



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 6th February 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Stockton Parent Carer Forum at Whinstone

Whinstone Primary has become involved with the Diverse Paths Project and we are pleased to share an opportunity for families to connect with the Stockton Parent Carer Forum as part of this.

There is a Meet and Greet session on Wednesday 11th February held at school. This informal session is a great chance to:

- *Meet Vickie, the SEN Navigator
- *Learn more about the Diverse Paths offer for 2026
- *Ask questions and explore support available for families
- *Receive signposting to helpful resources and services



STOCKTON
PARENT CARER FORUM

Stockton Parent Carer Forum would love to meet you here at school
Wednesday 11th February from 8.50am - 9.50am

We would like to introduce ourselves,
Vickie the SEN Navigator
and the Diverse Paths offer for 2026
We will be there for questions, signposting and refreshments

In partnership with
 Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The team will be on hand throughout the session to offer guidance and answer any queries you may have.

Valentine's cake sale

On Friday 13th February, we will be holding a Valentine's Day cake sale to raise money for our school funds. All money raised goes directly towards purchasing resources and experiences for the children, with every penny of profit benefiting the school. Children will have the opportunity to buy a cake during breaktime, with cakes priced at 50p each. We are very grateful for any cake donations, whether homemade or shop-bought, which can be sent into school on the day. Thank you for your continued support and generosity—these events would not be possible without the support of our parents and carers.



Children's Mental Health Week



Next week we will be marking Children's Mental Health Week, an event that reflects how strongly Whinstone values children's mental wellbeing. We are proud to have a dedicated student leadership team - our Mental Health Champions - who will be organising and leading a range of activities throughout the week to help promote positive mental health. Planned events include a Walking Club, children's secret missions, a teacher versus children dance-off, and daily 'Smile Certificates'.

Mental health is such an important topic, and by helping children understand it and learn ways to support their own wellbeing, we are giving them skills that will benefit them now and in the future.

Friends of Whinstone Spring Discos

On Thursday, the Friends of the School (FoW) will be holding their Spring Discos.

Families were informed about this event last week via the newsletter and emails, and tickets have now been purchased. We would like to remind everyone that today was the final deadline for ticket sales, which is essential to ensure correct supervision is in place and adequate supplies have been purchased

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any late ticket requests. We kindly ask that you do not request tickets after this deadline, as this can cause disappointment for both children and awkwardness for staff.

The information regarding times is as follows:

Pre-school and Reception	3.15pm until 4.15pm	Collect Reception children from the main entrance and Pre-school children from the Pre-school entrance at 4.15pm.
Year 1 and Year 2	4.25pm until 5.25pm.	Entrance to the disco will be through the Community entrance. Please collect children from the Community entrance at 5.25pm
Year 3 and Year 4	5.30pm until 6.30pm	Entrance to the disco will be through the main entrance. Please collect children from the Community entrance at 6.30pm.
Year 5 and Year 6	6.35pm until 7.35pm.	Entrance to the disco will be through the Main Entrance. Please collect children from the main entrance at 7.35pm

Please can we ask that children do not bring a mobile phone to the disco.

Norovirus is rising!

We have received some information from the Public Health Team about the increase in Norovirus, which we feel is important to share with you.

Norovirus cases are rising with almost 20% more cases in the past 2 weeks in England. Norovirus, also called the winter vomiting bug, is a stomach bug that causes vomiting and diarrhoea. It can be very unpleasant but usually gets better in about 48 hours. It may also cause a high temperature, headache, tummy pain, and body aches.

Norovirus spreads easily from close contact with someone with norovirus, touching surfaces or objects that have the virus on them, then touching your mouth, or by eating food prepared or handled by someone with norovirus.

How to prevent it:

- *wash your hands with soap and water before preparing, serving or eating food and after going to the toilet or changing nappies (alcohol hand gels do not kill norovirus)
- *wash clothes and bedding with poo or vomit on them in a 60°C wash, separately from other laundry
- *clean toilet seats, flush handles, taps and bathroom door handles
- *avoid contact with others as much as possible and for 48 hours after your last bout of sickness.

