



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

Friday 6th March 2026

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### Our Art display

Last week, we informed our budding artists about a special art project for a school display. We would love for your child to create a portrait of a member of our school staff. This can be any adult who works in the school. The choice of media is entirely up to your child; they may use pencil, pen, colour, black and white, paint, or any other medium they prefer.

Please ensure that there is no writing on the portrait- it should be a picture only.

Completed portraits will be proudly displayed around the school for everyone to admire. We have already received some lovely portraits and look forward to seeing many more!

Please hand any completed artwork to your child's class teacher by Friday 20th March.



### Staff news

We would like to congratulate Mr Good, who has recently received his Candidacy, the first stage in the journey towards being ordained to public ministry as a deacon.

Mr Good will continue in his teaching role at the school alongside this important step in his ministry, he is **not** leaving the school. As part of this vocation, you may occasionally see Mr Good wearing clerical clothing, such as a dog collar.

We are very proud of Mr Good and wish him every success as he continues this journey.

### Wellies

Just a reminder that we are asking families to send their child to school with a pair of clearly named wellies. These will remain in school and will be stored in our new outdoor shed.

The wellies will be used during OPAL and Forest School sessions, allowing children to enjoy outdoor learning in all weathers while also helping to protect their school shoes and keep our carpets mud-free.

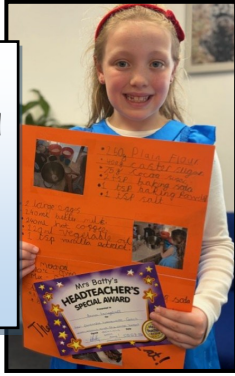
Please don't worry if you are unable to provide a pair. We are building a collection of spare wellies so that all children can take part.

If you have any outgrown wellies that you would be happy to donate, we would be very grateful as we continue to build our bank of spares. One of our pupils has kindly donated several pairs this week - do you have any old ones lying around?



# Around Whinstone this week.

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



Pre-school enjoyed their first Forest School session.



Our Mental Health Champions and our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors gave an assembly to KS1 to remind them about the roles they have in the school community.



We had a dance instructor in school to take some of the classes for a dance session.



Our Year 2 and KS2 children enjoyed their wheelchair basketball sessions.



# World Book Week



Year 1 to Year 6 spent the beginning of the week looking at fairy tales and traditional stories. They had a go at retelling them, using sound effects and actions.



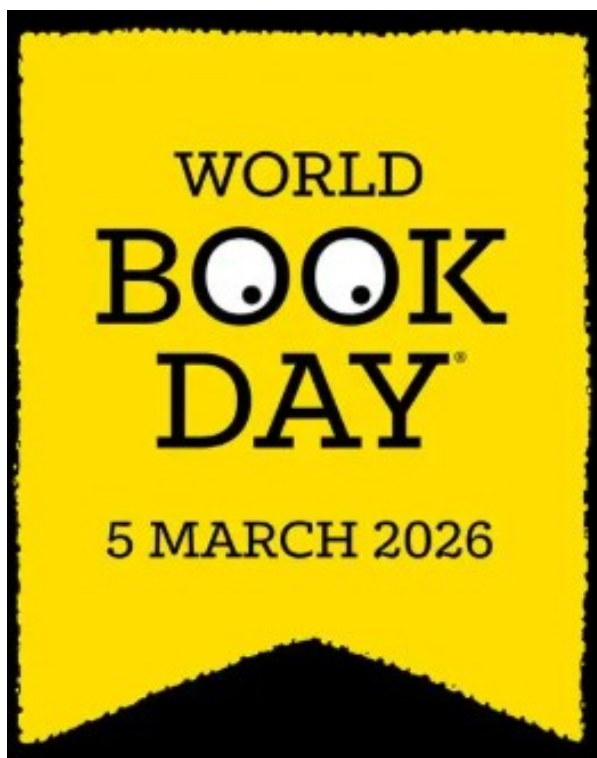
We used an oracy technique called 'six-hat thinking' to understand stories from different perspectives, to look at the facts and to provide creative ideas. The children worked in groups taking turns to share orally their ideas. As a group, they then presented, all taking part in speaking to the class.



On Wednesday, each class got a special delivery - a graphic novel. Each class watched their author talk about the book through 'Authorfy', a brilliant free website for all ages to hear from authors. From this the children then turned fairy tales into graphic novels.



**authorfy.**



Mrs Gibson's Reading Ambassadors put on a performance of Little Red Riding Hood. They performed to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on World Book Day, and then to KS2 in assembly on Friday.

The children came to school in their World Book Day costumes. So many books were represented.



The EYFS and KS1 winners for the best costume were chosen by the Reading Ambassadors..  
The winners for KS2 were chosen by Mrs Gibson and the teachers.

