



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Autumn term

Friday 17th October 2025

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Online Safety

Mrs. Woodley, our school's Computing Lead, arranged for Martin Bailey - an online safety expert - to deliver a session for parents and carers on keeping children safe online. Unfortunately, despite having 425 children in the school, only five families attended.

This was particularly concerning, as our staff are frequently called upon to address online issues that arise outside of school, often involving apps such as WhatsApp and TikTok - platforms for which none of our pupils are technically old enough to have.

At Whinstone, we are committed to supporting parents in promoting online safety; however, it is disappointing when such valuable opportunities for guidance are not taken up. Online safety is a shared responsibility - schools play a vital role, but parents must also be actively involved.

Those who did attend found the session extremely informative and appreciated the chance to ask questions and receive practical advice from an expert in the field.

We sincerely hope that future online safety events will see greater attendance. These sessions are designed to help parents stay informed about the ever-changing digital landscape and to provide essential support in keeping children safe online at home.

Reports and drop-in open evenings for parents

Next week, you will receive your child's first report of the academic year. After half term, there will be an opportunity to come into school as we are holding two drop-in open evenings on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November. This will give you an opportunity to look at your child's work and speak with their teacher.

Alternatively, if you feel you need to speak with your child's teacher before then, please contact school and a suitable time can be arranged.

Unfortunately, Mr Ford's class have a slight change to their evenings. Mr Ford is unavailable on Wednesday 12th November, so he will have his open evenings on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th November.

Please see the table below that clearly shows the dates and timings of these drop-in sessions.

	Monday 10 th November 3:30pm - 6:00pm	Tuesday 11 th November 3:30pm - 5:00pm	Wednesday 12 th November 3:30pm - 6:00pm
Reception		√	√
Year 1		√	√
Class 2T (Miss Towler)		√	√
Class 2F (Mr Ford)	√	√	
Year 3		√	√
Year 3		√	√
Year 5		√	√
Year 6		√	√

Toy Fair

On Friday 7th November, we are holding a toy fair in school. The toy fair is a great fundraiser and any money raised is used to enhance the experiences of our Early Years children. Toys will be sold ranging in price from 50p to £4.00.

If you have any good quality, pre-loved toys that you would like to donate, please send them in to school. This event is usually very popular with the children and a great fundraiser at the same time.

Dates for your calendar

With Christmas fast approaching, there are a few key dates we would like to share with you. We are hoping to finalise all dates for the year (sports days etc) and get these out to you soon, but these are dates you may need to be aware of for next half term.

Christmas event/performances to parents	
Pre-school	Christmas craft event on Wednesday 3 rd December
Reception	Friday 5 th December at 2:15pm
Year 1	Tuesday 9 th December at 2:15pm
Year 2	Friday 12 th December at 2:15pm
Year 3	Christingle service Friday 5 th December 10:30am at St Francis church
Year 4	Thursday 11 th December at 2:30pm
Year 5	Wednesday 10 th December at 2:30pm
Year 6	Monday 8 th December at 2:30pm
Other events	
Children in Need Donation to the charity. Non-uniform.	Friday 14 th November
Whinstone Primary Christmas Fayre	Friday 28 th November 3:15pm - 5:30 pm
Friends of Whinstone Christmas discos	Thursday 4 th December
Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day	Wednesday 10 th December
Christmas panto trip for Year 3 and Year 4 Beauty and the Beast at Stockton Riverside College No cost to parents as funded by Friends of Whinstone A slightly late return to school at approximately 3:30pm	Monday 15 th December
Christmas panto trip for Year 5 and Year 6 Beauty and the Beast at Stockton Riverside College No cost to parents as funded by Friends of Whinstone A slightly late return to school at approximately 3:30pm	Tuesday 16 th December
Christmas panto trip for Reception and KS1 Santa's Jungle Jamboree at Middlesbrough Cathedral No cost to parents as funded by Friends of Whinstone	Wednesday 17 th December
Last day of term	Friday 19 th December

