



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Autumn term

Friday 5th December 2025

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Our new OPAL shed

The Friends of Whinstone have generously funded a brand-new OPAL shed, now installed on the KS1 playground. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful parents, it is your support and fundraising that has made this possible.

After Christmas, we will be sharing information about asking children to bring a pair of wellies to keep in school. These will be stored in the new shed, allowing children to enjoy the fields and wildlife area in all weathers.

Thank you once again for helping us make outdoor play even better for our children.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas dinner

Wednesday 10th December is Whinstone's Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day!



To mark the occasion, children are invited to enjoy a non-uniform day with a festive twist. Christmas jumpers, festive dresses, or simply bright Christmassy colours are all encouraged to help raise funds for children in the UK and around the world.

We suggest a contribution of £1, though any amount is warmly appreciated - all donations will go directly to this worthwhile charity.

And don't forget - it's also Christmas Dinner Day, making the day even more special!

Inconsiderate parking - again!

We have once again received concerns from local residents about cars blocking driveways and pavements during drop-off and pick-up times. As many of you will have noticed, the local authority has installed new bollards along the main road to help prevent inconsiderate parking, but this has unfortunately shifted the problem further along the road.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to remain vigilant and to follow parking restrictions at all times. Doing so helps keep our children safe and ensures that those living near the school are not adversely affected. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Parents as role models

Unfortunately, this week we have had to speak with a small number of parents regarding conduct on the school grounds. We would like to remind all parents and carers that the use of inappropriate language, as well as any threatening or aggressive behaviour towards staff, will not be tolerated. As adults, we play an important role in modelling positive behaviour for our children. They learn from what they see, so let's work together to ensure we are setting the right example and creating a safe, respectful environment for everyone.

Brass instrument opportunity for Ks2 children

A couple of weeks ago, the children enjoyed a demonstration of brass instruments from Mr Graham Tedd, a specialist brass teacher in our area. Building on our current music offer, we are excited to provide the opportunity for children to receive brass tuition, learning the baritone horn, trumpet, or trombone.



If your child is interested in learning a brass instrument, please complete the form via the link below. Children need to be enrolled by 12th December to start tuition in January. Details of costs can also be found on the form. If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium or free school meals, we can subsidise the cost of this tuition if needed. Please speak to the school office if this is required. [Form here](#)

Christmas dates reminder:

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.

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

Attendance Advent

Don't forget our Attendance Advent event!

All children with 100% attendance during December will receive an entry into a prize draw, which will take place on the last day of term.

Good attendance is important - it helps your child develop academically, as well as build key skills such as socialising and communication. Every day counts, so let's make December a fantastic, festive month with excellent attendance!



Around Whinstone this week.



