



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Summer term

Friday 17th July 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Goodbye, Miss Towler



Today we have said goodbye to one of our Year 2 teachers, Miss Towler. Although she has been with us for a relatively short time, she has made a lasting impression on both pupils and staff alike. Her care, and commitment to the children have been greatly appreciated, and she will be missed by many.

As Miss Towler leaves us to further develop her career, we would like to thank her for her contribution to Whinstone and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Lights, camera....watch again!

This year, we have had two performances recorded and shared with parents. Both can be accessed via the links included in this newsletter; please note that they are not searchable on YouTube, even through our school's YouTube page.

For those who were not directly involved, they are certainly worth watching. The Year 6 Leavers' video, in particular, is always a firm favourite!

[Charlie and the Chocolate Factory link](#)

[Y6 Leavers' video link](#)

Reminder - 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.

OFSTED

This week, we welcomed four inspectors into school for our OFSTED inspection. While it may not have been the ideal timing in the final week of term, we made the most of the opportunity to showcase everything that makes Whinstone such a special place to learn and work.



Our children were outstanding ambassadors for the school, speaking with confidence and pride about their experiences. The inspectors gathered views from pupils, staff, and parents through questionnaires as well as direct conversations. We were also made aware that three parents commented via the OFSTED free text box that they felt the timing of the inspection was unfair - so if that was you, please know your feedback was heard!

The final report will not be published until the new academic year, so there is nothing further we can share at this stage. However, as OFSTED has introduced a completely new inspection framework, we feel it is important to provide some context around the updated grading system and report cards, which have now replaced the previous gradings.

The following information, provided by OFSTED, offers some information about the new inspections:

What's different about the new Ofsted grades?

The key change is that Ofsted no longer gives a single overall judgement like 'good' or 'outstanding'. Instead, each report card shows colour-coded grades for specific areas such as attendance and behaviour, achievement, personal development and well-being, and inclusion. This approach aims to give parents a clearer picture of strengths and next steps in each important aspect of education.

How does the new grading scale work?

The new scale has five levels: 'exceptional', 'strong standard', 'expected standard', 'needs attention', and 'urgent improvement'. 'Expected standard' means the provider is meeting all requirements at a high level, shown in green. 'Strong standard' reflects excellent, consistent work making a real difference, while 'exceptional' is reserved for the very best national practice. 'Needs attention' signals areas to improve before they become serious issues, and 'urgent improvement' marks more significant concerns.

What extra details are on the report cards?

Alongside the grades, the report cards include written descriptions explaining why each grade was given and what it's like to be a child or learner there. They also show factual data from the time of inspection, such as pupil numbers, apprenticeship counts, or nursery age ranges. These details help parents understand both the context and the quality of provision when making decisions or seeking reassurance.

There is also a short, three-minute summary video explaining these changes and the new gradings, which can be accessed via this link - [OFSTED summary video](#).

We now await the outcome of the inspection and will share this information with you as soon as it becomes available. The report will be published on the OFSTED website, where all inspection reports can be viewed.

Goodbye and good luck to our Year 6

As we reach the end of another school year, we prepare to say a very special goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children as they leave Whinstone for the final time.

Their journey through primary school has been far from ordinary. They started their time with us during the disruption and uncertainty of COVID, experiencing challenges that no other year group has faced in quite the same way. Despite this, they have shown incredible resilience, adapted to every challenge, and continued to grow into the amazing young people they are today.

While we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved academically, we know that results are only one small part of the story. What matters most is the children who walk out of our doors for the final time: confident, caring, respectful individuals who are ready to take their next steps in life. We are so proud of the fantastic citizens they have become and know they will make a positive difference wherever their journeys take them.

We would like to thank our Year 6 children for the memories, laughter, enthusiasm, and kindness they have brought to Whinstone. They leave us with our very best wishes for the future, and we cannot wait to hear about all the wonderful things they go on to achieve.

Remember, once a member of the Whinstone family, always a member of the Whinstone family.



Signing Off for the Summer

And with that, we bring this academic year to a close. Thank you to all of our families for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership throughout the year.

We hope you all have a wonderful, restful, and happy summer break, filled with opportunities to relax, make memories, and enjoy time together.



