



# Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Summer term

Friday 8th May 2026

## Whinstone Wide - General school information

### Save the Date - Summer Fayre

Our Summer Fayre is having a little change this year! Following the success of our evening Christmas Fayre, we are excited to be moving the Summer Fayre to an after-school event. Make sure to save the date - **Friday 3rd July**.

As always, we will be creating our much-loved themed hampers. Each year group will be assigned a different colour, and we would greatly appreciate any donations to help fill them. The hampers are always a huge success, so please feel free to be as imaginative as you like when choosing items. We kindly ask that no fresh items are included due to use-by dates.

Nursery	Pink	Year 3	Yellow/orange
Reception	Green	Year 4	Brown
Year 1	Red	Year 5	Purple
Year 2	Blue	Year 6	Black & white

We are also collecting donations for our popular bottle stall and tombola. For the bottle stall, we are asking for any unopened bottles - these can be drinks, toiletries or anything that comes in a bottle. All donations can be sent into school via the main office or handed to staff at the classroom door. Thank you, as always, for your continued support - we can't wait to celebrate together!

### Mental Health Awareness week

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week. Our school recognises the importance of this because early childhood is when children develop emotional skills, confidence, and relationships. Supporting wellbeing helps our pupils understand their feelings, manage challenges, and know when to ask for help. Our strong focus on mental health creates a safe environment where our children feel happy, supported, and ready to learn.



The Mental Health Champions have arranged activities for the children throughout the week. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May they would like our school to have a 'pyjama day', where all children are invited to come to school dressed in their pyjamas. If they are not comfortable in wearing night attire, they can come in something they feel comfortable in!

In addition to 'pyjama day', some of the activities our pupil Mental Health Champions have planned are:

- Mindcraft drawing and colouring at lunchtime
- Karaoke at lunchtime
- Decorate the classroom door, an inter-class competition.
- Yoga with Mr Carlton.

We hope it will be another successful week across the school, especially for our Year 6 pupils who will be working hard on their SATs

## Road Safety

This morning, there was an incident involving one of our pupils on Ingleby Way. While not directly outside school, the child and their family were crossing at a designated crossing when a vehicle failed to stop at a red light. Fortunately, no one was injured, but this was understandably a very distressing experience for the family involved and could have had far more serious consequences.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of road safety when travelling to and from school. If you are driving, please ensure you reduce your speed, remain alert and follow all traffic signals. For those walking, please continue to use designated crossing points and remain vigilant, particularly as not all drivers adhere to the rules of the road.



## Year 6 SATs

Next week, our Year 6 children will be sitting their SATs. We are incredibly proud of how hard they have worked in preparation and the resilience they have shown throughout the year.

A few gentle reminders for the week ahead:

- Please ensure your child arrives at school **on time each day, ready to start promptly.**
- If there are any concerns or issues over the weekend, please email school as soon as possible so we can support.
- A good night's sleep will make a big difference.

While SATs are not the be-all and end-all, and do not define who our children are or who they will become, they are an opportunity for pupils to show what they can do. We encourage all of our children to try their very best and feel proud of their efforts.

We have already planned for a Year 6 water fight on Thursday afternoon, by then it will be a well deserved reward!

Most importantly, please make sure your child knows just how fantastic they are. Encourage them not to put too much pressure on themselves. As long as they try their very best, we couldn't be prouder.

## Sports day reminder dates

It's not long now until sports days begin.

We would like to remind parents of the approaching dates for sports days this year as shared on the newsletter in March.

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

## Stockton-on-Tees SEND inspection

There is currently an inspection of the authority to assess how effective the Stockton-on-Tees Local Area Partnership is at identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

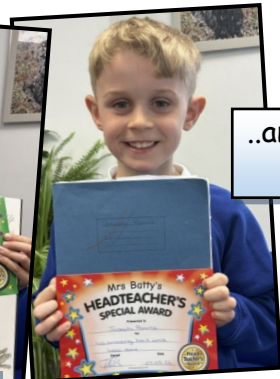
If you are a parent of a child who has SEND needs, we have been asked to direct you to the link where you can express your views on the authority's provision, arrangements and support.

I have attached two links, one for the OFSTED guidance and one to complete the online survey. Remember, this is only relevant for those parents who have children with Special Educational Needs.

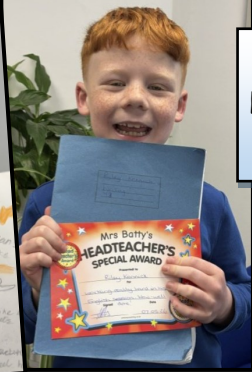
[Guidance link](#) and [Survey Link](#)

Please note we have been asked for this to be completed by 9am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

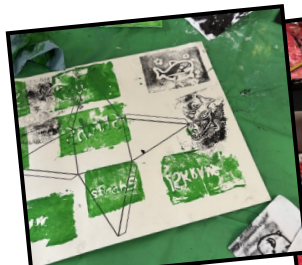
# Around Whinstone this week.



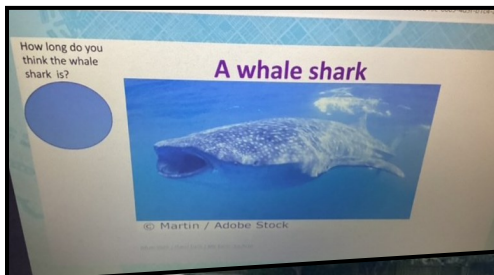
..and Grace too!



