



Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2026/2027 - Autumn term

Friday 16th October 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Open Evening and SEND Consultations

On Wednesday 11th November, we will be holding a drop-in open evening, providing parents and carers with the opportunity to come into school, look at their child's work and speak with their child's teacher. For Years 1 - 6, this will be from 15:30 - 18:00. Please note that these are informal drop-in sessions rather than private, individual appointments. If you would prefer to speak with your child's teacher individually, or feel you need to discuss something before this date, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a suitable time.

For our Early Years children (Reception and Pre-School), this date coincides with our Bedtime Read event. As parents and carers will be attending this session with their child, the drop-in open evening for Early Years will begin once Bedtime Read has finished and will run until 18:00, in line with the rest of the school.

In addition, parents and carers of children with SEND will have the opportunity to book an appointment on Wednesday 25th November to come into school and discuss your child's support plan in more detail. We have introduced these SEND appointments in response to feedback from parents and carers who told us they would value the opportunity to meet in person to talk through their child's support and provision. We are pleased to be able to offer this additional opportunity to work together to ensure that every child receives the support they need.

Changes to our reporting schedule



Two years ago, we introduced a reporting system with two reports issued throughout the school year, rather than one. Traditionally, the first interim report has been sent home around this time of year. However, as our most recent report was sent out on 10th July, just eight school weeks ago, we feel that issuing another report so soon would offer limited additional benefit.

We have therefore decided to adjust the timing of our reports to create a more meaningful gap between them. The first interim report will now be sent home in February, followed by the final report of the academic year in July, in line with the release of the KS2 SATs results.

We believe this revised schedule will provide a more useful overview of each child's progress at key points during the year, allowing families to gain a clearer picture of their child's development and achievements.

Farewell, Mrs Manning

Next week, we will be saying a fond farewell to one of our MDSAs, Mrs Manning, as she retires after an incredible 29 years at Whinstone! Many of our current children have parents who attended Whinstone themselves and will no doubt remember Mrs Manning from their own school days.

We will be very sad to see Mrs Manning leave us and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her outstanding dedication, loyalty and commitment to our school community over almost three decades. Wednesday, when she finishes her final shift, will be a bittersweet day for us all, but it also marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in her life.

We would like to wish Mrs Manning a very happy, relaxing and well-deserved retirement. Thank you for everything, Mrs Manning - you will be greatly missed!



School photographs on Wednesday - individual and family groups

On Wednesday, Tempest, our school photographer, will be in school to take individual photographs and family group photos. Please look out for the proofs that will be sent home in your child's bag. These will allow you to view and purchase photographs online, with delivery to school in time for Christmas.

All children should come to school wearing their **full school uniform**, even if Wednesday is normally a PE day for their class. For children who would usually have PE, there are two options: They may wear trainers for the day, as footwear will not be visible in the waist-up photographs. Alternatively, they may bring trainers to change into for their PE lesson. Children may also bring a change of clothing if they prefer, but this is not necessary. PE lessons will be adapted to allow children to take part comfortably while wearing their school uniform and trainers.



Halloween Discos for Years 1 - 6

As shared earlier this week, our Halloween discos for Years 1-6 will take place on the final day of half term, Wednesday 21st October. The events are kindly organised by Friends of Whinstone, who have asked us to remind parents and carers of the arrangements for each year group, as there are some changes to the format compared with previous years.

Years 1, 2 and 3: 4:00-5:00pm

- Cost: £4 per child.
- Refreshments: Drinks, crisps and sweet treats are included in the ticket price.
- Entrance: Main school entrance.
- Collection: Community door, located to the left of the main entrance.

Years 4, 5 and 6: 5:15-6:15pm

- Cost: £3 per child.
- Refreshments: Drinks, sweets and crisps will be available to purchase from the tuck shop. Please ensure your child brings some money if they would like to buy refreshments.
- Entrance and collection: Both will be through the main school entrance.

Payment must be made via the Arbor app. The payment window will remain open until 12 noon on Wednesday 21st October.

Please note these two important reminders:

- 1) Mobile phones **must not** be brought to the discos.
- 2) **All** children must be collected by an adult at the end of their disco.

Our Halloween discos are always a highlight of the school calendar, with some fantastic and creative costumes on display. We look forward to seeing this year's spooky outfits and hope the children have a wonderful time! A big thank you to Friends of Whinstone for organising these events and helping to make them such a fun occasion for our children.



