



# West Jesmond Primary School

## The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 1 Summer Term 2025



Welcome to Summer Term 2025! The weather has made it a great start to the term and we hope all of our school events over the next few months are helped along with just as much warmth and sunshine!

There are four of our special annual events for families coming up in the next few weeks. You will have received information on Weduc about each one. Each event helps us in our drive to make our school and our children positive and active members of our community.

This Saturday is the **Allotment Open Day**. From 10.30 – 2pm, you are invited to come and visit this very important part of our school provision. Come and listen to our school choirs sing, choose from a wide range of plants to buy (sown by children in Y3 and Y4) and enjoy refreshments provided by our allotment volunteers and the Friends of WJPS.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May there is the **Children's Cancer Run 2025**. Online registrations are open until Midnight on 14<sup>th</sup> May, but you can register on the day at the racecourse. [Schools - Children's Cancer North](#)

We are always one of the schools with the biggest teams of runners and supporters and we hope as many of you as possible will come and support this important cause and also enjoy the day.



### International Evening 2025 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

We are looking for talented **performers** to take to our stage! If you and/ or any family or community members would like to play, dance or demonstrate please get in touch as soon as possible, with an idea of what you would like to share! We are also looking for people who would like to share **crafts, clothes or traditions** away from the stage at stands around the event.

Please email Verity Groot [v.groot@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:v.groot@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk) to express interest in performing or helping in any way!



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## Jesmond Community Festival 2025

The Jesmond Community Festival 2025 starts this Saturday with a busy weekend! Whether you live in Jesmond or in other parts of our city, the Jesmond Festival is a chance to take part in a wide range of interesting and exciting activities and come together with other families from our school.

The link below will tell you more about the many, many events taking place.

[Jesmond Community Festival | Annual Showcase for Community Activities](#)

Our children are playing an active part in the Festival. On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, from 9.30am, groups of our singers, dancers and musicians will be performing at Jesmond Library in the **West Jesmond School Festival of Music**. You can attend part or all of the morning. All are welcome and refreshments are available during the intervals. Look out for details of the programme for the morning's performances from Mrs Anderson our Music Lead.

We are also exhibiting some of the work of our talented children at the **Art and Craft Exhibition** on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at St Hilda's Church and Church Hall.

Art and craft will be displayed around the church, including exhibits from West Jesmond School and the Northern Counties School, Percy Hedley, and local artists. There will also be refreshments and a variety of stalls in the church hall.

## Our Reading River: West Jesmond Great Reads

We have an exciting new display in our school library. Miss Bellwood, Mr Snelders and our children, have created the West Jesmond Reading River. The river shows how we develop as readers over our time in school and the books and authors that we share. There are a number of books that we want all of our children to know before they leave us. These are our West Jesmond Great Reads. These books are carefully chosen to for their style, content, significance...and because we really enjoy them! To find out more about these books have a look at the reading section of the website. [West Jesmond Primary - Reading At West Jesmond](#)



## IMPORTANT: SEND Parent Voice Survey

If your child is on our SEND register, you should also have been sent out a link for a Parent Voice survey. The link has been added below as well and we would be very grateful if as many of you could take a few minutes to complete it as it will help us to improve and make our SEND provision work as well as it can for both you and your children. <https://forms.gle/ZV599VUeDW8H5Xch7>

## Special Educational Needs At West Jesmond:

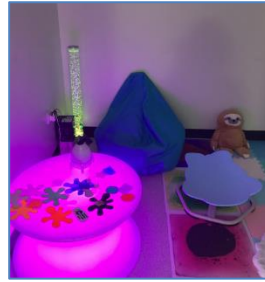
All parents of children who are on our SEN list receive the monthly SEND Newsletter. If your child is not on the SEN register, but you want to receive the useful updates and information on the newsletter please ask the school office to add your name. The information below comes from our April SEN Newsletter and we have been asked to share it more widely with parents across school.

## Regulation Spaces

One of our priorities this year is to improve the spaces around school so that the children have areas they can go to regulate or to get into the 'Green Zone' so they are ready to learn, as well as allowing them to feel safe and happy. As part of her role as **Well-being Lead, Mrs Spanner** has been an integral part of facilitating this and since taking on the role, has worked hard to build and improve on what we already had in place, as well as introducing new areas or spaces to increase provision.

The Nest, which is where Mrs Spanner is based is used for a wide range of activities and needs. Sometimes it is a safe space for children to go just for a chat and to share any worries, sometimes it is used as an intervention space for interventions such as Lego Therapy and sometimes it is used as a quiet space where children can calm down or have a bit of quiet time, or even to have lunch in if the dinner hall is overwhelming.

One of the main developments Mrs Spanner has worked on recently is our sensory room, 'The Den'. This is a small, calming space where our children can go, with an adult, sometimes on a one to one basis or sometimes in a small group. It has many benefits such as reducing overstimulation; improving concentration, focus and attention; developing skills like self-regulation so children are able to manage their emotions and allow children to explore their sensory needs. It can also help with social interaction and development, improve mood, promote positive self-esteem, and overall well-being.



We have also introduced a small number of 'Stamping Stations' around school. Again, these are spaces children can use with adult permission and supervision and are a way to allow children to expend some of their energy in a controlled and regulatory way.

In the summer term, we are hoping to continue to increase the areas in the shared areas around school that children can access to regulate, and are hoping to position some sensory walk spaces in the corridors and in the yards. The Key Stage 1 yard already has a sensory walk painted onto the ground which children use at playtime, but it is also used to support children when needing to regulate. Our hope is that this will be something available to all children no matter where in the school building or outside they may be.



### In Class Regulation

This academic year, we have also had an increased push on regular movement and concentration breaks. This is something we introduced across school last year, but have continued to build on. Every class should have time built in throughout their day that will involve the whole class taking some time to do a few minutes of physical activity (this could be high intensity or a yoga/balance activity), a breathing activity or a mindfulness or grounding activity.

There are regular scheduled breaks within the timetable, but teachers are adaptive and responsive to their class' needs at particular times. The benefits of these breaks can have a huge impact on concentration and focus, to relieve anxiety and improve behaviours.



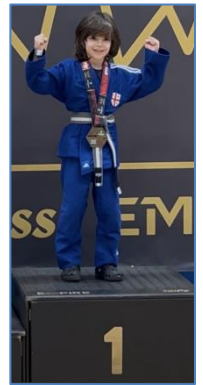


## Children's Achievements

This week, we learned about the success of one of our Year 2 children who was successful in the North East Open BJJ and Grappling tournament. He started BJJ and Grappling training at the age of 5, got awarded grey/white belt at 6, consistently wins first places in local tournaments and competitions (no losses so far)!



We also heard about a successful Year 5 footballer who ended off a busy season with a very successful tournament and was proud to show his medal to us!



Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend everyone – hope to see you at the allotment!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)