

Summer Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, the newsletter demonstrates what an amazing mix of experiences the children at West Jesmond participate in. In a world of education which can easily become dominated by reading, writing and maths, it is great to be part of a school which offers its pupils so much more.

That offer comes out of much hard work. At leadership level, including governors, we prioritise, plan and ensure funding for a broad curriculum. In the time allocated for preparation and training (and usually some of their own time too), the staff plan exciting lessons and projects and, in lessons and on visits, staff make the plans a reality.

Alongside all the exciting "stuff" we continue to achieve excellent results in the SATs and phonics test for our Yr1, Yr2 and Yr6 pupils. As a governing body we recognise the contribution of everyone – pupils, families and staff – to our success.

And, from me, a thank you to my fellow governors who continue to work hard and give generously of their time and talents to the school.
Best wishes for a great summer break,

Jane Edminson
Chair of Governors



Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we are in the final stages of this term already. It has been a very successful year for the school again and just this morning I have sent away our submission for our Arts Mark status as a school. We will find out in the Autumn term how we have been judged to be performing by the assessors in London but I am very optimistic that they will recognise all the great work across the curriculum the children have been doing this year.

We will end the term on a high with our open afternoon for the Great Exhibition of Jesmond with performances from the children throughout the afternoon. Education remains in a precarious state in England but we have held steadfast to our beliefs and the school is flourishing. Our results this year are some of the best the school has ever achieved (if not THE BEST!) and at every stage we are performing well above national averages. This though is merely a stepping stone on the journey of education for children and we remain determined to provide the best curriculum and ensure they leave us compassionate, understanding and educated about the world around them.

Thank you for all your support at events and performances this year. Next week we will have our special leaver's events and graduations marking key milestones in the school calendar. It makes a huge difference to our life in school to know we have your support.

I wish everyone a great summer and for those leaving us I hope you will take a little bit of West Jesmond with you and spread the word about our wonderful school.

Gary Wallis-Clarke
Executive Head

Reception

New Life

To help develop our understanding of the world and life cycles, we raised our very own caterpillars and released them once they were butterflies. We went to the allotment and looked for minibeasts – we found spiders, worms, beetles, ants and snails. We saw newts and water boatmen at the pond. We also had fun watching our class tadpoles grow and develop into little frogs. We took the froglets back to the pond at the allotment.



Building Friendships

Throughout the year we have all enjoyed Buddy Sessions with our Year 3 and Year 6 partners. We have done sporting activities, creative activities and PSED activities. We have loved working with the older children, they have been very helpful to us and we have made lots of new friends. We are looking forward to more Buddy Days in Year 1.



People and Communities

We have been looking at Diversity this half term. We learned about Ramadan and Eid. We loved dressing up in the beautiful clothes, getting mehndi patterns on our hands, and having pretend Eid parties in the roleplay. We also enjoyed celebrating the Royal Wedding and discussing the Royal Family, and the traditions of weddings around the world.



Reception continued

Stories we love

In May we held another StoryBox session, this was very well attended and showcased the excellent creativity of our children and parents. It was lovely to see parents and children working side by side.



Great Exhibition of the North

We have learned a lot about the North during our GETNorth topic and are very proud of the place we live in. The children all enjoyed sharing what places and experiences in the North were special to them. The children painted excellent jigsaw pictures of St Mary's lighthouse. We also enjoyed a fabulous trip to the museum. 'Heaven', the shark, was a favourite for many children. Whistlejacket was also popular.



"Oh I do like to be beside the seaside"

We have loved learning all about the seaside, the creatures we find under the sea, and what holidays and days out at the coast are like. Our end of year trip to the beach was a huge success. We had great fun playing on the sand and watching the tide come in. We even managed to have a quick visit to St Mary's lighthouse and enjoy a drive along the coastline.

Up, Up and Away...

What a wonderful year we have had, and hopefully full of special memories for you to treasure of your child's first year at school. Thank you so much for all of your help and support this year, we have had a wonderful year with your children. We wish you a very happy summer holiday and a very successful Year 1.

Year 1

Life on an Ocean Wave

In our first half term we have been learning about the RNLI and their role in rescuing people. We were very excited when we got to visit the lifeboat station and particularly enjoyed when the teachers had the chance to wear the suit! To follow on from this we studied the life of Grace Darling and why this was an important historical event from the past.



Roots, Shoots and Welly Boots!

This half term we have been reading many woodland stories and in particular enjoyed 'The Gruffalo'. We loved working together to make *Gruffalo Crumble* and we also wrote instructions on how to make this. Some of us rated our crumble as 5* and said it tasted 'delicious'!

Sponsored Dance-a-thon

To raise money for the development of a garden at the top the yard in memory of Deborah Hainsworth, Year 1 had a fun (and sweaty!) time dancing to many songs through 'Go Noodle'. Our favourite was 'I Like to Move It'.



