



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Autumn term

Friday 28th November 2025

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### Christmas performances and parties

As we approach the busy Christmas season, we would like to share a reminder of the key dates and events for your child. Below, you will find a timetable organised by year group so you can easily see what is happening and when.

Please note that the Year 3 performance is a service at **St Francis of Assisi Church**, beginning at **10:30am for parents**. An earlier version of this information listed the time children would be leaving school rather than the actual start time of the service. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

Year	Theatre Date	Party Date	Performance Date
Preschool		Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December (Morning and afternoon)	Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> December Christmas Crafts and Singing 10:00-11:00
Reception	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 12:30-2:30 Santa's Jingle Jamboree	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2:15-3:15
Y1	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 12:30-2:30 Santa's Jingle Jamboree	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec 14:30 - 15:15
Y2	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 12:30-2:30 Santa's Jingle Jamboree	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2:15-3:15
Y3	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 1:00-3:30 Beauty and the Beast	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December Christingle at St Francis church <b><u>Parents to arrive for a 10:30 start</u></b>
Y4	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 1:00-3:30 Beauty and the Beast	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2:30 - 3:15
Y5	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 1:00-3:30 Beauty and the Beast	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)	Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 14:30 - 15:15
Y6	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 1:00-3:30 Beauty and the Beast	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 14:30 - 15:15

Also, here is another reminder about Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day which is on Wednesday 10th December. If your child usually brings a packed lunch but would like to enjoy the Christmas dinner instead, they are very welcome to do so. For any child who does **not** normally have school dinners, but would like a Christmas meal, please complete [this form](#) by **9am on Monday 1st December**.

### SPARK Writing Competition reminder

Mrs Gibson would like to remind all children who wish to take part in the writing competition to submit their entries by **Friday 5th December**.

Children have been invited to write a story of **up to 500 words**, inspired by the word "**spark**". We can't wait to see what *sparks* your imagination and the fantastic ideas you come up with!

### Promoting good attendance - Attendance Advent

It's the most wonderful time of the year and we're spreading extra festive cheer with our **Attendance Advent** throughout December.

Every child who achieves **100% attendance this month** will be entered into our **Christmas prize draw**, with winners being drawn on the **last day of term**!

And that's not all...children who have maintained **100% attendance for the whole term** will receive **an extra entry** into the draw.

Our attendance figures have improved from the same point last year, which is down to you supporting school and promoting good attendance. Thank you and let's continue to keep spirits bright by supporting excellent attendance this festive season.





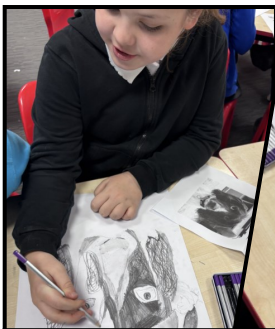
# Around Whinstone this week.



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



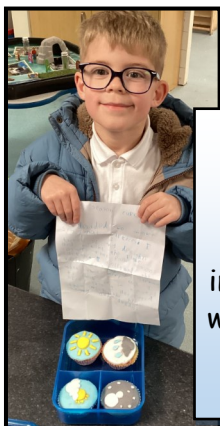
Well done to the KS1 Reading Stars of the first half of autumn term for their fantastic reading.



The children who attend Crafty Explorers started drawing their own choice of subject for pencil drawings. There was an amazing level of intricate artistic skills.



Year 1's lunchtime Games Club was well attended and enjoyed.



Some amazing homework was completed - including making weather themed cakes!



Christmas has officially started and the decorations are up.





Some of our children went to dress our Christmas tree at St Francis church. Children met parishioners from different churches and shared in with some treats at the Friendship Café.



We had our Christmas Fayre which included Santa's Grotto and a performance of Christmas songs by members of the choir.



Our whole school art piece, Whinstone Sticks Together, made up of lolly sticks coloured in by the children was put up in the main entrance.



# Whinstone Stars



Skai entered the British Judo Council Closed National Championships. She was placed 3rd in the age 10-12 category.  
Well done, Skai.



Evie from our pre-school, achieved her Level 1 in ice-skating.  
Well done, Evie.



# Would you rather...?



## Oracy-talk matters!

This week's random question to discuss with your child.

WOULD YOU RATHER		WEEK BEGINNING 01/12/25
EAT SPAGHETTI WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE?	OR	EAT PANCAKES WITH KETCHUP?

# Whinstone next week

## Year 6 Microbit sessions

On Monday, Year 6 are doing a session with Mr Foggitt on Microbits..

## Christmas Discos

Our Christmas discos, run by Friends of Whinstone, are on Thursday.

## Year 3 Christmas service

On Friday is the Y3 Christingle service for parents at St Francis Church. It is a 10:30 start for parents.

## Class 2F trip to Bowesfield Nature Reserve

On Friday, Mr Ford's class are off to the nature reserve.

## Dressing of the Christmas tree at St. Francis of Assisi Church

As a school, we are supporting the Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis of Assisi church. Children in school have been making tree decorations. That we used to dress our Christmas tree. If you would like to see the final result, please see the information opposite.

**Churches Together**

**Christmas TREE FESTIVAL**  
St Francis of Assisi Church, Ingleby Barwick

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - 12 Noon- 4pm**

An extravaganza of uniquely decorated Christmas Trees sponsored by local schools, clubs, businesses and community groups!

Brought to you by St Francis of Assisi Church, St Therese of Lisieux Church and Living Hope Church

**FREE ADMISSION REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

For further information: saintfrancischib@gmail.com

# Safeguarding and Family Support

**HOLIDAYS ARE FUN**

Free activities for eligible school age children from Reception to Year 11

For more information, please visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/HAF)

To be eligible, families must be in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.



## Holidays are Fun (HAF)

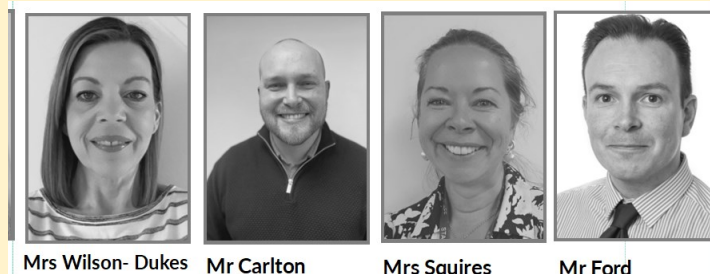
Active Future Teesside are running camps as part of the Stockton HAF programme, at Ingleby Manor School during the Christmas holidays. There are four camp days (22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th December) with free places available to children on free school meals or with eligibility for other reasons. There will also paid places available so all children will have access to what they have on offer. Some of the key highlights planned for their camps include a visit from Santa, a mini Christmas party, NERF battles and dodgeball.

Bookings open on 1st December just visit the [HAF information page](#)

## 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**

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



Miss Owens, our PSA, is available to support and help. Contact the school if you would like to speak with her.

## Attendance

Our attendance is still being affected by the bug that is going around, although things are slowly picking up!  
Look out for our Attendance Advent - a prize draw for those who get 100% attendance during December!

Whole school attendance  
(year to date)

**95.1%**

National average = 95%