



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2026/2027 - Autumn term

Friday 11th September 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Celebrating our Ofsted report

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 14th and 15th July.

As a school, we are incredibly proud of the outcome. Our inspection recognised four areas as Strong and three areas as Expected, reflecting the hard work, dedication and commitment of our staff, Governors, Trust and, most importantly, our children.

These outcomes are a real testament to the positive culture we have built together and the continued progress and development of our school.

We would like to thank our whole school community for your continued support. We are very proud of our children and everything they achieve, and we look forward to continuing to build on this success together.



Whinstone Primary School

Address: Lowfields Avenue, Ingleby Barwick, Whinstone Primary School, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 0RJ

Unique reference number (URN): 145223

Inspection report: 14 July 2026

Exceptional	
Strong standard	● ● ● ●
Expected standard	● ● ●
Needs attention	
Urgent improvement	

✓ **Safeguarding standards met**

OPAL donation appeal

We are looking for donations of dressing-up clothes and accessories for our OPAL Show Zone. We are particularly keen to collect items suitable for our older children, such as larger-sized fancy-dress outfits, Hawaiian shirts, wigs, hats, handbags and similar accessories. Any donations would be very much appreciated!

Our Small World Zone is also very popular and, as the toys are used outdoors in all weathers, they can become damaged and need replacing regularly. If you have any unwanted plastic or metal toys that you could donate, we would be very grateful. Items such as cars, Hot Wheels, Barbies, plastic dinosaurs and similar toys are ideal. No soft toys, please.



We rely on donations to keep our OPAL provision well stocked and enjoyable for all our children, so we're hoping that some of you may have had a summer clear-out and have a few items that could find a new home in our OPAL zones!

Have your say: walking, wheeling and cycling to school

Our school has been invited to take part in a project being undertaken by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) about walking, wheeling and cycling to school.

The survey is specifically for parents and carers of pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6. NatCen is conducting the survey on behalf of Active Travel England, who work to make walking, wheeling and cycling a safe and attractive choice for everyday journeys.

The survey will ask about how you and your child travel to school, what helps or makes it more difficult to walk, wheel or cycle, and your views on potential changes that could help more children travel actively to school.

The online survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete and should be submitted by 14th October 2026.

If you are eligible to take part, we would really appreciate you sharing your views. Please use the link below to complete the survey: [Walking, wheeling, cycling survey](#)

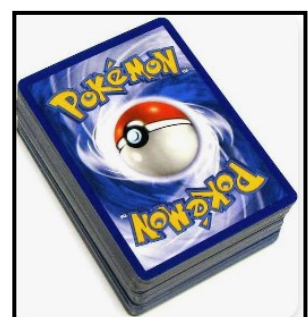
Toys and Pokémon Cards

Please can we ask that children **do not bring toys or Pokémon cards into school**.

Our Early Years areas have a wide range of toys available for continuous provision and free play, while our older children can access a variety of toys and activities at lunchtime through our OPAL provision. Bringing personal toys into school can unfortunately lead to them being lost, broken or mixed up with school equipment which can cause considerable upset for children and also impact on learning and friendships.

In particular, Pokémon cards have recently been causing some difficulties, with children swapping cards and then changing their minds, losing cards or becoming upset when disagreements arise.

At Whinstone, we actively encourage children to play and have fun, but we provide plenty of opportunities and resources for this within school - we ask that personal toys and other items are left at home.



Reminder: Flu Vaccinations – Friday 2nd October 2026

The School Aged Immunisation Team will be visiting Whinstone on Friday 2nd October 2026 to administer the annual flu vaccination.

The flu vaccination is available to all children from Reception through to Year 6. If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please open the message you will have received directly from the NHS inviting you to complete the online consent form. These vaccinations are not managed by school, you will need to consent online via the link.

Secondary School applications for 2027

Secondary school applications are now open for children starting secondary school in September 2027. The quickest and easiest way to apply is to complete the online application form via the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council School Admissions webpage. Or use this link: [Apply for a secondary school place](#)



Parents and carers can list up to four schools on their application, in order of preference. If you are unable to apply online, you can request a paper application form by calling 01642 526605, or download a copy from the Council's website.

The deadline for applications is midnight on 31st October 2026. Please ensure your application is submitted before the deadline.

