



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



It has been a very exciting and uplifting week at West Jesmond as we have happily welcomed back so many children who have not been with us since before Christmas. School is back to how it should be; bursting with energy, enthusiasm and the sound of children's voices and laughter. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement in making the full opening so successful.

Bouncing Back

We talked last week of what we hoped and expected the return to school would be like for our children and so far they have exceeded our expectations. Children have settled back to class and school life incredibly well. We are seeing the results of all of your efforts at home during the lockdown and we are working hard to build on the progress they have made with you. It is encouraging to see that our language of Bounce Back rather than Catching-up seems to be becoming widely used across more and more schools and we want to keep emphasising that positive message to our children while being there to catch those that need more support.



We know through talking with you and our classes that for some of our children this has been an understandably anxious time. Hopefully, for the vast majority, being back in school has helped to ease these feelings as they return to the routines and being with their friends. However, we are very aware that there will still be children who need additional support and our SEN, Inclusion and Well-being teams as well as all of our classteachers are there to speak to you about any worries you or your child have and about how we can help with the transition back to school and moving forwards.

Home Learners

A small number of our West Jesmond Family are still working from home due to shielding, the need to self-isolate, and an inability to travel from abroad or for other medical or personal complications. We have created a small dedicated team of staff who are supporting our home-learners and we want you who are not able to be in school at this time to know we are thinking of you and that the wellbeing and education of your children remains a key priority for us.

Head Teacher: Mr Matt Ward
West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AJ
T: (0191)2810000 E: office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk
W: www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk

National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Covid Safety

We know there will continue to be the chance of suspected and confirmed cases among our school community over the next few months. We will remain very alert to risk and whenever a child displays any symptoms we will contact parents and ask you to get a test for your child before a return to school. This can be difficult for our parents and children and could cause inconvenience and potential upset, but you will understand why we are so cautious at this time. If there are positive cases among our children and staff, we will contact parents and set up home-learning for those children who Public Health advise should self-isolate. This will be very hard on our children and families who have just returned to school and we are all hoping that we will not need to do this.

Weekend Positive Cases: If any child has a positive test over a weekend please email the school office with the date of the test, what the symptoms were and when the symptoms started so we can rapidly make plans to inform other families of children judged as being possible close contacts.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

Thank you everybody with your support this week in sticking closely to the set times for your children. We know these times will not suit every family, but the staggered start is vital to ease congestion and to ensure, as much as possible, that children in different year groups do not mix. I apologise that this is going to be a message that is repeated often, but to make our arrangements work we need every family to stick to the times. In particular, can we ask parents of children in Years 1, 3 and 5 who do not have siblings to try to arrive at school for the 8.50-9.00 time slot to avoid crossing with families who arrive earlier to school.

Driving and Parking

We are very grateful to everyone for your help this week moving traffic away from our school and making the start and end of the day healthier, happier and safer. **Can I ask again that the parents who do need to drive park well away from the school and for the safety of our children please park safely and do not pull up and drop-off your children on the double yellow lines around school.**

Dates For Your Diary

- Friday 19th March: **Comic Relief Red Nose Day:** (Look out for a letter with more details)
- Tuesday 23rd March: **Full Governing Body Meeting**
- Week 29th March - 1st April: **Take One Book:** A week long whole school project based on an exciting shared text
- Thursday 1st April: **Break up for Easter Holidays**
- Monday 19th April: **Return to school for the Summer Term**

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Head Teacher: Mr Matt Ward
West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AJ
T: (0191)2810000 E: office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk
W: www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

