



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Summer term

Friday 24th April 2026

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### Award for OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) at Whinstone

For the past two years, we have been on an exciting OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey. This week, we welcomed our official OPAL inspection and final audit, which reviewed the provision we offer, how it is organised, and the positive impact it has on our children. We are incredibly proud to announce that we were awarded the highest possible accreditation - Platinum.

However, achieving Platinum is not the end of our journey - we have many more ideas to develop and implement, and over the next two years we will be striving for a Double Platinum award.

This achievement reflects the dedication of the whole school, but we would like to give special recognition to the key members of our OPAL team who have worked tirelessly to ensure its successful implementation and day-to-day running. Mrs Wilson-Dukes, Mrs Godwin and Mrs McGough (who recently left the school) have each played a vital role in our OPAL journey working alongside our lunchtime supervisors who manage the areas. What they have achieved is truly fantastic.

Whinstone Primary has done it again, and we are delighted to have yet another wonderful award to celebrate!



### Lost property



Once again, we have collected a large amount of lost property since January. Although the items have been displayed in school and some were claimed during the three parents' evenings, a significant amount of unnamed clothing still remains.

To allow space for any items lost this term, we will be making the remaining lost property from the spring term available for anyone who wishes to take it. As these items are unnamed, we are unable to return them to their rightful owners, and some have been with us for almost four months.

At the start of the school day on Monday and Tuesday, clothing rails containing the lost property will be placed on the main playground. Please take a look and feel free to take anything you could make use of - there are numerous black PE tops, jumpers, and cardigans available. Everybody needs a spare! Remaining items will be sent to charity.

To help prevent items from being lost in the future, we kindly ask that all removable clothing such as jumpers, cardigans, and coats are clearly named. Almost every item on the rail has a label with space to write a name, which can easily be done using a biro. Named items have a much better chance of being reunited with their owners and help avoid the unnecessary cost of replacing lost clothing.



## Whinstone's Got Talent

Whinstone's Got Talent will take place next week on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th April. This much-loved event happens every two years and is a firm favourite in our school calendar. As a school, we love seeing the children showcase their wonderful talents, and there are always a variety of entertaining and unusual acts to enjoy!



We will not be issuing physical tickets for entry. Instead, we have a list of all those who have purchased tickets - think of it as an old-style VIP guest list! During the interval on each evening, there will be a raffle and refreshments will be available to purchase. Please note that these are cash only.

We look forward to two fun-packed evenings celebrating the amazing talents of our Whinstone children.

**If your child is taking part, please ensure they arrive at school by 5.45pm on the evening they are performing.**

## Free training for parents around supporting your child with school worries

As a school, we are committed to providing the highest level of support for the children of Whinstone. As part of this commitment, our staff have recently undertaken training in EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance). We are proud to share that over 75% of our staff have now completed Level 1 training, and Whinstone has been awarded the 'EBSA Aware' accreditation.

We are already seeing a noticeable improvement in our ability to support children who find it difficult to attend school, and this is having a positive impact

on their wellbeing and engagement. Stockton-on-Tees continues to work closely with EBSA Horizons to ensure that training is accessible to everyone who may benefit from it - including parents.

Is your child finding it difficult to come to school? Perhaps they're experiencing tummy aches, tears, or saying they feel worried? Many children feel this way, and it can be challenging for the whole family.

Family Horizons is a free, supportive online course created especially for parents and carers in this situation. It offers:

- Understanding of what your child might be experiencing
- Practical strategies to support your child
- Real stories from families who've been through similar experiences
- Activities you can try together at home

You can access the Family Horizons training anytime using this link: [Family Horizons](#)



# Around Whinstone this week.

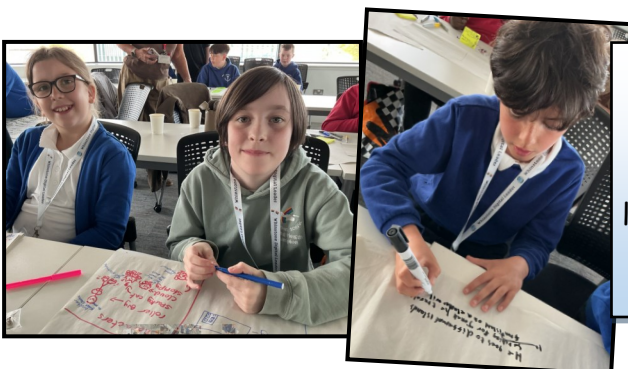


Well done to those who earned a Headteacher's certificate from Mrs Batty this week.

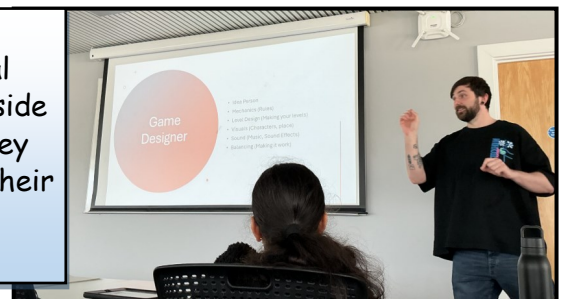


We announced the winners of our Whinstone Sparks certificates. These awards celebrate children who have consistently demonstrated our school values by being Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Well done to every child who was selected - it is a real honour and not easy to achieve. We are proud of you all.