The infographic is titled "Diarrhoea and vomiting" and "Don't spread it. Stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear." It is divided into two sections: "DO" and "DON'T".

DO:

- Wash soiled clothes and bedding at 60°C (illustrated with a washing machine icon).
- Wash hands with soap, clean surfaces with bleach-based disinfectants (illustrated with a hand being washed and a spray bottle).

DON'T:

- Go to work or school, visit care homes or hospitals (illustrated with a building icon).
- Prepare food for others (illustrated with a plate of food).

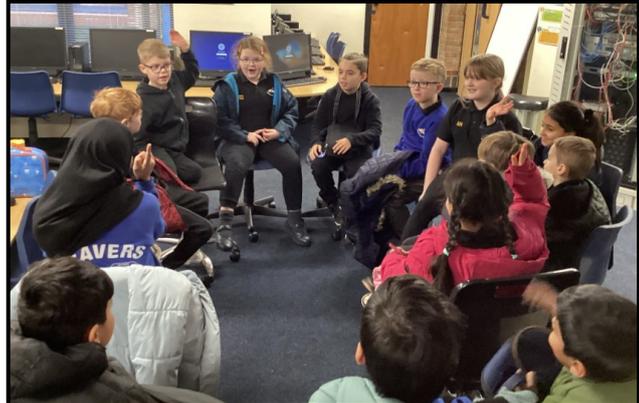
Around Whinstone this week.



The new KS2 girls' football team was announced. They signed their contracts and met their new coach - Miss Towler.



Author, Jan Hart, visited our pre-school and Reception children to share her book with them.



School Council have been busy putting democracy into action. They have hosted class meetings and then fed back to agree on some proposals for possible fundraising in school.

In computing, Year 1 have been exploring how to make Bee Bots travel from one point to another.



In the Year 5 Forest school session, children learnt how to use a flint to make fire.



Our Dojo winners had their reward - a non-uniform day with hot chocolate and biscuits at break time.

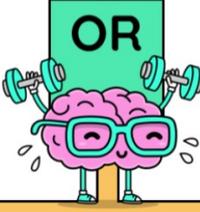


Would you rather...?



Oracy - talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER WEEK BEGINNING 09/02/26	
Have a magical backpack that can hold anything?	Have shoes that make you run super fast?
	
	

Whinstone next week

Year 5 Forest School

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

NHS screening for Year 6 and Reception

On Monday, the NHS screening team are in to check on the height and weight of the Y6 and Reception children.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday is Safer Internet Day. This year's theme is: *'Smart tec, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'*.

Mental Health Week

Various activities led by our Mental Health Champions will take place across the week.

Spring Discos

On Thursday, Friends of Whinstone are hosting their Spring Discos.

Valentine's Cake Sale

On Friday, there is a cake sale where children can purchase cakes for 50p.

Safeguarding and Family Support



family action

Little Explorers

Every Week

Monday at Redhill Family Hub 10am-11.30am
Tuesday at Billingham Family Hub 9.30am - 11am
Wednesday at Stockton Family Hub 10am-11.30am
Thursday at Thornaby Family Hub 1pm-2.30pm

Booking is ESSENTIAL
Please remember to book a place for both yourself and your child/children, otherwise we may not be able to accommodate you on the day

"Each child can shine in their own way, building resilience and growing in confidence through play."

Little Explorers at the Family Hubs

The Family Hubs are getting creative with their Little Explorers. Next week there are Valentine's crafts - making cards, squishing, rolling and exploring with Valentine's playdough and "Guess How Much I Love You" sensory tray, discovering colours, textures, shapes, and sharing all our amazing ideas!

A week full of love, creativity, and lots of little hands making big memories!

Spaces are limited and free - so grab a place quick! Please remember to book a place for both yourself and your child/children, otherwise we may not be able to accommodate you on the day .

Book a place using this [link](#)

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

This week, our attendance has dropped slightly. Some of the absences are due to children arriving after the register has closed. Let's build on those good habits and arrive on time.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)

94.8%

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.