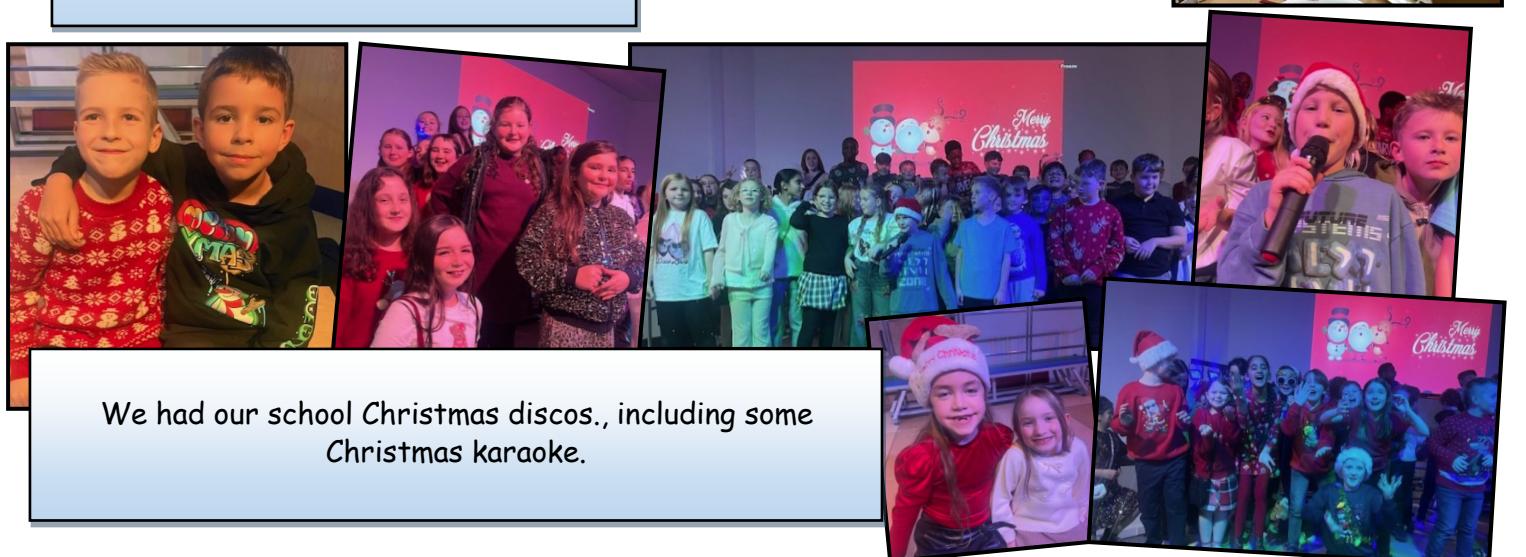
Well done to those who earned a Headteacher's certificate from Mrs Batty this week.

Our new Year 4 football team signed their contracts agreeing to uphold the values of the game and had a 'press conference' to reveal their brand new kit!



Pre-school held its Christmas Craft event for parents.

We had our school Christmas discos., including some Christmas karaoke.





Year 2 went on a trip to Bowesfield Nature Reserve, where they did numerous activities including pond dipping, finding colours in nature and bird watching.



Year 3 enjoyed their Forest School session.

Year 3 had their Christingle service at the church.



OPAL fun at lunchtime.



Whinstone Stars

George attended a swimming gala with Thornaby Swimming Club.

George was awarded the 2025 annual Memorial trophy for breaststroke. Alongside this he won four medals: 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze.

Well done, George.



Harry took part in a Judo competition. He came away with a bronze medal.

Freya performed with her dance school, at their Christmas show.

What a superstar - well done, Freya.



Would you rather...?



Oracy-talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER

WEEK BEGINNING 08/12/25

BE ABLE TO TALK TO ANIMALS? OR BE ABLE TO FLY LIKE A BIRD?

Whinstone next week

Year 6 Microbit sessions

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

Active Teesside assembly for KS2

Assembly by Active Teesside to promote their Christmas holiday camp at Ingleby Manor School. See details in this newsletter (Safeguarding and Family Support)

Year 6 Christmas performance

On Monday at 2:30, is the Y6 Christmas performance to parents. Please try to limit to two adults per child - younger children are not included in this number.

Year 1 Christmas performance

On Tuesday at 2:15, is the Y1 Christmas performance to parents. Please try to limit to two adults per child - younger children are not included in this number.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas dinner

Wednesday brings the excitement of wearing Christmas clothes and it's our Christmas dinner.

Year 4 Christmas performance

On Thursday at 2:30, is the Y4 Christmas performance to parents. Please try to limit to two adults per child - younger children are not included in this number.

Year 2 Christmas performance

On Friday at 2:15, is the Y2 Christmas performance to parents. Please try to limit to two adults per child - younger children are not included in this number.

Safeguarding and Family Support

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 be 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:



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**

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 dropping! We are aware that there is a bug and flu circulating, it is affecting both children and staff. However, our overall attendance has dropped significantly and we are now no longer above national.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)

94.8%

National average = 94.8%