



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Summer term

Friday 1st May 2026

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### 'Speak Up, Stockton!' Whinstone winner.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the success of two of our Year 5 pupils who recently represented Whinstone at the 'Speak Up, Stockton!' public speaking competition. We are delighted to share that one of them, Nazair, was also announced as the winner with his speech about his love of reading.



This achievement aligns well with Whinstone's focus on promoting and prioritising oracy. We recognise that the ability to speak clearly, confidently and persuasively is a vital life skill. Opportunities such as 'Speak Up, Stockton!' allow children to develop their confidence, organise their thoughts and use their voice to influence and inspire others.

We are extremely proud of both pupils, Nazair and Violet, who took part and represented our school so positively really embracing the challenge and showcasing their powers of confident communication.



### Careers Week 2026

Our annual Careers Week will be taking place in the week commencing 29th June, and we are looking forward to another inspiring event for our Year 6 pupils. This is a valuable opportunity for children to learn about the wide range of careers open to them as they move towards adulthood and to understand that there are many varied and exciting occupational pathways available.

Building on the success of last year's Careers Week, we are once again inviting any parents, carers and members of the community to come into school (or return if you volunteered last year) to talk to the children about their jobs, career journeys and what their roles involve.

If you, or someone you know, would be willing and able to visit the school during that week, please contact Mrs Wilson-Dukes via email at [admin@whinstone.org.uk](mailto:admin@whinstone.org.uk).

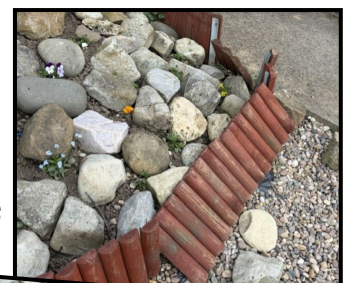
We are very grateful for any support you may be able to provide in helping to inspire and inform our pupils about their future possibilities.

### Rockery damage

This week, we were saddened to see that children have been climbing on the rockery, causing damage not only to the plants but also to the surrounding fencing. After repairs and we repainted it, the fencing was unfortunately broken again in less than four hours.

We kindly ask that you do not allow your children to climb or walk on the rockery. This area was created as a tribute to a former pupil, and it is very upsetting to see it treated without the respect and care it deserves.

As the rockery is located at the main entrance, children should not be in this area unsupervised. Please ensure that all children are kept off the rockery at all times.



## Class photos for Reception and Year 6

On Tuesday, Tempest photographers will be in school to take the class photo of our Reception and Year 6 children. These photos are usually popular with the children, especially those moving on to secondary school in just a few months; they can act as a memento of their time at Whinstone.

Many of our pupils and staff love to compare their Reception photo to the Year 6 one - not only have the children grown up, staff see just how much they themselves have aged!

For this day, if your Reception or Y6 child usually wears PE kit, can they please attend in their school uniform instead.

## Dogs on site

Thank you to parents and carers who have raised concerns regarding dogs being walked on the school premises at drop off and pick-up. While many of us are very fond of dogs, as a school we would like to remind everyone that dogs should not be brought onto the school grounds, even when on a lead.

This policy is in place for several important reasons. Some of our children may feel anxious or frightened around dogs, and there is also the risk of toileting on playground areas. In addition, even well-behaved dogs can react unpredictably in busy environments, particularly where there are large numbers of children moving around. Although we have previously provided sessions on safety around dogs through the charity Dogs' Trust, some young children may still approach with too much enthusiasm causing dogs anxiety and possibly to react. It is not fair putting children, or your pets, into these potentially stressful situations.

We have communicated this expectation to our school community before and we will look to display signage at school entrances to reinforce this message. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep the school environment safe and welcoming for all children.



# Around Whinstone this week.



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



Our Year 6 children had some financial workshops hosted by Newcastle Building Society.



Our Mental Health Champions started their new Walking Club. The walkers even got to enjoy ice lollies on their return!

