

WHINSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Helping each other to be the best we can be.

PROSPECTUS 2022-2023

Latest Revision September 2023

Dear Parents,

As your child will soon begin life as a pupil at Whinstone Primary School, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our school community, I hope that both you and your child will soon feel at home and part of the Whinstone family.

If your child is due to be admitted into a Reception class, I would like to stress that you have had the most important influence on your child's life, and we would like to work with you in a joint effort to ensure that your child feels secure and happy and continues to develop in all ways. Not only will your child grow physically in their time with us, but they will also grow in confidence, skill and ability. Remember, one of the most important ways you can help your child to flourish is to read with them every day.

I would like to tell you more about our school so that you feel a part of it and understand more about how we operate. Much of this information is contained in this prospectus. This prospectus was last updated in June 2022, and was correct at that time. This prospectus and other information can be found on our school website: www.whinstone.org.uk

Should there be any areas that are not covered, or issues that concern you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Poppitt
Headteacher



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Whinstone Primary School Prospectus 2022-2023

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Introduction

Whinstone Primary School is a large Community Primary School catering for children from the age of three to eleven in Ingleby Barwick. At present there are 466 children on the school roll with a 78 place Pre-School. From September 2022 our Published Admission Number for children entering the school will be 60, we are in the process of moving from a threeform entry school to become a two-form entry school. This reflects the changing demographic of our immediate community as the first school on Ingleby Barwick and located in the oldest part of the estate. We have extensive outdoor facilities, including two playgrounds, two fields, and a wildlife area, and Early Years outdoor area and outdoor play equipment. Internally we have two ICT suites, two iPad trolleys and one laptop trolley, two school halls, a dining hall and a library. Whinstone is part of the Vision Academy Learning Trust (valt.org.uk) and we work very closely with our partner schools.



Pre-School (Nursery) is offered to children from the age of three, with a flexible offer of a morning or afternoon session or 2½ continuous day provision. Most of our pupils enter full time education at Whinstone through our Pre-School. We urge parents to take advantage of Pre-School education for children when a place is available as places fill quickly and this is the best possible start to their education journey.

Children are taught mostly in mixed ability age groups throughout school, although some subjects are taught in ability groups in different phases of the school (e.g. phonics in Year 1). In Foundation Stage we have a Pre-School and two classes in Reception. From September 2022 we shall have two classes in Years 1, 2, 3 and 6, Years 4 and 5 will have three classes.



We encourage parents to be involved closely in their child's education, and are very happy to see them working in partnership in the classroom with teachers, on educational visits and in a variety of other settings.

Your support for your child's education is crucial to their progress. Please tell us if there are any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; explaining things over the phone; a discussion with a school colleague of the same gender or involvement of an interpreter.

School Hours

At Whinstone we have staggered start and finish times. This is to reduce congestion in corridors and on the playground, and crucially enables staggered playtimes and lunchtimes to give maximum space to play without compromising lesson length.

- Pre-School start 8.55 finish 11.55 & start 12.25 finish 3.25
- Reception start 9.00 finish 3.30
- Key Stage 1: Years 1&2 start 8.45 finish 3.15
- Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3&4 start 9.00 finish 3.30
- Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5&6 start 8.45 finish 3.15

All children in Reception and Key Stages 1 & 2 have a one-hour lunch break.

OfSTED Inspection

Our school was last inspected in April 2022. The school was judged in a number of areas and was judged to be **good** overall.

A full copy of the OFSTED report is available from our school website.

Parentmail

At Whinstone Primary we use an online system called Parentmail for communicating with parents and carers and for electronic payments for school meals, trips, breakfast club etc. When your child starts at Whinstone we will ask you for an email address which we use to register you and your child on the Parentmail

system. Once you are registered you will receive an activation email with a link for you to enter your email and create a password. You can also download the App onto your mobile phone. The use of Parentmail will mean that you receive information from the school in a timely and efficient manner, Please be assured, the Parentmail service is registered with the Data Protection Registrar and guarantees that all information supplied will be kept completely confidential.



