



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 20th May 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

West Jesmond Children Are Bouncing Back:

We have talked to you previously about our strategies for supporting our children to bounce back from the periods of lockdown. As with all schools, the picture of which areas of learning different groups of children might have missed out on is complex and varies. Teachers have worked hard to identify those parts of the curriculum that we feel we need to give added time to in each year group. These include making additional reading a priority across school. Through ongoing observations of learning, backed up by frequent low-level assessments, we have also been able to identify those children we think will most benefit from additional support and over this term we have re-established our full programme of targeted interventions for small groups and individuals. New initiatives include after school tutoring sessions for a number of our children and the introduction of the Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme (NELI) which supports oral language development in Reception.



Wellbeing: We are also very aware of the impact of the lockdowns on aspects of some children's wellbeing. Our inclusion team are working hard to identify and support children who are struggling in areas of mental health, friendships, anxiety or concerns about changes such as transition to new schools. One area of our Bounce Back strategy will be to further develop our wellbeing approaches and to support this several members of staff are starting training as counsellors to be able to offer high quality support in school to our children. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns about your child.

STEM Week: Our year group teams are busy planning eco-learning opportunities and projects for STEM Week to personalise the Secret Garden for our first week back after half-term. Friday (11th June) will be our Green Day where we are inviting all the children to come to school wearing green.

To help with the projects we are still looking for donations of:

- Cut willow
- Topsoil and compost
- Seeds
- Birdbath
- Old wellington boots

Please contact the office if you can help with these.

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Deputy Headteacher: Mr Tom Jones

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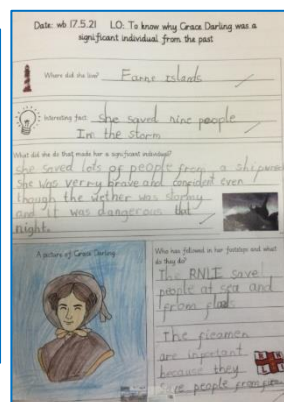
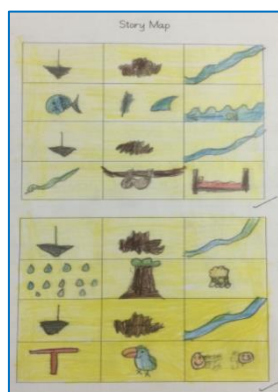
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Grace Darling:

There is so much very exciting learning happening across school and this week we would like to focus on some of the great work in Year 1. The children are finding out about what makes Grace Darling a significant individual from the past and for our region. Have look at their powerful re-enacting of events and a very well written report about her. .

The children have also been using Talk For Writing to learn the poem Down By The Rocky River and then to create their own versions.



Year 6 Outdoor Adventure Day

Very sadly we have had to cancel our residential visit for Year 6 children this year. Although guidance does now allow visits, we did not feel that, with a consistent number of Covid cases in our communities, we could take up to 90 children away together. However, the Year 6 team were determined to find a way to ensure the children could still enjoy many of the experiences they would normally get at Robinwood. We have booked a special day at Broomley Grange Outdoors Centre where our children will be able to experience a wide range of exciting, enjoyable and adventurous activities.



Safe Journeys to School: The rain is going to stop very soon (we promise!) and with sunshine on the way can we again ask all of our families to make every effort to walk, cycle and scoot to school (or if you are forced to drive park well away from school!) A 20-30 minute on foot journey to and from school is good for our environment, good for our health, great for our minds and a great chance to talk together!



Dates For Your Diary

- Jesmond Festival Bear Trail! (Can you spot all the bears around Jesmond – including our school bear?)
- Bubble Based Football Competitions 24th – 28th May
- STEM Week 7th – 11th June
- The West Jesmond Olympics Week 12th – 16th July
- Year 6 Adventure Day visit to Broomley Grange 16th July



Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

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