



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 1 Spring Term 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



Here We Come A Wassailing!



You may have heard a great explosion of noise from drums, tambourines, whistles and mouths coming from the Community Orchard on Thursday. 4C, led by the Green Man, marched to the orchard and sang traditional Wassail songs, accompanied by Mrs Anderson on the fiddle. The Wassail is a very old custom taking place around the Twelfth night and in the dark depths of winter to ensure there will be a good crop of autumn apples by wakening the trees and singing to their health. The children are looking forward to returning to pick the apples later in the year and to see if their Apple Wassail has worked! We are so lucky to be able to visit and use the



community orchard to enhance the experiences of children at West Jesmond and are very grateful for the volunteers who are so keen to include us in their work. [Jesmond Community Orchard |](https://www.jesmondcommunityorchard.co.uk/)

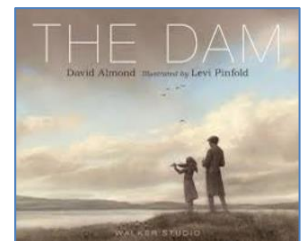


'It was fun and I hope the trees will grow even better this year!'
Tara

We did really well and made a lot of noise! I look forward to seeing the apples' Max

Take One Book Week

I hope your children have enjoyed reading and sharing our whole school book, The Dam, this week. We will share some of the work they have produced and their responses next week. We were very excited that the author David Almond contacted us to give his support to our project. We also heard from the renowned musician, Kathryn Tickell, who is the inspiration for the story and can be seen as a young girl on the front cover of the book with her violin.



Year 5 Enterprise Project

Just before Christmas, Year 5 were busy making decorations for their Enterprise project. They sold these on the yard after school and raised a fantastic £85! They decided to use their profits to buy 17 Christmas dinners through the People's Kitchen for those in our city who are homeless or hungry.



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The West Jesmond Way and The Fantastic Five

We have had a New Year relaunch of two very important parts of our school. The West Jesmond Way and the Fantastic Five are two key pillars of our wider focus on the character and personal development of our children.



The West Jesmond Way was created by our staff and children a few years ago and we felt this was the right time to refresh and relaunch it. The West Jesmond Way sets out those key characteristics and behaviours we expect from all of our West Jesmond community. It describes the school we all want to be a part of and the vision we have for how we want our children to be. It recognises that we are a school that welcomes and embraces children and families with the greatest diversity of backgrounds, beliefs and ideas and ensures we come together in our happy and inclusive West Jesmond Family. The Way will be displayed in every classroom, in our halls and communal areas and on the playground. We will talk with our children about our expectations and support them in the development of these five key features. Can you help at home by talking to your children about the West Jesmond Way and celebrating examples of when they have shown these behaviours in and out of school.



The Fantastic Five Qualities of West Jesmond Learners are the basis of our Dojo reward system. We talk with our children about what makes a great learner. We want them to understand that on many occasions it is the mistakes we make and the resilience and effort we show that help us to progress. Through our curriculum, we look to carefully build in opportunities when children can feel safe to take risks with their learning and to have the chance to apply their creativity to solving problems. We know that we have to have self-initiative, independence and perseverance to push ourselves, when learning is new or challenging, but we also recognise that much of the best learning happens in collaboration with others. We want children to understand that we all find things difficult at times, but it is when we work through these challenges that some of the most exciting learning happens. Staff in school will be looking for these qualities in class and in the children's learning and will look for every opportunity to praise and give out Dojo points to encourage and develop these characteristics.

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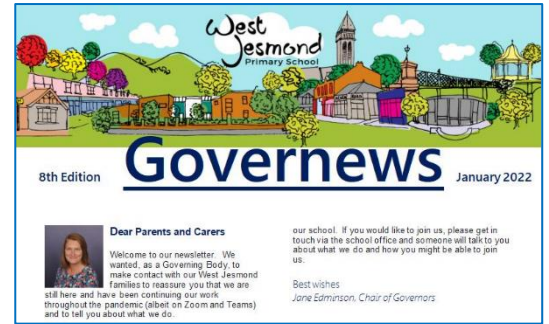
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GoverNews

We are very grateful to our new joint Vice Chair of governors, Laura Cordy, for creating the latest edition of GoverNews. A copy will be sent to every parent via Weduc to introduce you to your governing body and to tell parents more about the vital work they do for the school. Please take the time to read your copy and see how the governors support and challenge the school on the behalf of you, your children and our community.



Covid and cold weather!

We know that good ventilation is one of our best methods for lowering transmission of Covid 19 and therefore, where possible, classroom doors and windows are opened. We are doing all we can to try balance the comfort of our children and staff with the need for fresh air, but at times classrooms may feel colder than normal. If any child wants to wear a fleece or jacket in class this will always be permitted.

Playground at Drop Off and Pick Up

Can we remind parents that children, including younger siblings, should not play on the Trim Trail or in the Secret Garden before or after school. The Trim Trail is currently waiting for warmer weather to allow a repair and is not safe at the moment. The Secret Garden is kept as a quieter space for children to sit and talk in and to observe nature. It is important that children do not run, climb or chase in that area. Thank you.

Remember if you, your child or your family are self-isolating and need any support at all, please contact us at school.

From me, the Green Man and our 4C Wassailers have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)



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