



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 20th February 2026

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### OPAL - wellies.

After half term, we are asking that you send your child to school with a pair of clearly named wellies. These will remain in school and be stored in our new outdoor shed. The wellies will be used during OPAL and Forest School sessions, allowing the children to enjoy outdoor learning in all weathers while also helping to protect shoes and keep our carpets mud-free. Please don't worry if you are unable to provide a pair - we are developing a collection of spare wellies to ensure that all children can take part.



If you have any outgrown wellies you would be happy to donate, we would certainly appreciate them as we are building our bank of spares. Any wellies brought in after half term (spares or your named pair) should be handed directly to class teachers.

### Calling all budding artists

For any budding artists in the school, we are inviting them to take part in a special art project for an upcoming school display. We would love your child to create a portrait of a member of our school staff. This could be a teacher, teaching assistant, member of the office team, caretaker, or anyone else who helps make our school such a wonderful place to learn. Your child can be as creative as they like as they try to capture the member of staff's personality, smile, or something that makes them unique. The choice of media to create the portrait is at your child's discretion - pencil, pen, colour, black and white, paint - whatever they choose. Please ensure there is no writing on the portrait, it is just a picture! Completed portraits will be proudly displayed around the school for everyone to admire. Please hand any artwork to your child's class teacher by Friday 20th March. We can't wait to see your fantastic creations!

### 5-star rating for our kitchen



Once again, we are delighted to share that our school kitchen has been awarded a 5-star food hygiene rating by the Food Standards Agency. This top rating reflects the highest standards of food safety, cleanliness and kitchen management, and we are incredibly proud to have maintained this achievement for another year.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated kitchen team for their continued hard work, professionalism and commitment. Their care and attention ensure that our pupils enjoy meals that are not only nutritious and delicious, but also prepared and served to the very highest standards.



## World Book Day (or week!)

World Book Day is going to be celebrated over the whole week beginning on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. We will be promoting reading for pleasure across the school and the theme is a 'mash up' of fairy tales and graphic novels.

We have a number of activities planned throughout the week, including competitions, treasure hunts and a few surprises along the way. Please note the following:

**Dressing-up day: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** - children are invited to come as a fairy tale character or any book character of their choice.

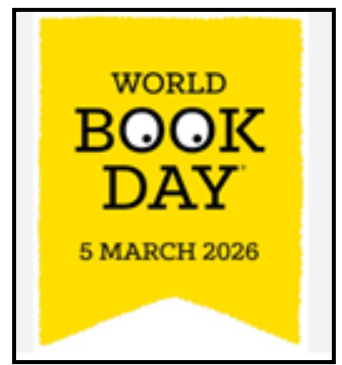
**Sponsored Read:** this will be starting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, both in school and at home. All sponsor money to be handed in by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Competition time:** Entries to be handed into class teaches by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please make sure your child's name and class is written on the back.

EYFS/KS1 competition = create your own front cover for your favourite fairy tale

KS2 competition - turn a fairy tale character into a graphic novel character. Give them bold lines, a powerful pose, and a speech bubble where they say something exciting.

As usual, we are sure World Book Day/week, will be a great experience for the children and something they really enjoy.



## Air quality around the school community.

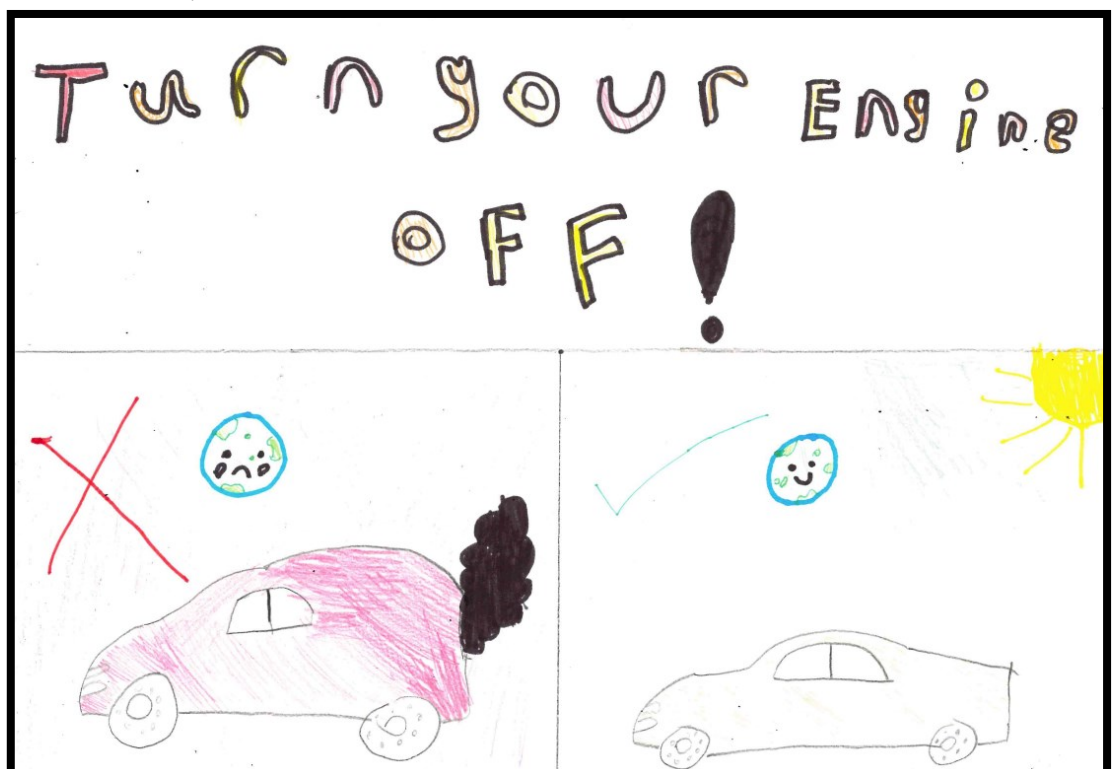
This week, our children had an informative assembly led by Ashleigh and Emma from Stockton Environmental Health. They spoke about the importance of clean air and how children can play an active role in improving air quality within our local community.