School Uniform

Our school uniform consists of royal blue sweatshirts and jumpers and white shirts/polo shirts beneath. Grey/black trousers or skirts are usually worn. In summer, blue gingham dresses are often worn by our girls. Flat soled shoes should be worn for safety reasons. There is no requirement for sweatshirts or jumpers to have a school logo, plain blue jumpers and sweatshirts are perfectly acceptable. If you want to have a school logo, uniform is available from several suppliers; order forms with current prices are available from the school office or from our school website, <http://www.whinstone.org.uk/school-uniform/>. In school we have a stock of high quality pre-loved school uniform in school. These items are free of charge. If you wish to enquire about stock availability please email: newtoyou@whinstone.org.uk.

For PE children need a pair of trainers as well as a pair of plain black shorts and a plain white T-shirt. Football kits will not be allowed in PE lessons. On cold days children may still be expected to take part in PE outdoors, so a suitable plain black tracksuit, or trousers and sweatshirt should also be provided. Please do not provide PE clothing with large logos, we ask for plain items if possible.

On those days where PE is on the timetable we ask children to come to school in their PE kit, wearing a tracksuit if the weather is cold.

Hairstyles should be sensible, no dyed hair or artwork cut into the style in forms of lines or squiggles. Long hair must be tied back for either girls or boys, as long hair hinders concentration on work and helps the spread of head lice. Hair adornments should follow the school colours and not be oversized. For reasons of safety we do not allow children to wear necklaces, rings or bracelets in school. If ears are pierced we ask that small studs are worn.

School Organisation

At Whinstone we ensure that we develop a safe, secure and effective learning environment through adopting a team approach. Parents will meet with most staff during their time with us and we hope that this list will be useful. The list shows the current staffing structure for 2021-2022. This will be updated in the summer term.

Mr M Poppitt - Headteacher

Mrs L Batty - Deputy Headteacher

Office Manager: Mrs L Rees-Grant
Administrator: Mrs L Thomas

Caretakers: Mr J Trainer
Mr N Oliver

French: Mme. A René

PE: Mrs D Stansmore

PPA/Management Release: Mrs J Hogg Read Write Inc. Manager: Mrs K Hards

FOUNDATION STAGE

Pre-School

Mrs C Artley & Miss A
McNaughton(Job-share)
Mrs N Lofts (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs L Quartley (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs L Jackling (Teaching Assistant)

Reception

Mrs C Wilson-Dukes (Foundation
Stage Leader)
Miss K Hole
Mrs A Whitelock (Teaching
Assistant)

KEY STAGE 1

Year 1

Miss L Millard

Mis L Trotter

Mrs M Jones (Teaching Assistant)

Year 2

Mr R Ford (Team Leader)

Mr J Robson

Miss L Willis (Teaching Assistant)

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

Mrs E Woodley

Mrs N Craig & Mrs C Marshall
(Job-share)

Mrs J Edon (Teaching Assistant)

Year 4

Mrs J Squires (Team Leader)

Ms K Goldsmith & Mrs N Craig (Job-
share)

Miss C Young

Miss L Edwards (Teaching Assistant
Monday)

Mrs S Collier (Teaching Assistant
(Tuesday - Friday)

UPPER KEY STAGE 2

Year 5

Mrs E Anderson (Team Leader)

Miss K Ambrosini & Mrs E
Armstrong (Job-share)

Mrs R Burey

Mrs M Hinchley (Teaching Assistant)

Year 6

Mrs S Gibson

Mrs R Wilson

Mr M Good (Teaching Assistant)



In addition the following Teaching Assistants are deployed across the school offering individual and small group support:

Mrs J Kerr

Mrs P Carnall

Mrs S Carter

Mrs S Davies

Miss L Edwards

Mrs L Baldwin

Mr K Syson

Mr R Naylor

Miss S Sanderson

Mrs F Elliott

Miss C Morrison

Mrs A Brown

Mrs G Donnelly

Mrs L Jackling

Time Keeping and Attendance

Children should arrive at school when their doors open. Registration remains open for 5 minutes, children arriving after the close of registration will be marked late. Children who are late will miss important aspects of their education and also will disrupt the work of others because of their late arrival. 10 minutes after the start of the day for your child registers are closed, **if a child arrives after this time** they will receive a mark in the register to show they are on site, but this will not count as a present mark and **it will be classed as an unauthorised absence.**

A member of staff from our school office will contact parents of those children absent without explanation and the Local Authority Attendance Officer will be asked to take action when children are not accounted for or are regularly late. A copy of our current Attendance Policy is available on our website.

