



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 20th March 2026

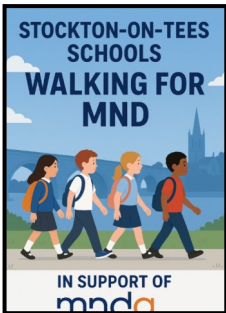
Whinstone Wide - General school information

Safe use of bikes and scooters

As the warmer weather arrives, we are delighted to see more children travelling to school by bike and scooter. However, we have noticed an increase in both children and adults riding along busy pathways and through playground areas, which can pose a safety risk. Unfortunately, there have been incidents in the past where children have been knocked over by riders.

To help keep everyone safe, we kindly ask that all bikes and scooters are dismantled at the school gates and walked onto the premises. We would also like to remind families that children should be wearing helmets when riding bikes, as this is an important way to reduce the risk of injury. We appreciate your support in helping us prevent accidents and ensure a safe environment for all members of our school community.

Ingleby Barwick Schools' Community Walk



As shared last week, schools across Stockton are coming together to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) in support of a much-loved and highly respected Head Teacher, Claire Park, who has recently been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

The MNDA provides vital support to people living with MND and their families, funds essential research, and campaigns for improved care. Their work makes a real difference to those affected by the disease.

On Friday, our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be joining other Ingleby schools in a walk to raise awareness. The event will see each school walking to the next, passing a symbolic 'baton' along the route. Ingleby Mill will begin the walk, with Whinstone as the final pick-up. As we have no school to pass on to, our pupils will join the children from St Francis, walking together through the woods, back to their school, where we will drop them off before continuing back along the road to Whinstone. A copy of the event flyer is included on the next page.

Today, we held a non-uniform day in support of MNDA and are delighted to share that we have already raised an incredible £495. We will continue to accept cash donations throughout the week, right up until Friday's awareness walk. If you would like to contribute, please send donations into school with your child.

You are also very welcome to share the JustGiving page that has been set up for this event with friends and family who may wish to make a personal donation. As a school, we will add all funds raised through our non-uniform day and any additional contributions to this total. It will be wonderful to see what our Stockton school community can achieve when we come together.

Anyone wishing to make an additional personal donation can do so via [this link](#) provided or by scanning the QR code.



As we are walking, children from all the schools will be hiding knitted hearts along the route. Look out for these as you travel around Ingleby - you may be lucky enough to find one.

MND Awareness Day

Friday 27th March



**FRIDAY 27TH
MARCH**

Children across Ingleby will come together to join a walking train to raise funds and awareness for the MND charity. Each school will join along the journey to play their part in raising awareness.



Raising Funds & Awareness for MND

Supporting families affected by Motor Neurone Disease



Around Whinstone this week.



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

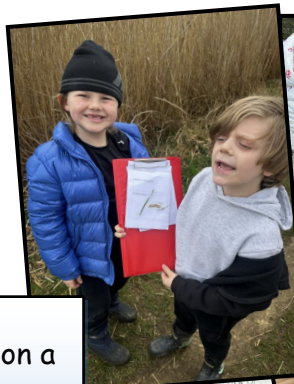
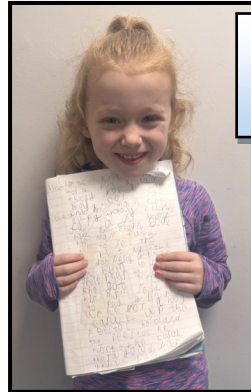


Year 6 have been doing some fantastic writing, creating their own zines and being activists for something they care about. (For those like me who didn't know, a zine is a small-circulation, self-published booklet!)

Pre-school had a visit from a fire engine today - one of our dads came and talked to the children about his job as a firefighter. The children got to sit in the engine and try out the hose!



...and another example of great writing across the school!



Year 2 went on a trip to Bowesfield nature reserve.



Science week



Children from across the school took part in scientific investigations and weird and wonderful experiments.



Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors went to Conyers secondary school to talk about the approach we take and do a presentation about their role at Whinstone. They did extremely well and we are so proud of how confidently they spoke and how fantastically they represented the school.

Whinstone Stars



Casper enjoys attending swimming lessons. This week he has achieved his 400m swimming badge.

Wow! Well done, Casper.



Blake has been mastering Judo. He has just taken his 12th grading and achieved his solid green belt this week.

A fantastic achievement - well done, Blake!



Would you rather...?




Oracy - talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER WEEK BEGINNING
23/03/26

<p>ONLY BE ABLE TO WALK ON ALL FOURS</p> 	<p>ONLY BE ABLE TO WALK SIDWAYS LIKE A CRAB?</p> 
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OR



Whinstone next week

Assembly and workshops from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Our children will have an assembly from a representative of the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust who will then do workshops with our Y2 children.

