



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2026/2027 - Autumn term

Friday 17th September 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Safety Around School

This afternoon, one of our children was involved in an incident where they were hit by a car at the end of the school day. Thankfully, the child was unharmed, but the incident serves as an important reminder of the need for everyone to take extra care around the school at drop-off and pick-up times.

If you need to drive to school, please park responsibly and considerately. Blocking pavements creates difficulties for those using pushchairs or mobility aids, while inconsiderate or unsafe parking can restrict visibility and make it more difficult for children and families to cross the road safely. We understand that everyone is busy and that the end of the school day can feel rushed. However, for the sake of a few extra minutes, please consider parking a little further away from school, where it is safe and legal to do so, and walking the remaining distance.

The safety of our children must always come first. A few extra minutes to park safely and walk to school is a very small price to pay to help keep everyone safe.

Pupil Leadership at Whinstone

Today, during our KS2 assembly, the staff who lead our pupil leadership groups introduced the different opportunities available to children across school. Applications for these exciting roles will open next week.

At Whinstone, we are proud to provide a wide range of wonderful opportunities for our pupils to develop their leadership skills, take on responsibility and make a positive difference to our school community. Whether it is helping to shape school life, supporting other pupils, promoting reading, championing anti-bullying, representing their peers or contributing to one of our many other leadership groups, there is something for everyone. Our recent Ofsted report recognised the impact of these opportunities, noting:

"Leaders establish a culture in which pupils understand the importance of responsibility. Through their leadership roles, pupils contribute to school life. They speak enthusiastically about improvements that have resulted from their suggestions."

We are really looking forward to seeing the children put themselves forward and share their ideas. Children who are interested will bring home information about the different leadership groups to share with you, and they will be able to complete their application form from next week.

We can't wait to see our next generation of Whinstone pupil leaders step forward!



Stockton 0-19 Growing Healthy App - Support for Families

We want to share information on an amazing new app offered by the 0-19 service. The Stockton-on-Tees 0-19 Growing Healthy App is a quick and easy way for parents and carers to get in touch with the right health professionals for their child. The app connects families directly to local health visitors, school nurses, SEND health support, infant feeding specialists, and emotional wellbeing teams.

Parents can use the chat function to send a message straight to the 0-19 team, and a reply will be made within 2 hours during service hours. It's a simple, accessible way to ask questions, seek advice, or request support without needing to make phone calls or wait for appointments.

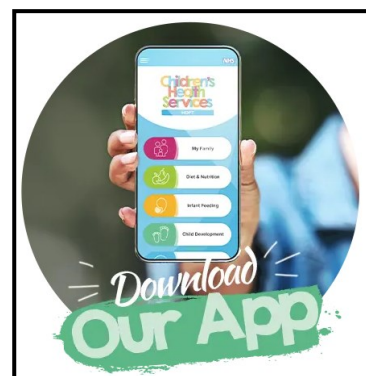
Through the app, families can access help with:

- Child development (0-5)
- Health and wellbeing (5-19)
- SEND health support
- Child feeding and portion control
- Emotional resilience
- Healthy lifestyle programmes
- Speech and Language Therapists

Occupational Therapists

It's free to download and helps families get the right support, at the right time.

Information about the free app can be found on [this link](#). The app itself can be downloaded from Google Play or the App Store.

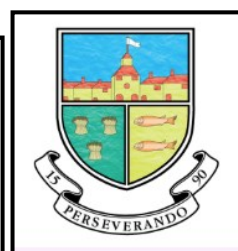


Reminder: Secondary School applications for 2027

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

Also, the open evenings for our local secondary schools are shown below - some of these are next week.

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

We have had a fantastic response to our Harvest Festival collection so far. Thank you to everyone who has already donated to support Thornaby Food Bank. We are still collecting tinned and dried food items, and donations of toiletries and hygiene products would also be very much appreciated.

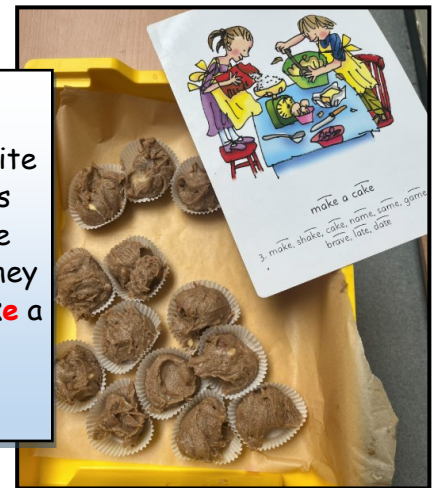
Collections will continue until our Harvest Festival Assembly on Monday 19th October, when Reverend Liz from St Francis' Church will lead a special celebration for children across Key Stages 1 and 2.



Around Whinstone this week.



One of our Read Write Inc. phonics groups were looking at the split digraph **a-e**. They were inspired to **make a cake**.



Our piano lessons, delivered by Music Monsters, continued.

