



## Weekly Newsletter 5.2.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Remote Learning – West Jesmond Unplugged:

We are all aware of how much time everyone is spending on-line at the moment, including our children. We hope that the Seesaw and Tapestry approach does allow children to sometimes move away from the screen, once they have seen the lesson introductions and downloaded materials and activities, but we know that it still does demand a lot of time on devices.



We are working on a resource bank of non-screen based activities called **West Jesmond unplugged** which is a new page on our website within the **Home- School** section that will give children ideas and opportunities to explore and be creative off-line.

**Unplugged Friday Afternoons:** On a Friday afternoon, the teachers will not set any work on Seesaw and Tapestry apart from our PE lessons. We will invite our children to have a look at some of the activities and ideas on the website that will allow them to engage without needing to be on a screen (although some do need initial screen links!) Children are encouraged not to upload what they have done onto Seesaw and Tapestry, but they can be shared with school via Facebook or Twitter if you and your child wish.

**Optional Extras:** On some days children may have completed their work and this bank of activities offers some non-screen opportunities for them to explore.

**What are the activities?** We are not setting out the activities into year groups, as we think the vast majority can be accessed by all of our children and several siblings might want to do them at the same time. The majority of the activities will have an outdoor and creative approach and where possible there will be ones that do not require a large amount of parental support. Scroll down the page to see what interests you.

Activity ideas uploaded so far include:

- Outdoor and eco activities
- Lego exploration
- Art resources
- Science (STEM) challenges

**Half Term:** We break up for half term next week on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and during what might be a rather restricted half term holiday, you may find that some of these activities are useful for your children.

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## Children's Mental Health Week

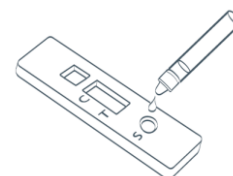
Thank you for all of your engagement with Children's Mental Health Week. We saw some really thoughtful responses from lots of children and several great presentations; including one from Lea that you may have seen on the school's Twitter and Facebook sites.

[Children's Mental Health Week - Place2Be](#)



## Lateral Flow Tests

Over the last few weeks all staff at West Jesmond have been taking regular lateral flow COVID-19 tests along with all other primary school staff across the country. Twice a week everyone takes a swab test helping to hopefully ensure that none of the staff in the building are asymptomatic and are at risk of spreading the virus. Although, we cannot reduce our precautions and social distancing in school, this does further support our efforts to keep everyone as safe as possible.



## Signs of Hope:

Thank you for all the lovely examples of Windows of Hope you are sharing with us! I hope they bring a smile to your faces as they do to ours when we see them when walking past!



## And finally...be a Hope-o-potamus

Year 1 have been sharing the lovely story of a brave hippo stuck in a dry and arid land who never gives up hope of finding water. He walks on and despite animals all around him telling him to give up, he shows great bravery and resilience and finally reaches a muddy waterhole! I am not sure this week that we will struggle to find muddy puddles, but I do know we all need to be a Hope-o-potamus.



Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Everyone at West Jesmond