



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Summer term

Friday 10th July 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Money Raised from our non-uniform day

As you know, today was a special non-uniform day where children were invited to wear bright colours or something Disney-themed. This event was particularly meaningful to our school community, as all money raised is being donated to The Lily Foundation, a charity that supports children and families affected by mitochondrial disease. Mitochondrial disease (often referred to as 'mito') is a rare and complex genetic condition that can affect any organ in the body at any age, most commonly impacting babies and young children. It is often difficult to diagnose and, sadly, there is currently no cure.



Just over a year ago, we lost one of our Whinstone pupils, Daisy, to this devastating condition. She was a much-loved member of our school community, and she should have had so much more life ahead of her. In her memory, Daisy's family established 'Daisy Shines' to support The Lily Foundation. We are incredibly proud to share that today we raised an amazing £583.43. Thank you for your kindness, generosity and support.

School Dinners

For next week only, we will be making a temporary change to our usual school dinner arrangements. This is to allow the kitchen to use up existing food stock ahead of the end of term and the six-week summer break.



Instead of the usual pre-selection system, the kitchen team will prepare a range of meals each day, and children will be able to choose their lunch 'café style'. There will be a selection of firm favourites alongside a variety of options, ensuring there is something to suit all tastes.

Following the summer holidays, we will return to our usual daily ordering system.

Lost Property

As we approach the end of term, we once again have a significant amount of lost property in school. We always make every effort to return clearly named items to their owners, so the clothing currently on our rails is unnamed and unclaimed.

We appreciate that many families will be purchasing new uniform for September; however, some of the items we have appear to be in excellent condition and may be of use in helping to reduce costs. As usual, we will place the lost property out on Tuesday morning for parents and carers to check for any items belonging to their child. Children also have access to the lost property throughout the school day, so these are items that have not been claimed when they have looked.

On Wednesday (and, if needed, Thursday) morning and after school, any remaining items will be made available for families to take if they wish. We have already organised for all items still unclaimed to be collected for charity first thing on Friday morning.

After school sports clubs for September

We are pleased to share that we have partnered with a new provider, Active Future Teesside, to deliver our after school sports clubs. For the first half term, the following clubs will be available:

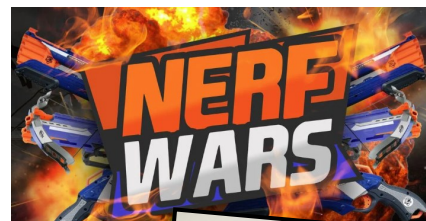
- Nerf Wars for Years 4, 5 and 6
- Yoga for Years 4, 5 and 6
- Gymnastics for Years 1, 2 and 3

After the October half term, the clubs will rotate to give other year groups the opportunity to take part.

The cost for the first half term is £25. Bookings can be made via your Arbor account, where you will also find full details for each club.

To make a booking, please log in to Arbor and select 'Activities' from your dashboard. Then click on 'Clubs' followed by 'Register for these clubs'.

If you have any problems, please contact admin@whinstone.org.uk



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs daily from 7:45am to 8:45am and is available to all children attending our school. Places can be booked via your Arbor account, and sessions are now available to book in readiness for September.

To make a booking, please log in to Arbor and select 'Activities' from your dashboard. Then click on 'Clubs' followed by 'Register for these clubs', where you will be able to choose and book your sessions.

Great British Summer Savings

With the summer holidays approaching, we wanted to share information about the Government's *Great British Summer Savings* scheme, which aims to help families enjoy days out and activities at a reduced cost.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, VAT will temporarily be reduced from 20% to 5% on a range of children's and family activities, including:

- Children's meals in restaurants
- Children's and family tickets for cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions
- Entry to a wide range of attractions and experiences

In addition, children aged 5 to 15 in England will be able to travel for free on buses during August, helping families access more opportunities over the summer break.

The scheme is designed to support families with the cost of living while encouraging children and young people to enjoy enriching experiences outside of school. Families can find participating attractions and venues using the attraction finder on this link: <https://summersavings.gov.uk>

We hope this information helps families make the most of the summer holidays and enjoy some memorable experiences together.



Around Whinstone this week.



Some of our Year 6 went to the Thornaby and Ingleby Cup football event at St Therese of Lisieux. They reached the final but lost on penalties.

