



Weekly Newsletter: Friday 16th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the start of this week we successfully managed a very small number of Covid cases in school. Although some guidance had changed since our last case, we were able to inform parents as quickly as we could. We'd like to say a big thank you to the parents in the affected classes for being so understanding and taking quick action. Once again it shows our systems in school seem to be working well. It was also lovely to see how the parents in the affected classes have offered support and help to each other, if a family needed to completely isolate. Although we are a very large school, it once again shows what a wonderful community we have at West Jesmond which is especially important in the current climate.

Tankerville Terrace

Yesterday the work to amend the road layout outside the front of the main school gates started. The parking bays, apart from one disabled bay, have now been removed and there will be double yellow lines there. We just wanted to warn parents about this, so they don't get caught out parking in this area by wardens. This may mean you will need to give yourself more time to get to school as you will need to park further away from school. Although the weather is getting chillier and damper in the mornings, we would still encourage as many children to walk, scoot or cycle to school if they can. This was my lovely view on the way to school on Wednesday morning...



Introducing our new office team

We have two new members of our office team. Claire Baker is our new School Business Manager and joined us at the start of this academic year. Murray Gove is now part of the front of house team. They join Nikki Corbett and Melissa Wright, who many of you are familiar with, to help you with any non-academic or pastoral queries. We are still requesting that your visits to the office are only essential and you use email or telephone as the first point for contact.



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A look ahead to our Whole School Local Study Week - Shipbuilding from Miss Smith and Miss Byatt

We are very excited to announce that the first week back after half term (2nd November) will be our first whole school subject week of the year. It will be a week focused on humanities skills as the children explore the question '*Why was shipbuilding so important to our local area?*' During these especially challenging times, it is more important than ever that we come together as a whole school, to celebrate the heritage of the North East and the fabulous work that the children produce. Under the current circumstances, we have had to be slightly more creative to ensure the children access an engaging and enjoyable week. It will not involve face to face visitors, but we plan to utilise technology to participate in virtual workshops with experts, gain access to museum tours and we will also have some museum artefacts in school. Each year group will have their own big question that they are challenged to explore and answer by the end of the week. These are:

Reception: Who made ships?

Year 1: What was it like to work in a shipyard?

Year 2: What did shipbuilders and their families do in their spare time?

Year 3: Who were the women on the river?

Year 4: How did shipbuilding change with the times?

Year 5: How much power is in a union?

Year 6: Was the decline in shipbuilding inevitable?

Please see the Parent Mail attachments for details of the whole school homework and knowledge organiser. We look forward to sharing the learning and outcomes of the week.

Parent Consultations

Just a reminder that we will be holding 10 minute telephone parent consultations after half-term. The dates for these consultations between 3.30pm and 6pm will be:

	Week 1	Week 2
Rec	Wed 4 th Nov	Wed 11 th Nov
Y1	Wed 4 th Nov	Wed 11 th Nov
Y2	Tue 3 rd Nov	Tue 10 th Nov
Y3	Tue 3 rd Nov	Tue 10 th Nov
Y4	Wed 4 th Nov	Wed 11 th Nov
Y5	Thu 5 th Nov	Thu 12 th Nov
Y6	Thu 5 th Nov	Thu 12 th Nov

You will be able to book these via a new phone app. Next week you will receive details about how to download and register for this. The app will also be used for all school payments and other bookings and communication.

A few updates from your friendly Deputy Head Teacher

- Just a reminder to make sure any children are waiting with you while you are collecting siblings from another class.
- Again we are asking that children are not using trim trails, the Secret Garden or pens before or after school, as these are allocated to specific Bubbles through the day.

We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday for the final week of our first half term of this academic year.

Tom Jones
Deputy Head Teacher