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, please inform school by reporting on your Parentmail account, calling into the office or by telephoning 01642 750318 or by email admin@whinstone.org.uk

It is the legal responsibility of parents that children attend school every day and that they arrive on time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

We are proud of the high attendance rates of our children.

Attendance 94.1%% (National 92.8%)
Persistent Absence: 15% (National 23%)
(Persistent Absence is classed as missing 10% of sessions or more)

Medical Appointments

Children are not allowed to leave school during normal hours unless collected by a parent or other responsible adult. A letter giving authority for another adult to collect your child is required. The parent/adult must call at the school office to collect the child from the school. It is helpful to school if we receive advance notice of any medical appointments and appointment card. The office asks that if your child has a medical appointment, please could you ask for an appointment slip.

School Discipline

Rather than having a long list of "Do's and Don'ts" we try to keep our school rules to a minimum as we believe that our caring and supportive environment encourages children to behave in ways which are acceptable to all who belong in our school. We have three school rules:

- ☺ **Be Ready**
- ☺ **Be Respectful**
- ☺ **Be Safe**

We do expect certain standards as a normal aspect of everyday life and we are proud of the fact that our pupils are well mannered and courteous. Throughout school we encourage children to treat others as they would wish to be treated within our ethos of helping each other to be the best we can be.

We believe that good manners and courtesy between everyone in school helps to make a welcoming and happy school. For example, we expect everyone to say "Please" and "Thank You", to hold doors open at appropriate times and to display exemplary table manners.

We will not accept the following from any member of our school community:

- Swearing or abusive language
- Damage to school property (parents may be asked to pay for repairs)
- Violence or threats of violence
- Physical or verbal bullying
- • Theft

Children who are involved in instances of this kind will be dealt with in an appropriate manner with regard to the circumstances and in accordance with our school's policy for behaviour management and anti-bullying policy.

Children are organised into four houses, named after some of the farms on which the estate has been built. Siblings are in the same house, and children remain in their house for their entire time at Whinstone. Our behaviour policy is to reward positive behaviour, and acknowledge effort through the award of House Points. Our Houses are: Quarry Farm (blue), Myton Farm (yellow), Sober Hall (green), Round Hill (red).

Pastoral Care

At Whinstone we adopt a positive, caring approach to all our children. All members of staff accept this responsibility as an integral part of their work. We feel that it is essential to work in close partnership with parents, particularly when there are worries about any aspect of a child's development, be it educational, physical or emotional. If you have any worries please discuss them with your child's teacher in the first instance.

The School Curriculum

At Whinstone we teach a broad and balanced curriculum, offering challenges appropriate to the age and ability of each individual child. We provide a range of learning experiences covering and extending the Programmes of Study for all National Curriculum subjects. Detailed planning and assessment by teachers provides practice and enrichment and endeavours to ensure progression at the optimum rate for each child.

Foundation Stage

Most children begin their school lives at Whinstone in our Pre-School and we view this as a vital stage in their education. It is important therefore that children who have a place in the Pre-School attend regularly. It is here that children meet a variety of people, work with new equipment and have stimulating and varied experiences. Through the various activities in which they are engaged, they learn to work, share and co-operate with each other.

They are encouraged to think for themselves, to help develop confidence, independence and understanding. Children begin to express themselves in many ways and their speech and use of language have more opportunities to develop. This all helps to prepare children for their entry into Reception.



Reading and Language Development

Language development plays a crucial role in our school, and we recognise that literacy skills are fundamental to many aspects of teaching learning.