Reminder: Afterschool Sports Clubs

The afterschool sports clubs for next half-term are available to book from today, 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, Y5 and Y6 (The sport will change every week based on the interests of the children or will focus on team games)

Wednesdays: Y1, Y2 and Y3 Dodgeball

Thursdays: Y1, Y2 and Y3 Gymnastics

Christmas Fayre

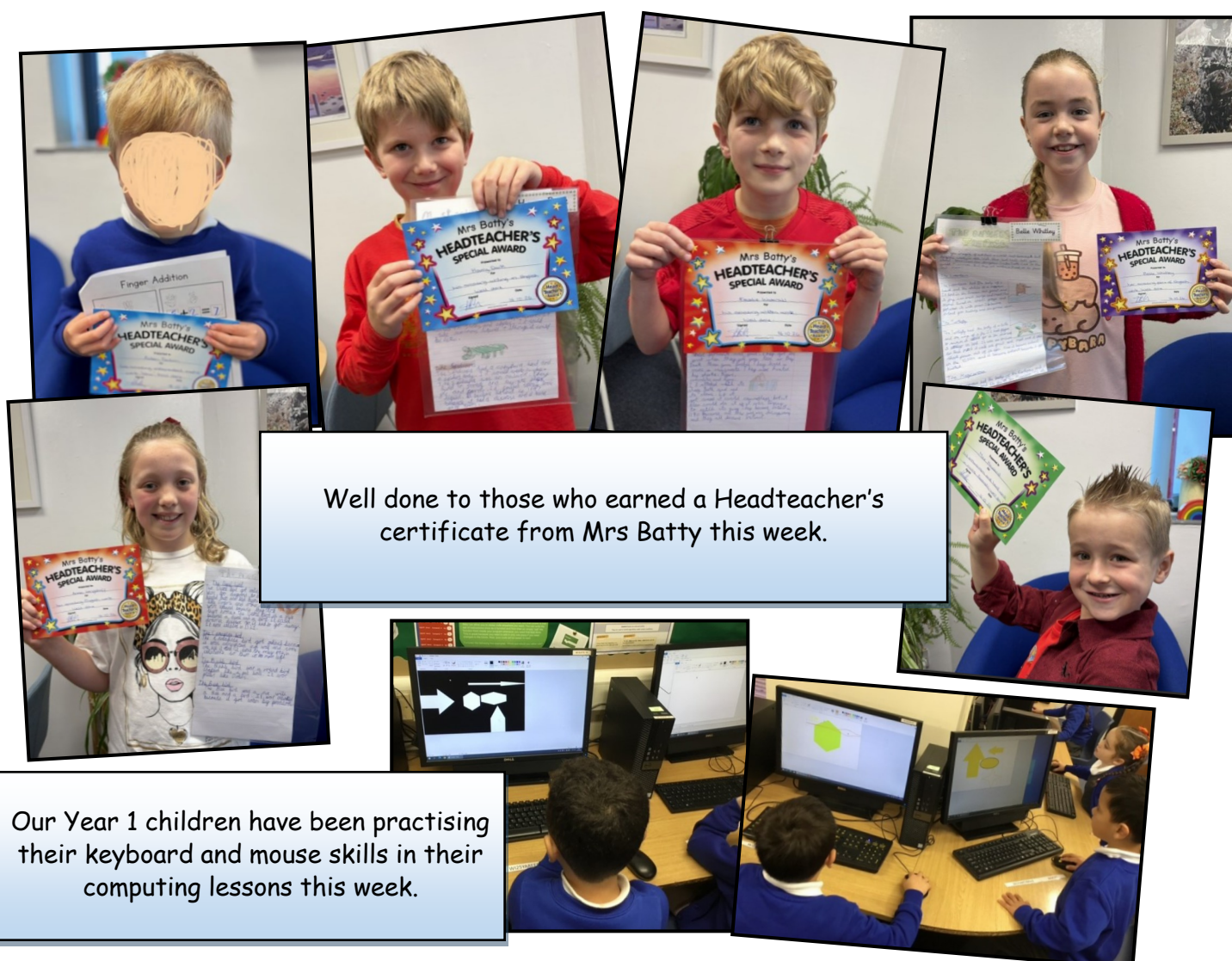
Our Christmas Fayre takes place this year on **Friday 27th November from 3:15–18:00**. This is the second year we will be holding this event on an evening as we know so many people get busy on the weekends leading up to Christmas.

As usual, we are looking for contributions towards our famous Whinstone hamper raffle. This year the colours are:

Year group	Items that are coloured:
Pre-school	Red, gold and silver
Reception	Green, gold and silver
Year 1	Red, gold and silver
Year 2	Green, gold and silver
Year 3	Red, gold and silver
Year 4	Green, gold and silver
Year 5	Red, gold and silver
Year 6	Green, gold and silver

We would like any items in your colours - be imaginative. Let's see how creative the hampers can be this year.