The children were fantastic at identifying the causes of air pollution and suggesting practical ways to protect our environment. They recognised that cars left idling with engines running during drop-off and pick-up times contribute to air pollution around our school.

We kindly ask that, if you are waiting to collect or drop off your child, you switch off your engine.

Together, we can help keep the air around our school as clean and healthy as possible for everyone.

One of our children subsequently created a poster to promote this. Thank you, Florence!



## Live it & Get Active after school clubs

Live it and Get Active are a provider for afterschool sports activities. The clubs run at Whinstone for Year 2 to Year 6 children. Next term, there are five different sports covered over the five weeks.

If you are interested in your child attending this club, you can book and pay through your Arbor account. Bookings are open already so don't miss out.

For any further information, please contact the school office on 01642 750318 or [admin@whinstone.org.uk](mailto:admin@whinstone.org.uk).



WHINSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB Y2 - Y6

# MULTI SPORTS

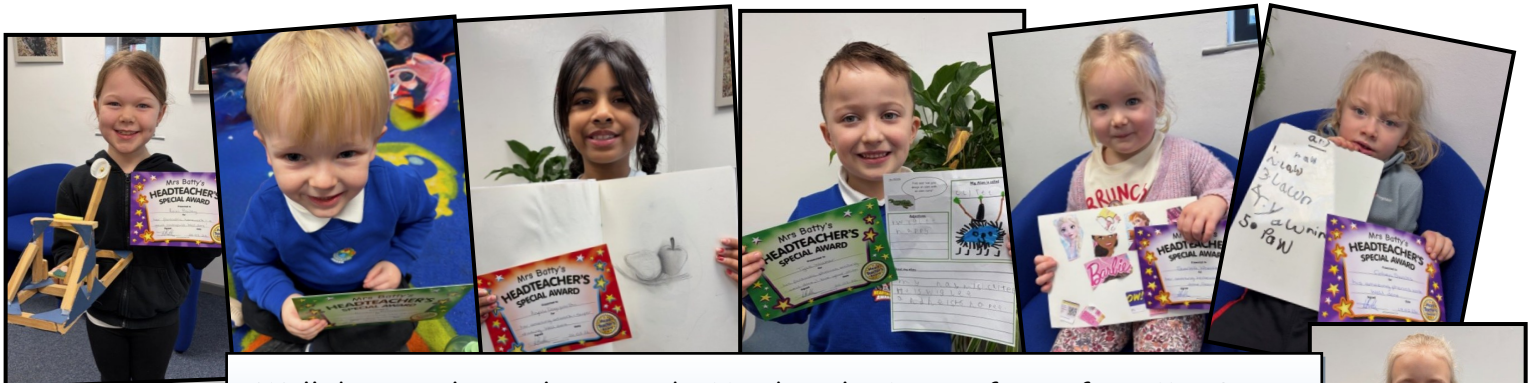
Live it & Get Active

- FOOTBALL**  
Fast-paced drills, matches and skill challenges.
- DODGEBALL**  
Duck, dip and dodge in action-packed team battles!
- BASKETBALL**  
Dribble, shoot and compete in a high-energy team match!
- GYMNASTICS**  
Bend, balance and build confidence through movement challenges!
- MINI TENNIS**  
Rally, serve and score in fast, fun mini match play!

**5 WEEKS 5 SPORTS DONT MISS OUT!**

CONTACT WHINSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SIGN UP

# Around Whinstone this week.



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

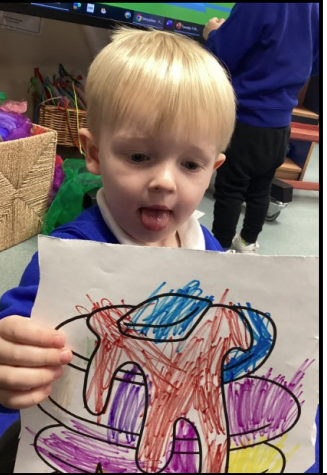


Our Year 5 Ambassadors, supported by some of our other pupil leaders, hosted a visit from two other schools to show them what Whinstone has to offer.





