



## West Jesmond Primary Newsletter Week 2 Spring Term 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of our second week of a rather unusual Spring Term and I am immensely proud of the efforts of all of our children at home and in school in adapting so well to a very different types of learning. Can I again thank all of our parents and carers who are working so hard to balance the many demands of home and work life with also supporting the learning of our children and also express our continued gratitude to the many West Jesmond parents who are Critical Workers at this challenging time.

We have had a very high response to our home learning and the teachers are working incredibly hard to make sure that we are able to teach our children in school at the same time as providing the very best education to those at home.

As the headteacher, I am very lucky to be able to look in on the learning of every class and child in school and that of each child at home through the Seesaw and Tapestry Apps. I wish I could give responses to all of your children to thank them for the work they are doing and to say how much we are inspired and motivated by their energy and enthusiasm. Our mini online **Achievement Assembly** could only highlight the work of a few children selected by their teachers for great effort, but I would like to ask every parent to pass on a well done message from me to all your children for their personal achievements this week!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

### Maths at home Update

**White Rose Maths Booklets:** The home-learning workbooks that can be downloaded and printed at home or worked on directly on the screen, complement the White Rose Schemes of Learning which we at West Jesmond follow. They link directly to the daily maths video lessons that the children can access. The same work is assigned to those pupils within Key worker provision. The topics are divided up into relevant blocks across the Spring term. The children will already have covered some of the work at the start of the books but the questions within these pages could where necessary be utilised to recap their understanding further.

Please ensure that relevant work is completed within the linked lesson and on the specific day it is assigned. Pupils are not expected to attempt other pages within the books in advance – no matter how keen pupils or parents may be! Specific teaching input within the daily sessions is necessary and indeed vital to deepen and further embed pupil knowledge and understanding.

We have purchased a number of The White Rose printed home learning workbooks for those families who are unable to access or print out at home and we can arrange for parents to collect them or have them delivered, if this is possible. Please contact us if you need a booklet.

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## Mathletics

Please continue to encourage your child to use Mathletics on a regular basis as it is a very useful tool for us in school to see their areas of strength and areas to develop within the subject. This programme also aligns directly with the White Rose Curriculum. Mathletics awards will continue to be awarded virtually to the year group that acquires the highest number of points on a weekly basis. We also seek to acknowledge individual Mathletes efforts within each year group.

## Times Tables Rockstars

Improving the speed of recall of times tables facts is key to pupils gaining confidence within the subject. Our aim is for all pupils to know their times tables facts by the end of Year 4 – an ambition set centrally by the DfE. Pupils can utilise this programme to improve their response times in a fun, competitive way – eventually achieving Rock Hero status! Again pupil's efforts and perseverance in this aspect of maths will be celebrated.

Pupils should have log ins for both Mathletics and Times Tables Rockstars. If you require further assistance in accessing these programmes then please contact your child's teacher via their email address.

Helen Sykes (Assistant Headteacher and Maths Lead)

## On-line Reading Scheme: Oxford Reading Owl



We are very sorry that we cannot exchange reading books at this time and therefore we have been looking to find an online resource to allow all of our children to access reading materials.

West Jesmond has subscribed to **Oxford Reading Owl**, which provides an online library of eBooks.

These eBooks are suitable for Reception to Year 6 and mirror the **Oxford Reading Tree** reading scheme which Key Stage 1 use, and the **Treetops** reading scheme used by Years 3, 4 and 5.

To log on visit: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/login?active-tab=students> and enter your class username and password (see below).

## Years 1 to 5

It is possible to search the online library by book band or level. If your child is in Years 1 to 5, they will already have a book band level assigned by their teacher. If you are unsure of which level this is, look in your child's Reading Diary or contact their class teacher. Please try to stay within the level suggested by the teacher as this is based on prior assessment, so the books will be most suited to enhancing your child's decoding and comprehension skills.

## Reception and Year 6

Your children are not yet assigned a level. Therefore, we would recommend that you search the books by age rather than level. There are plenty of titles for both year groups – happy searching!

## An update from Breakfast and After School Club

The Breakfast Club and After School Club are so pleased to be able to continue offering care to your

children while they are in Critical Worker provision. For those children who are home schooling we want you to know that the staff miss you and look forward to seeing you as soon as we are able.

For those families still accessing care I would like to remind you of the timings of each club:

Breakfast Club drop off at the Y5/6 Courtyard gate **8am-8:10am**.

After School Club pick up at Y5/6 Courtyard -end of school day before **5:55pm**.

We ask if parents would be mindful that the building closes at 6pm so children must be collected no later than 5:55pm. We appreciate that occasionally there may be an issue or emergency that may cause a delay. If this is the case, please call us on **0191 2813217** which is the direct ASC line. This enables us to allay any anxiety that your child may feel. Thank you and stay safe from Jacqui and all the staff.

**All the Staff at West Jesmond wish you all a very happy weekend.**

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