The Great Exploration of the North



As part of a whole school project we have been studying the North East including different key features and landmarks. Our year group location focus has been Gibside and we had

a fantastic trip seeing the Orangery, Ruined House and Chapel. Each class produced a fabulous scaled painting of an element of Gibside.



Green Day News!



Year 1 were thrilled to receive a reply from Muller UK in response to the letters they sent on Green Day. They wrote to Muller asking for an alternative to the plastic straw for their milk cartons, as they were very concerned about the impact plastic waste is having on our oceans. Muller contacted Tetra Pak who make their milk cartons to voice our concerns; here is an example of one of our letters.

A big thank you to all of the parents who have helped with projects at home, on trips and in classrooms this year. It has helped contribute to a fantastic year.

Year 2

Amazing Animals

In the first half-term we found out all about animals and how they are adapted to their habitats. We worked with the RSPB to map microhabitats in the St Andrew's Garden. Animals Antics also brought lots of interesting visitors to our class too. We also produced information videos about the desert which we shared with different schools.



Green Day

As part of our day reducing plastic use, we visited supermarkets in Jesmond to see how many products had excess plastic. We then designed new packaging and shared our ideas online with the companies and supermarkets. The supermarkets were very supportive.



Flossathon

To help raise an amazing fundraising total of over £3,000 for the NSPCC campaign, we flossed non-stop for 30 minutes. The children taught Mr Snelders lots of new moves.

Year 2 continued

Black Knight's Quest

This term the Black Knight has been setting us lots of Quests to find out about life in medieval times. We used our knowledge to explore Warkworth Castle and solve more puzzles. He thought we did a great job and we were all knighted by the Black Knight himself.



After our visit we wrote and recorded adverts to encourage more people to visit Warkworth Castle. You can see these on our Facebook and Twitter feeds. We had lots of praise for our work, especially from English Heritage who were very impressed.

Great Exhibition of the North

Our GET North project work was linked to Warkworth Castle. We visited the Great North Museum and used ideas from the workshops to inspire work in class.



Graduation

To mark the end of Key Stage One, and some of our friends moving to new starts, we celebrated with a Graduation ceremony on Wednesday. The children sang beautifully and were very proud of their certificates and hats!



Thank you to all the Y2 parents for your support with all our activities this year. Well done to all the children for working so hard.

Year 3

Science unit Plants-and School Garden project

To support our learning in the classroom with our Science topic on plants; Year 3 have been very carefully looking after and nurturing the 3 raised beds in the school garden in the cemetery. Each class took a bed and we have all planted peas, onions and potatoes. We have been visiting the beds to check on our progress and of course in the nicer weather- water the plants! Our potatoes are definitely our biggest success, but we did discover we are also very good at growing weeds!!

Tomatoes

We were delighted to accept some tomato plants from a kind parent. Each class has taken care of 2 plants and they have grown wonderfully! We are now very excited that our fruit are beginning to ripen. Mr Cook is looking forward to harvesting on the last day of term.

Local History Project

We had a wonderful time investigating The Exhibition Park as part of our local history project. We all studied the history of the park then went on a visit to observe the changes. Finally each class created a picture to be displayed during our Great Exhibition of the North event.



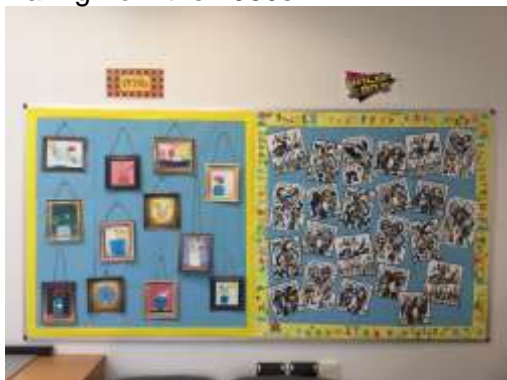
A Big Thanks!

Finally, the Year 3 team would like to say a big thank you to the parents and family members who volunteered their services during the year. It was great that so many of you were willing to spare some time to help accompany us on trips, or share your skills and expertise in the classroom. We know that the children gain a great deal from these enriched learning opportunities.

Year 4

Decades

The children had great fun finding about life in post-war Britain. We learnt how people's lives changed over this period of time. We examined the major events, inventions and discoveries of each decade, which enabled us to become journalists and write news reports. We studied and made art inspired by some of the famous artists from each decade...portraits of the Queen from the 1950s, pop-art from the 1960s, David Hockney from the 1970s and Keith Haring from the 1980s.



Scottish Opera Project

This year, Year 4 took on the challenge of bringing the story of the Dragon of the Western Sea to life in the form of an opera. The children worked hard to learn their songs, before teaming up with professional opera singers to perform to the school and parents. The children enjoyed the experience of singing and performing. We hope it will inspire many of them to take part in future productions.