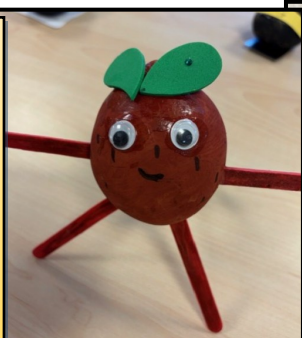


Over the week in school, KS2 children had the challenge of turning a humble potato into a book character.

Children thought carefully about how they would create their character and even brought in things from home to help their designs. There were some amazing creations.



Our winners of the potato character competition.



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
5 MARCH 2026

# Whinstone Stars



Skyla competed in another dance competition in Thornaby over the half term break. She did very well and came 1st in her National dance, 3rd in acro, and 1st in both of the group dances.

Fantastic achievements—well done, Skyla.



Mia played in the Middlesbrough FC Foundation Cup tournament representing Middlesbrough FC Girls' Under 10 team. Mia and her team beat Darlington's Locomotives on penalties.

Well done, Mia!

## Whinstone next week

### Year 6 Swimming

Children from Year 6 will be swimming every day at IB Leisure.

### Meeting for those attending the London visit

On Tuesday, we are having a meeting for the parents for all those children who are going to London to the Houses of Parliament.

### Teesside High rehearsal for our supporting choir

On Wednesday, the supporting choir for the Teesside High production of Sister Act, will have another rehearsal.

### Year 5 Microbits

Les Foggits, from Yarm School, is doing some work with our Year 5 children on microbits.

### Boys Year 5 and 6 football team

On Thursday, our Y5/Y6 boys' football team will return to Stockton Town football club for the next round of the Stockton schools' tournament.

### Dance workshops

We have some dance workshops taking place over the week with the children who didn't have a session this week.

# Would you rather...?



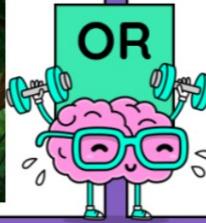
**Oracy - talk matters!**

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

## WOULD YOU RATHER

WEEK BEGINNING  
09/03/26

Live in a jungle treehouse?



Live in an underwater submarine?



## SEND Parents and Carers

### SEND Navigator

#### Your First Step to Support

#### Do you think your child needs additional support?

Our SEND Navigator is here to assist you, signpost you to support and help you navigate the SEND system.

Contact the SEND Navigator via email, leave a message on our 24/7 voicemail service or call our live line during the times below.

### Contact us

#### SEND Navigation Line



**01642 528888**



Monday 1 - 4 PM

Wednesday 9 AM - 12 PM

Friday 9 - 11 AM



[sendnavigator@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:sendnavigator@stockton.gov.uk)

All telephone messages and emails will receive an initial response within 2 working days.



Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

### SEND Support

Following our recent Stockton Parent Carer coffee morning event linked to the Diverse Pathways project, we are sharing with you how you can make contact with the SEND Navigator.

Watch out for more SEND related events next term when we move to the next stage of the Diverse Pathways project.

# Safeguarding and Family Support

## Funded childcare

### What's available for you and when

#### How many hours of childcare can you claim per week?

Age 3-4 years	Age 2 years	Age 9-23 months
All parents (universal)	Families receiving additional support	Working families
15 hours	15 hours	30 hours
Working families	Working families	
30 hours	30 hours	

15 hours per week is based on 38 weeks per year (term-time only) but parents can access fewer hours per week over a full year. Eligibility criteria applies to all of the above except for the universal offer for all parents. In addition, you can use Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit to pay for childcare whilst also claiming your 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare.



## Funded childcare

Find the right offer for you. REMEMBER to reconfirm codes by March 31st.

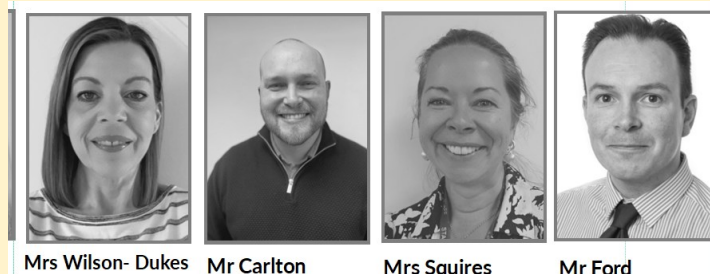
Visit [www.beststartinlife.gov.uk](http://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk) for more information.

To keep up to date on when you can start to claim the new funded childcare offer visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/freechildcare](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/freechildcare) or contact the Families Information service on 01642 527225.

## 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 increased slightly. Today had strong attendance with 97.7% of the school attending. Well done, keep it up.

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.