We look forward to welcoming
all children back to Whinstone

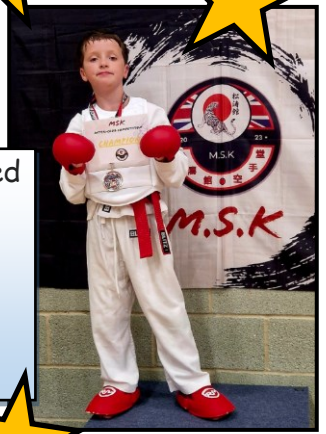
on

Thursday 3rd September

Have a fantastic summer — we can't
wait to see everyone back in
September!

Whinstone Stars

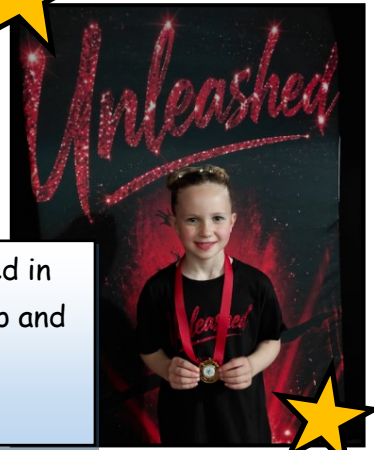
Owen showed he can seamlessly swap the trampoline for the tatami. He competed at the Middlesbrough inter-club competition this Sunday, representing the Teesside Academy of Shukokai Karate. Another great success as Owen won gold in kumite (combat) and silver in kata. Fantastic achievement - well done, Owen.



Alexis also switched trampolining for karate. At the Middlesbrough inter-club competition representing the Teesside Academy of Shukokai Karate, she won bronze in kata and silver in kumite. Well done, Alexis.



Isabella attends Stage Struck Dance Academy and performed in their show, Unleashed. She did six dances including ballet, tap and modern. Wow - well done, Isabella.



Amelia is a theatre star. She performed in Wicked in the role of Nessarose. Her confidence and talent in the role stunned the audience. Wow - well done, Amelia. We'll soon see you on the stage in the West End.



Addie achieved the Arts Award Explore Entry level 3 award. This involved demonstrating various arts such as music and performing. Well done, Addie - a great achievement.



Around Whinstone this week.

Two of our KS2 children went to Conyers to take part in a Trust public speaking event. Both performed speeches they had written.

Year 4 enjoyed a movie afternoon as a reward for their incredible achievements in the multiplication checker.



The children who had 100% attendance over the whole year go to enjoy a special pizza lunch with a Domino's pizzas!



The final week for Y6



Good bye and good luck.

Safeguarding and Family Support

Free breakfasts at Morrisons cafes for adults and children.



Morrisons and Kellogg's have announced the return of their school holiday 'Breakfast Clubs', offering free meals to families across the UK to help ease the financial pressure over the summer holidays.

Families visiting their local Morrisons Café throughout the summer holidays can enjoy a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast', which includes a bowl of cereal and a portion of fruit. The best part, it's not just for children, adults get to eat completely free too. Both children and adults can choose from

much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana. The summer holiday offer will be available from 29th June to 6th September across all Morrisons Cafes nationwide.

Children can register for an NHS dentist

For those of you who do not have your child registered at a dentist or need to have an NHS dentist, on Tuesday 25th August {my}dentist is offering a day to register with them so as many children as possible can access NHS dental services.

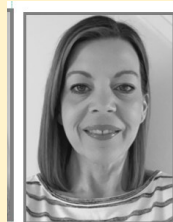
Call 01642 676793 to book your child in.



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**.

THANK YOU

Whinstone Primary School

You raised an amazing
£2,929.35!

We were absolutely delighted to visit your school and host our Colour Run — thank you for making it such a fantastic day!

Your generosity, enthusiasm, and kindness mean so much to us. The funds raised will go directly toward supporting children and young people across Teesside who are struggling with their mental health.

Last year, Teesside Mind supported over 32,000 local people — including more than 5,000 children aged 5 to 16 facing anxiety, low mood, stress, and other challenges. Thanks to your support, we can continue to be there for those who need us most — right here in our local community.

How do we use donations?

- £250 = Mental health assembly & resources
- £500 = Group sessions for 4 children
- £1,000 = 6 weeks of 1-2-1 support for 4 children
- £2,000 = 12 weeks of anxiety support for 6 children
- £5,000 = Youth drop-in sessions for a full term

Thank you to each and every pupil for taking part in the colour run. Thank you to all their family and friends for sponsoring them and to all staff for your warm welcome and commitment to making this such a success.

We couldn't do what we do without your support!

In aid of
 **mind** Teesside

