



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 3 Autumn Term 2025



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Outdoor Learning At West Jesmond

On Wednesday afternoon, I watched a class of our Year 3 children marching very triumphantly back into school brandishing apples, plums, broad beans, tomatoes and more! Some of the fruits of their labours this year! At West Jesmond, we believe strongly in the benefits and importance of outdoor learning. Our allotment, school planting areas and the Community Orchard all support our efforts to ensure our children get the chance to grow, care for, enjoy and harvest a wide range of plants and get to experience the additional opportunities and challenges experienced learning in nature.

This term, we are adding another exciting opportunity for children in Reception. They started their outdoor learning and Forest School journey this week and even the rain didn't dampen our spirits! The children explored our outdoor classroom at St. Andrew's Garden, they picked litter from the area and made wooden pendants to remember their first session. We can't wait to continue to develop the area for more children to enjoy! If you have any spare resources such as old pots and pans, musical instruments or anything that might be useful for our outdoor classroom, we would love to give them a new home.

There will be a crate outside Mr Edwards' classroom (R1) if you have anything to donate. Thank you.



World Car Free Day! This Monday!

Newcastle is celebrating World Car Free Day on the 22nd of September, and the Newcastle City Council are calling all schools to join in - with a chance to win £500.

In collaboration with Living Streets, they will award £500 to the school who has the most students arriving to school without a car on the 22nd of September. Can we do this West Jesmond? Together we can encourage a healthier, cleaner and greener city.

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Jesmond Park Academy Open Evening: Thursday 2nd October 5 – 7.30pm

Year 6 parents are invited to the Jesmond Park Academy Open Evening. Last year was another very successful year for JPA more excellent results at GCSE and A Level. During the Open Evening, they will tell you more about the curriculum, ethos and opportunities for children and you'll have the opportunity to tour the impressive school facilities, meet the teaching and support staff, and talk with students. Our parents have found these visits very useful and informative in the past.



Welcome To The West Jesmond Family

Some of you might have heard your children talking about Mabel. Mabel is a trained Therapy Dog who has been enjoying meeting a small number of children on a Wednesday afternoon. These sessions have proved to be very enjoyable and beneficial for our children and following the success of these initial visits, we want to expand the scheme. Ms Corker our School Counsellor will be introducing two new members of the West Jesmond Family this term. Cameron and Forrest are 9 months old and brothers. They are super friendly, gentle, intelligent, have a kind nature and huge hearts. They love to learn new things and are very proud when they can use their new skills. Cameron and Forrest are excited to be part of the West Jesmond Family.



Why School Dogs?

Having a school dog offers a wide range of benefits for children, staff and visitors, helping to create a positive and nurturing environment.

Supporting Well-being and Mental Health: Cameron and Forrest provide comfort and emotional support to children who may be feeling anxious or overwhelmed. Their calm and friendly nature helps promote a sense of safety and well-being across the school.

Encouraging Positive Behaviour: The presence of a school dog encourages students to show kindness, patience and empathy. Interacting with the dogs promotes calm, respectful behaviour and supports emotional regulation.

Boosting Confidence and Communication Skills: Reading to a dog or simply spending time with one can help build confidence in students, particularly those who are shy or reluctant to speak in front of others.

Promoting Responsibility: Helping to care for the dogs - under supervision- teaches children important life skills such as responsibility, routine and compassion.

Enhancing the School Environment: Cameron and Forrest bring joy and warmth to our school community. Their presence helps create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for everyone. At West Jesmond Primary School, we believe in nurturing the whole child, and our school dogs play a valuable role in supporting both learning and well-being.

Supporting Great Attendance at WJPS

Thank you everyone for supporting our children to a great start to the year with very high attendance. Last year, attendance levels rose again to reach an average of 96%+. We are all especially pleased over the last few years with the significant reduction in the numbers of children judged to be Persistent Absentees – attendance below 90%. When your child misses days of school it can have a significant effect on learning and on their friendships and social connections.

