



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2024/2025 - Summer term

Friday 4th July 2025

Whinstone Wide - General school information

SPARK Education Trust Awards



This week, our newly formed Trust had their first ever award ceremony. The Spark Awards are to celebrate and recognise individuals nominated by their colleagues, for the contributions they make within the schools and therefore to the wider Trust. I was very pleased to hear we had some staff at Whinstone who were selected as finalists and attended the evening. Our finalists were:

Mr Good - Outstanding Teacher of the Year

Mrs Lofts - Early Career Teacher of the Year.

Drama club staff - Team of the Year—for their production of 'Joseph'

Mrs Godwin and Mrs McGough - Enrichment Champion Award for their contribution to OPAL

Ms McNaughton - Inspirational Leader of the Year for her management of SEND

Mrs Edon - Outstanding Support Staff Award

Mrs Thomas and Mrs Rees-Grant - Unsung Hero Award

To be selected as a finalist was a fantastic achievement and to have so many from our school is really something to be proud of. But, to make things even better, Mrs Edon won her category.

Well done to Mrs Edon, SPARK Education Trust's first winner of the Outstanding Support Staff Award.



Teesside Mind Colour Run



On Friday 11th it is our Colour Run as arranged by the Mental Health Champions. We asked for you to return your child's sponsor form and money raised to their class teacher by no later than today, Friday 4th July 2025, but have decided to extend this until Monday. **If you have not yet brought in your sponsor money - make sure you do so by Monday.** We need the final numbers of children taking part to ensure Teesside Mind have sufficient paint and resources for the day. Please remember, **there must be a minimum total sponsorship of £3.50 for your child to take part in the Colour Run.**

I am sure the event will be a huge success and something that the children remember. Last year it was certainly one of our highlights and we raised a significant amount of money to support the important work carried out by the charity.

School Trip Payments

This week, we had to cancel a trip we had planned for the Year 6 children in their final week at Whinstone. This is something that we have never had to do before and something we hope never to have to do again. Unfortunately, due to over 20% of the year group not making payments to contribute to the costs, we had insufficient funds to go ahead. In the current financial climate, we understand that having to ask parents to make a contribution towards funding trips is not ideal, but likewise schools are watching every penny and having to make cost saving decisions that impact us all. We have no budget to supplement and fund trips, and if money raised is not sufficient to pay the costs of transport and entry fees, then the trip cannot go ahead. School does not make a profit on any trip - the amount we ask you to contribute is the amount it costs. The biggest outlay is always the transport where the cost of coaches has increased significantly.

Fortunately, this story has a happy ending for our Year 6 pupils. A group of parents came together and raised the necessary money. If you were one of the parents who helped out, can I please say a huge thank you on behalf of the school and Year 6 children. It was extremely generous of you to do this and we cannot thank you enough - you have truly saved the day and have made the final week for our Year 6 children extra special.

Arts Award Discover



Discover is the launch-pad for the Arts Award qualifications: Explore, Bronze, Silver and Gold. This introductory level is designed for ages 5 and above and open to anyone aged 25 and under. It typically takes 20 guided learning hours, and everyone who completes this introductory award receives a certificate from Trinity College London. Some of our children who take weekly piano lessons in school through Music Monsters, have been working hard and received this award. Well done to them all.



School Dinner Choices

If your child has school dinners, they usually choose their meals a week in advance using a colour coded system and wristbands.

However, for the last week of term (the week commencing 14th July) the children will not need to choose in advance. There will be a selection of meals available every day and children will choose when they arrive at the food counter. This is to help us reduce the stock in the kitchen before we close for the summer holidays.

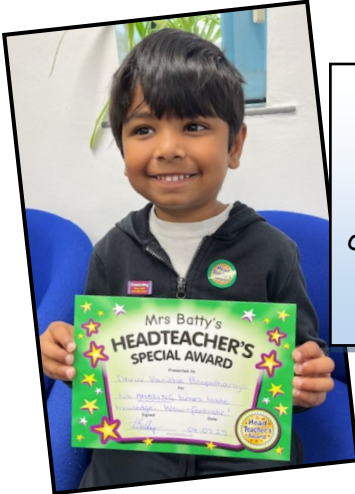


New Classes and Reports

Next week, we will be having our transition morning where children meet their new teacher and spend some time with them. This is going to take place on Friday morning. On this day, you will receive a letter officially telling you your child's new class teacher because it is surprising how many of our younger children forget their teacher's name - especially if it is not somebody they have encountered much before.

On Tuesday, your child should also bring home their end of year report so please look out for this in their bag. Alongside this, the Year 6 children will receive their SAT results. Whatever the results are, we know that our children did their best and that is all we can ask.

Around Whinstone this week.



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



This afternoon Mrs Burey and Mrs Gibson trained our newly appointed anti-bullying ambassadors from Y3 and Y4 in preparation for September. They were brilliant at using the three key skills: empathy, confidence and listening.

They are going to be excellent ambassadors.



Reception children have been learning about pirates. They created treasure maps, went on a treasure hunt and made pirate outfits.



Our Year 2 children have been learning to sew. They have used this skill to make hand puppets.



We held our sports days.



Year 6 did leaf printing in their Forest School session.



Our Year 2 children went on a trip to Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum.



Year 3 have been making masks.



One Year 5 class visited the Ingleby library and Tesco as part of the Farm to Fork scheme.



★ Whinstone Stars ★★



Floss and Violet will be performing in Holly's Dance Academy production, 'That's Entertainment.' at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium in Yarm.

To get up on the stage and perform in front of an audience is very brave.

Well done, girls.

★ Whinstone next week ★

Reception trip

Our reception children are going on a trip on Monday to Hardwick Park.

Year 6 Forest School

Year 6 continue with their Forest School sessions.

Reports go out to parents

The reports will go out on Tuesday - look out for this in your child's bag.

Year 5 visit Tesco and the library

The second Y5 class will be visiting the library and Tesco this week. They are looking at 'Farm to Fork'. This will take place on Wednesday.

Pre-school graduation

Our Pre-school has their graduation event on Wednesday afternoon. We can't wait to see them in their graduation gowns!

Year 5 and Year 6 Sparks Speaks competition.

The Sparks Speaks winner from our school will be selected ready to attend the grand final on the 15th July.

Colour Run.

Friday afternoon is the Teesside Mind Colour Run.

New class morning.

On Friday, your child will find out their new teacher and spend some time with them.

Safeguarding and Family Support



Here to help you juggle family life

Balancing a busy schedule with family life can be a bit easier with wraparound childcare.

Search 'Childcare Choices' to see what support you could get.

HM Government

Childcare Choices

Family Support - What is available?

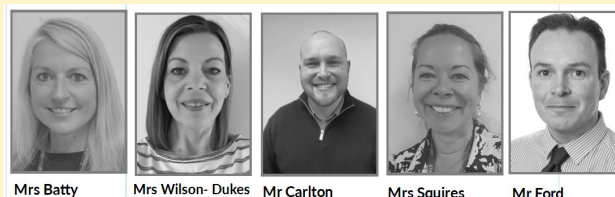
With the cost of living continuing to rise, there might be some help and support out there.

Visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk or contact the Families Information Service on 01642 527225 for more information.

Safeguarding :

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

Our other safeguarding leads in school are:



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)

94.9%

National average = 94.5%