



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 16th January 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Old mobile phones needed

We currently have two full sets of iPads in school, which are used both for learning activities and for taking photographs. These photos may be for classroom work, our website, or our Facebook page.

Unfortunately, when iPads are used for photography, this often means that a full set is not available for classes to use during lessons.

If you were fortunate enough to receive a new phone at Christmas (or have upgraded at any other time) and have an old mobile phone that is no longer in use, we would be very grateful to receive it. Our Tech Team will completely clear the device so it can be used safely and solely as a camera in school.



Name your child's clothing!

Lost items of clothing can be frustrating for everyone – parents, children, and school staff alike. However, it becomes even more difficult when we are asked to help locate items that are not named.

With over 400 children in school, all wearing the same uniform, it is almost impossible for staff or pupils to know who an unnamed item belongs to. Ironically, most items on our lost property rack have labels that include a space specifically designed for your child's name.

Please help us to help you by ensuring all clothing is clearly named. It takes just a few seconds to write your child's name on the label, and we recommend checking regularly (perhaps when washing) that the name is still clear and visible.

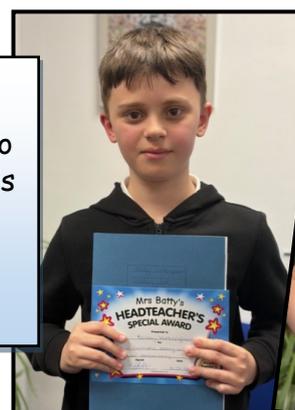
Naming your child's clothing will allow us to return lost items quickly and easily.



Around Whinstone this week.



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





Year 2 children made their own gingerbread men.



KS2 children had an assembly from Eastern Ravens - a charity aimed at supporting young carers.

KS2 held their first ever 'poetry slam'. The children presented their poems as a class, using expression, changes in voice tone, actions and (most importantly) enthusiasm. Our judges had a tough job as they needed to select a winning class to represent the school on January 28th, at a Stockton schools' Poetry Slam competition. The winning class was 6A.



Some of our KS2 girls took part in a football tournament at Stockton Town Football Club. They came 2nd!



Pre-school have continued with their Winter/Arctic theme and have enjoyed stories such as *The Great Explorer* and *Spaghetti Yeti*.



Children enjoyed dressing up in the OPAL Show Zone.



Pre-school have been using scarves and big paper to form circles to support their curly caterpillar formation.



Class 4BC finally had their postponed trip to Hartlepool Power Station.



Year 1 children have had fun in history exploring 'the past'.



Animal time!



Whinstone Stars

At the weekend, George took part in his first Newcastle county qualifier gala. George was successful in achieving a county time for his 50m breaststroke and will compete on the 7th February in the county gala. Well done, George.



Would you rather...?



Oracy - talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER WEEK BEGINNING 19/01/26

BLOW OUT 50 BUTTERFLIES EVERY TIME YOU SNEEZE

OR

COUGH OUT A MOUSE EVERY TIME YOU COUGH?

The illustration shows two scenarios. On the left, a boy in a red shirt sneezes, and a large cloud of colorful butterflies flies out. On the right, a man in a blue shirt coughs, and a small mouse flies out of his mouth. A yellow smiley face with a thought bubble is positioned between the two scenarios.

Whinstone next week

Art Week

We are having our school's Art Week. Children will be doing activities based on the painting *The Snail* by Henri Matisse.

SAVE THE DATE:

On Friday 30th January, you are invited to pop in after school to look at the work the children have created.

matisse



THE SNAIL, 1951

Year 5 Forest School

The Forest School sessions will take place on **Wednesday** next week. This is for one week only, they will then return to the usual Monday.

Music Monsters piano sessions

On Friday, the Music Monsters piano sessions will take place.

Safeguarding and Family Support

Saturday Club

Saturday Club takes place on the third Saturday of every month at Billingham Family Hub. It is for SEND children with a diagnosis or on the pathway for a diagnosis. The session has fun activities including messy play, arts, crafts and cooking.

The session is free, but places are limited.

Time: 10:30–12:00

Location: Billingham Family Hub, Ochil Terrace

Call: 01642 528525 or email familyhubs@stockton.gov.uk to book a place, although booking is not essential.



Saturday Club
Third Saturday of every month 10.30am to 12pm

- * For children with a SEND diagnosis or on pathway to diagnosis
- * Booking recommended as spaces are limited
- * Join us for fun activities including messy play, cooking and arts and crafts
- * Parents must stay with children
- * Siblings welcome

Billingham Family Hub, Ochil Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees, TS23 2QL
Call 01642 528525 or email familyhubs@stockton.gov.uk to book your place

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council | Family Hub | STOCKTON PARENT CARER FORUM

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**.

Attendance



Miss Owens, our PSA, is available to support and help with any issues you have regarding attendance. She can also offer guidance and signpost you to support around other matters that are affecting your family such as financial difficulties, bereavement and abuse. Contact the school if you would like to speak with her.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)

94.8%

National average = 94.6%