



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 23rd January 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Norman

This week, we received the very sad news of the passing of one of our children, Norman. Norman had been part of our school community since pre-school and was a much-loved young boy, known by many. In conversation with his family, Norman's parents have asked that we share this news with the school community and include it on the newsletter as a celebration of his life.

In his time with us, Norman brought great joy to those around him; he had an infectious smile that lit up his whole face, and Norman's sheer love of life was evident to all. He was obsessed with fire



trucks, which at one stage was the only word he would joyfully repeat! Over time, this expanded to include all vehicles, especially 'diggers' - which quickly became his second favourite word! In his graduation from pre-school, Norman shared that his wish was to be a 'digger driver'.

One of the highlights of Norman's time at school was seeing him take part in the Year 1 Christmas production. Watching him climb onto the stage to join in the final songs and dance in sheer delight, is a moment that I will never forget. Today, children have shared fond memories of Norman and his love of the game 'tig'. He also spent many happy lunchtimes in the Show Zone, where he delighted in dressing up in costumes, but always wearing that unmistakable, infectious smile.

Norman made remarkable progress in his time at Whinstone and has left a lasting impact on our school. Our thoughts are with Norman's family during this incredibly sad and difficult time.

Goodbye, Norman, you will be missed.

Norman

June 2020 to January 2026



Play equipment

We know children love to use the fixed wooden play equipment on the KS1 playground, and as stated on previous newsletters, we allow children to be on this both before and after school. However, I must remind you that this equipment is **not monitored or supervised by staff either before or after the school day**. If you choose to allow your child onto the equipment, please ensure you supervise this - **it is your responsibility to make sure your child is using the equipment in a safe and appropriate manner** - this includes their behaviour towards others whilst on it. If you are unable to supervise your child whilst on the equipment, please do not allow them on.

Also, just to remind everyone, we do not allow children on the fixed equipment in the KS2 area by the Year 6 classrooms.



Some good news for Whinstone from The Secretary of State for Education.

We are delighted to share that today we received a congratulatory email from Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, recognising Whinstone Primary School and praising the excellent outcomes achieved by our disadvantaged pupils at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Part of the email is shared with you below:

"Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Whinstone Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed."

I have never had any doubt that the children and dedicated staff at Whinstone are anything less than exceptional, and it is a privilege to work alongside them in striving to make the school a better place for all. It is wonderful to see that the commitment and tireless efforts of our staff, to achieve the very best outcomes for our children and the school, have been officially recognised and celebrated.

Wellies!

Over the coming weeks, we will be inviting children to bring a pair of wellies to keep at school in our new welly shed, kindly funded through the



fantastic efforts of Friends of Whinstone. This will enable children to enjoy the school field even in wet and muddy conditions.



While there is no expectation for families to provide wellies, any contributions where possible would be greatly appreciated. If you have any spare wellies you would be willing to donate, we would be very grateful. Further details will be shared next week.

Term dates for our next academic year



2026-2027



Whinstone Primary School

August '26						
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30	31					

September '26						
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October '26						
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December '26						
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March '27						
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April '27						
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May '27						
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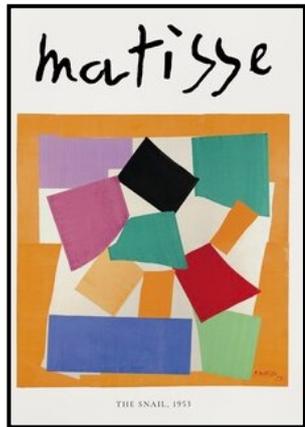
June '27						
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July '27						
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PD DAY
BANK HOLIDAYS
HOLIDAYS

Around Whinstone this week.

It was Art Week. Our work in school was inspired by Henri Matisse's The Snail.



The Year 5/6 football club was officially launched. The children signed their contracts and agreed to uphold the values of the game.

Whinstone Stars

At the weekend, Alexis had a very successful day at a trampolining competition. She won gold in Club 2 Double Mini-Trampoline age 11-12 - only her second time competing in this discipline. She then won gold in Regional 1 Trampoline age 11-12. Well done, Alexis.



Would you rather...?



Oracy - talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER		WEEK BEGINNING 26/01/26
HAVE A NOSE THE SIZE OF PINOCCHIO'S?	OR	EARS AS LARGE AS DUMBO'S?
		

Whinstone next week

Year 5 Forest School

The Forest School sessions will take place on **Monday** next week as usual. Don't forget those wellies!

Singing lessons with Bethel

On Wednesday and Thursday, our singing teacher, Bethel, will be in to take her usual lessons.

Stockton Poetry Slam

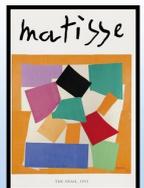
The winners of our internal Poetry Slam, class 6A, are going to represent the school at the Stockton schools' competition on Wednesday.

Year 3 and Year 4 football

On Thursday, some Y3 and Y4 boys are going to represent the school in the Stockton Boys football tournament.

Art exhibition!

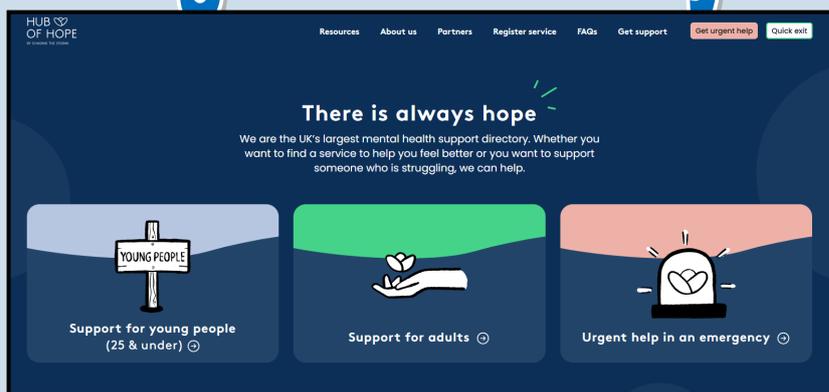
On Friday, straight after school, you are invited to pop in as you collect your child to see the great art work they have produced this week. Be prepared to be amazed.



Music Monsters piano sessions

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

Safeguarding and Family Support



Hub of Hope

Hub of Hope is the UK's largest mental health support directory. Whether you want to find a service to help you feel better or you want to support someone who is struggling, they can help. This online directory for support services allows you to select the type of support you are looking for, then search by your postcode. Bereavement support is available.

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%