Year 1 have been thinking about how to look after their community. This week, they went on a litter pick.



Pre-school has been learning about the Lunar New Year. They also made some pancakes and tried some noodles and prawn crackers.

Year 1 have celebrated Lunar New Year with crafts and the tasting of spring rolls!



Our Reception children did their annual dragon parade to celebrate Chinese New Year.

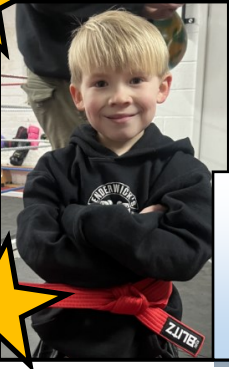


There was an assembly about improving the quality of the air around school.



As part of their DT work, Year 2 made and ate their own chips!

# Whinstone Stars



Sidney is the face of Newcastle United's Accessibility Tour. He was selected through the charity 'Useful Vision'.

Well done, Sidney!



Isaac has been working very hard to perfect his skills in kickboxing. Last weekend, he passed his grading for his red belt.

Well done, Isaac!

## Would you rather...?



**Oracy**

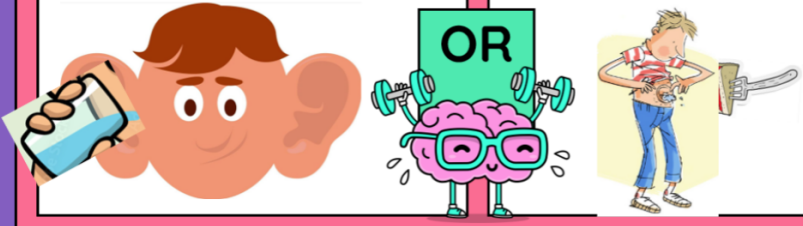
Oracy - talk matters!

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

**WOULD YOU RATHER** WEEK BEGINNING 02/03/26

DRINK EVERYTHING WITH YOUR EARS?      EAT EVERYTHING WITH YOUR BELLY BUTTON?

OR



## Whinstone next week

### World Book Day (Week)

This runs over the whole week with activities and competitions. Don't forget dress-up day on Thursday 5th!

### Dance workshops

We have some dance workshops taking place over the week.

### Wheelchair basketball

Some of our children will be getting the opportunity to experience and play wheelchair basketball.

**REMEMBER WE ARE NOW CLOSED FOR THE HALF TERM BREAK AND RETURN ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH**

# Safeguarding and Family Support

## What's on this week at Stockton-on-Tees Family Hubs

### Monday 23 February

**Redhill**  
Breakfast and board game club  
9.30am to 10.30am  
**Red Balloons Family Walk and Talk**  
1pm to 3pm

**Stockton**  
Red Balloons perinatal walk  
10am to 12pm

**Thornaby**  
Babbling Babies  
12.30pm to 2pm  
Baby and parent group, suitable for non-walking babies.



### Tuesday 24 February

**Billingham**  
Breakfast Family Fun  
9am to 11am

**Stockton**  
Infant Feeding Support  
10am to 11.30am  
Warm Welcome  
1pm to 3pm

**Thornaby**  
MIND Be Heard  
11 to 13 years 4pm to 5.30pm  
14 to 16 years 5.30pm to 7pm

Scan to book for Be Heard



**Billingham Family Hub**  
Ochil Terrace,  
Billingham  
TS23 2QL

**Redhill Family Hub**  
Redhill Road  
Stockton  
TS19 9BX

### Wednesday 25 February

**Billingham**  
SEND Coffee Morning  
9.30am to 11am

**Redhill**  
Babbling Babies  
9.30am to 11am  
Baby and parent group, suitable for non-walking babies.

**Stockton**  
Tea and Toast  
9.30am to 10am  
Junk Modelling Workshop (call to book)  
10am-11am

**Stockton Family Hub**  
Yarm Road  
Stockton  
TS18 3PJ

**Thornaby Family Hub**  
Tedder Avenue  
Thornaby  
TS17 9JP

### Thursday 26 February

**Billingham**  
Red Balloons Perinatal Walk and Talk  
9.30am to 11.30am  
Infant Feeding Support  
1pm to 2pm

**Stockton**  
Babbling Babies  
1pm to 2.30pm  
Baby and parent group, suitable for non-walking babies.



**Thornaby**  
Knit & Natter  
9.30am to 11.30am  
Everyone welcome.  
Junk Modelling Workshop (call to book)  
1pm to 2pm



### Friday 27 February

**Billingham**  
Babbling Babies  
9.30am to 11am  
Baby and parent group, suitable for non-walking babies.

**Stockton**  
Polish Village Stay and Play  
4pm to 5.30pm

Call 01642 528525 for more information

## February half-term

### 'What's on Guide'

Here is a 'What's on' Guide for the Family Hubs over half term. It includes a range of activities and support available to families during the school break.

For more information call the Family Hubs on 01642 528525

## 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 stayed the same again. Today was particularly low, but hopefully all the illnesses going around at the moment will have ended by the time we return to school.

Whole school attendance  
(year to date)



**94.8%**

National average = 94.5%

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.