One of our Year 5 Ambassadors attended the Spark Ambassador event to share his findings with parents and staff from all of the Trust primary schools.



Our Year 4 to Year 6 children had a water safety assembly delivered by Tees River Rescue.



We held our Pre-school graduation.



One of our parents from Reeve's Removals, donated some items to school that they had collected from a recent job they had attended.



Year 3 went to Whitby.



★ Whinstone Stars

Trishul and Shriman have been attending weekly Carnatic vocal music lessons at Raaga Sudha Music Academy and recently participated in the academy's annual musical event - Gala Pradarshana. They performed in categories for 'Carnatic vocal singing' and 'Stage drama' and were awarded medals in recognition of their participation and achievement.

Well done, Trishul and Shriman

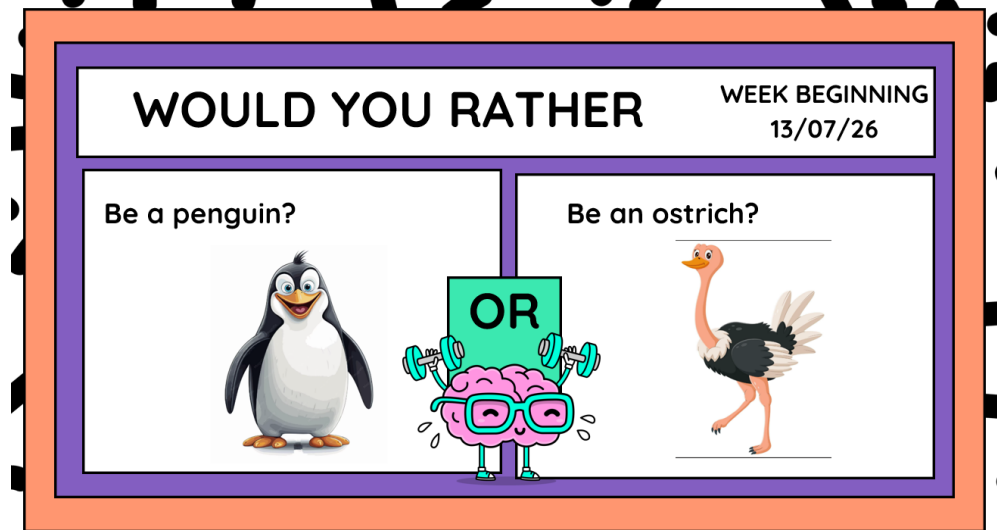


Would you rather...?



Oracy - talk matters!

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



Whinstone next week

Spark Education Trust public speaking event

On Tuesday morning, we have two of our KS2 children attending the Spark Speaks event hosted at Conyers.

Year 6 leavers party

On Tuesday evening, our Year 6 children will be having their final party at Whinstone.

Year 6 assembly

On Wednesday morning, our Year 6 children will be holding their Leavers' assembly. Parents are asked to come to the main entrance where they will be let in from 09:05

Year 1 Forest School

On Thursday morning, our Year 1 children will be having another Forest School session with ScoutEd.

Year 6 Whitby trip

On Thursday, Year 6 will be having one final trip as a member of Whinstone Primary School. They are heading off for a fun day in Whitby.

Year 6 reports

Year 6 reports will be going out with their SATs results on Thursday.

Ice-cream Friday

On Friday, we will be holding another Ice-cream Friday . Ice-creams cost £1.

Safeguarding and Family Support

HOLIDAYS ARE FUN



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

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

Scan to check eligibility and book online:

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



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

BEST START IN LIFE

Funded by UK Government

HAF bookings

The booking system for the summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme will go live at 12 noon on Wednesday 8th July.

A wide range of activities will be available across Stockton for children and young people to enjoy during the summer holidays.

The main eligibility criterion for the HAF programme is that families are in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM). In addition, a limited number of discretionary places may be available for families working with support services.

For further information, please visit the Holidays Are Fun (HAF) programme page [here](https://www.stockton.gov.uk/haf).

If you have any questions, please contact haf@stockton.gov.uk.

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](https://www.stockton.gov.uk/familyhelppoint).

During working hours call: 01642 130080 or Email: familyhelppoint@stockton.gov.uk

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

Attendance

For the fourth week in a row, our whole school attendance remains at 94.9%. Can we make it 95% before the summer holidays?

Whole school attendance
(year to date)

➔ **94.9%**

National average = 94.5%



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.