We aim for children to reach their full potential in the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

In becoming confident in these skills children can explore both the real and imaginary worlds around them, they can discuss ideas, listen to the arguments of others, read for pleasure and information and write about their experiences.



We have a wide range of carefully structured reading resources, and parents are asked to share in their child's reading programme from the very beginning of their school career. We encourage children to take books home on a daily basis to be able to spend ten or fifteen minutes sharing and enjoying their book with their parents. It is clear that children who develop strong early reading skills are more likely to flourish in all aspects of education.

We use the "Read, Write Inc." Phonics programme and are proud of our high success over a number of years. We are determined that each and every one of our children learn to read with accuracy and confidence. At the core of the programme is the lively and vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words for reading



(decoding) at the same time as developing handwriting skills and spelling (encoding). As their confidence in decoding develops they are taught to comprehend and compose ideas for their own writing. The children have the pleasure of reading exciting storybooks perfectly matched to their level - so that they have early success in reading! The children follow a structured programme of reading and writing

activities in ability groups. All staff at Whinstone have been trained in the delivery of this programme. Early Years staff and our Read Write Inc. Manager are happy to advise parents to support them in working with their children at home.

Children in Key Stage 2 access Reading Plus, a web-based adaptive literacy solution that improves fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, stamina and motivation. Children access this resource in school and we ask children to complete additional sessions at home each week.

A variety of writing styles are taught to suit different purposes from letter writing, to newspaper reporting, to the creation of imaginative stories and poems. Children are taught in a clear and structured manner in order to develop their skills of planning, structuring and editing their work independently. Children are encouraged to write their thoughts clearly, accurately and in legible script. Where appropriate children use information technology equipment such as word processors to aid and enhance their writing.

Dramatic and role play activities are enlivened by visiting theatre groups as we feel such experiences enrich the whole of the curriculum as well as that of English. We may at times ask parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of such visitors. Role-play and listening skills are further enhanced by the use of our [Now>Press>Play](#), cross-curricular immersive learning resources.

Mathematics



In Mathematics we aim to promote a positive attitude towards developing mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding. Children follow a structured programme that allows investigation and problem-solving activities to be based around real situations. All children cover the full range of mathematical concepts at the appropriate level to them. Mathematics teaching

throughout school incorporates practical, oral and written activities using a wide range of resources.

Science

The science curriculum is taught mainly through self-contained projects and all children at every stage of development are given opportunities to practice the skills of observation, classification, measuring and hypothesising. We believe that the essence of good science teaching involves children investigating themselves and not being a mere observer. They are encouraged to show curiosity, perseverance and self-discipline, our children work co-operatively with each other and make decisions together.



Sex and Relationships Education

Primary sex education is not compulsory, at Whinstone we do not teach sex education. After extensive parental consultation in 2021 we have formulated our Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy. Within our teaching we place great emphasis on building positive relationships, we aim to develop self-respect and an empathy for others. We prepare pupils for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene using the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies as we prepare them for sex education in secondary school.

Computing

The use of information communication technology is an integral part of the national curriculum and is a key skill for everyday life. Computers, tablets, programmable robots, digital and video cameras are a few of the tools that can be used to acquire, organise, store, manipulate, interpret, communicate and present information.



We believe that pupils are entitled to quality hardware and software with a structured and progressive approach to the learning of the skills needed to enable them to use it effectively and safely. We have two networked suites and two trolleys of 30 pupil iPad's and a class set of 30 laptops. Our approach to teaching Computing encourages pupils to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, computational thinkers while also teaching skills that can be applied creatively across the wider curriculum.

Each classroom has a teacher's laptop and interactive screen to enhance teaching and learning experiences. Children have regular access to a range of software as well as web-based materials, much of which can also be accessed from home.

New technologies play an increasing role in the lives of us all and we endeavour to provide our children with the necessary skills to keep themselves safe in their increasingly online lives. The school has a consistent focus on online safety, and updates from our in-house CEOP-accredited trainer (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) help us in equipping children with such skills as we never needed at their age.