Bikeability

Throughout the week (days have been shared with individuals) upper KS2 will be having Bikeability sessions. Bikes can be left at school if needed but please put in the bike store by KS1, which is locked overnight, and be aware that we cannot accept responsibility for any bikes left on site.

STARs tennis event

On Tuesday, some of our children will be attending a tennis event.

KS2 singers at Teesside High

On Tuesday evening, our KS2 children selected to be in the chorus line for the Teesside High production of Sister Act, will do their grand performance to a full audience.

Pre-school Forest School session

Some of our pre-school children will be attending a Forest School session.

Year 1 church visit

On Wednesday, our Year 1 children will be visiting the local church.

'Physics of Transport' show

On Wednesday, some of our Year 4 and Year 5 children will have a physics show.

Whinstone's Got Talent

On Wednesday and Thursday evening, we have our Whinstone's Got Talent night, where talented children who have made it through the audition stage, perform in front of an audience consisting of staff and family.

Year 5 Ambassadors visit Chandlers Ridge

On Thursday, our Year 5 Ambassadors visit another school within the Trust - Chandlers Ridge.

Ingleby Schools Community walk for MND

On Friday, our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be joining other schools from Ingleby and taking part in a community walk for MND

Safeguarding and Family Support

SEND Parents and Carers 



Introduction to Makaton Training Workshop

📅 26 March 2026
🕒 9:30AM - 11:00 AM
📍 Thornaby Family Hub, 5 Tedder Avenue
TS17 9JP

Scan to book 

Highlights

- Learn the basics of Makaton, including hand signals, fingerspelling, and key signs
- Gain practical communication skills to support individuals with communication difficulties
- Create a more inclusive and supportive environment for everyday interactions

Education, Inclusion & Achievement
SEND Parents and Carers


Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Makaton Training

Learn the basics of Makaton including hand signals, finger spelling and key signs. This could help communication with children or adults who struggle verbally.

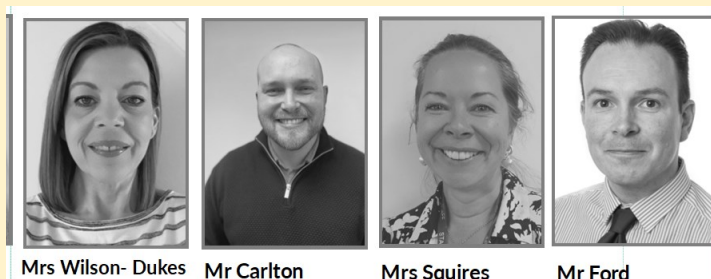
The course is run at the Thornaby Family Hub and there is no cost for this.

Follow [this link](#) to book a place.

Safeguarding :

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the school is **Mrs Batty**.

Our other safeguarding leads in school are:



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 again stayed the same. However, today saw a big drop - we only had 87% attendance. There appears to be a bug affecting both staff and children, which hopefully will soon pass.

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 concerns you have affecting your family. Contact the school if you would like to speak with her.

You may be aware of recent media coverage regarding a meningitis outbreak in Kent. Although this situation is not affecting schools in our area, we recognise that it may prompt questions or concerns.

Please see below a poster that has been shared with us, providing some clear information about meningitis.



MENINGITIS + SEPTICAEMIA

Meningitis
NOW

Meningitis is a serious condition where the protective layers around the brain and spinal cord become inflamed. Septicaemia is when the bacteria enter the bloodstream to cause blood poisoning. They can happen to anyone, so it's important to know the symptoms and risks.

Early symptoms, such as fever, vomiting, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet and headaches, can look similar to common illnesses like colds or flu. But someone with meningitis or septicaemia will usually become seriously ill in a matter of hours. That's why it's crucial to keep checking on anyone who is unwell.

MENINGITIS SYMPTOMS?

- fever
- a very bad headache (this alone is not a reason to get medical help)
- vomiting
- stiff neck
- dislike of bright lights
- rash (DO NOT wait for a rash to appear before seeking medical advice)
- confusion, delirium
- severe sleepiness, losing consciousness
- fits

SEPTICAEMIA SYMPTOMS?

- fever and shivering
- severe pains and aches in limbs and joints
- vomiting
- very cold hands and feet
- pale or blotchy skin
- rapid breathing
- diarrhoea and stomach cramps
- red or purple 'bruised' or blotchy rash on skin that does not fade under pressure - do the glass test. On dark skin, check paler areas of the skin, such as the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, inside the mouth (roof), and the eyelids
- difficulty walking or standing
- severe sleepiness, losing consciousness

If you become worried about yourself, your child, or a friend, particularly if symptoms are getting worse, seek medical help urgently.

EARLY TREATMENT CAN BE LIFE-SAVING.