Around Whinstone this week.



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

Our Year 1 children have been practising their keyboard and mouse skills in their computing lessons this week.



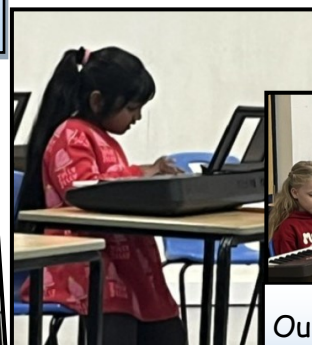
Our Year 1 classes went on a geography walk to look at the local area.



Our Reading Ambassadors had a meeting to plan and discuss the year ahead.



Year 3 have been continuing with their gymnastics lessons, focusing on balancing and jumps.



Our Music Monster pianists gave a concert to their family.



Whinstone Stars

Amelia competed in a competition at Flamingo Land. She came 3rd in modern, duet and trio and achieved 1st place in lyrical.

Due to her achievements throughout the competition, she qualified for the Supremes final with her Lyrical. I am so pleased to say that Amelia won the novice title.

What an amazing achievement - well done, Amelia.





Nina attended a gymnastics competition in London at the weekend. Her gymnastics group performed a routine to Encanto. Nina was awarded the medal for her participation in the competition.
Well done, Nina.



Noah is a member of the Stockton Wheelers. His skills on the bike have been improving steadily and he achieved a medal for his fantastic skills.
Well done, Noah.



Kaan competed in a Ju-Jitsu competition at Sheffield. He was awarded this medal for his participation and competing.
Well done, Kaan - keep it up!

Whinstone next week

Harvest Assembly

On Monday, we will be hosting our Harvest Assembly. If you have any last minute contributions for the Harvest collection for Thornaby Food Bank, please bring these in on Monday.

Year 6 STEM day

On Tuesday, all children in Year 6 will be attending a STEM day at Yarm School.

School photos.

On Wednesday, Tempest photographers are in to take the school photos. Each child will have an individual photo and there will also be family group photographs.

School discos for Year 1 to Year 6.

On Wednesday, we are holding the school Halloween discos for children in Years 1 to 6. Please remember to buy your tickets by midday on Wednesday at the latest.

WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER - SCHOOL CLOSES FOR HALF TERM BREAK.

Wednesday is the last day for children. They return on Monday 2nd November.



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

Talk about it



Oracy - talk matters!

This week's topic to discuss with your child.

Odd One Out

Penguin • Polar Bear • Camel • Seal

Which do you think is the odd one out?

There isn't one correct answer, as long as you can give reasons for your choice, you are right! How many different reasons can you think of?



Safeguarding and Family Support

SEND Parents and Carers



SEND Navigator

Your First Step to Support

Do you think your child needs additional support?

Our SEND Navigator is here to assist you, signpost you to support and help you navigate the SEND system.

Contact the SEND Navigator via email, leave a message on our 24/7 voicemail service or call our live line during the times below.

Contact us

SEND Navigation Line



01642 528888



Monday 1 - 4 PM
Wednesday 9 AM - 12 PM
Friday 9 - 11 AM



sendnavigator@stockton.gov.uk

All telephone messages and emails will receive an initial response within 2 working days.



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

SEND advice and support available to parents

If you have questions about your child's additional needs and aren't sure where to start, the SEND Navigator service is here to help.

They can offer advice, guidance and support to help you find the right help for your family.

The SEND Navigator will also be attending the Family Hubs' *SEND All Together For You* events:

- *Thornaby Family Hub - November 20th, 9.30-11.30am
- *Billingham Family Hub - December 11th, 9.30-11.30am

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 Support



Family Horizons Online Course and Resources for Parents and Carers

Whether your child is struggling with morning routines, experiencing anxiety about school, or no longer attending, you're not alone on this journey.



Is your child finding it difficult to come to school? Perhaps they're experiencing tummy aches, tears, or saying they feel worried? Many children feel this way, and it can be challenging for the whole family.

Family Horizons is a free, supportive online course created especially for parents and carers in this situation. It offers:

- Understanding of what your child might be experiencing
 - Practical strategies to support your child
- Real stories from families who've been through similar experiences
 - Activities you can try together at home

Access our school's specific access to Family Horizons anytime use this link: [Access to Family Horizons](#)



Attendance

No movement this week, but we remain above the national attendance average. Good attendance and punctuality promote great skills for life and we all want our children to develop these good habits early.

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.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)

➡ **96.0%**

National average = 95.6%

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.

