



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Spring term

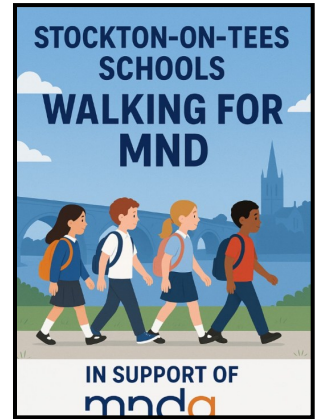
Friday 13th March 2026

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### Non-uniform day in support of the Motor Neurone Disease Association

As a group of Stockton schools, we are coming together to raise funds in support of a much-loved and highly respected Head Teacher, Claire Park, who was recently diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

MND is a devastating illness that progresses rapidly. It takes away time, independence and quality of life, and currently there is no cure. The Motor Neurone Disease Association supports people living with MND and their families, funds vital research, and campaigns for better care and support. Their work makes a real difference to those affected by the disease because with MND, every day truly matters.



**Next Friday, we will be holding a non-uniform day** to help raise money for this important cause. Children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes and bring a donation for the charity. No amount is too small - every penny raised will contribute to the Stockton-wide fundraising effort in support of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

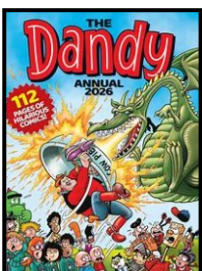
In addition, walks are being planned across Stockton-on-Tees on 27th March to raise awareness of MND. Schools in Ingleby Barwick have come together to organise a walking route for our pupils. Further details will be shared next week as plans are finalised, but we already know that our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be joining pupils from other primary schools in Ingleby to take part.

If you would like to support this very worthwhile cause, a JustGiving page has been set up. As a school, we will add all funds raised from the non-uniform day to this collection. However, we recognise that some families and staff in our community may have personal connections to MND. Anyone who would like to make an additional personal donation can do so using [this link](#) provided or by scanning the QR code.



Thank you for your continued kindness and support as we come together as a community to help make a difference.

### Comics and comic annuals



After noticing the children's growing enthusiasm for comics last week, we are planning to add some comic books and hardback comic annuals to our reading areas. These are a great way to encourage reluctant readers and help develop a love of reading through engaging stories and illustrations.

We will be purchasing some new titles for the classrooms but, if your child has any comics or old annuals at home that they no longer read and would be happy to donate, we would be very grateful. Pre-loved comics would make a wonderful addition to our collection and will be enjoyed by many children.

## Sports Days

As we approach the start of a new term, we would like to share the dates for this year's Sports Days.

Over the past two years we have listened carefully to feedback from parents. Many families asked for more advance notice so that working parents can arrange leave where possible, and for the events to take place earlier in the term, when the weather is usually cooler and more comfortable for the children.

With this feedback in mind, we have scheduled the following dates and times for this year's Sports Days. We hope that providing this information early will help families plan ahead and allow as many parents and carers as possible to attend and support the children.

Please see the dates and times below.

Year group	Date	Start time(s)
Pre-school	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	11:30 (morning attenders) 2:30 (afternoon attenders)
Reception	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	1:45pm
Year 1 and Year 2	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	1:45pm
Year 3 and Year 4	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	1:45pm
Year 5 and Year 6	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	1:45pm

# Around Whinstone this week.





In RE, Year 3 celebrated a Passover (Seder) meal. They learnt that Jewish people celebrate a special meal to recall how God saved them from slavery.

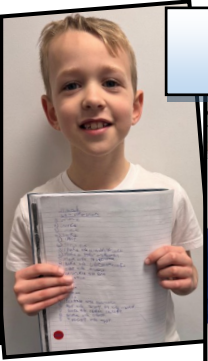
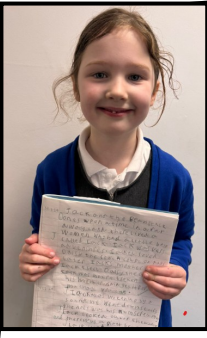
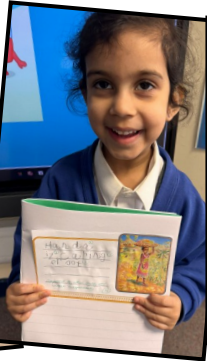
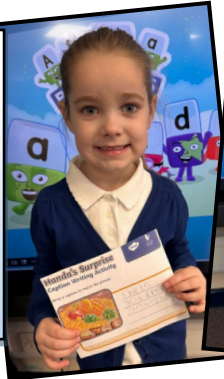


Our Reception children have been learning about North America. They made Canadian beavers and Mexican 'Day of the Dead' masks.



