



Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems very strange not seeing you all this week and then sending a newsletter on what should have been the day we broke up for our Easter holidays. I hope everyone is safe and well at home and enjoying some of the activities your teachers have put on our school website for you. Remember doing a little bit every day is much better than trying to do hours and hours of work one day and none the next. Please just do what you can and what you feel happy doing. I have loved seeing some of your pictures on Facebook so do keep sending things in. Mr Jones and Mrs McVittie are brilliant at social media!

This is a very strange time but the school closed to make sure you and your parents were able to stay as safe as possible and to try and stay away from this nasty virus that is going around. I know it is very difficult to be at home all the time and not see your friends and family as you normally would. This will come to an end and then we will look back at this time. I promise you, you will remember this forever. I remember school closing in 1978 when I was in Year 4 due to a school caretakers strike. We had to go in every day, get some work and then come home. Please keep reading and enjoy doing some new things. Most of all children, please help around the house and help your parents. They aren't used to having you at home during a school week like we are, so be patient with them. Everyone is trying their best.

Missing you all so much,
Gary Wallis-Clarke

Keeping in touch

Each week every year group team will send an electronic postcard to the children signposting them to key updates in learning resources and suggesting ideas for activities. This is one way in which we hope to ensure that children maintain a strong connection with school.

We are also contacting many families by phone or email as an additional way to keep connected. Often calls will come up as 'no caller id' and we understand that many families do not answer these, we will leave a message and phone you back at another time.

Executive Head Teacher: Gary Wallis-Clarke MA in Education BA (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Head Teacher: Rebecca McVittie MSc, BSc (Hons) PGCE

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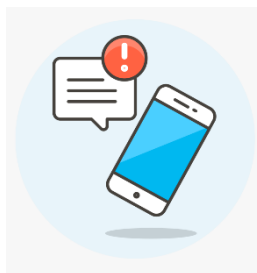
National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



In terms of providing advice and support we have now set up a school mobile text service. You can text this number and a member of staff will call you back as soon as possible. This service will run during usual office hours 8am-6pm.



The number to contact is: 07938 443 636

Additionally, you can email 'hello@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk' - this email will be checked daily from Monday to Friday.

Website updates

Over the last two weeks there have been a high number of updates to the website resources. These now include a singing challenge, book reviews and recommendations, Humanities lessons, STEM Challenge and many additional activities. All resources can be found at:

http://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk/website/activities_to_complete_during_school_closure/456586

We are also updating social media daily - please follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/westjesmondprimaryschool/>

https://twitter.com/West_Jes_School

Oxford Reading Owls



Oxford Owl are currently offering free access to their e-books which are linked to the levelled reading books used in school. You will need to make a parent account to be able to access these. You can browse books from the relevant level and select the same band from the drop-down menu. The link to access these books is: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk>

Covid-19

If your children has questions about the coronavirus pandemic, there is a letter from the Children's Commissioner to all children in the country on our website.

There are also two videos to help explain about the current situation.

<http://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk/web.../coronavirus/457544>

Rainbows of hope



Thank you for sharing the wonderful rainbows that you have been placing in your windows. They have brought many smiles and feelings of hope to many people.

Social distancing and self-isolation can have a huge impact on our mental health and well-being. Below is a link to the 'Every Mind Matters' website which has lots of useful information including tips, helpline numbers and videos. Hopefully you find it useful.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters>

Beneath this newsletter there is also a poster from Children's North East about a number of ways in which they can offer support.

Singing challenge from Mrs Hague

Dear Children,

Last week I felt very sad not to hear our school filled with the sound of your lovely singing. So, instead of our usual singing assemblies, I would like to set you the challenge of learning a completely new song, which we will all be able to sing together when we can all return to school. The song is called 'One Moment, One People.' You can follow the links on our school website, to open the resources which will help you to learn it.

This is what I would like you to do:

- 1) Open the link and listen to the song a few times until the melody starts to stay in your head and sound familiar.
- 2) Open the link to the lyrics and read them through while you listen to the song.
- 3) Click the link to 'learn with Beccy'. She will teach you by singing little sections for you to copy, just like we do in our singing assemblies.
- 4) Your final challenge, when you are ready, will be to see if you can open the backing track and sing along to as much of the song as you can remember.

I hope you like the song. I can't wait until we can sing it all together. See how much you can learn this week, ready for the challenge of adding a few dance moves next week!

http://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk/.../music_activit.../461312

Support for Families with Free School Meals

A voucher system will begin after the Easter break for those families in receipt of Free School meals. This system will be done via email and the vouchers will be sent out weekly to the email address that we have for you at school.

Easter childcare provision

Our Easter childcare provision will be at Hotspur Primary School. All families who have booked a place on this should have received an email with further details.

The childcare provision will return to West Jesmond Primary on **Monday 20th April**.

Head teacher recruitment process – Jane Edminson

Dear Parents and Carers

The Governing Body hope that all our school community are well and coping with these extraordinary circumstances.

We would like to thank the school staff and leaders for everything they have done and are doing to provide support for our most vulnerable children and our key worker families. I have had lots of feedback from parents to say that the smiles from the staff, their positivity and the way the closure was managed was appreciated.

We would also like to thank you for helping school manage this situation. I am enjoying seeing the pictures on social media of children busy at home and pleased that there is still that feeling of a community.

As you will know, before the “lockdown”, we were recruiting a new Headteacher. The coronavirus has disrupted our efforts! We have had some expressions of interest and are keeping in touch with those potential candidates but have paused the process for now. We considered holding video interviews etc but decided against it; appointing a new Headteacher is a hugely important job and we didn’t want to limit the process in anyway. We also felt that it was unfair to ask potential candidates to go through interviews etc when they had enough to do running their own schools in these circumstances. We will restart the recruitment process as soon as we can and, as you know, Gary Wallis-Clarke has offered to support us over the Autumn Term.

If anyone has any questions about the recruitment process or anything else, I can be contacted via the school office.

Best wishes and be safe,

Jane Edminson
Chair of Governors

Brightening the school

The children of key workers in school were keen to do some gardening and brighten up the yard. They created a video which we tweeted out asking local businesses to donate any plants and seeds. Within an hour we had a delivery of very colourful plants to school from Cowell’s Garden Centre in Woolsington! These were then planted this week.



We can't thank them enough. It was a lovely gesture of kindness which was very much appreciated by the children and staff.

With my love to you all.
Take care

G Wallis-Clarke

PREVENT

Who's educating your child online
while the schools are closed?

Please keep a check on their online
activity.

Useful online resources -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/>

<https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/northeast/>

<https://www.ltai.info/>

<https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>





Young People's Service ONLINE

MAR-APR 2020



FACEBOOK CLOSED GROUP 'DROP INS'

(COVER 16'S DROP IN, UNDER 16'S DROP IN, GIRLS GROUP & BOYS GROUP)

BETWEEN 12PM – 2PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY!

DAILY CHALLENGES, GAMES AND FUN VIBES!

SEXUAL HEALTH ADVICE AND SUPPORT

EVERY MONDAY BETWEEN 2PM – 3PM

FOR ANYONE AGED 14 – 25 YEARS OLD

TEXT AND OVER THE PHONE SUPPORT

MONDAY – FRIDAY ALL DAY

YOUTH WORKER, KATE SANDBERG: 07803427121 • YOUTH WORKER, REBEKAH BENNETT: 07506727825

KEEP UP TO DATE:



CHILDREN NORTH EAST
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE



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@CNEYPS

STAY SAFE, STAY HOME, STAY TALKING!

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