



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Autumn term

Friday 14th November 2025

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Christmas dinner day and Christmas jumper day.

Wednesday 10th December is set to be a wonderfully festive day in school as we celebrate both Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day!

Children are invited to come to school wearing their favourite Christmas jumper or festive outfit and enjoy a special holiday lunch.

If your child normally brings a packed lunch but would like to join in with the Christmas dinner, they will be able to. Your child will have a choice of the following:

*Roast Chicken with all the trimmings

*Vegetable Wellington with all the trimmings

An invoice for £3.15 will be added to your Arbor account (under the dinner money section), unless your child is eligible for free school meals.

If your child does not usually have school dinners, we need you to complete [this form](#) by 9am on **Monday 1st December** so we can share accurate numbers with our kitchen team.



School focus on oracy

At school, we are developing children's oracy skills — that means learning to speak clearly, listen carefully, and express ideas with confidence.

Just as English is about reading and writing, oracy is about talking and understanding spoken language. Strong oracy skills help children learn, build confidence, and communicate effectively with others. You can support this at home by talking about your day together and asking open questions, encouraging your child to explain their ideas and opinions, reading aloud and discussing stories and playing fun speaking and

listening games

By working together, we can help every child find their voice! With this in mind, each week we will launch a new 'Would You Rather' question on the Whinstone Weekly for you to chat about at home, in the car, on the playground and anywhere else. Encourage your children to give clear reasons for their choices, and just as importantly, listen to each other.



Reminder - Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies

Year 6 hoodies are now available to order from Motif8. Orders should be placed directly with the supplier, not through the school. If you choose the 'School Delivery' option at checkout, your hoody will be delivered to the school and should arrive before Christmas. However, the deadline for ordering to meet this delivery is Friday 21st November.

Please use this [link](#) to place your order.



Reception and Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading meeting.

Mrs Loftis (Phonics Lead) and Mrs Gibson (English Lead) are hosting a meeting for parents with children in Reception and Year 1. The meeting is all about how we can work together to support your child's phonics and reading journey. The meeting will take place in the school hall (enter via the main reception doors) on Thursday 20th November at 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

During the session, Mrs Loftis and Mrs Gibson will cover things such as what phonics is, how you can help at home, useful resources and allow time for some questions. We truly value our partnership with families, and your involvement makes a big difference to your child's progress.

To help us plan, please confirm your, **no later than Monday 17th November**, by completing [this form](#).



Parent Governor

We have a 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. Governors do not manage the day to day running of a school, but they do set the framework which should ensure the school is running effectively.

To be eligible for this role you must:

- 1) be a parent* of a registered pupil at the school; (*parent includes any person who is not the parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for him/her or who has care of the child);
- 2) obtain the support of two parents each from different families with a child who is attending the same school;
- 3) be aged 18 years or over at the time of his/her election or appointment;
- 4) not be disqualified for any of the reasons stated below.

Disqualifications *A person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor of a school if they: a) are an elected member of the Local Authority b) work at the school for more than 500 hours in any consecutive 12-month period (at the time of election or appointment).*

You must be able to attend Governor meetings which are held seven times a year on a Monday night from 17:00-19:00. It would be beneficial if you are also available to visit and support in school for some days during the year.

To apply for this position, please complete the Parent Nomination form which has been sent out with this newsletter.

Christmas Fayre reminder

Our Christmas Fayre takes place this year on **Friday 28th November from 3:15 - 5:30**. This is a new time and day that we are trialling as we know so many people get busy at weekends leading up to Christmas.

As usual, we are looking for contributions towards our famous Whinstone hampers. raffle This year's colours are:

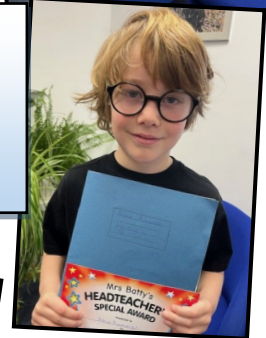
We would like any items in your colours - be imaginative. Let's see how creative the hampers can be this year.

