



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Autumn term

Friday 5th September 2025

## Whinstone Wide - General school information



Welcome back to a new year at Whinstone Primary. I hope you all had a lovely summer, at least the weather this year was good which always helps. It is great to see the children back with us - they all look so smart in their new uniform. The week has been calm and the children have settled back well - a great start to the new academic year!

I would like to say an especially warm welcome to all of the new children who have joined our pre-school and those who have joined other year groups. We would also like to introduce you to a new member of Whinstone staff, Miss Towler, who will be teaching this year in Year 2.



### Uniform

As we start the new year, can I please ask that you **name all jumpers, coats and hoodies** so they can be returned to your child if found around the school building and grounds. These items are ones that the children take off when they get too warm and just forget to pick back up again. Already I have multiple black PE hoodies and blue jumpers/cardigans - all very new - all unnamed. Naming uniform does not have to involve any sewing or fancy printed labels - a name written on the label in a biro is absolutely fine. All we ask is that you check it regularly to ensure it is still visible. With the current cost-of-living crisis, it would be so annoying if you have purchased lovely school uniform only for it to be lost within days.

Losses are minimised by naming the uniform, so please don't forget.

### Sports Club

We will be continuing our afterschool sports provision with the external provider 'Live It and Get Active'. This is open to all pupils from Year 2 to Year 6. This term the focus is multi-sports and the sessions will run throughout the Autumn term (a total of 13 sessions) starting in the week commencing 8th September. Please note that it does not run in half-term or in the last week of term before Christmas. The cost is £4 per session.



The day your child's year group has been allocated is shown in the table.

Places are limited to 20 children each day, so please book early to avoid disappointment. You can book a place on your Arbor App under the section 'Clubs'.



Year group	Day of club
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5 and Year 6	Thursday

**Breakfast Club bookings:**

We have extended the opening of our Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club runs every morning from and 7:45am. We understand the importance of affordable wraparound care and remain committed to providing a welcoming, supportive start to the school day. The cost of this, which includes breakfast, is £5. We ask that Breakfast Club is booked in advance to ensure we have the correct number of staff. Breakfast Club is available to book via the Arbor app.

### Year 6 secondary school open evenings

Although we have just started the new school year, some of our children will soon have to think about their options for secondary schools for next year. Open evenings provide an opportunity for both parents and our current Y6 children to explore the school and meet the staff.

A full list of the dates are available on the Stockton-on-Tees website ([link here](#)) but the ones most of our children attend are shown below. If your child is currently in Year 6, make a note of these dates.

<b>All Saints</b>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 5pm - 7pm
<b>Conyers</b>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 4:30pm - 7pm
<b>Egglescliffe</b>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 5:30pm - 8pm
<b>Ingleby Manor</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 5pm - 7pm

## UK Emergency Alert Testing

We would like to make everyone aware that the government will be carrying out a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts system on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 3pm.**

The test alert will be sent to all compatible 4G and 5G mobile phones and tablets across the UK.

An emergency alert looks and sounds very different to other types of messages you might receive on your phone. You'll hear a loud, siren-like sound and your phone or tablet will vibrate - even if your phone is on silent mode. Many charities are concerned that this may inadvertently reveal phones hidden by victims of domestic violence which they use to maintain contact with trusted friends and relatives. If you are in a situation where you have such a phone, please check for how to opt out or ensure the device is turned off.



## Harvest Festival

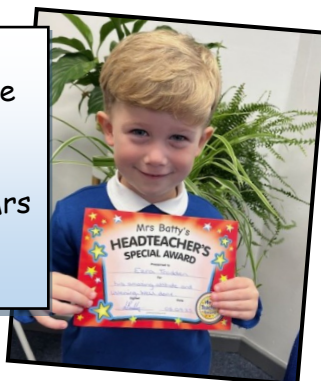
During this half-term, we will be having a collection of **tinned, dried and packaged food** for Thornaby Food Bank to support those in the local community who may be struggling at the moment. **Toiletries and hygiene products** are also greatly appreciated.