School dinner menu

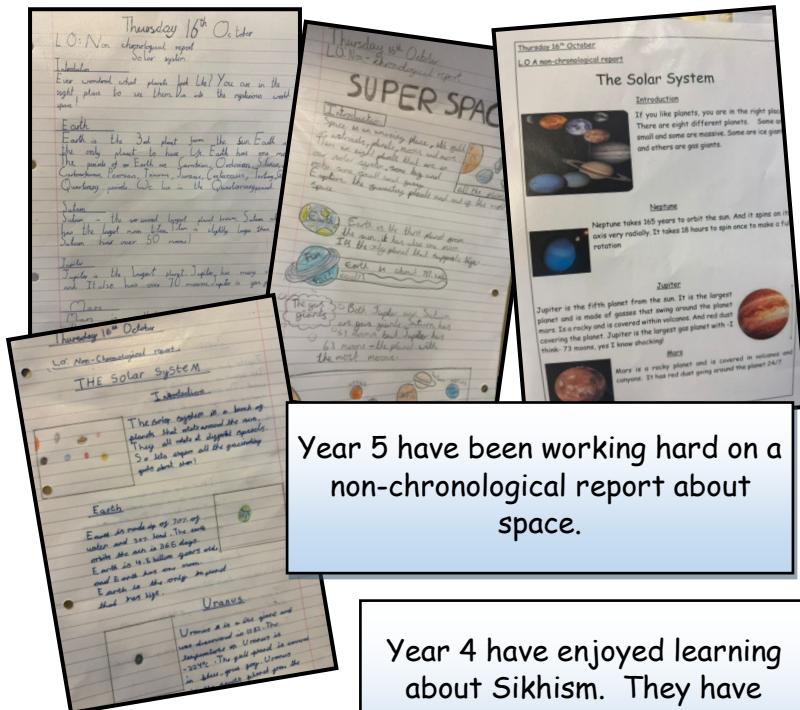
After half term, the school dinner menu changes. The new menus run up until Easter. This is available on our website but is also shown below.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SPARK Autumn Winter 2025/26					
WEEK ONE Week Commencing Nov 3 rd Nov 24 th Dec 15 th Jan 19 th Feb 9 th March 9 th March 30 th	Option One Beef burger in a Bun with Ketchup and Wedges	Spaghetti Bolognese	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	NEW Savoury Chicken Rice Biryani	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two Tomato & Vegetable Pasta with Garlic Bread	BBQ Quorn Pieces with Baby New Potatoes	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Cajun Wedges	Cheese and Bean Pasty with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
	Dessert NEW Apple Crumb Cake with Custard	Jelly with Mandarins	Rice Pudding with Mixed Berries	Peach Crumble with Custard	Pear & Ginger Slice
WEEK TWO Week Commencing Nov 10 th Dec 1 st Jan 5 th Jan 26 th Feb 16 th March 16 th	Option One Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges	Cowboy Sausage Casserole	Beef Mince and Dumpling with Crushed Potatoes	CHICKEN SHACK BBQ Chicken or Lemon Herb Quorn with Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa	Breaded Fish or Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two Mild Mexican Chili with Rice	Classic Vegan Bolognese with Pasta	Vegan Sausage with Gravy and Crushed Potatoes	Vegetables of the Day	Cheese Whirl with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
	Dessert Pineapple Loaf with Custard	Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	NEW Gingerbread Cookie	D241 Mixed Fruit Crumble with Custard	Vanilla Shortbread
WEEK THREE Week Commencing Nov 17 th Dec 8 th Jan 12 th Feb 2 nd Feb 16 th March 2 nd March 23 rd	Option One Puff Pastry Topped Mince and Onion Pie with Mash	NEW Chicken Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges	Pork Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chinese Chicken Curry with Golden Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread	Rainbow Pizza with Paprika Wedges	Shepherdless Pie with Gravy	Vegan Burger in A Bun with Ketchup and Wedges	Spanish Omelette with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
	Dessert Oaty Cookie	Pear Crumble with Custard	Chocolate and Apple Sponge	NEW Jamaican Ginger Cake with Custard	Cornflake Tart
MENU KEY	Added Plant Protein	Wholemeal	Vegan	Chef's Special	
Available Daily: - Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings - Bread freshly baked on site daily- Daily salad selection - Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt					
ALLERGY INFORMATION: If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.					
feeding the imagination					

Around Whinstone this week.



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



Year 5 have been working hard on a non-chronological report about space.



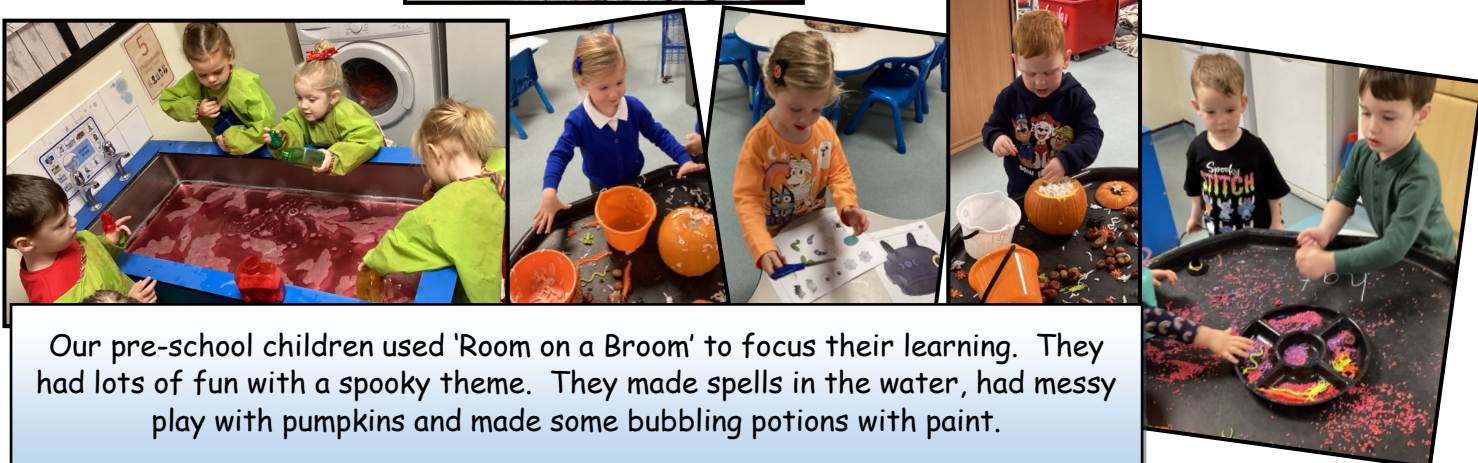
Our reception children have been practising their motor skills ready for writing, by hammering golf tees into a pumpkin.