Year groups	Items that are coloured:
Pre-school, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5	Red, gold and silver
Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6	Green, gold and silver

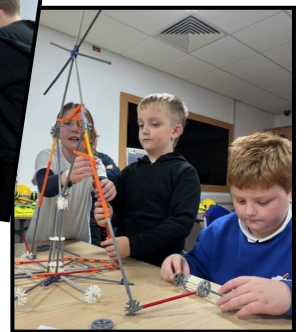
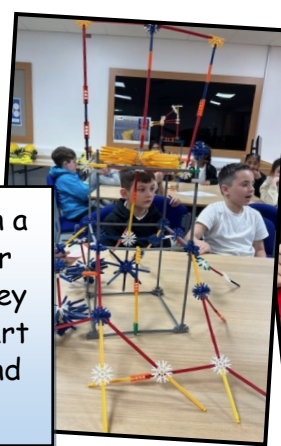
Around Whinstone this week.



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



One Year 4 class went on a trip to Hartlepool Power Station. Not only did they have a tour, they took part in some workshops around energy.



Our Reception children made masks to celebrate Children in Need.



We held a special assembly for Remembrance Day and had some special visitors attend.



Some of our Digital Leaders visited Teesside University to learn about gaming and animating.



Year 6 had their Forest School session.



Some exciting playground developments got underway!



Year 6 went on a visit to Heugh Battery museum.



Whinstone Stars



Scarlett was a true superstar and shows just how amazing our children can be.

Last weekend, Scarlett's dad collapsed and Scarlett was the only person in the house with him. Scarlett called the ambulance service to ensure her dad received the correct medical attention he needed. She could relay information, including their address and postcode to the emergency services to prevent delay in help arriving.

Fortunately, Scarlett's dad is recovering well, which is down to the calm, sensible way Scarlett dealt with the situation. We never know when an emergency situation could arise - let's try and ensure our children know what to do if one ever did.

What a true star she is. Well done, Scarlett.

Would you rather...?



Oracy-talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER		WEEK BEGINNING 17/11/25
Have rainbow-coloured hair that changes every day?	OR	Glow-in-the-dark teeth?
		

Whinstone next week

Monday is World Prematurity Day

Children can wear something purple to help mark this day - either an item of clothing or an accessory such as a hairband, coloured socks.

Year 2 sports trip on Tuesday

Both Y2 classes are attending a trip for a sporting festival at Durham University Queen's Campus.

Pre-school Stay and Play for our new January start children

On Wednesday, we will be holding a stay and play for all children who will be new to our pre-school in January.

Phonics and Early Reading meeting

After school on Thursday, there will be a meeting in the school hall for parents of our reception children and Year 1 children about phonics and early reading.

Class 2T visit to Bowesfield Nature Reserve

One of our Year 2 classes, class 2T, has their trip to Bowesfield nature reserve on Friday.

Road Safety Assemblies delivered by Cleveland Fire and Rescue

On Friday, Cleveland Fire and Rescue will be coming into school to deliver assemblies to our children on road safety.

Safeguarding and Family Support



Celebrate National Self-Care Week, a UK-wide initiative empowering individuals, families, and communities to take charge of their wellbeing. This year's theme, *Mind and Body*, highlights the link between mental and physical health. The Stockton Public Health Information Library will be on hand to chat and share resources to support you.

For further information call Susan Robinson on 01642 524076 or email: susan.robinson@stockton.gov.uk



Mind and Body - National Self-Care Week

Take time for YOU! Join the Wellbeing team on Wednesday 19th November from 10-11am at the Wellbeing Hub, Wellington Square for a free drop-in session.

Discover the link between mental and physical health and learn practical ways to boost your wellbeing.

This is a free event -no booking is needed

For more information contact
susan.robinson@stockton.gov.uk

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 = 95.2%