Whinstone Weekly

Academic Year 2026/2027 - Autumn term

Friday 6th November 2026

Whinstone Wide - General school information

Open Evening

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.

Future Dates



We have put together a calendar of key events for the remainder of the school year, including Christmas performances, parents' evenings, statutory assessment weeks, sports days and other important dates.

While further events may be added as the year progresses, the calendar reflects everything currently scheduled. We hope this will help families plan ahead and make any necessary arrangements for time off work or other commitments.

A full copy of the calendar is included at the back of this newsletter for reference. In the meantime, the key dates between now and Christmas that we would like you to note are:

November	
Wednesday 11th	School open evening for parents Y1-Y6 (15:30-18:00) Drop-in not appointments Bedtime read for EYFS then drop-ins from 16:45
Friday 13th	Children in Need – non-uniform + donation for CIN
Monday 16th	Wear something purple for World Prematurity Day Odd socks day (for Anti-bullying week)
Thursday 19th	Year 4 England Rocks TTRS event – dressing up (YEAR 4 ONLY)
Wednesday 25th	SEND parents' evening (15:30-17:30) appointments booked through Arbor
Friday 27th	Christmas fayre (15:15 – 17:30)
December	
Wednesday 2nd	Y1 Christmas performance
Thursday 3rd	Reception Christmas performance
Monday 7th	Y6 Christmas performance
Tuesday 8th	Y5 Christmas performance
Wednesday 9th	Pre-School Christmas crafts (morning)
Wednesday 9th	Christmas jumper day and school Christmas dinner
Wednesday 9th	Y4 Christmas performance
Thursday 10th	Visit to panto at Yarm (Rec-Y6) all morning
Friday 11th	Y3 Christmas performance (Christingle at church – morning 10:30 start)
Friday 11th	Y2 Christmas performance (14:30)
Friday 18th	Break up for Christmas holidays

Forest School

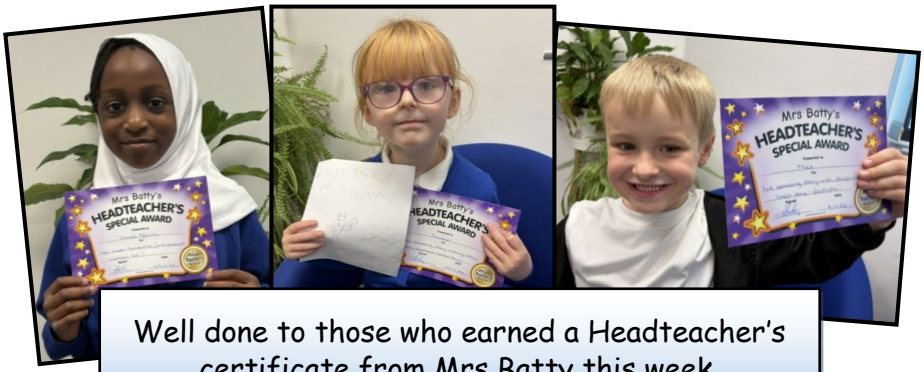


Forest School is now part of our curriculum at Whinstone Primary School. For the previous two years, we have employed outside practitioners to come in. From now onwards, we are delighted to say that Whinstone's Forest School will be run by our school staff. Running it in house means that every child across the school will have opportunities to experience Forest School at no extra cost and as part of our curriculum offer. Through regular, child-led sessions outdoors in all weathers, children build confidence, resilience, teamwork and physical skills, and learn to manage risk and care for nature.

We are building up a shared kit store for our classes and would be very grateful for any of the items below that you can spare. Items should be in good working order; worn and a bit muddy-looking is absolutely fine!

	Items we would love
Spare clothing	Waterproof jackets and trousers, puddle suits, warm hats, gloves, thick socks, fleeces.
Den and shelter building	Tarpaulins, old bedsheets, blankets, curtains, hessian sacks, clothes pegs, bungee cords.
Rope and string	Garden twine, washing line, rope (for dens and crafts only).
Mud kitchen	Metal saucepans, baking trays, muffin tins, wooden spoons, ladles, sieves, colanders, jugs, washing-up bowls
Digging and gardening	Children's trowels, small buckets, plant pots, child-sized gardening gloves, bulbs or seeds.
Nature exploring	Magnifying glasses, bug pots, clipboards, old field guides or nature books, binoculars.
Crafts	Wool, ribbon, embroidery thread, garden wire, old tea towels, egg boxes, cardboard tubes
Comfort and storage	Old towels, plastic crates or boxes with lids, sit mats or old camping mats.