History

History is all around us. The starting point for the youngest children is the local area, beginning with Ingleby Barwick itself, themselves and their families. As children move up the school they learn about famous characters and events from a range of historical periods. However, we feel it is essential to give our children sound historical study skills that can be applied to any situation including; the ability to explain and describe historical change; the ability to understand interpretations of history; the ability to acquire evidence from historical sources and form judgments.

Geography

Our younger children start with the familiar area of home, school and Ingleby Barwick before looking at other places in this country, and then the wider world. Through this work the children learn mapping skills and how to extract information from a range of sources. It is important that you tell your children the names of places you visit and the geographical features around them as this gives a solid foundation for their future learning.

Kidsafe

Whinstone has two trained Kidsafe tutors who deliver a comprehensive safeguarding programme to all pupils in school, giving pupils' very simple but effective strategies to deal with all forms of child abuse. The age appropriate programme covers sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional and domestic abuse. It also includes an in-depth online safety section which gives children strategies to deal with inappropriate images, setting firewalls, privacy settings and enables children to make healthy choices around what technology they are accessing, watching and playing. There are various additional workshops aimed at specific age groups and to meet specific needs. Pupils are fully aware of different forms of bullying including cyber bullying and actively try to prevent it from occurring. All Kidsafe workshops promote individual liberty by



empowering pupils to speak out if something doesn't feel right. Kidsafe workshops encourage pupils to understand how others, as well as themselves, might be feeling and to respect each other.

Music

Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act; it brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture past and present, it helps pupils understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between home, school and the wider world. The teaching of music here at Whinstone develops pupils' ability to listen and appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgements about musical quality. It encourages active involvement in different forms of amateur music making, both individual and commercial, developing a sense of group identity and togetherness. At Whinstone, we have a strong tradition of high quality musical performance.

French

French is taught to all pupils from Year 1 upwards for a session every week with our specialist French teacher. We focus on learning French songs and stories while improving vocabulary and speaking. Through Key Stage 2 children begin writing in French and learning about French culture. For those pupils who wish to this culminates in an opportunity to visit France in Year 6 for a week long residential. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, this visit has not taken place for the past two years.



Art

The school has a very strong pedigree in the standards of art work achieved by our children. Children are taught to use equipment and tools correctly and safely in order to produce two and three dimensional work. We also encourage an awareness of famous and established artists and their work, as well as looking at art from different cultures and periods of history. Each week we combine with our other Trust primary schools to celebrate a famous artist art piece of art work and produce a Trust-wide exhibition of work. In 2021 Mackenzie Thorpe was our inspiration and our finished pieces displayed in his art gallery in Richmond.



Design Technology

Children come to school keen to plan and make. We aim to foster this enthusiasm and provide direction to enable children to plan, make and evaluate their models. Children are taught to work safely, whilst handling a range of materials. Food technology is a part of the design technology curriculum, as is control technology. Children are increasingly encouraged to design working mechanisms that move, ultimately using computer control to make their models work.

Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship



PSHE and citizenship aims to give pupils the knowledge and understanding needed to lead confident and healthy lives and become responsible citizens contributing positively to society. Through a variety of activities and experiences children become increasingly responsible for their own learning and actions.

They learn to respect our common humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form effective and fulfilling relationships. Health education is an essential part of the school curriculum through a planned progression from early years to Y6.

Physical Education

Children are given opportunities to participate in gymnastics, games, dance, athletics and swimming. We aim for each class to have two sessions of PE each week, one indoor and one outdoor, and appropriate clothing must be provided from home. PE is



taught by class teachers as well as our PE specialist Mrs Stansmore. We endeavour to ensure that our children develop an active mind, healthy body and a sense of fair play. As part of the National Curriculum for P.E., children in Key Stage 2 take part in swimming. These lessons usually take place in Year 4 and last for a continuous two-week block at the Tees Active Leisure Centre on Ingleby Barwick, IB Leisure where the children swim every day for ten days achieving fabulous outcomes.

Religious Education

For RE we follow the guidelines of the Stockton Agreed Syllabus. Children study aspects of other religions alongside work on Christianity. We acknowledge that Britain is a broadly Christian country and our scheme of work reflects this. RE is delivered on a weekly basis. Children are not taught to be religious, but we hope that by learning about Christianity and other religions children will develop consideration and respect for other people's beliefs.

