



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 9th January 2026

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### Welcome back

Welcome back everyone, and happy new year! It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and see them settle so positively into the new term. We hope that 2026 will be just as successful and enjoyable as the way we started this academic year, and we are really excited about all the learning, opportunities and events we have to look forward to over the next two terms.

### Historic England - Heritage School Award

We started the new year with some fantastic news: Whinstone has been awarded the Heritage School Award. The assessor described



it as *"an excellent submission - no surprise really from an amazing school who are passionate about local history and heritage."* They highlighted how local history and heritage run as a golden thread throughout our history curriculum, with strong examples also seen in art, geography and DT. Particular praise was given to the unit on why we should preserve our locality, the inclusion of the Hartlepool timberyard fire, and the way national events such as the Romans and Vikings are explored through a local lens. It was also highlighted how local history and heritage have been thoughtfully adapted in EYFS. *"Just brilliant,"* was the final verdict. We are so proud of what we have achieved.



### Height and Weight checks

Parents and carers of children in Reception and Year 6 will have received an email earlier this week regarding the height and weight checks that take place as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. Please refer to that email for full information about how the collected data is used. It also includes an email address to contact if you **do not** wish your child to take part. Please note that **if you do not email to opt out, your child's measurements will be taken.** However, on the day, no child will be made to take part if they do not wish to do so.

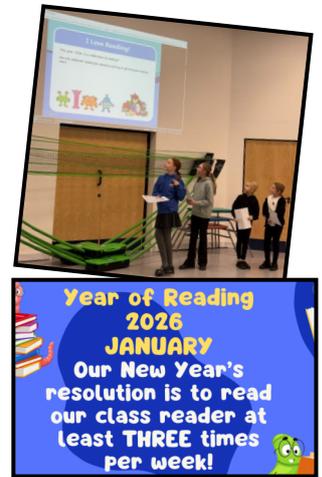


### Toys in school

We would like to remind everyone that children should not be bringing toys into school. Personal toys can easily get lost or broken, which can cause upset. As we have OPAL, with a wide range of toys and resources available for children to enjoy at lunchtimes, personal toys can also become mixed in with OPAL equipment. This can lead to distress and upset if children see others unknowingly playing with their toy or are unable to find it because it has been packed away with OPAL resources. Please keep toys at home, where they can be enjoyed after a busy day of learning at school

## Year of Reading

Our Reading Ambassadors helped to launch the National Year of Reading. Each month, we will be taking part in additional activities to promote reading for pleasure across the school. For January, we are making a New Year's resolution to read as much as we can, with a focus on class readers. In EYFS and Year 1, children are reading as often as possible and spending time talking about books they enjoy. Parents and carers can support this at home too - how often can you encourage your child to read and share a book with you?



## SPARK Trust writing competition

We launched a Trust writing competition last term and were delighted to receive some wonderful entries. The children involved received their certificates today, celebrating their hard work and creativity. We are especially proud to share that four of our children have reached the final. Their stories have now been submitted to the Spark Academy judges, and we are eagerly awaiting the outcome.



# Around Whinstone this week.



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



Year 1 made 'messy maps' of their classroom in their Geography lesson.



Lego Stem Club started back. The children are working hard to code a robot to complete some difficult tasks.



# Whinstone next week

## KS2 assembly from Eastern Ravens

Our KS2 children will have an assembly delivered by Eastern Ravens to raise awareness and understanding of young carers.



## Year 5 Forest School sessions

On Monday, our Year 5 children will continue their Forest School sessions. Remember to bring in warm clothing!

## Year 4 Power Station trip

On Thursday, class 4BC will be visiting Hartlepool Power Station.

## Girls' football competition

On Thursday, some of our girls will be attending the first round of a Stockton football tournament.

## Poetry Slam

On Friday, our KS2 children will hold their internal Poetry Slam to see which class or group attends the Stockton Poetry Slam later in the month.

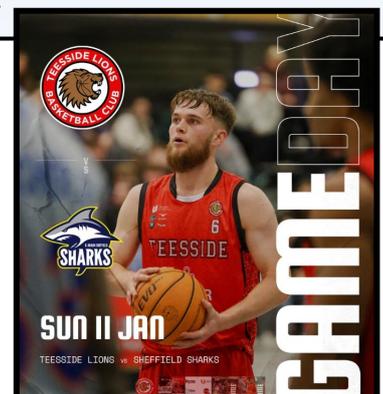
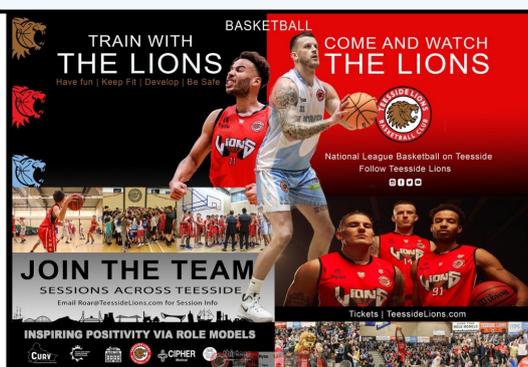
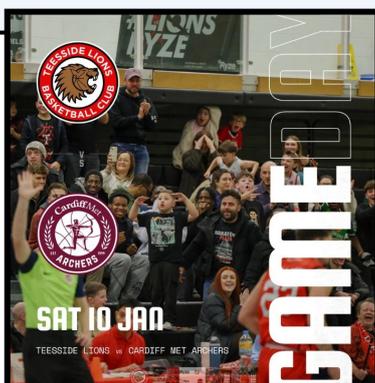
# Out and About

## **Basketball tickets to see the Teesside Lions vs Sheffield Sharks**

Teesside Lions, a professional basketball club, have 75 free & 175 with 50% discount tickets for schools pupils and their families for both their home games this **Saturday 10th** and **Sunday 11th**.

These games are huge for Teesside - and The Lions will also be unveiling their new American star Mike Hood. Find out more via [TeessideLions.com](http://TeessideLions.com)

Simply visit [TeessideLions.com](http://TeessideLions.com) to buy tickets and enter code **SUPERLIONS** if all free tickets have gone, use the 50% discount code **SCHOOL50**.



# Safeguarding and Family Support

## Stockton's 'Something new for you' event

### Something new for you

**Tuesday 27 January, 10am to 1pm**  
Forum Theatre, Billingham



**Come along and try something new for you this January.**

Browse information stalls, enjoy free activities, meet new people and see what's available in your local community including:

- Health support
- Wellbeing services
- Staying active
- Volunteering opportunities
- Creative activities
- Social groups



The Stockton 'Something New for You' event will take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at Forum Theatre, Billingham from 10am until 1pm.

Many organisations will be attending to provide support to Stockton residents including health support, wellbeing services, volunteering opportunities and much more.

The event is coordinated by the Council's Fairer Stockton-on-Tees and Community Engagement Teams and **Tees Active**.

There's no need to book, just go along and try something new for you this January. Browse information stalls, enjoy free activities and meet new people.

## 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



Remember, we are very lucky to have our own PSA (Parent Support Advisor), Miss Owens, who can help you with any concerns or issues you may have regarding attendance.

Whole school attendance (year to date)

# 94.7%

National average = 94.5%