



Head Teacher Newsletter

Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Friends of West Jesmond,

Delivering a curriculum for the 21st Century

When Mr Wallis-Clarke arrived at West Jesmond, as Headteacher, he articulated a vision for our pupils:

'I am passionate that we create a truly outstanding school built on secure foundations of excellent teaching, a daring, memorable, creative curriculum and consistently high academic attainment and progress for all learners.

It is my vision that the children of West Jesmond leave us in Year 6 as happy, successful, articulate, aspirational and empathetic young people, eager for the next stage of learning in their lives and respectful towards the exciting differences of cultures in modern British society.

It is also crucial that in our school we foster a whole family atmosphere where children feel confident to express their individuality, their talents and know that success in any aspect of their lives will be rewarded and celebrated. We currently have children from 27 countries around the world and have children fluent in up to 21 languages – something very few primary schools can boast about. This adds to our unique nature where children work, play and learn together harmoniously.

Together we will make West Jesmond Primary an exciting place for your children in which to learn, grow and flourish in the centre of our vibrant Jesmond community and also as a beacon of excellence across our great city.'

At the heart of this vision is curriculum entitlement. We always strive as a school to deliver an engaging, enriching and stimulating curriculum across the full range of national curriculum subjects and beyond. It's pleasing to know that the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum has recently been commented on by the new Chief Inspector of Ofsted Amanda Spielman.



Executive Head Teacher: Gary Wallis-Clarke MA in Education BA (Hons) NPQH
Head of School: Dominic Martin MEd PGCE LLB (Hons) NPQH
West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AJ
T: (0191)2810000 E: office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk
W: www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



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The minimum we must offer as a school is the statutory content of the National Curriculum, but we always strive to offer so much more. We have a clear idea and rationale about what we think and feel children should be taught, but what about you as parents and carers? What kind of people would you like your children to be when they leave us; what would you like them to know; what skills would you like them to have? At parents' evening next week we'll be leaving out some boards providing you with an opportunity to comment on these questions. Since we're reviewing our curriculum content and delivery at the moment, we'd really welcome your opinions and ideas.



Digital Leaders at work

Last week our Digital Leaders helped Mr Jones deliver computing training to our School Direct Initial Teacher Training trainees. Digital Leaders are now at work across the school supporting peers and sometimes teachers (!) as we continue to develop our computing curriculum and use of ipads. Our visiting trainees we most impressed.

Waterstones Visits

The magic of a book shop is always captivating; the joy of flicking through potential reads and plunging momentarily into new worlds is one that should be shared passionately with our children.

With this in mind, this week each Key Stage 2 class has enjoyed a visit to Waterstones bookshop. During the visit, the children participated in a 'recommendation' workshop. Whilst some classes used story cubes to put their own twist on famous stories and to invent brand new ones, others learnt how 'book psychology' can help with focusing a book search.

Each child then had the opportunity to recommend a book for a new 'Pupil-Parent library' - a project funded by the Friends designed to promote a love of literacy for all the family. The hugely personal and eclectic list of books recommended (which now numbers over 300!) reflects the vast array of personalities and interests throughout the Key Stage 2. We're really excited about seeing these books being shared with families from across the school.



Artisan Bakers!

Have you noticed the lovely aromas in the corridors this week? Year 2 have been busy baking naan breads as part of their India topic. Working with the Artisan Baking Community, each child had the chance to choose the shape and flavour of two different naan breads. From their evaluations it seems that they tasted delicious!



Parents Evening – Heaton Manor Visit

I would like to make you all aware that Karen Blackburn, Head of Heaton Manor School, and other members of her Senior Leadership Team, will be in school for both parents evening sessions next week. As a reminder, these will be held on Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th February. Karen and her team will be in school to talk to any parents who may wish to discuss future developments at Heaton Manor or have any questions they may have answered.

You will be able to find Karen and her team in the main entrance of our school for the duration of both parents evening sessions.

West Jesmond Has Got Talent Reminder

As we are putting together the music for the acts, we have found that many of the current songs chosen by the children have inappropriate adult content. We are keen to organise an enjoyable night of entertainment without causing any offence. Please check the lyrical content of your child's chosen song before providing us with the backing music on CD or USB. Please label these clearly with your child's name and class.



This needs to be in school as soon as possible, and by Thursday 8th February at the very latest please.

We are delighted with the huge response from the children who want to take part in our annual Talent Show and are looking forward to a brilliant night of entertainment!



Young Achievers



Serenna Y2H	Grade 1 Performing Arts Award
Evie Y1YR	Learn to Swim Level 6 Award
Erin Y5M	Achieving her Pen Licence
Kiran Y5M	Achieving his Pen Licence
Rosa Y4S	Achieving her Pen Licence

With best wishes for the week ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic".

Dominic Martin

Head of School