Please bring any donations to school and hand them to your child's teacher as Mr Good is creating an area to display these items. Mr Good is also going to be doing a special Harvest Festival assembly for all the school towards the end of the half term - harvest really is a whole school event!

# Around Whinstone this week.



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




We were delighted to welcome the Tees Valley Mayor (who is also a past pupil at Whinstone) to school on Thursday. He visited to congratulate Addie, one of our Y4 pupils, on her outstanding fundraising achievement over the summer holidays where she has raised well over £1000 for 'Young Lives vs Cancer'.

The Mayor also took the time to speak to our KS2 children about how to become a Mayor and also to seek the children's ideas for our community. Their ideas included less construction and building on Ingleby, less rubbish and more shops!

Mayor Houchen commented on the excellent behaviour of our children, especially those who offered their opinions and asked questions.

## Whinstone Stars

 Ted and Max both attend Judo sessions. They have recently been in a competition where both of them placed.  
A fantastic achievement - well done!



# Whinstone next week

### Live it and Get Active Sports Clubs start

Places are limited to 20 children each day, so please book early to avoid disappointment. You can book a place on your Arbor App under the section 'Clubs'.



# Safeguarding and Family Support



**Family Hubs**

## Nurturing Programme

**"Everyone should attend this course" is what our parents and carers tell us**

Looking at:

- Emotional wellbeing of the family
- Negotiating with your child
- How to best communicate with your child
- Keeping your child safe
- Supporting your child

Free to Stockton-on-Tees residents

For more information or to book on contact us on:

01642 528525   familyhubs@stockton.gov.uk   @SOTFamilyHubs



## Nurturing Programme at the Family Hubs

Spaces are available on the Nurturing Course at both Thornaby and Redhill Family Hubs this September. The course focuses on things such as emotional wellbeing of the family, negotiating with your child, keeping your family safe and how best to support your children.

The Nurturing course is at two of the Stockton Family Hubs:

Redhill Family Hub - course starts September 11th

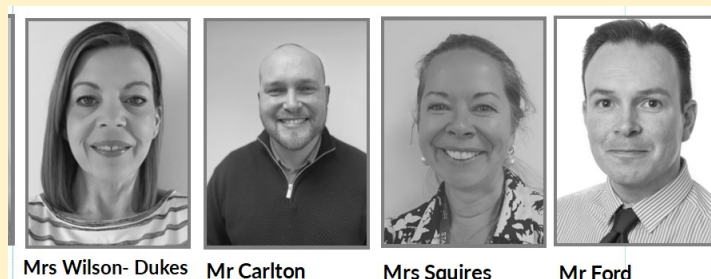
Thornaby Family Hub - course starts September 18th

Call the Family Hub on 01642 528525 for information on how to book a place.

## Safeguarding :

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

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**

# Attendance



Whole school attendance (year to date)

**96.4%**

National average = 94.4%



WHINSTONE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Helping each other to be the best we can be.*



*Hello,*

My name is Christina Owens, I am the Parent Support Advisor here at Whinstone Primary School.

My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour and wellbeing. We understand that many children and families experience difficult times which can make a happy, successful school and home life a struggle.

At Whinstone Primary School the emotional welfare of our pupils is of the greatest importance and having a dedicated Parent Support Advisor enables these issues to be given the time and care needed to be sensitively and compassionately worked through together.

We seek to break down the barriers to learning and help you to deal with challenges in a positive way so that all children can be successful and make good progress.

### **What can I offer?**

- Support and advice if you have any concerns about your child.
- Help find services/ agencies who are available to help you and your family.
- Help with issues around school attendance
- Act as a link between school and home
- Above all else a listening ear!

Please keep an eye out for upcoming drop-in sessions and coffee mornings!

Looking forward to getting to know you all.

*OWens*

I will be based in Whinstone on Thursday and Fridays.

However I can be contacted throughout the school week at the main office: 01642 750318 or by email at [admin@whinstone.org.uk](mailto:admin@whinstone.org.uk) (Subject: FAO PSA)