For further information about the application process, please use [this link](#).

Also, see below for a reminder of the open evenings for our local secondary schools.

All Saints Church of England Academy	Thursday 8 th October 5pm – 7pm
Thornaby Academy	Tuesday 22 nd September 5pm – 7pm
Conyers	Wednesday 23 rd September 5:30pm
Egglescliffe	Thursday 24 th September 5:30pm – 8pm
St. Patrick's	Tuesday 29 th September 5pm – 7pm
Ingleby Manor Free School	Thursday 1 st October 5pm – 7pm

Harvest Festival

Throughout this half term, we will be collecting tinned and dried food items to support Thornaby Food Bank. Donations of toiletries and hygiene products are also very much appreciated. Please send any donations into school to be handed to your child's class teacher.

Through our Harvest celebrations, the children will be learning about what it means to be a good citizen, including the importance of looking out for and supporting those in need within our local community.

On Monday 19th October, Reverend Liz from St Francis' Church will lead a special Harvest Festival assembly for children in Key Stages 1 and 2. This will be a lovely opportunity for us to come together as a school community and celebrate the importance of kindness, generosity and helping others.

Clay Project at Mackenzie Thorpe's Art Gallery

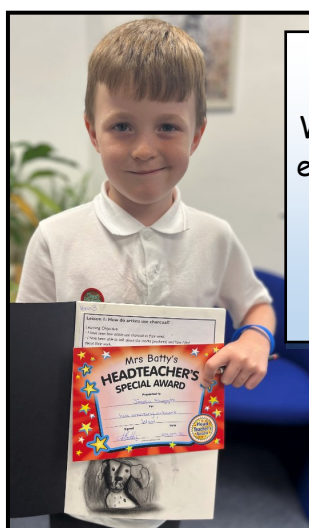
We are delighted to share some exciting news about the clay models created by our current Year 6 children as part of the *You & I Clay Project* exhibited in Stockton's new Waterfront Park over the summer.

The project was generously supported by artist Mackenzie Thorpe, who worked with our children to create their own unique clay models. We are thrilled that Mackenzie is now exhibiting their work at his gallery! Mackenzie has invited our Year 6 children and their families to the opening day of the exhibition on Saturday 12th September. He will be at the gallery from 10am throughout the morning to meet visitors and celebrate the exhibition with the children and their families.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to see their creations displayed in a gallery and to celebrate the wonderful work they produced. Families who would like to attend can find out more information and RSVP using the form below: [RSVP for the exhibition opening](#)



Around Whinstone this week.



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

Music lessons started up again.



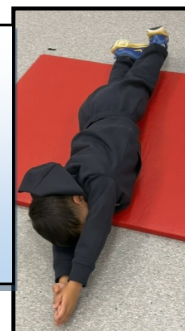
Year 1 created artwork using spirals, both within the classroom and outside.

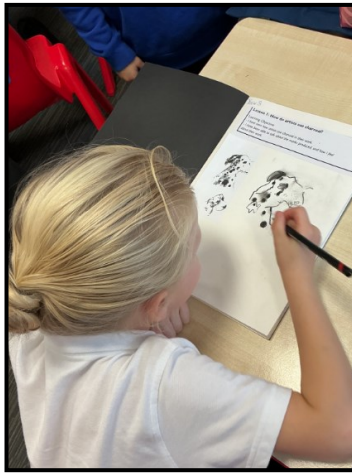


Year 2 used the wildlife area to look for things in nature to inspire their artwork.



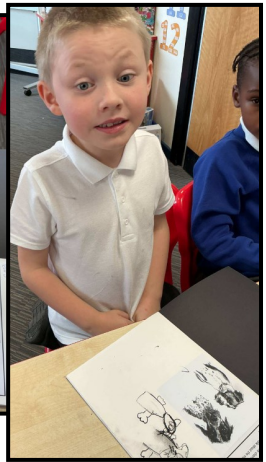
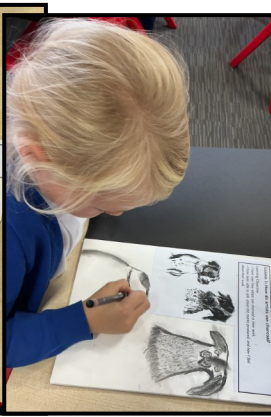
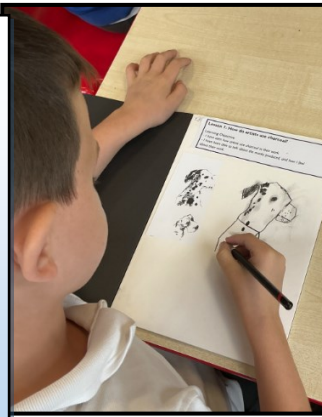
Year 1 were practising different rolls in their PE lessons.





