



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 2 Autumn Term 2026



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Can we once again thank our children for making this such a happy and successful start to our school year. I have been particularly impressed with how our new children in Reception and across school have settled in to our West Jesmond Family and the way that they have been welcomed by the children already in school.

We have been talking in class and in our assemblies about our **West Jesmond Way** and asking everyone to fill our school with **inclusivity, respect, responsibility, pride in our actions** and above all **kindness!** Please ask your child to tell you the many ways they have followed the West Jesmond Way this week!

Support in School

If your child is having difficulties in settling back to school or you want any support for you or your child, please speak to us about how we can help. You can talk with the class teacher at any time or to **Gemma Jordan our SENCo** (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), **Rachael Spanner (Wellbeing Lead)**, **Emma Clark (Family Support Officer)**, **Verity Groot (English As Additional Language Lead)**, **Vanessa Corker School Counsellor**, **Mark Dinsley our Deputy Head and Safeguarding lead** and of course to me.

Year Group Welcome Meetings

Thank you to everyone who has been able to attend our Welcome Meetings this week. It has been lovely for us to meet so many of you and we hope you have found the meetings useful. This is only the start of our partnership with you over the year ahead. Please speak to the class teacher and any of our team if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

We look forward to welcoming **Reception Parents to the Phonics and Reading Workshop** next Wednesday 16th September in the school hall.

Breakfast and after-school club:

There are still a few places available on a number of occasions for our All Stars Club (Breakfast and After school club). Club starts at 7.30am. Please speak to the school office if you want a place for your child.



Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Mark Dinsley

West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 3AJ

☎ (0191) 2810000 📧 office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

🌐 www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



Children's School Photographs - Sibling Photographs

The Tempest photographers will be coming in to school on Friday 2nd October, to take the individual school photos. This will be during the school day.

Siblings' photographs: Please come to the school office, between 7.45 and 8:50, and you will be invited into the music room. Be aware that this can be very popular and very busy and there will be a queue! Before school, 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. If your children's photograph is taken after the start of the day, we will take them straight to their class.

Important Update: New Allergy Safety Requirements (Benedict's Law)

From September 2026, all primary schools in England are required by law to follow Benedict's Law, a new statutory framework designed to protect children with severe allergies. This legislation introduces mandatory whole-school allergy policies, individual healthcare plans (IHPs) for affected pupils, and compulsory anaphylaxis training for all staff. In line with these new safety standards, our school has updated its allergy policy.

We kindly ask all parents to read our updated policy on the school website and to ensure that any changes to your child's medical or dietary needs are reported to the school office immediately. Children with diagnosed allergies have an Individual Health Care plan (IHP) agreed by parents and the school.

Can we also ask parents to support us in respecting our nut free school guidance (this includes nuts in spreads and cereal bars etc) and to talk to your children about not sharing food.

Smartphones and Online Safety

Following government guidance, we have updated our Mobile Phones and Devices Policy and this can be found on the school website.

Phones in school: We allow our older children who may be walking home by themselves to bring a phone into school. This is handed in to the teacher for safekeeping throughout the day and no child is allowed access to the phone while at school.

Watches: For the safeguarding of all children, we strongly discourage any type of smart watch or any watch that can take a photograph. If your child does come to school with this type of device, they must hand them into the classteacher and they will be handed back at the end of the day.

Any other devices: If your children brings in any device that can message, take pictures, allows conversation etc., this will be treated in the same way as a mobile phone or smart watch

Teaching about online safety is a key part of our Computing and PSHE (Personal Social Health and Economic) curricula. Parents often talk with us about concerns, and we are always happy to offer advice. The next of our workshops for parents with one of our external safeguarding consultants will be coming up later in the year.

Smartphone Free Childhood

Led by you, many families have signed up to the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign.

This is clearly something a large number of our families feel strongly about and West Jesmond are way out at the top of the Tyne and Wear

Leaderboard. We wanted to share with you the link to this growing movement among parents of primary age children that is looking to restrict access to smart phones at an early age - [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD		
About the data ⓘ		
School	Pacts	%
West Jesmond Primary School, NE2 3AJ ↗	185	30%

Year 3 Start A Year Of Allotment Gardening

Y3M had a fantastic afternoon at the allotment this week. We had a grand tour of the entire garden, picked some of the fruit, dug up some potatoes, spotted some newts in the ponds and met the wonderful allotment volunteers. We are so grateful for this amazing opportunity and look forward to getting stuck into some gardening tasks in the term ahead. Ask us all about it!

Can You Help? We are always looking for parents, grandparents and friends to join our allotment volunteers. If you can spare a few hours on a Wednesday afternoon, please speak to the school office.



Parents, Grandparents and Friends - Will You Join Our West Jesmond Lunchtime Team?

We are looking for parents/grandparents who would be interested in joining our lunchtime teams. This is a paid role for between 1-1 ½ hours a day (with flexibility over days) and involves helping to make dinner times as enjoyable as possible for our children. If you are interested in working with us, please come and speak to the school office about how to apply.

Achievers

We have three special achievers to celebrate this week. A proud gardener with First place in the children's category at the Newcastle Allotment & Garden Festival with his, very tasty looking, Tiny Tom tomatoes. We also want to share a well-deserved (and an extremely big!) medal for achievements in karate.

And we are immensely proud of a West Jesmond Community champion who walked 15 miles, including Two Peaks, raising money for the Kick It Out Campaign. He told us:



I felt really proud but a bit exhausted!

Well done!



I hope everyone has a lovely weekend!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week:

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| ❖ Wednesday 16 th September | Reception Parents Phonics/Reading Workshop |
| ❖ Thursday 17 th September | Year 6 Welcome Meeting 9am |

Further ahead

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| ❖ Wednesday 16 th September | Reception Parents Phonics/Reading Workshop |
| ❖ Thursday 17 th September | Year 6 Welcome Meeting 9am |
| ❖ Weds 23 rd – Friday 25 th September | Year 6 residential |
| ❖ Monday 28 th September | Friends of west Jesmond AGM 4.30pm |
| ❖ Weds 30 th September | 2W Trip to Newcastle Quayside |
| ❖ Thursday 1 st October | 2DE Trip to Newcastle Quayside |
| ❖ Friday 2 nd October | Children's Photographs (siblings from 7.45am) |
| ❖ Wednesday 7 th October | Year 5/6 STEM Fest |
| ❖ Thursday 8 th October | 2M Trip to Newcastle Quayside |
| ❖ Friday 9 th October | Year 4 Jarrow Hall Trip |
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| ❖ <u>Tuesday 13th Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October* Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm (*Tuesday and Thursday for most classes)</u> | |

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| ❖ Week Beginning 19 th October | Local Study Week |
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| ❖ Friday 23 rd October | Break up for half term |
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| ❖ Monday 2 nd November | Back to school |
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| ❖ Friday 18 th December | End of Term |
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| ❖ Monday 4 th January | Start of the Spring Term |
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