Homework

Homework is set for all children. Homework can cover a very wide range of activities, depending on the age of the child, but throughout the primary years a consistent emphasis will be put on reading for pleasure and purpose as part of homework. Homework frequently uses technology and learning platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Evidence Me.

Homework is important because it provides a means for our children:

- to consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom
- to build up basic skills (particularly reading, writing and numeracy)
- to become curious and independent learners
- to develop good study habits
- to prepare for the next stage of education.

Special Educational Needs

Some children may need additional help at different stages and for varying lengths of time during their school careers. This may take the form of individual or small group work to focus on a particular learning need, or it may mean providing extension work to meet the requirements of a gifted pupil.

Teachers will plan this type of learning programme, often supported by external professionals, such as Speech and Language Therapists, Education Psychologists etc.

Any parent wanting more information on how we respond to special needs may speak in confidence to their child's teacher, or our SENCO Miss McNaughton.

Educational Visits/Residential Visits

We believe that children's experience and understanding of all areas of the curriculum can be enhanced and extended by taking part in educational visits. As such they are an integral part of school life. Places visited include museums, exhibitions, nature reserves, farms and sites of historic interest.



During year 6 in our school they have the opportunity to spend a week in Northern France on a linguistic and cultural exchange. Our Year 4 children are offered the opportunity of an outdoor adventure residential visit to Carlton in Cleveland to experience the North York Moors. This residential visit provides valuable experiences for children and gives them the opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility and independence and also help to further their social skills whilst exploring and learning about the locality. Educational and residential visits are usually subsidised by school and parents are asked to make a contribution in line with the Local Education Authority's Policy on Charging and Remissions.



Charging and Remissions Policy

All children have opportunities to take part in educational visits in connection with school. We usually ask parents to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of these outings as our school budget only goes so far and we endeavour to offer as many opportunities to the children as practicable. There is no obligation to contribute and no pupil will be omitted from the visit for financial reasons, but a substantial number of contributions need to be made if the visit is to take place. If insufficient contributions are made the visit may need to be cancelled.

Unfortunately, we occasionally cancel visits due to a lack of contributions making the visit is untenable.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Children are offered a range of after school activities at different times of the year. Such activities include music tuition, football, netball, hockey, web-club, keyboard, choir, art, Reading Plus, homework and gardening.

Jewellery and Valuables

For reasons of safety we do not allow children to wear hooped earrings, necklaces, rings or bracelets in school, any child doing so will be asked to remove them. Children are not allowed to take part under any circumstances in games, P.E. or swimming whilst wearing jewellery. If your child is to wear earrings in school please ensure they are small studs. Most children are apt to lose things; children should not bring to school anything of value as we do not accept responsibility for them. All personal property is brought to school at the children's and parents' own risk.



School Lunches

School lunches are cooked on the premises and provided each day by our caterers Caterlink. We work closely with Caterlink to ensure the meals offered are healthy and nutritious. There is a salad bar for children to choose from each day. The current cost of a school lunch is £2.20 per day (£11.00 for a full week). Caterlink have a 3-week rotating menu in place which changes each term and is available on the parent information page on our website. Dinner money should be paid by the start of each week through our Parentmail App.

When your child starts at Whinstone you will be sent an email registration for Parentmail. A free school dinner is be offered to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children may bring a packed lunch to school but fizzy drinks hot drinks, soup, flasks, or glass containers are not allowed for safety reasons. We also request that packed lunches reflect the healthy emphasis given by our school lunches, and therefore ask that sweets, chocolate etc. are avoided.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes are **entitled to a daily free school meal** under the Government's universal free school meals programme. Children may be entitled to free school meals if they, their parent or guardian are in receipt of certain benefits. If a child qualifies for free school meals they automatically qualify for Pupil Premium, which is additional financial support paid direct to school to help with other costs such as uniform, trips and learning interventions. Even if your child already receives a free school meal because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and if you are eligible to do so we would ask you to register for a free school meal, as your child can also access this additional financial support. Please apply through the school website.

