



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Summer term

Friday 15th May 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Summer Fayre

Just a friendly reminder to save the date for our Summer Fayre - Friday 3rd July, straight after school. We are really looking forward to welcoming you all for what promises to be a fantastic community event! We would greatly appreciate any donations to help fill our ever-popular hampers. These are always a highlight of the fayre, so please feel free to be as creative as you like when choosing items. Each year group has been allocated a colour theme - please refer to the table to see which colour your child's class will be contributing.

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 much-loved bottle stall and tombola. For the bottle stall, we kindly ask for any unopened bottles - these could include drinks, toiletries or anything else 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 - it really does make a difference in helping us create a wonderful event for our children.

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 previous newsletters.

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

Roblox and other online games

We have had some discussions with children recently around games they are playing and videos they are watching at home. Some children have mentioned a game and video called Poppy Playtime. This is a game/video that includes PEGI-16 rated content of violence and horror that is not appropriate for primary aged children to be accessing. This game also appears in Roblox. Roblox is an open platform where creators can make games and stream these online.



As with anything that is open source, inappropriate content is seen across the Roblox platform. As a school we would recommend stand along digital experiences where we are sure that the content is appropriate. Examples of these would include titles like Mario and Pokémon games. Please see the attached #WakeUpWednesday information sheet for more details on Roblox and keeping our children safe.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

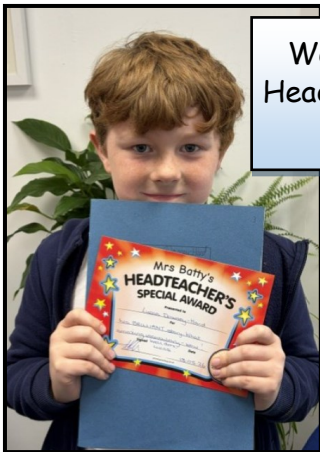
Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website

Around Whinstone this week.



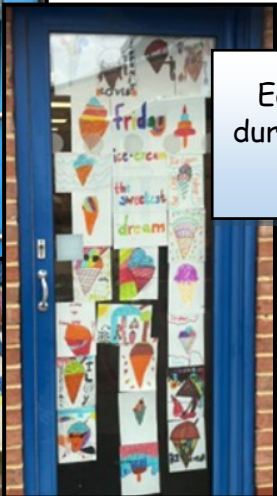
Well done to those who earned a Headteacher's certificate from Mrs Batty this week.

Year 6 made and ate pizzas.

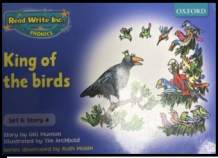


There was an alien invasion in Reception because aliens love underpants!

Karaoke and Pyjama day to celebrate Mental Health Awareness week



Each class decorated their door to make people smile during Mental Health Awareness week. The winning door was....Mrs Gibson's class!



Some of Year 2 made bird feeders to link to their book, *King of the Birds*.



Year 4 made bird nests from clay and sticks!



Year 6 had their annual end of SATs water fight. Staff joined in too!



We had a tennis coach in school doing sessions with classes across school



Whinstone Stars

Addie took Grade 1, 2 and 3 exams in Irish Dancing , and received Honours in all of them. She had to do 6 separate dances, two in each grade.
Well done, Addie.



Gio and his team F.C. Teesside U9s played in the New Marske FC May tournament and they won the silver cup.
Gio was also invited to join the pro-level group of the academy where he has been coached for the last year.
Well done, Gio.



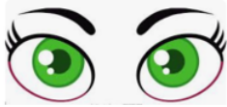

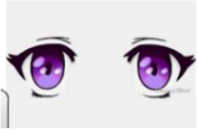
Would you rather...?



Oracy

Oracy - talk matters!

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

WOULD YOU RATHER		WEEK BEGINNING
		18/05/26
Have lime green eyes?	OR	Have purple eyes?
		

Whinstone next week

Year 6 Carlton Residential

From Monday to Friday, some of our Year 6 will be off to Carlton for an adventure filled week. Those Y6 children remaining in school will take part in activities that match the skills of activities happening in Carlton such as team building, resilience focused activities and outdoor learning.

Clay Day

Some of our Year 5 children (they have been informed) are taking part in a Clay Day to work on an art based project at Yarm School.

Year 4 Microbit session

On Wednesday, Year 4 are working with Mr Les Foggitt from Yarm School on microbits.

Author and archaeologist visit

On Friday, Year 4 are being visited by the author and archaeologist Caroline Hardy.

We break up on Friday for half term.

We welcome the children back to school on Monday 1st June.

Safeguarding and Family Support

HAF May half term

The booking system went live for the May Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme this week. There are a variety of activities on offer across Stockton including multi sports, horse riding, youth clubs, SEND specific sessions and family activities.

The main eligibility criteria for the HAF programme is that families are in receipt of benefit related free school meals (FSM), however they can also offer a small number of discretionary places to families working with support services. Discretionary spaces can also be allocated to young carers and families claiming universal credit, however evidence is required.

To book use this link: [HAF booking](#)

**HOLIDAYS
ARE
FUN**

Free, fun activities for school age children from Reception to Year 11.

To be eligible, families must be in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

BOOK NOW!

Scan to register and check eligibility:



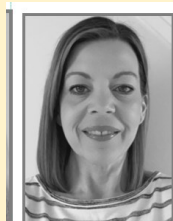
www.stockton.gov.uk/haf
01642 527752
HAF@stockton.gov.uk



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

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

Attendance

Our attendance has maintained this week. Thank you once again for ensuring your child comes to school and arrives on time ready to start their learning.

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.