



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 4 Spring Term 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and children,

We know this week has been rather disrupted for many of our children and families and I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding. In our future dates section at the end of this Newsletter, we highlight the days that have been named for possible further strike action. We will do all we can to give you clear advance warning of how it might affect your child. One date that will need to change is the Parent Consultation on 28th February. We have moved these important meetings to Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd of March. A letter with full details will come out next week.

Our Diverse School

An aspect of life at West Jesmond that we embrace and that enriches all we do, is the cultural diversity of our families. During each term, we welcome new children to the school. In some cases these are children and families who are new to our country and who are just starting to speak English. As a school we have many procedures in place to help our children settle and introduce families to our school. Following last term's Parent Partnership Group, we were given many great suggestions on how to improve this even more. One idea was to have a parent group who would be a point of contact to help new families with joining the British school system and introducing them to other families at the school. If you would like to be part of this group and offer your help and support, please contact the school office and they will pass your details to Mr Jones and Mrs Groot.



Just a reminder our next **Parent Partnership Group** meeting with Miss Thompson and Mr Jones to discuss all aspects of school life is next Wednesday at 2pm. Please sign up on Weduc if you would like to attend.

Children's Mental Health Week beginning 6th February 2023.

You will have received a letter all about Children's Mental Health Week 2023 taking place next week. The theme is Let's Connect. We will be learning about the importance for all of us in making healthy connections with others.

On the **Friday 10th February**, we are asking the children to '**Dress to Express**', where they are encouraged to come to school wearing a colour that helps to express something about themselves. Class **5TS** are on a trip on the day and we ask that they come in their school uniform. However, we do not want them to miss out and they are welcome to Dress to Express on Thursday 9th February.



Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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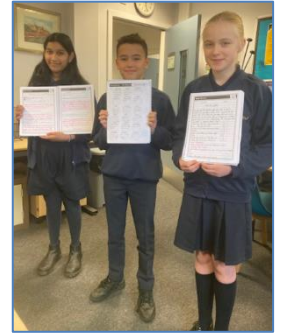
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A School Full of Readers.

We believe that reading is the golden thread that weaves through all of our curriculum. Across school, we put great emphasis on every child being a reader. All of our children have different starting points and we are as proud of the first steps children make in decoding letters as when they become confident readers. Our biggest goal as a school is that all of our children develop a love for books and reading and choose to read for pleasure. Three of our Year 6 readers came to show us how they have been responding to the books they are reading in their Reading Journals. We were really impressed by the ambitious choices of books and their ability to talk about the themes and characters in them. All of our staff are always happy to talk about and recommend books. If any parents want ideas for books and authors you might want to encourage your child to read at home, please come and talk to us.



Teacher Awards

We are very proud of Helen Sykes and Alex Mackellar who have achieved important and prestigious qualifications this term.

Helen has been studying hard for an MBA. She has successfully completed a series of challenging assignments and after two years of effort and application, she richly deserved receiving the award of an MBA with Merit.



Alex has been working towards the National Professional Qualification for Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD). This is a new leadership award for teachers and has further advanced Alex's skills and knowledge as a teaching expert who is able to support, develop and lead other teachers.



Year 1 Keeping Healthy

Year 1 had a local nurse come in for a visit to talk about the importance of personal hygiene, particularly the importance of washing our hands and bodies with soap and making sure that we brush our teeth twice a day! She also carried out an exciting experiment with water, pepper ('germs') and soap where we saw the impact of washing our hands and how the 'germs' didn't want to stick to our fingers when we used the soap! We learnt how important it is to wash our hands, especially after we use the toilet and before we eat.



Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary



Next Week

- ❖ Children's Mental Health week Monday 6th – Friday 10th February
- ❖ Year 5 First Aid Training Monday 6th February
- ❖ Reception Bikeability Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th February
- ❖ Year 5 Parents Yr. 6 Residential Meeting Thursday 9th February 6pm
- ❖ Year 5TS to Sunderland Winter Gardens Friday 10th February
- ❖ Year 4 Handball Workshops Friday 10th February

Further Ahead

- ❖ Year 5F to Sunderland Winter Gardens Monday 13th February
- ❖ Year 5S to Sunderland Winter Gardens Tuesday 14th February
- ❖ Year 4 Robinwood Residential Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th February
- ❖ Year 2 Visit to the Quayside Wednesday 15th February

- ❖ Break up for the end of half term Friday 17th February
- ❖ Return to School Monday 27th February
- ❖ Tuesday 28th February *Possible Partial Closure due to Industrial Action)*

- ❖ Parent Consultation Evening Wednesday 1st March 3.30 – 6pm
- ❖ Parent Consultation Evening Thursday 2nd March 3.30 – 6pm
- ❖ Enterprise and Aspirations Week Monday 6th – Friday 10th March

- ❖ *Possible Partial Closure due to Industrial Action: Wednesday 15th/Thursday 16th March*
- ❖ End of Term Friday 31st March
- ❖ Start of Summer Term Monday 17th April



Friends' Cake Stalls this half term

- ❖ 3rd February Y4MO
- ❖ 10th February Y5TS
- ❖ 17th February Y5S