Breakfast Club has introduced a new activity which is being well received - dance drumming!

Across the school, we have seen some amazing writing this week.....



...and maths too!



# Whinstone Stars



At the weekend, on International Women's Day, Libby was a flag waver for the Middlesbrough Women's game. What an experience - well done, Libby.

Parker was given Man of the Match for the second week in a row! He plays for a year above his age, in the TIBs Under 11s team. Well done, Parker.



Arthur received a green Blue Peter badge. This badge is awarded to Blue Peter viewers for their environmental efforts. Arthur had made a windmill out of recycled materials. Well done, Arthur.



# Whinstone next week

## Year 6 Swimming

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

## Science Week

Over the course of the week, all children in school will be carrying out some science investigations based on this year's theme of 'Curiosity'

## **Science Week Competition**

Poster or model competition on the Science week theme of *Curiosity*

We are asking for children and their families to get involved! Pupils could create a poster or model showing curious things such as weird and wonderful plants and animals; or how humans have developed and adapted to changing technology. They could look at climate change or where our food comes from and the impact this has on the environment. The more creative the interpretation of the theme, the better! The best examples from each area of school will win a prize.

**Entries in School by Wednesday 18th March please.**

## Year 2 trip to Bowsfield Nature Reserve

Year 2 will be going to the nature reserve on either Tuesday (2F) or Thursday (2T). They will need appropriate clothes and footwear and will be back in time for lunch.

## Year 5 Microbits

On Wednesday, Les Foggitt, from Yarm School, is doing some more work with our Year 5 children on microbits.

## Pre-school have a visitor

On Friday, pre-school have a visit from a fire engine!

## Anti-bullying Ambassadors working at Conyers

Our Anti-bullying Ambassadors are working with some secondary school children from Conyers.

## Non-uniform day on Friday

Any monetary donation will be greatly received and will go to support the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

# Would you rather...?



**Oracy - talk matters!**

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

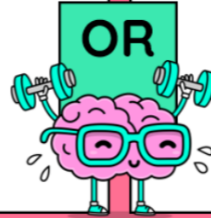
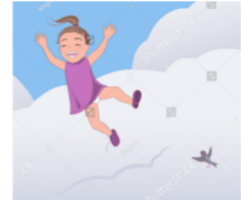
## WOULD YOU RATHER

WEEK BEGINNING  
16/03/26

Spend a day sliding down rainbows?



Spend a day bouncing on clouds?



### Safer Sleep Week

New resources are available to help keep your baby or young toddler safe while sleeping. Visit the Lullaby Trust website following [this link](#).

## New resources available

the lullaby trust



Easy read card:  
How to dress your baby for sleep



Safer sleep essentials visual poster



Safer sleep essentials poster



Search 'Lullaby Trust Safer Sleep Week' to visit the campaign page, and download the resources.

9 - 15 March 2026

# Safeguarding and Family Support



## SLEEP HYGIENE WORKSHOPS



IS YOUR CHILD FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO SLEEP AT NIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR UPCOMING WORKSHOPS?

OUR WORKSHOP OFFERS SIMPLE, REALISTIC ADVICE TO SUPPORT HEALTHY SLEEP ROUTINES FOR CHILDREN AGED 1-5 YEARS OR 5+ YEARS



1-5 YEARS OLD

DATE: 24<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2026  
TIME: 10AM TO 11:30AM  
LOCATION: MICROSOFT TEAMS



5+ YEARS OLD

DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2026  
TIME: 10AM TO 11AM  
LOCATION: BILLINGHAM FAMILY HUB



### 0-19 Growing Healthy service - sleep workshops.

These workshops are designed for parents and carers, offering practical guidance and supportive tips to help improve your child's sleep routine! Workshops are available to families living in Stockton.

Book a place via their website. Please note there are more dates available than shown on the attached leaflet and they are delivered either virtually or face-to-face. The website links hold more information.

1-5 Years [link to booking](#)

5+ Years [link to booking](#)

## 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 stayed the same as it was last week. Let's see if we can raise it up again next week - make every day count!

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.