



West Jesmond Primary School

Weekly Newsletter: Friday 25th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Birds flying high, you know how I feel,
Sun in the sky, you know how I feel,
Breeze driftin' on by, you know how I feel,
It's a new dawn,
It's a new day,
It's a new life for me, yeah
And I'm feeling good.*

I was determined that this week our weekly newsletter had to be positive and a celebration of what our wonderful children have been doing in school this week. I know life for many families has been extremely hard this week. A combination of our first taste of awful torrential rain, more worrying announcements from the PM, dealing with our first case and having to send a Year 1 class home for the week, wider money and economic concerns and the thought of a very difficult holiday season approaching is not a happy combination for any of us!

But we are determined to make school as normal and as exciting and as happy as possible for our wonderful children. Therefore we wanted to share with you some of the absolutely brilliant work children have already done this term. There are some important procedural updates as usual but I have put these at the end of the newsletter. Learning goes on and we need to remember that in these difficult times.

Year 1 Maths Success



In maths we have been grouping and counting different items accurately. We have also talked about lining up objects to make them easier to count. We used counters to represent different picture objects and then tried to accurately group and count them.



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Year 4 Remembrance

Year 4 have made a very creative start to the academic year and have kicked off their World War One topic by writing kenning poems, making clay soldiers and producing commemorative stained glass windows.



Year 3 Maths Investigations underway



Outdoor Learning: In Year 3 we have been learning how to represent numbers in different ways. Today we were investigating how many different numbers we could make using 4 counters and then representing them in numerals, base 10 and in a place value grid.



Year 6 Macbeth Rehearsals

Rehearsals launched, roles cast, scripts shared... It's all systems go this week for Y6's production of Macbeth, aiming for a world-record-breaking November performance!



Character Description



| Toolkit – Character description | | SA | TA |
|---------------------------------|--|----|----|
| Adjective - Powerful | | G | a |
| Noun Phrase | | G | a |
| Powerful Verb | | G | a |
| Adverbs | | G | a |

Under the sinister, stormy sky, the three dishevelled witches cackled hysterically around the rusty cauldron. The vulture-like hags raised their long, skeletal fingers as they cast their horrific spell. Their eyes, sharp as arrows, pierced the thick night air, moved restlessly through the dark bushes. Grinning mischievously, the deformed witches fiddled with their dark, knotted hair. Their puckered, wizened noses sniffed in the sweet night air as they brewed their malicious spell.




Since returning to school, the children in Year 6 have been delving into the dark and mysterious world of Macbeth, adapted by our very own Miss Bellwood. We've created our own Witches scenes using green screen and we used these to help us write our descriptions of the three grotesque witches.