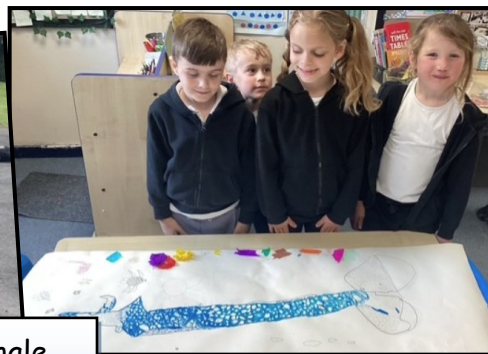
Well done to those who earned a Headteacher's certificate from Mrs Batty this week.



Year 5 explored different printing techniques.



Year 1 were doing some work on whale sharks. They even measured out the length of a whale shark using children!



Reception were learning and writing about dinosaurs.



Some of our children enjoyed OPAL dressing up!





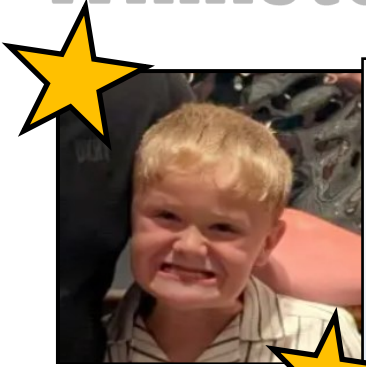
Our Walking Club enjoyed their time in the sun. One of the children (Emilia) said, "I go on the walk each week as a Mental Health Champion. I love that I get some fresh air, exercise and get to talk with my friends and teachers."



We had an amazing KS2 Internet Legends assembly from the Google and Parent Zone team (Rhiannon and Chelsea). The children learnt lots of useful things about staying safe online.



# Whinstone Star - Charity support



One of our Year 5 pupils, Sidney, is taking part in an 11 mile Tees Heritage walk on 17th May to raise money for My Sister's Place. Sidney is registered 'Severely Vision Impaired' but he is wanting to support others in the community by doing this walk for charity.

My Sisters Place is a specialist domestic abuse charity providing confidential, non-judgemental support to anyone affected by abuse. They are there to listen, believe, and help people rebuild their safety, confidence, and independence. Their services are free, inclusive, and centred around the needs and choices of the individuals seeking support.

If you would like to support this charity and Sidney's efforts, please follow this [link](#).



# Would you rather...?



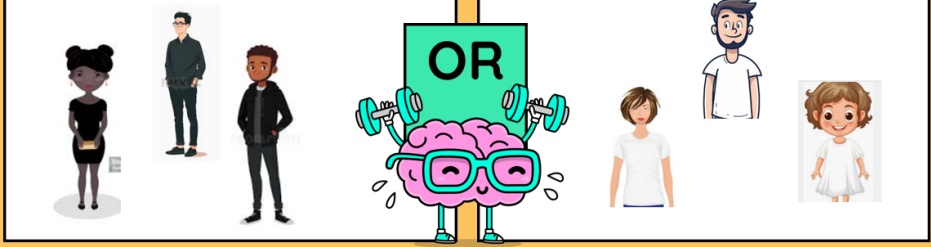
**Oracy - talk matters!**

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

**WOULD YOU RATHER** WEEK BEGINNING 11/05/26

Have to wear black all the time?  
Wear white all the time?

**OR**



# Whinstone next week

## Year 6 SATs tests are taking place

From Monday to Thursday, Year 6 will be taking their SAT tests. Please ensure all Year 6 children arrive on time, are well rested and fed!

## Mental Health Awareness week

Across the week, our Mental Health Champions will be running events to support children's mental health. These events include karaoke, colouring and yoga!

Remember, on Friday is 'Pyjama day' when children can come dressed in their pyjamas or other comfy clothing.

## Tennis sessions

We are continuing with a second week of having a tennis coach in delivering tennis sessions across the school.

## Year 2 Forest School

Year 2 have their Forest School session on Wednesday.

## Year 6 Water fight

On Thursday afternoon, Year 6 will have a celebratory water fight to mark the end of the SATs tests. Details have been sent out to Y6 parents because they will need to bring a complete change of clothes - including underwear!

## FoW Ice Cream Friday

Friends of Whinstone will be selling ice creams during the school day. The cost of these is £1. There are alternatives for those with dairy allergies.

# Safeguarding and Family Support



**FAMILY Horizons**

**Supporting Parents and Carers of Children Experiencing School Attendance Difficulties**

**What is Family Horizons?**  
A free online course for parents and carers whose children are finding school attendance challenging. Whether your child is starting to show signs of anxiety about school, or hasn't been able to attend for some time, this course offers understanding, practical support, and hope.

**What does it offer families?**

- Understanding of your child's experience with school
- Practical strategies and tools to support wellbeing
- Ways to work effectively with schools
- Stories from families who understand
- Resources you can use with your child

**How does it work?**

- Access 5 chapters with video content online anytime
- Watch short, focused videos
- Download practical resources
- Revisit materials when needed

Every child's journey is unique. Whether you're just noticing difficulties or have been supporting your child for some time, Family Horizons provides gentle, practical support for your family's specific situation.

Supporting families, understanding attendance

Join for FREE by emailing your child's teacher for the registration link

## Family Horizons

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](#)

## Safeguarding :

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the school is **Mrs Batty**.

Our other safeguarding leads in school are:



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

We have a slight increase this week which is great to see. Thank you for ensuring your child comes to school each day and on time. Good attendance helps children thrive and learn.

Whole school attendance  
(year to date)



**95.0%**

National average = 94.7%



Miss Owens, our PSA, 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.