NSPCC Danceathon

To raise money to support the NSPCC Speak Out-Stay Safe campaign, Year 4 joined in with an extremely energetic Danceathon. We performed a variety of dance routines and raised lots of money in the process.



Allotment

As part of our science work looking at how living things are classified, we visited the allotment to study the animals which live in different habitats. We searched for minibeasts in the pond and around the garden.

A Big Thanks

Finally, the Year 4 team would like to say a big thank you to the parents and family members who volunteered their services during the year. It was great that so many of you were willing to spare some time to help accompany us on trips, or share your skills and expertise in the classroom. We know that the children gain a great deal from these enriched learning opportunities.

Year 5

Lifecycles



It was with great excitement that the class members of Year 5 welcomed new visitors this - tadpoles! To launch our latest Science topic – ‘Animals including humans’- we decided what better way to learn about lifecycles than to study them first hand?

As we have been able to restart our allotment visits again this term, we were very lucky to be able to release our tadpoles – now froglets - into the allotment pond, where we hope they will flourish.

Calligraphy Workshop

This term we visited United Reform Church in West Jesmond where the children worked with one of the Northumbrian Scribes learning about St Cuthbert and traditional forms of calligraphy. They created their own Acronym Books using the skills they learned.



Shakespeare

The cast of Hamlet have started their preparation for the performance at the Northern Stage on Monday, November 8th, with lunchtime workshops revolving around the development of characterisation, movement and voice projection amongst other skills.

They have really impressed with their attitude and hard work so far and it is really exciting to see the fledgling production start to develop.

Keep your eyes posted for ticket information and news of an after-school club!



Year Six

Beamish

Year Six enjoyed a beautiful summer's day back in the 1940s when we visited Beamish Museum to explore what life would have been like for children during the Second World War.

We had a really interesting workshop where we investigated how an evacuee might live on a farm and all of the jobs they would have had to do, including shovelling animal poo with their hands, feeding the animals and baking carrot cookies. We think it was pretty unanimous which one of those the majority of us wanted to avoid doing!

We also got the chance to sit in a camouflaged Anderson Shelter and wrote postcards as if we were writing home to our mothers.



Tynemouth Priory

As part of the school-wide project revolving around the Great Exhibition of the North, Year Six visited Tynemouth Priory as a well-known local landmark and have been



considering the different characters that may have lived or worked at the Priory over the years. Since then, we have been writing poetry from their perspectives and producing three different mosaics of the Priory using different art media across the classes.

Due to the Priory's involvement in World War Two, it also gave us a glimpse into the role it played as part of the coastal defence system, and wrote a class poem from the perspective of a World War Two soldier.

We have also visited the Great North Museum on a number of occasions to see what more we could learn about the North.

El Coto

As part of our work in Spanish, each class has visited *El Coto* in the city centre to sample and enjoy some tapas together whilst practicing the restaurant-based vocabulary we have been learning. It was great fun to try all sorts of Spanish delicacies such as paella, patatas bravas and tortilla.



End of Year

We can't believe it's the end of Year Six and the end of the children's time at West Jesmond Primary School! We have been eagerly building up to all of the end of year festivities, including compiling a year book, writing, recording and filming a song and video, and casting our votes for the end of year Awards – not to mention the arrival of the keenly-awaited Leavers hoodies!

ECO

This term we celebrated our annual Green Day and it was a huge success. Eco Group were keen to focus on trying to reduce our plastic usage both at home and at school so they thought about some of the different ways we could address this issue.

We started the day with a whole school assembly presented by Eco Group and then each year group spent the rest of day doing different writing and craft activities relating to reducing our use of plastics, in particular single use plastics. At the end of the day, every child was given a canvas Green Day 2018 bag to encourage them to use it instead of plastic carrier bags when out shopping.



Reception spent the day making posters encouraging people to think about reducing their plastic usage. They also had the exciting task of regenerating part of our school playground and turning it into a wildflower bed. First they transferred lots of topsoil into the space with Mr Edwards and then they sprinkled lots of wildflower seeds all over and gave them a water using watering cans they had made with old milk cartons which they had decorated.



Year 1 decided that they wanted to write letters to Muller, the company who produce our school milk, asking for them to stop using plastic straws and very excitingly, we have since heard back from them to say they are working with Tetra Pak and are hoping to produce paper straws to go with the cartons very soon so well done Year 1! You have shown what a difference we can make. They then spent the afternoon making beautiful piggy banks out of plastic bottles and bottle tops.



ECO continued

Year 2 used the morning to visit local supermarkets with each class going to a different one. Whilst there, they worked in groups to research how many products use unnecessary single-use plastic and monitored how many customers brought their own reusable bags. Using the information they had collected, they then made persuasive videos on the iPads for the companies who were the worst culprits and offered alternative packaging suggestions.



