



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter Autumn Term 2021



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of our first half term and we hope all our children and families have a very well-deserved break after a hardworking and successful start to the school year. The first day back in September feels like a long time ago and it is exciting to see how much progress children have been making in their learning. We hope you were able to get a flavour of the achievements of your children at our video Parent Consultations. We appreciate the challenges of working with new and different technologies and are very grateful for your support and understanding. If any parents were unable to access the meetings please speak with the class teacher.

Covid Cases and Christmas Plans: Along with all schools we have seen the number of Covid cases increasing over the last few weeks and our first thoughts are with any children or families who are unwell or are impacted by the virus.

Several parents have asked us about plans for winter and Christmas events this year. We are sorry that we can't give any definitive answers at this date. We are watching closely the rate of Covid transmission and seeking advice from local Public Health teams before we decide whether it is possible to hold large scale face to face events in school or will need to consider virtual options. What we can promise is that we will do all we can to make the end of term as special and memorable for our children as we possibly can.

Three Cheers for our City Champions! Last week we told you about the success of our Girls' football team in qualifying for the City Finals. On Friday evening they took part in the finals at Walker Riverside Academy. They played incredibly well, beat three different schools and have now progressed onto the County Finals after half term. The team also took part in their first knock out league competition and beat their opposition and have moved on to the next round of the league. Their coaches, Ms Taylor and Mr Mansfield, are incredibly proud of them!



Our Year 5/6 Boys' Football Team played against St Teresa's this week. Although, they did not win, they played extremely well and showed an excellent sporting approach throughout the whole game.

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Science Capital: This week was the official launch of the Primary Science Capital Teaching Approach project and handbook for teachers. As a school we have been involved in the research and shaping the teaching model for the last two years. Mr Jones and Miss Mackellar worked with researchers and two classes in our current Year 5 on adapting lessons to help raise Science Capital for all learners. On Tuesday evening Mr Jones was on the Q&A panel at the official online launch attended by hundreds of teachers across the world. We are really proud of our involvement with the project and are looking forward to further disseminating it across the school. You can find out more



at: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/departments-and-centres/departments/education-practice-and-society/stem-participation-social-justice-research/primary-science-capital-project>

Walking for Rocco: Well done to all the Staff, parents, children and friends who made the long walk from The Stadium of Light to St James' Park on Sunday or collected outside the ground. The sore legs and feet were made worth it by the incredibly generous donations that came in and the goodwill towards the campaign to raise funds to support Rocco's Fight Against Neuroblastoma. Thank you to all the West Jesmond Family for your supportive messages for those doing the walk and for Rocco and his family.



Jesmond Park Sporting Clubs: This year Jesmond Park Academy are putting on extracurricular sporting clubs which will be held on a Monday 4-5pm for KS2 pupils. The clubs will run on a half termly basis and are an excellent opportunity for your children to participate in sport with other pupils from the local area. Your child will gain experience using the facilities at Jesmond Park Academy and being taught by fantastic coaches and teachers. This term's clubs will be focussing on **Invasion Games (including dodgeball, handball, and bench ball)**. All abilities will be catered for.

Location: Jesmond Park Academy Sports Centre

Dates: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th of November and the 6th & 13th of December.

Times: 4-5pm **Cost:** FREE

If you would like to sign up for this club, can you please e-mail Mr Pugh on mpugh@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk. You will then receive a contact and medical form that needs to be brought to the first session.

Whole School Local Study Week: Tuesday 2nd November to Friday 5th November: Don't forget when we come back to school we will all be diving in to our Whole School Local Study week with the theme of **The Story of Jesmond**. This exciting week will give the children in our school the opportunity to learn more about the community around them and its history. Children will use maps, photographs, artefacts, fieldwork and the internet to help them answer their big questions for the week. This will include considering the effects of transport and building use, who the residents are and what community facilities are available. Children will also discover how these have changed over time and how this has affected the area both socially and geographically.

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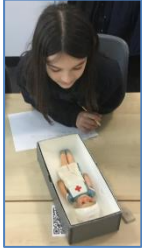
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Back in time to World War 1 for Year 4

Year 4 have really enjoyed learning about World War 1 this term and have spent time thinking about the question - Was it a Great War?

We have been fortunate enough to partner with the Great North Museum and the Northumberland Fusiliers who provided us with a range of artefacts so that we could put into practise our historical enquiry skills. We thought carefully about which countries fought, debated the causes, investigated propaganda and explored the important role that women played in the war effort. We were also keen to find out more about rationing and were able to use our local allotment to harvest produce and create our own rationed meal. One of our children suggested that being a historian is a bit like solving a jigsaw puzzle using sources as the pieces. We have certainly put this into practise this term!



Reminder Dinner Staff Needed!

We are looking to recruit additional people to join our fantastic dinner team making lunchtime happy and safe for our children. We have in the past appointed people very successfully from our parent body and local community. The posts are usually 1 hour and 15 minutes a day. If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more please speak to the school office.

Have a lovely half term holiday everyone!

Matt Ward (headteacher)



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