Around Whinstone this week.



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



Some of our Digital Leaders went to Teesside University to see their animation studios. They were also taught how to create their own 3D characters.

Watch a short video showing the visit by following this link.





One of our Read Write Inc groups were working on aw. They made a hand puppet for yawn at dawn.

Years 5 and 6 had some hockey coaches in school. Each of the classes had a session where they leant various skills.



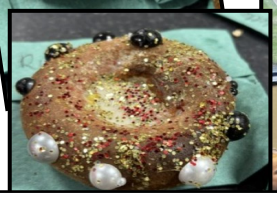


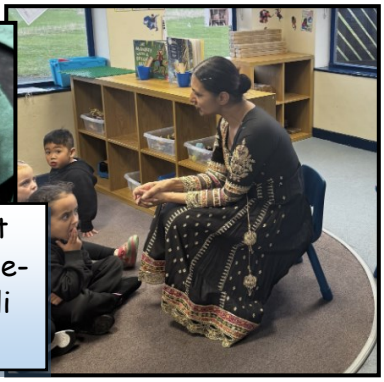




Reception made their own fireworks.







Early Years learnt about Diwali and pre-school made Diwali lamps.

Year 6 Forest School and their tree art.

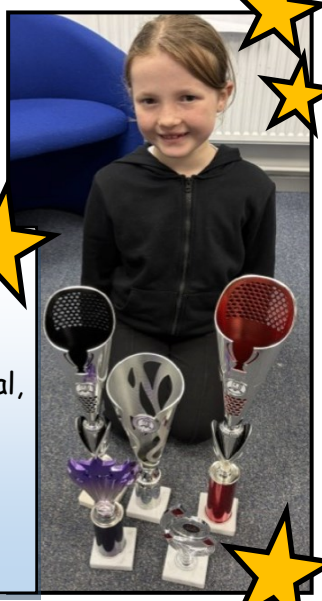








Whinstone Stars



Freya is a very accomplished dancer. In a recent competition she was placed in more than one class. Her collection of trophies awarded consist of a 1st for Lyrical, 2nd for tap, 1st for ballet, 2nd for modern and another 2nd for lyrical. This is absolutely amazing; what a talent you have. Well done, Freya.



Isla does swimming lessons at IB Leisure. She is currently working at Stage 5.
Isla has achieved a fantastic award of swimming 50m. This involved front crawl and backstroke.
What a great skill - well done, Isla.



Lewyn goes to Contender Gym to do learn kickboxing. He trains twice a week. The effort has really paid off as Lewyn has been awarded 'Student of the month'.
Well done, Lewyn.



Liya attends a football club each week. She was awarded a trophy for most improved player of the month!
Wow - well done, Liya.

Whinstone next week

Year 6 Forest School

On Tuesday afternoon, Year 6 will be having a Forest School session.

Remembrance Day assembly.

On Wednesday, Mr Good will be hosting a special Remembrance Day assembly. As a school, we will also be honouring the 2-minute silence.

Early Years Bedtime Read event with drop-in afterwards

On Wednesday, the Early Years classes will be having their Bedtime Read event. The Early years areas will be open afterwards for the drop-in event.

School open evening

On Wednesday, we will have our drop-in open evening for the Year 1 to Year 6 classes. This starts at 15:30 and ends at 18:00. You can pop in and see your child's class and look through their work.

Non-uniform day for Children in Need

On Friday, we will be having a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need. Please send your child in with a donation for the charity - any amount is gratefully received.

Talk about it





Oracy - talk matters!

This week's topic to discuss with your child.

What Would You Do?

You discover a secret door. Where did you find it? Where will it lead you?





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

This is the second week that there has been a decline in attendance.

Whole school attendance
(year to date)

95.8%

National average = 95.4%

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.

