



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 30th January 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Success for Whinstone

Following the achievements acknowledged by Bridget Phillipson last week, Whinstone has enjoyed a further two successes this week that we are delighted to share.

On Wednesday, Class 6A attended the Stockton Poetry Slam, where they performed a poem they had

written about our school. This is all part of our ongoing mission to improve oracy across the school - and what a way to start! We are proud to announce that Whinstone finished runners-up in the Year 5/6 category. The judges praised the performance for being original, slick, and for clearly showing pride in

both our school and in themselves. We are incredibly proud of the children, who not only delivered an outstanding performance but were also a real credit to Whinstone.

In addition, the Year 4 boys' football team competed in a Stockton tournament. Continuing the success, the team emerged as group winners and have now qualified for the Stockton District Finals in April.

Two fantastic achievements in one week, showcasing just how amazing Whinstone children truly are.

Friends of Whinstone Discos

On Thursday 12th February, Friends of Whinstone are once again hosting their discos to raise funds for the school. Every child should have received a letter today with full details, including times and how to secure a ticket. Completed slips and payment must be returned to school by **Friday 6th February (next Friday)**. Please note that **no tickets will be issued after this date**.

We kindly ask parents to ensure tickets are purchased on time, as late requests can place staff and children in an awkward position. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Healthy Eating Reminder

We encourage all children to make healthy choices at lunchtime, as good nutrition provides the best fuel for learning and helps children stay focused and energised throughout the school day.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of sweet items being brought into lunchboxes, with some children having several 'puddings' in one meal. We kindly ask families to limit sugary treats and aim for a more balanced lunch. We all want the best for our children, and research shows that developing good eating habits at a young age helps

promote healthy choices into adulthood.



Early Years wish list - can you help?

Our Early Years team is looking for donations of items to support hands-on learning and creativity in school. If you have any of the following, we would be very grateful:

- ◆ **Fabric** - small pieces for crafts or larger pieces for den-building
- ◆ **Different textures** - e.g., sandpaper, velvet, bubble wrap, cotton wool, silk
- ◆ **Painting tools** - DIY brushes, rollers, shower squeegees, large sponges, easels
- ◆ **Children's gardening tools**
- ◆ **Wallpaper or large rolls of paper**
- ◆ **Junk modelling materials**
- ◆ **Craft supplies** - buttons, sequins, feathers, corks, wool, etc.
- ◆ **Puppets, story sack items, and musical instruments**
- ◆ **Safe mirror squares** (plastic, not glass)
- ◆ **Home corner items**
- ◆ **Natural objects** - stones, shells, conkers, pinecones, etc.
- ◆ **Curiosity items** - e.g. honeycomb, bird's nest, old telephone, coconut shell, fossils
- ◆ **Silk scarves** (for squiggle activities)
- ◆ **SEN / sensory toys**

Every contribution helps make learning more exciting, creative, and hands-on for our youngest children so we really are grateful for anything you feel may support our pre-school.

Around Whinstone this week.





Animal time!



Class 6A attended Stockton's Poetry Slam and came runners up.



Year 4 boys football team won their round to make it to the finals.



Year 5 had a Forest School session. This week's activity was making bird feeders.



Year 4 science - a practical activity to demonstrate the digestive system.



We hosted our art exhibition.

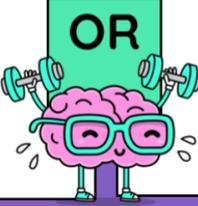


Would you rather...?



Oracy - talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER		WEEK BEGINNING 02/02/26
HAVE AN ELEPHANT FOR A TEACHER?	OR	A RHINO FOR A TEACHER?
		

Whinstone next week

Year 5 Forest School

The Forest School sessions will take place on Monday. Don't forget a warm coat and wellies!

Author visit

On Monday, our Early Years children are having a visit from the author Jan Hart.

Musical production

A teacher from Teesside High is working with some of our KS2 children to prepare them for a chorus role in their musical performance of Sister Act.

Year 6 'Work Ready' bootcamp

On Thursday, our Year 6 children will be taking part in a virtual 'Work Ready' bootcamp.

Dojo winners reward

On Friday, the children who have received the most dojos will have their reward. They have received an invitation for this.

Music sessions continue

Across the week, children who attend music tuition which includes drumming, piano, guitar, singing and brass, will have their usual weekly session.

Safeguarding and Family Support

What's on at your local Family Hub

January, February, March and April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Billingham Community Garden (adults only) 10am to 12pm Daisy Chain Drop-in 10am to 12pm (starting 12 January)</p> <p>Redhill Little Explorers 10am to 11.30am SJOG Autism & Mental Health Drop-in 1pm to 2.30pm Perinatal Walk & Talk 1pm to 3pm (fortnightly) Andy's Man Club 7pm</p> <p>Stockton Perinatal Walk & Talk 10am to 12pm Daisy Chain Drop-in 10am to 12pm (starting 2 March)</p> <p>Thornaby Babbling Babies 12.30pm to 2pm</p>	<p>Billingham Little Explorers 9.30am to 11am Harbour Drop-in 10am to 12pm Employment Hub Drop-in 1pm to 3pm (fortnightly)</p> <p>Redhill SEND Lego Club 4pm to 5pm</p> <p>Stockton Infant Feeding Support 10am to 11.30am Warm Welcome 1pm to 3pm After School Family Fun 3.30pm to 5pm</p> <p>Thornaby SEND Peer Support Drop-in 1pm to 2.30pm (monthly, 2nd week) "The Lovelies" Friendship Group 1pm to 2.30pm MIND Be Heard 11-13 years 4pm to 5.30pm 14-16 years 5.30pm to 7pm</p>	<p>Billingham Messy Play (1st week) Soft Play (3rd week) Monthly 10am to 11am Coffee Morning (2nd week) SEND Coffee Morning (4th week) Monthly 9.30am to 11am</p> <p>Redhill Babbling Babies 9.30am to 11am</p> <p>Stockton Little Explorers 10am to 11.30am</p> <p>Thornaby Salvation Project Community Pantry 1.30pm to 2.30pm</p>	<p>Billingham Perinatal Walk & Talk 9.30am to 11.30am Infant Feeding Support 1pm to 2pm After School Family Fun 3.30pm to 5pm</p> <p>Redhill Soft Play (1st week) Rhyme Time (2nd week) Messy Play (3rd week) Craft & Coffee (4th week) Monthly 9.30am to 10.30am The Bread & Butter Thing 1pm to 1.30pm</p> <p>Stockton Sprouts Eco Shop 10am to 12pm Babbling Babies 1pm to 2.30pm</p> <p>Thornaby Knit & Natter 9.30am to 11.30am Little Explorers 1pm to 2.30pm</p>	<p>Billingham Babbling Babies 9.30am to 11am</p> <p>Stockton Cuppa and Crafts 9.30am to 11.30am Polish Village Stay and Play 4pm to 5.30pm</p>

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

We are creeping up again after our plummeting figure at the end of last term! Keep going - let's see if we can make the 95% mark by next week.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)

94.9%

National average = 94.6%

Miss Owens is available to support and help with any issues you have regarding attendance or to support around other matters such as financial difficulties, bereavement and abuse.

Contact the school if you would like to speak with her.