Snacks and Drinks in School

We are a part of the National School Fruit Scheme. This means that all our children from Pre-School to Year 2 receive a piece of fruit each day free of charge. In addition, we sell fruit and healthy snacks to children in Key Stage 2 from our Healthy Tuck Shop at morning break-time. Children are also welcome to bring fruit or a low sugar snack from home to eat at morning break-time. We encourage children to drink water throughout the day to maintain hydration and ask parents and carers to provide a water bottle with plain water.

Safety

Medicines in School

We are in a position to administer prescribed medicines only. We recommend that if at all possible children requiring a course of antibiotics should be given them at times around the school day to avoid disruption. If prescribed medication needs to

be administered during the school day an adult must bring the bottle or carton, with the prescription label attached, to the school office and an instruction form completed and signed. Non-prescribed medicines, such as Calpol, or medicines brought in by children will not be administered.

If your child suffers from asthma please ask for a copy of the school's Asthma Policy.

Cars on school property - Safety for All Children

The only vehicles allowed on school property are those on official business - i.e. staff cars, delivery vehicles and access for disabled persons. If you believe you should be considered for a parking permit please contact the school office.

Travelling to School

We encourage parents to walk their children to school as far as possible, or to cycle, as the drop off zone outside school gets very congested. However, if cars are used to transport children please use the drop off area outside the main school gate and avoid parking in the restricted zone along Lowfields Avenue by the pedestrian access gate. Cycle and scooter shelters are available for pupils to use. Any children cycling to school must wear an appropriate cycle helmet. Pedestrian and safe cycling training is offered in school. Parents of children in Key Stage 2 are given the option of giving permission for their child to travel independently to and from school. All children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 must be accompanied by an adult.

Emergencies

On rare occasions we need to contact home in an emergency - usually due to illness. It is important that we have up to date information of your home address and telephone number. We also require two emergency addresses and telephone numbers in case you cannot be contacted. These are usually relatives or neighbours. If you move house or wish to change emergency numbers please email admin@whinstone.org.uk or inform the school office.

Consultation with Parents

Parents' evenings are held each term. Parents have an opportunity to discuss their child's progress or any concerns they may have regarding their education or welfare during these evenings. Parents are also encouraged to talk to staff at any other time during the school year. Written reports summarising progress and attainment across the curriculum are sent out to all parents in the Spring Term.



Volunteers in School

We always appreciate having volunteers to help in school. This can take place in a number of ways - sharing reading with children or listening to them read, others like to help out on visits - if you feel that you want to be involved as a helper in any way please talk to your child's class teacher. We are particularly interested if you have a skill that you can share with children. Grandma and Grandad are most welcome too! All volunteers are in a position of trust and the relevant references and DBS checks will apply to ensure the safety and welfare of everybody in our community.

Transfer to Secondary School

A system of parental preference operates in Stockton. The children from Whinstone Primary School are normally offered a place at one of several local secondary schools. In 2021 children transferred to the following schools from Year 6: Eggescliffe, Conyers, Ingleby Manor, All Saints, Thornaby Academy and Stokesley. Further information on secondary education is available from Stockton admissions, telephone 01642 526605.

Breakfast Club

A Breakfast Club operates each school day from 8am. Places for Breakfast Club cost £3.00 per day and should be booked through the school office. The children have a choice of cereal, toast and drinks. We have a range of activities, including painting, board games and crafts. KS2 children can also catch up with Reading Plus and Times Table Rockstars in the computer suite.

National Assessments

Data shown below is for 2022 and the previous two years of whole school data (prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic). National data is shown for comparison

Reception

A good Level of Development is achieved by reaching the expected level in all Prime Areas and the specific areas of maths and literacy.

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
% pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD)	79%	72%	82%	72%	79%	TBC

Year 1

Year 1 phonic screening check.

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
% pupils achieving expected standard	97%	82%	93%	82%	90%	TBC

Year 2

The following tables show detailed results for Year 2 pupils attaining national expectations and above at our school at the end of Key Stage 1.