Some of our Digital Leaders visited Teesside University where they learnt how to design their own game.





Our Year 5 and Year 6 boys' football team competed in the Stockton semi finals. They won all of their games and have made it to the Stockton finals.



OPAL fun in the sun!



# Whinstone Stars

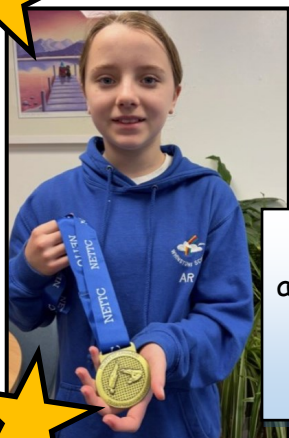


Jay and Hugo were mascots at the Middlesbrough match on Wednesday. Middlesbrough won, so they were certainly lucky charms.

Well done, boys!

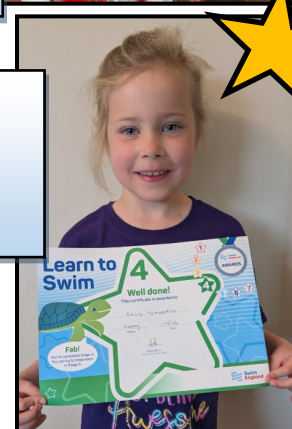


Emily took her Stage 4 swimming test and passed. Well done, Emily this is a fantastic achievement.



Alexis competed in a trampolining competition and was awarded the gold medal for her age group in DMT (double mini trampoline).

Wow, well done, Alexis.



Owen competed in a trampolining competition and he was awarded not one, but two gold medals. He achieved gold in DMT (double mini trampoline) and gold in trampolining.

Fantastic - well done, Owen.



# Would you rather...?



**Oracy - talk matters!**

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

<b>WOULD YOU RATHER</b>		<b>WEEK BEGINNING</b> 27/04/26
 <b>Live In A Glass House</b>	<b>OR</b>	 <b>Live In A House Without Windows</b>

Below the 'OR' sign is a cartoon thinking emoji with a white thought bubble above its head.

# Whinstone next week

## Uniform put out on playground

Help yourself to any of the leftover, unclaimed uniform from the spring and the autumn term. This will be on rails on the main playground on Monday and Tuesday morning before school starts.

## Year 2 Forest School

Year 2 have their Forest School session on Wednesday.

## Year 6 Financial Workshops

On Wednesday, our Year 6 children are having a financial workshop delivered by representatives of Newcastle Building Society.

## Whinstone's Got Talent

On Wednesday and Thursday evening we have our fantastic Whinstone's Got Talent events. Any children performing need to arrive at 5:45pm on their allocated night.

## Year 5 Ambassadors

On Thursday, our Year 5 Ambassadors are visiting Levendale Primary School for the morning.

## Stockton Speaks! competition

On Thursday, three of our Year 5 children are attending the Stockton Speaks! Public speaking competition to represent the school.

# Safeguarding and Family Support

## Parent and carer partnership

Share your views to help shape services

All parents and carers welcome at our first meeting!

 Monday 27 April


 1:30pm to 3pm

 Stockton Family Hub

### We want to hear:

- What you think works well
- What you think could be better

### For more information or to join email:

 [emma.werrett@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:emma.werrett@stockton.gov.uk) or  
[hdft.stockton0-19service@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.stockton0-19service@nhs.net)



 Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 NHS  
Harrogate and District  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Stockton Parent and Carer Partnership

The first meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 13:30-15:00 at the Stockton Family Hub will focus on the 3.5 to 4-year child health review and is an opportunity to share your experiences, ideas and suggestions in a supportive and informal setting. All parents and carers are welcome, and you can take your children if needed.

As a thank you for taking part, Stockton are giving a small number of family passes for selected venues across Stockton-on-Tees.

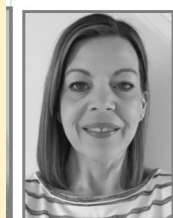
Please get in touch to join the group or to find out more by emailing

[emma.werrett@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:emma.werrett@stockton.gov.uk) or [hdft.stockton0-19service@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.stockton0-19service@nhs.net)

## 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 contact the Stockton Family Help Point using [this link](#).

During working hours call: 01642 130080 or Email: [familyhelppoint@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:familyhelppoint@stockton.gov.uk)

In an emergency, please contact the Police on **101** or **999**.

## Attendance

A small increase in attendance this week, but we know we can do better! Punctuality can affect your attendance percentage so make sure your child is in school on time.

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.