



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2026/2027 - Autumn term

Friday 9th October 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Theatre trip - Pinocchio

We are delighted to share that we have arranged a special festive treat for all children from Reception to Year 6: a trip to see the pantomime *Pinocchio* at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium in Yarm on the morning of Thursday 10th December 2026.



We have chosen a relaxed performance, which has been adapted to create a more comfortable and enjoyable theatre experience for all children, particularly those who may find a traditional theatre environment overwhelming.

Information about the cost of the trip has been shared with families this week, and we are pleased to have secured a fantastic deal, with child tickets costing almost half the usual public price. In addition, the Friends of Whinstone have very kindly offered to subsidise the cost of the trip and cover the coach travel. As transport is often one of the biggest expenses associated with school trips, their generous support has significantly reduced the overall cost for families. Payments are now open on Arbor.

We are very grateful to the Friends of Whinstone for helping to make this special experience more affordable for our families. We are looking forward to a wonderful morning of festive fun, laughter and theatre for all the children attending!



Afterschool Sports Clubs

What a great first half-term we have had with our new sports coach, Emily, from Active Future Teesside. Emily has commented how polite and hard-working the children are. We are really proud to get such positive feedback from a visitor to our school.

Next half term, things will change round - there will be two sessions for years 1, 2 and 3 and one session for years 4, 5 and 6. This is to allow as many children as possible to access this fantastic resource.

The afterschool sports clubs for next half-term will be available to book from Friday 16th October on Arbor. These will run for 6 weeks from 3rd November to 10th December - there will be no clubs in the last week before the Christmas break.

You **must** book a place in the new clubs, even if your child attended this half-term as the bookings do not roll over. Places are limited to 20 per session and were snapped up very quickly last time.

These are the clubs we have on offer:

Tuesdays: Team Sports for Y4 / 5 and 6 (The sport will change every week based on the interests of the children or will focus on team games)

Wednesdays: Y1/2/3 Dodgeball

Thursdays: Y1/2/3 Gymnastics



Ordering your child's school dinner from home.

Children who have a school dinner usually choose their meal each morning at school, allowing our kitchen team to prepare food to order. However, parents and carers can also support children with their menu choices at home using the Arbor app. This can be particularly helpful for our younger children, as you can look at the menu together, talk through the available options and help them decide what they would like to eat.

How to order: Parents and carers can select their child's school dinner choice directly through the Arbor app, up until 8:30am on the day. If you haven't had chance to make a selection at home, don't worry - your child can still choose their meal at school as usual.

Please see the instructions below for guidance on how to make menu choices through Arbor:

1. *Go in to your child's profile (for each child if you have more than one in school)*
2. *Select "Meals"*
3. *Then you will see "Meals available to (child's name)"*
4. *Click in Autumn 1 for the current menu. After half term, the menu will be called Winter / Spring.*
5. *You will see all the remaining weeks of the half term, split into days.*
6. *Clicking on to the arrow next to one of the days will open another box and you can select all the meals for that week, then click "Process" at the bottom to save your choices. If your child changes their mind, the teacher can update their choice on the morning register.*



If you would like to change your child's lunch arrangement from packed lunch to school dinners, or vice versa, please complete a *Change of Lunch Arrangement Form*, available from the main school office. Any changes can take effect from the week after the completed form has been returned to school.

Christmas card orders

A little reminder that your child will have brought home their own Christmas card design, ready for you to turn into a range of personalised festive items!

If you would like to place an order, you can do so online directly with Class Fundraising, the company producing the cards. As well as Christmas cards, there is a lovely selection of gifts featuring your child's unique design, including mugs, soft toys, baubles and wrapping paper - perfect for personalised Christmas presents for family and friends.



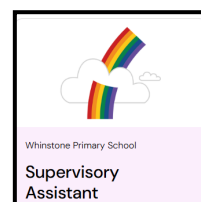
Please remember that the deadline for orders is midday on Tuesday 20th October. Although this may seem early, the deadline is necessary to ensure there is enough time for all items to be produced and delivered before Christmas.