Exceptional Absence: Please note that we cannot authorise any absence for holidays/family visits etc. outside of the 13 weeks of school holiday. The school is only allowed to give Exceptional Absence permissions for a very limited number of cases and only usually for short periods of time. We know there are times when a child cannot come into school or is struggling to come to school. We want to work with you and offer support. If you are ever concerned about your child being unwell or struggling to come to school, please speak to the school office and one of our Wellbeing Team.



IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM NORTHUMBRIA NHS

Dear parent/guardian,

As you will know, all school children in the UK are offered their flu vaccination in school in the autumn or early winter, before the flu season typically starts in December or January. This ensures your children have the best protection when flu starts to spread. The flu season usually starts in October, but it is usually worse from December to March. The School Aged Immunisation Team offer the flu vaccination to over 130,000 children in 487 schools. Some schools will be given a date in November or December. The children will still get protection even if they are vaccinated late in the school term.

We change our planner every year, so the same schools are not visited at the end of the flu season. Please see the link below if you require any further information.

[https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/#:~:text=The%20children%27s%20flu%20vaccine%20is,children%20\(Reception%20to%20Year%20011\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/#:~:text=The%20children%27s%20flu%20vaccine%20is,children%20(Reception%20to%20Year%20011))

NHS Request To Year 1 Parents

Can you help with an important survey? The purpose of this survey is to determine whether parents are aware of the Health Visiting and School Health service Single Point of Access telephone helpline. We value service user feedback to help progress and shape our service delivery. This survey should take less than 5 minutes. It is voluntary and anonymous.

The Single Point of Access telephone helpline enables parents and carers to directly contact the Health Visiting and School Health Service without the need of the referral from a professional.

<https://alicedelahoyde1847.survey.fm/sh-service-service-user-feedback>



Well Done Football Team!

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 football team who came second place in the Jones Cup on Tuesday. They narrowly missed out on qualification to the next round. The team played fantastically, winning two of their three games and only conceding one goal.



Achievements!

We are very proud of the sporting achievement of one of our Year 5 stars who took part in the Ability Triathlon in Hexham. We were so proud to hear about her efforts and to see her proudly wearing her medal to school!



We also want to share a picture of a talented and very proud dancer celebrating his award and certificate and an equally proud footballer who came to show his trophy to us!



Reminder: Children's School Photographs - Sibling Photographs

The Tempest photographers will be coming in to school on Friday 26th September, to take the individual school photos. This will be during the school day. Siblings' photographs: **Please come to the school office, between 8:00 and 8:50**, and you will be invited into the music room. You will need to supervise your children at all times and then take them to their classroom door/drop off area for normal drop off time.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week:

- ❖ Tuesday 23rd September Girls Football League Games (JPA)
Reception Parents' Coffee Morning 9am
- ❖ Tuesday 24th September 2WD Quayside Visit
- ❖ Wednesday 25th September 2W Quayside Visit
- ❖ Friday 26th September Children's Photographs
2V Quayside Visit
Cake Stall 1Y

Further ahead

- ❖ Monday 29th September Friends AGM (9am)
- ❖ Monday 6th October Flu Vaccines
- ❖ Tuesday 7th October Year 6 Great North Museum Workshops
- ❖ Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th October Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm

- ❖ Monday 13th – Friday 17th October People's Kitchen collection

- ❖ Friday 17th October Year 4 Trip to Jarrow Hall
- ❖ **Week Beginning 20th October Local Study Week**
- ❖ **Friday 24th October Break up for half term**

- ❖ **Monday 3rd November School Closed for Staff Training**
- ❖ **Tuesday 4th November Back to school**
- ❖ **Friday 14th November Year 3 Rising Sun Trip**
- ❖ **Weds & Thursday 5th/6th October Year 6 visits to SafetyWorks**
- ❖ **19th – 21st November Year 6 Lockerbie Residential Visit**

- ❖ **Friday 19th December End of Term**
- ❖ **Monday 5th January Start of the Spring Term**