Whinstone Calendar 26-27
Parent version

October	
Friday 16th	Wear Red – Show Racism the Red Card
Wednesday 21st	School Halloween discos
Wednesday 21st	Tempest school photos
Thursday 22nd	PD Day
Friday 23rd	PD Day
November	
Wednesday 11th	School open evening for parents Y1-Y6 (15:30-18:00) Drop-in not appointments Bedtime read for EYFS then drop-ins from 16:45
Friday 13th	Children in Need – non-uniform + donation for CIN
Monday 16th	Wear something purple for World Prematurity Day Odd socks day (for Anti-bullying week)
W/C Monday 16th	Anti-bullying week
W/C Monday 16th	Pre-school new starter home visits
Thursday 19th	Year 4 England Rocks TTRS event – dressing up (YEAR 4 ONLY)
Wednesday 25th	SEND parents' evening (15:30-17:30) 20-minute appointments booked through Arbor
Friday 27th	Christmas fayre (15:15 – 17:30)
December	
Wednesday 2nd	Pre-school new starter stay and play (15:45 – 16:45)
Wednesday 2nd	Y1 Christmas performance
Thursday 3rd	Reception Christmas performance
Monday 7th	Y6 Christmas performance
Tuesday 8th	Y5 Christmas performance
Wednesday 9th	Pre-School Christmas crafts (morning)
Wednesday 9th	Christmas jumper day and school Christmas dinner
Wednesday 9th	Y4 Christmas performance
Thursday 10th	Visit to panto at Yarm (Rec-Y6) all morning
Friday 11th	Y3 Christmas performance (Christingle at church – morning 10:30 start)
Friday 11th	Y2 Christmas performance (14:30)
Monday 14th	Year 3 and Year 4 parties
Tuesday 15th	Year 5 and Year 6 parties
Wednesday 16th	Pre-school and reception parties
Thursday 17th	Year 1 and Year 2 parties
Friday 18th	Break up for Christmas holidays
January	
Monday 4th	PD day
February	
W/C Monday 1st	Children's Mental Health Week – Theme = Step into our World
Tuesday 2nd	Year 2 trip – Centre for Life
Tuesday 9th	Safer internet day. Theme = Reflect on Tech
Wednesday 10th	School discos (TBC)
Friday 12th	Reports out to parents
Friday 12th	Break up for half term

Wednesday 24th	SEND parents' evening (15:30-17:30) 20-minute appointments booked through Arbor
March	
Tuesday 2nd	Parents' evening 1 – appointments via Arbor (15:30 – 17:30)
Wednesday 3rd	Parents' evening 2 – appointments via Arbor (15:30 – 18:00)
Mon 22nd – Wed 24th	Y4 residential to Robin Wood
Thursday 25th	Break up for Easter holidays
April	
May	
Monday 3rd	Bank holiday – no school
Tuesday 4th	Tempest to do Reception and Y6 class photos
W/C Monday 10th	SATs week
Friday 28th	Break up for half term
June	
W/C Monday 7th	Y4 Multiplication check Phonics Screening check
Tuesday 8th	School council trip to Parliament
Wednesday 9th	SEND parents' evening (15:30-17:30) 20-minute appointments booked through Arbor
W/C Monday 14th	Phonics screening check week
W/C Monday 14th	Year 6 at Carlton
Monday 21st	Year 1/2 sports day (13:45 onwards)
Tuesday 22nd	Year 5/6 sports day (13:45 onwards)
Wednesday 23rd	Pre-school sports' day
Thursday 24th	Year 3/4 sports day (13:45 onwards)
Friday 25th	Reception sports' day (13:45 onwards)
Wednesday 30th – Thursday 1st June	Y5 overnight residential - Beamish
July	
Tuesday 6th	Reports out (in line with KS2 SAT results being published)
Wednesday 14th	Parents' evening (15:30-17:30) for any parent who requests one.
Monday 19th	Year 6 leavers disco (evening)
Tuesday 20th	Year 6 leavers' assembly 09:10-10:10
Wednesday 21st	Break up for summer holidays

LIVING NATIVITY

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

29th November • 1pm–4pm

Tickets available from 1st November on Eventbrite (link on our social media)