Lunch time supervisor vacancy

We are currently looking for a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant to join our team.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please see the candidate pack on the Trust website ([link here](#)) which contains all the information you need to apply.

The closing date for applications is 12pm on Friday 16th October and interviews will be held in school on Wednesday 21st October.



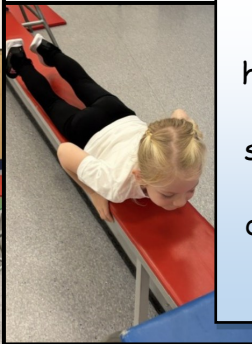
Around Whinstone this week.



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



Our Reception children have been doing activities based around the book *Elmer*.



Our Year 1 classes have been continuing their gymnastics sessions. They have been practising different jumps and balances.



World Mental Health Day

Our Mental Health Champions organised for children to wear bright clothing. Chocolates were handed out on the playground to parents before school. There were activities over the course of the day including dancing on the playground. Children have produced a feather for a whole school collective piece of artwork. We'll share the pictures of this one it has been put together.



Year 4 have been making circuits as part of their science work on electricity.



Whinstone Stars



Delilah attends swimming lessons. She achieved her L4 Duckling award.
Fantastic, Delilah - well done.



Noah was awarded the Player of the Week by his football club. He played a game and scored all 7 goals!
Wow, well done, Noah.

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!

Whinstone Afterschool Club

Wraparound care

For those parents who work, we understand that being tied to a school day can be tricky. In addition to the school run breakfast club, 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 next week

Year 1 Geography walk

Year 1 will be doing a short walk to find information about the local environment for their geography work.

Youth Focus action group

On Thursday, a group of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be having a session as part of the Youth Focus Action Group scheme.

Reading meeting for parents of EYFS children.

On Thursday, Mrs Loftis, Mrs Wilson-Dukes and Mrs Gibson will be hosting a meeting for the parents of children in pre-school, reception and any Y1 parents if they want a refresher. This is in the main school hall starting at 15:30.

Wear Red for 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

On Friday we are asking the children to come to school wearing something red to show support for 'Show Racism the Red Card'. If you don't have red clothing, don't worry. It could be something as small as wearing red socks, a red hairband or red dot on the hand using a felt tip!

Music Monsters concert.

On Friday, our pianists who learn with Music Monsters are giving a concert for their parents. This starts at 14:30 in the main school hall.

Talk about it



Oracy - talk matters!

This week's topic to discuss with your child.

What would you do?

Your teacher lets you plan one whole school day. What would you do?



Talk About It



Safeguarding and Family Support



Childcare helps your child grow

See what support you could get



Best Start in Life

Childcare offers children valuable opportunities to learn through play, explore new interests, build confidence and develop important social skills alongside their peers. It also helps prepare them for the transition to school.

If you're thinking about childcare for your child, financial support may be available to help with the cost. Visit beststartinlife.gov.uk to find out more about funded childcare hours and other support you may be eligible for .

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

Great attendance this week. It's lovely to see so many children in school and enjoying their day. Good attendance and punctuality promote great skills for life.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)



96.0%

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.

Is Your Child Too Ill for School?

Not every illness means your child needs to miss school.

Many minor illnesses don't stop children from learning, playing and taking part in school life. If your child is well enough to attend, they usually can!

Minor illnesses – they can usually come!



Coughs & colds

If your child is well enough to take part in their normal school day, they can usually attend.



Sore throat

If they are eating, drinking and feeling well, they can usually come to school.



Headache

If it's mild and they are happy and active, they can usually attend.



Runny nose

A runny nose on its own is usually not a reason to stay at home.

When to keep them at home



High temperature

Your child should stay at home until their temperature has returned to normal and they feel well enough to attend.



Vomiting or diarrhoea

Please keep your child at home until 48 hours after their last episode.



Feeling unwell?

If your child is generally well but has a minor illness, please consider whether they are well enough to attend school.

Every School Day Counts!

Regular attendance helps children keep up with their learning, friendships and routines.

If you're unsure whether your child should attend, please contact the school for advice.