Reading

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
Reading at the Expected Standard or above	82%	75%	81%	75%	75%	TBC
Reading above the expected standard	35%	26%	31%	25%	21%	TBC

Writing

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
Writing at the Expected Standard or above	77%	70%	75%	69%	75%	TBC
Writing above the expected standard	24%	16%	25%	12%	14%	TBC

Maths

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
Maths at the Expected Standard or above	78%	76%	83%	76%	84%	TBC
Maths above the expected standard	31%	22%	31%	22%	26%	TBC

Year 6

The following tables show detailed results for Year 6 pupils attaining national expectations and above at our school at the end of Key Stage 2.

Reading

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
Reading at the Expected Standard or above	88%	75%	82%	73%	87%	74%
Reading above the expected standard	22%	28%	31%	27%	21%	TBC
Average Scaled Score	105.6	105.0	106.1	104.0	105.5	TBC

Writing

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
Writing at the Expected Standard or above	93%	78%	96%	78%	88%	69%
Writing above the expected standard	25%	20%	31%	20%	11%	TBC

Maths

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
Maths at the Expected Standard or above	89%	76%	94%	79%	78%	71%
Maths above the expected standard	27%	24%	40%	27%	25%	TBC
Average Scaled Score	105.5	104.0	107.8	105.0	104.2	TBC

Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar (SPAG)

	2018		2019		2022	
	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National	Whinstone	National
SPAG at the Expected Standard or above	86%	78%	89%	78%	88%	72%
SPAG above the expected standard	42%	34%	54%	36%	30%	TBC
Average Scaled Score	107.7	106.0	110.0	106.0	106.6	TBC

Admissions

Any parents who are considering admitting their child to Whinstone Primary School are most welcome to arrange a meeting and tour of the school, by appointment with the school office. This should be made through the school office, telephone 01642 750318, or email whinstone@sbcschools.org.uk

Children are eligible for admission to Whinstone Pre-School following their third birthday. Attendance at Pre-School is part-time only, children attending either a morning or afternoon session or 2½ continuous days (Monday to Wednesday morning or Wednesday afternoon to Friday). If you wish your child to attend Pre-School please contact the school.

Children transfer from Pre-School into school in September.

Term Dates 2022-2023

Holiday/School Closure	School Closes	School Re-opens
Summer Holiday 2022	Wednesday 20 th July 2022	Monday 5 th September 2022
Autumn Half-Term 2022	Friday 21 st October 2022	Monday 31 st October 2022
School Closure Day	Thursday 1 st December 2022	Monday 5 th December 2022
Christmas 2022	Tuesday 20 th December 2022	Wednesday 4 th January 2023
Spring Half-Term 2023	Thursday 16 th February 2023	Monday 27 th February 2023
Easter 2023	Friday 31 st March 2023	Monday 17 th April 2023
May Day 2023	Friday 28 th April 2023	Tuesday 2 nd May 2023
Summer Half-Term 2023	Friday 26 th May 2023	Tuesday 6 th June 2023
Summer Holiday 2023	Thursday 20 th July 2023	To be confirmed



Governing Body

The governing body has a wide range of duties and responsibilities with regard to the management and direction of our school. The governors meet at least once a term and minutes of these meetings are available for inspection at school. The governing body produces a report and holds a meeting for parents once a year. If you are interested in becoming a school governor please contact Mr Poppitt or Mrs Thompson.

List of Governors

Mrs Jane Thompson (Chair of Governors)

Mrs Claire Williams-Reader (Vice-Chair)

Mr Mike Poppitt (Headteacher)

Mr Richard Craig

Mr Rob Ford

Mrs Connie Buckley

Mr Mark Probert

Mrs Linda Bashford

Mr Andrew Pengilley

Mr Nick Robinson

Mrs S Hughes

Mrs L Batty

Clerk to the Governing Body: Mrs J Ferreria, Clerk to the Governors,
Stockton Borough Council, PO Box 228, Municipal Buildings, Church Road,
Stockton on Tees.