Year 3 studied charcoal drawings of dogs by Laura McKendry. They then created their own!

[Link](#) to a Y3 video showing their artwork. gallery.



Our reception children had their first experience of an OPAL lunchtime where they joined the other children in the big playground. Many met up with siblings!



★ Whinstone Stars ★

Lydia belongs to Ingleby Dance School. She took an exam in tap dancing.

Lydia was awarded Silver Tap.

Well done, Lydia!



Whinstone next week

Sports Clubs

Active Future Teesside will be hosting their after school sports clubs in gymnastics and dodgeball.

Year 4 Dance

Year 4 are having a session with Tees Valley Middlesbrough Dance.

Talk about it



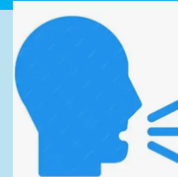
Oracy - talk matters!

This week's topic to discuss with your child.

What would you do?
You find a tiny dragon in your garden.
Would you keep it, help it or tell someone?



Talk about it



Safeguarding and Family Support

Family Hub timetable

The new timetable is out for activities, groups and support for families across Stockton-on-Tees.

You can contact your local Family Hub on 01642 528525 or via the website www.stockton.gov.uk/family-hubs

Monday

Billingham

Community Garden

10am to 12pm (adults only)

Daisy Chain Drop In

10am to 12pm (from 7 September)

Andy's Man Club

7pm

Best Start Family Hub Redhill

Little Explorers

10am to 11:30am

Andy's Man Club

7pm

Stockton

Daisy Chain Drop In

10am to 12pm (from 2 November)

Thornaby

Babbling Babies

1pm to 2:30pm

Tuesday

Billingham

Little Explorers

9:30am to 11am

Harbour drop-in

10am to 12pm

Employment Hub drop-in

1pm to 3pm (fortnightly)

Stockton

Infant Feeding Support

10am to 11:30am

Sprouts Social

1pm to 2:30pm

After School Family Fun

3:30pm to 4:30pm

Thornaby

Tea and Talk

9am to 10am (at Vineyard Church)

MIND Be Heard

11 to 13 years 4pm to 5:30pm

14 to 16 years 5:30pm to 7pm

Wednesday

Billingham

Messy Play

10am to 11am (1st Wed of the month)

Coffee Morning

9:30am to 11am (2nd Wed of the month)

Soft Play

10am to 11am (3rd Wed of the month)

SEND Coffee Morning

9:30am to 11am (4th Wed of the month)

Best Start Family Hub Redhill

Babbling Babies

9:30am to 11am

Stockton

Little Explorers

10am to 11:30am

Thursday

Billingham

Red Balloons - Perinatal Walk and Talk

9:30am to 11:30am

Infant Feeding Support Group

12:30pm to 2pm

After School Family Fun

3:30pm to 5pm

Best Start Family Hub Redhill

Soft Play

9:30am to 10:30am (1st Thu of the month)

The Bread & Butter Thing

1pm

Stockton

Little Sprouts ECO Shop

9:30am to 12:30pm

Babbling Babies

1pm-2:30pm

Thornaby

SEND Peer Support Group

9:30am to 11am (Community Hub, Havelock Street)

Knit & Natter

9:30am to 11:30am

Little Explorers

1pm to 2:30pm

Friday

Billingham

Babbling Babies

9:30am to 11am

SEND All Together For You

9:30am to 11:30am (11 December)

Best Start Family Hub Redhill

SEND All Together For You

9:30am to 11:30am (18 September)

Stockton

SEND All Together For You

9:30am to 11:30am (16 October)

Thornaby

SEND All Together For You

9:30am to 11:30am
(20 November)

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

Although we are up on last week's attendance, we are still below the national average. It would be great to see us close the gap next week.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)



94.6%

National average = 95.5%



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.