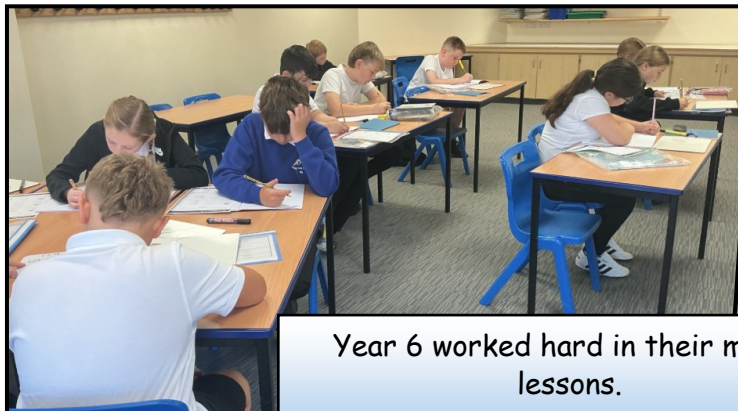


Some of the children came to visit the school's tortoise, who had had a busy day eating and sleeping!



Year 3 were practising different rolls and balances in PE.





Year 6 worked hard in their maths lessons.



Our KS2 children had an assembly to introduce them to the opportunities for pupil leadership.



Whinstone Stars



Cole and Cody both completed the junior Great North Run raising money for Zoe's Place which is a hospice specialising in caring for babies and young children who have life shortening and life threatening conditions. A great cause and a fantastic achievement to complete the run - well done, boys!

Cole and Cody GNR for Zoe's Place Trust



Chris Costello is raising money for Zoe's Place Trust - Middlesbrough

195%

£390

raised of £200 target
23 supporters

A double whammy for Cole this week, he was also awarded the trophy for being his football club's Training Superstar. Well done!



Lettie rides regularly and has spent her summer competing in jumping. She achieved many 1st place rosettes for her results in jumping classes. Well done, Lettie!



Poppy has been competing in horse riding over the summer holidays. She has been placed in various classes for her jumping. Well done, Poppy.



Amelia attended a dance competition and competed in a variety of different dances and styles including individual, duet, trio and troupe dances. Following the competition, Amelia was awarded the trophy for 'Most Promising 8-9 year old' Well done, Amelia.





Emilia competed with her gymnastics club in the Blackpool Ministrada held at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. They came away winning the award for best technique and variety. In addition, the team won best overall junior team with their 'Matilda' routine. What an amazing achievement - well done, Emilia.

Whinstone next week

Year 4 Dance

On Thursday afternoon, Year 4 are continuing their dance sessions with Tees Valley Middlesbrough Dance.

Sports Clubs

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

ADVANCE NOTICE - Our open evening for children due to start school in September 2027

As you will be aware from our recent Ofsted inspection, our Early Years provision was graded '**strong**'.

We are hosting an open evening for children wanting to join the school in September 2027. Details below.



**WHINSTONE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Reception 2027 Open Evening



Is your child due to start Reception in September 2027?

We would love you to visit our wonderful school where you and your child can come to explore our setting and chat about what our dedicated team can offer you.

● Ofsted graded **STRONG STANDARD** in Early Years ●



Open evening—Thursday 1st October
4:00pm–5:00pm

Lowfields Avenue

Ingleby Barwick

TS17 0RJ

01642 750318

Admin@whinstone.org.uk

Talk about it



Oracy - talk matters!

This week's topic to discuss with your child.



Pick a Side:

**Would you rather fly like a bird
or swim like a dolphin?
Explain your choice.**

**Talk
About It**



Whinstone Afterschool Club

Wraparound care

Whinstone has an outside provider come into school to provide wraparound care for after the school day. Whinstone Afterschool Club runs every day until 6pm.

For further details, see the contact details attached.

Tel: 07831382475

Email: Whinstoneafterschool@outlook.com

Whinstone Afterschool Club

Wrap Around Care

A safe, happy and engaging environment for your child after school!

We take from
**pre-school
to yr 6**

**Healthy Snack
is included**

Book as and when
needed and bookings
can be made up until
8.30am
on the same day

Cancellations can be
made with **7 days**
notice and a refund
given

Enjoy fun outdoor
and indoor play,
with a variety of
activities to keep
your child happy,
active and engaged!

**No set days
required!**

£13.50
per child

We are open until
6pm

<https://whinstoneafterschoolclub.ipalbookings.com>

+44 7831 382475

Whinstoneafterschool@outlook.com

Making every day fun!

Safeguarding and Family Support

Parenting when separated

A course to support you when co-parenting



Co-parenting support

Sometimes families have to navigate separation and the difficulties that can arise through co-parenting. There is a course to help you.

Parents can attend separately, online, or in face-to-face sessions at the Family Hubs. The aims of the course are to reduce arguments and help you work together to meet the children's needs.



Contact the Family Hubs to book:
familyhubs@stockton.gov.uk



Visit www.relationshipsmatter.uk
to get support for your family today



Follow us on Facebook for the latest news and activities:
www.facebook.com/SOTfamilyhubs

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

Again we are up on last week, but we are still below the national average. The gap is closing, but we are aiming for no gap at all! Try to ensure your child attends school regularly and on time next week.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)



95.1%

National average = 95.6%



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.