Town Hall for a big presentation. Well done, Haneen!

Whinstone Stars



Addie learns and competes in Irish dancing. She was awarded the *Hardest Worker of the Year* award at her Irish dancing school. Well done, Addie!



Emily, who is the captain of her football team, won the cup final of the Teesside Junior Football Alliance Under 10 Girls Challenge Cup. Well done, Emily!



Owen competed in the Northern Regional Trampolining finals and he won his category. He is now the age 9-10 level 3 boys Northern Trampoline Champion for 2025. This gives him a place on the Northern Regional Squad and he will be competing in the British championships. What an amazing achievement - well done, Owen.



Whinstone next week

Year 6 SATs

These take place each morning from Monday to Thursday.

Year 3 - Forest school

On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 3 children will be having their next Forest School session.

Drama Club

Our Drama Club will continue their rehearsals for their production of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. From what I've seen and heard, it is going to be great!

Carlton meeting

On Wednesday straight after school, there is a meeting for the Y6 parents about the upcoming Carlton residential. You will have received information about this already.

Safeguarding and Family Support



Looking after ourselves

Single session supporting parents in looking after themselves.

Recognising signs of stress and identifying ways to recharge our batteries.

For all parents and carers.



Workshop for parents on how to reduce parental stress

The *Looking After Ourselves* workshop explores parental stress and the tools to reduce it in order to improve emotional and physical health.

The next workshop is:

Tuesday 15th May at 12:30pm-2:30pm at Thornaby Family Hub

To book your place, please speak with a member of the team at your local Family Hub or call them on 01642 528525.

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%