Year 3 spent the morning making posters to encourage people to reduce their plastic usage and to find alternatives. They also made plant protectors out of bottles which they then used in the raised beds in our school garden, located within St Andrew's Cemetery. In the afternoon they recycled old plastic carrier bags and turned them into skipping ropes which they then had fun testing in the yard.



ECO continued

Year 4 wrote newspaper reports about the impact of plastic in the oceans, looking specifically at how it affects whales that ingest it. They then used the Explain Everything app on the iPads to record their report over the top of thought provoking photos. In the afternoon they used unwanted plastic carrier bags to make beautiful bracelets and necklaces.



Year 5 decided to go straight to the top and wrote letters to our local MP, Nick Brown asking him to help make Jesmond a plastic free community. They wrote some fantastic persuasive letters and are waiting to hear back from him. In order to reduce their own plastic usage, they designed and made carrier bags using old T-shirts. They didn't even need to do any sewing in order to make them and the results were really effective.



Year 6 spent the morning looking at the impact plastic is having on our oceans and the creatures that live in them. They wrote some lovely descriptive narratives from the perspective of either a sea creature or a deep sea diver experiencing the effects plastic is having in our oceans. They then spent the afternoon making no sew T-shirt bags.



ECO continued

Green Day Homework

This year, the family Green day homework was to decorate a plastic bottle and attach a plastic free pledge to it. We had an incredible number of bottles that had been decorated beautifully with some fantastic pledges on them. Most of the bottles are now on display along the main stairs banisters and they look amazing so thank you to all the families who took the time to contribute.



Keep Jesmond Clean Poster Competition

Last term Keep Jesmond Clean, alongside NUSU ran a poster competition for our school to design posters to keep Jesmond litter free. As part of first prize, the winners from each category won the opportunity to work with a local artist to design a banner for the school. The 6 children who were the lucky winners spent a Wednesday afternoon making the banner using recycled materials. Once the banner has been printed, it will be put on display at the front of school for everyone to see.





School Community Fundraising

PLEA FOR HELP!

Before we launch into a summary of what we parents (including you all) have been up to this term, we want to put a plea out for extra help. We know there are parents and carers out there who would love to get involved, but you don't really know how to or whether you'll get sucked in and never re-surface! Do read the quotes from some current parents as to why they got involved and what they get out of it.

We are hoping to set up a class rep system next year so that information can be spread to everyone more effectively. If you would like to be the Friends contact for your class (happy to have more than one), please let us know.

Send us an email or catch one of us at a cake sale or school coffee morning and we'll help you get as involved as you want to.

info@friendsofwestjesmond.co.uk

Join our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1811223119119170/>.

SUMMER TERM 2018

It was busy! Quiz night, International Event, Ramadan stall, Summer Fair, Summer Party, Year 6 hoodies and leaver's events, second hand uniform sale and cake sales!

Thanks to everyone who came along to events, organised them, volunteered at them, laughed a lot at them (especially that quiz!) and raised money.

WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED?

"We have been at the school for a few years now and as a family have always appreciated the events and activities organised by the Friends. However, it wasn't until last year that I became more involved; only then did I realise how much effort the Friends put into making all these things happen and how much difference a few extra pairs of hands can make.

If you fancy helping out just get in touch. There is always a warm welcome and it is so flexible you don't have to commit to anything; even a few minutes here and there can make all the difference. It has always been fun getting involved, there is a lovely, friendly atmosphere and my two boys often enjoy helping out too. It is a great feeling to play a little part in helping to keep these events running and raising funds for the school."

Here are a few photos of the highlights:



Y1YR were this year's cake stall winners making £205.50 on their stall! They will be celebrating their win!

The International Evening really brought families and staff together in a celebration of all our backgrounds and cultures. A very special night.



The Quiz Night in June was one of the funniest! Look out for another one in the autumn term!

The summer fair was a feat of organisation and volunteering. Everyone got involved to make this sunny Summer Fair a success. We also raised a staggering £3,800 for school!



Balmy summer nights by the river.... A beautiful evening with great friends. Thanks so much to those involved organising it.

There has been so much more going on, including the year 6 leaver's events and hoodies. Thanks to everyone who has given their time to add to this great school community.

WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF BEING INVOLVED?

"I became involved helping the Friends over the last year – helping to organise the school fairs and getting involved with other activities like the second hand uniform sale.

It is something I really enjoy doing – it gives me the opportunity to get to know other parents and school staff.

It's really rewarding to be able to contribute towards fundraising for the school, knowing that all the money raised goes back into helping our children.

I would encourage anyone to get involved – any contribution is greatly appreciated."



**From everyone at West Jesmond
have a wonderful**



**We look forward to seeing you all on
Wednesday 5th September**



**West
Jesmond
Primary School**