Year 4 Forest school created natural art.



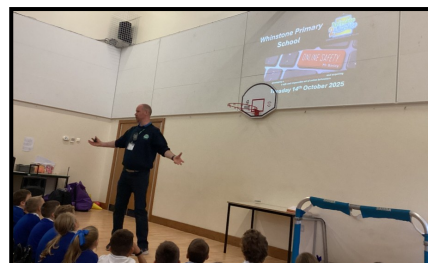
Year 4 have enjoyed learning about Sikhism. They have learnt about the five K's and about a Sikh wedding.



Our pre-school children used 'Room on a Broom' to focus their learning. They had lots of fun with a spooky theme. They made spells in the water, had messy play with pumpkins and made some bubbling potions with paint.



Year 4 had fun in PE on the equipment.



Martin Bailey, an online safety expert, delivered an assembly to pupils in Years 3-6 on the theme of using apps and messaging services responsibly.



Lego Club have finished the building stage - they are now ready to start designing and coding their robot.



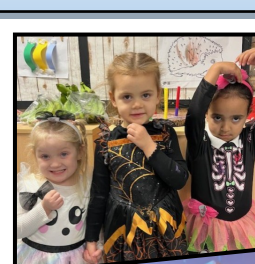
Video Games club have been working on their resilience through competitive Mario Kart.



Year 1 have been making potions, spells and having fun with pumpkins.



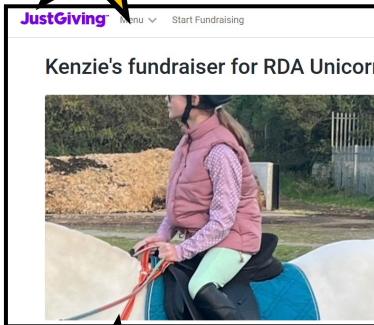
Children enjoyed their lunchtime OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) time.



Our Halloween discos took place - lots of games, dancing and costumes!



Whinstone Stars



Kenzie is fundraising for the RDA Unicorn Centre, a purpose-built Riding for the Disabled Association Centre providing riding therapy, learning, achievement and fun for children and adults with a large range of disabilities from the Teesside area and beyond. The centre is under threat of closure.

Kenzie says, "It's not just where I learn to ride - it's where I've made friends (both people and horses), learned to be brave, and discovered how much I love caring for animals."

Kenzie has set up a Just Giving page ([link here](#)) to try to keep this centre going. Fantastic community spirit, Kenzie. Well done!



Amelia competed last weekend at Flamingo Land in a big dance competition. As you can see, she did extremely well winning trophies!

Fantastic, Amelia - what a superstar you are!



Whinstone next week

Pre-school and Reception Bedtime Read

Our Pre-school and Reception have their Bedtime Read where parents come in with their child to enjoy a good story.

School reports go out

Your child's first report for the year will be coming out next week. Look out for this in their bag.

We finish for half-term on Wednesday

Wednesday is the last day of school, from Thursday we are closed to children for half term. School reopens on Monday 3rd September.

Year 6 reminder to apply for a secondary school place

Applications for secondary places for September 2026 will close at midnight on 31 October. Any late applications will only be considered after those made on time have been processed. Everything you need to know can be found by following this [link](#).

Safeguarding and Family Support

SEND Club at Thornaby Family Hub

SEND Club at Thornaby

 Monday 20 October 2025

 Start Time 16:00 - 17:00

 Thornaby Family Hub

The family craft group is for children a with SEND diagnosis or on pathway.

Booking essential as spaces are limited.

Parents must stay with children, siblings welcome.

Contact details

01642528525

FamilyHubs@stockton.gov.uk

Cost

This is a free event



Safeguarding :

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

Our other safeguarding leads in school are:



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**

Attendance



Miss Owens, our PSA, is available to support and help you with any concerns or issues you may have regarding attendance. She can also offer advice on other services available to parents. Contact the school if you would like to speak with her.

Whole school
attendance (year to date)

95.8%

National average = 95.4%