Staff Qualification Success

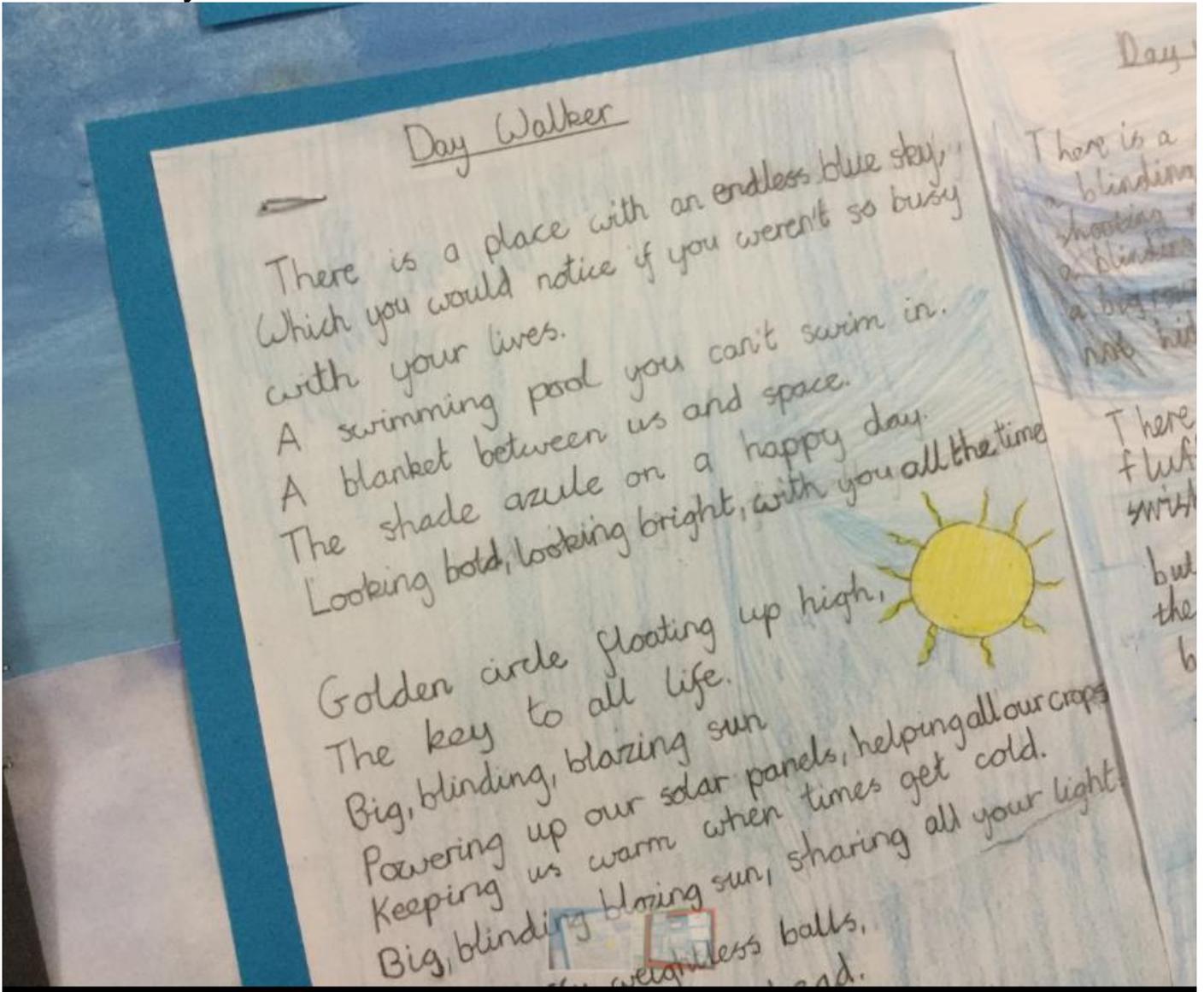
We wanted share with you the fantastic news that last year a number of our staff undertook professional qualifications with Newcastle University and the North East Teaching Schools Partnership. I am delighted to inform you that Mr Snelders in Year 2, Miss Smith in Year 6 and Mrs Robinson in Reception all achieved their National Professional Qualification in Middle Leadership (NPQML). Mrs Hogan our Special Educational Needs leader passed her NPQSL qualification. This is the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership. Congratulations to all these staff for their hard work in a very difficult year.

NPQSL

National
Professional
Qualification
for Senior Leadership



Year 5 Literacy Work



Thank you

Phase 1 of our secret garden in memory of Mrs Hainsworth was completed last year and the children are loving this new area of the playground. There is much more to come but the foundation stage is there. As our Friends of West Jesmond ball cannot go ahead at the present time we are delighted that the contribution from **Bailey and Co estate agents** to the Ball has been given to the school. We are always thrilled and delighted to have such wonderful local support. Thank you so much from Mr Wallis-Clarke and Mr Jones.

And finally

Updates from your friendly Head Teacher

- We would like to continue to encourage all parents to wear a face covering at drop off and pick up times. You **MUST** wear a face covering if you are in the main entrance lobby to speak to office staff.
- Please let us know if you or child has a COVID 19 test and **very importantly please let us know the result** – positive or negative. Drop us a line at: hello@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk
- Please park safely and **be nice to each other**, taking care on the roads around school and be extra aware of social distancing pedestrians and cyclists. Please also use the zebra crossings at the start and end of the day
- **Please think extremely carefully about the tone of your communication with school.** We know this is a very difficult time **for us all**, but staff in the school office and other staff around school deserve to be treated with respect. They are dealing with a huge number of issues every day at this point in time and you may need to be extra patient. Any abusive or aggressive phone calls and messages will be recorded and dealt with by a Senior Member of the school Leadership team.
- If you are using school class WhatsApp groups to support and communicate with each other – please make sure it is **support**. A number of parents have informed me that they have felt compelled to leave WhatsApp groups due to unfair pressure and ‘ranting’ during this difficult time. Ranting on social media late at night doesn’t help anyone. I want to also make it clear that any personal statements made on line about any member of staff within school will also be addressed directly.

Drop off and Pick up Staggered timings reminder

Breakfast Club 8.00 am

Year 2, 4 and 6 8.30 – 8.45 am 3.05 – 3.20 pm

Year 1, 3 and 5 8.45 – 9.00 am 3.20 – 3.35 pm

Reception 8.45 – 9.00 am 3.20 – 3.35 pm

After School Club 3.30 – 5.55 pm

If possible do drop your child off at the gate and let them come into school on their own under our staff supervision. This now applies to all year groups.

Best Wishes to you all,

Have a lovely week. We are here for you and your children.

Gary Wallis-Clarke



Autumn days when the grass is jewelled,
And the silk inside a chestnut shell,