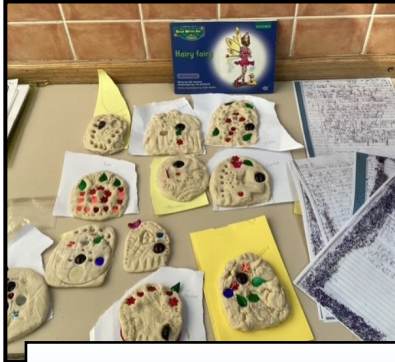


We had our Whinstone's Got Talent nights. Two of them as we have so much talent to share!

From singing to dancing, basketball skills to potions, gymnastics to comedy, drumming to yoyo...the talents showcased were diverse and a huge shout out should go to the children who confidently went on the stage in front of a big audience and judges!!!

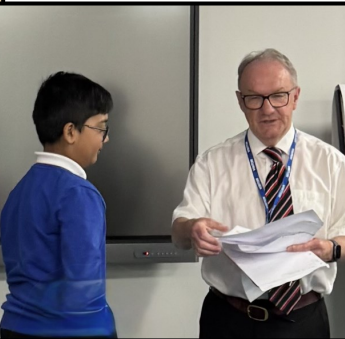


We had Lizzie Pringle, from OPAL Northeast, to present us with our Platinum Award for 'outstanding play provision'. Look out for the new banners going up next week.



One of our Year 2 groups made fairy doors and did some writing based on their book, 'The Hairy Fairy'.

OPAL fun in the sun.



Two of our children represented the school at the Speak Up, Stockton competition open to all Stockton schools.

## Talking about AI – a guide for families

Conversation starters and activities to help parents talk to children about artificial intelligence

internet matters.org



Helping children understand how AI works and how to use it safely starts with regular conversations and small, age-appropriate activities.

# Online safety

There was a great new resource added on the Parents Online Safety page of our website. It is a free downloadable booklet of advice on Artificial Intelligence for parents of primary school children. In this increasingly technological world, where AI is becoming more widely used, this advice is invaluable.


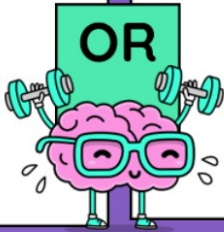

To access, click this [link](#) or visit the school's website.

# Would you rather...?



## Oracy - talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER		WEEK BEGINNING 04/05/26	
Eat nothing but burgers? (VEGETARIAN ONES ARE AVAILABLE!)			EAT NOTHING BUT CHOCOLATE? 

# Whinstone next week

## Tempest in to take photos of Reception and Year 6 classes

On Tuesday, Tempest photographers will be in school taking the class photos of those in Year 6 and Reception. Please make sure your child is wearing their school uniform on this day.

## Year 2 Forest School

Year 2 have their Forest School session on Wednesday.

## Tennis sessions

Throughout the week, we have Matthew Jackson, a tennis coach, in delivering tennis sessions across the school.

## Internet Legends online safety assembly including a visit from Matt Vickers

On Friday, our KS2 children will have an online safety assembly presented by Internet Legends and supported by Matt Vickers.


# Safeguarding and Family Support


## SEND Peer Support Group

Feeling overwhelmed by the health and education system? You're not alone. Come join us in a kind and safe place for parents of children with SEND needs.

- Enjoy a warm drink and have a friendly chat
- Get helpful advice to support you and your child
- Talk to people who know how the system works and can help
- Meet other parents who get it, share ideas and support

Whether you're just beginning the SEND journey or have been finding your way for a while, let's build a community where we learn and support each other.

 Every Thursday (term time only)

 9.15/9.30am to 11am

 The Community Hub,  
34 Havelock Street, TS17 6HN

For more information, please contact  
sccc@pcp.uk.net



In partnership with  
Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



## SEND Peer Support Group

Do you support a child with SEND and feel confused or worried sometimes? You are not alone.

There is a friendly group for parents and carers of children with SEND running at the Community Hub in Havelock Street.

Have a warm drink, chat with others, get helpful advice, and meet people who understand.

Every Thursday (term time)

9.15 / 9.30am - 11am

The Community Hub, 34 Havelock Street, TS17  
6HN

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

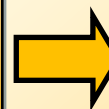
During working hours call: 01642 130080 or Email: [familyhelppoint@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:familyhelppoint@stockton.gov.uk)

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

## Attendance

No move this week, but today saw a good day. The sun is definitely helping get those children into school to enjoy their OPAL!

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.

