



## The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 9 Summer Term 2025

Hello Everyone,



### Scottish Opera: The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter

Year 4 parents were treated to a terrific operatic performance on Tuesday in our school hall. The children have been working incredibly hard to learn their roles and parts and, led by our friends from Scottish Opera, they performed with incredible energy, confidence and a lovely sense of enjoyment that created such a memorable show! Our thanks go to all the children, to Mrs Anderson and to the Year 4 staff and especially to Scottish Opera for working so hard with our children to create this great experience!



### WJPS Choir on Tour

This week, our talented choir took their voices and songs on tour across Newcastle. Mrs Anderson and over 80 singers performed at the Great North Museum, the Central Library and The Laing Gallery as a part of the Big Sing. Thank you to all of our parents who accompanied the singers or watched our performances.



### Friends' Reception Disco

Thank you so much to our incredible parents in the Friends of West Jesmond for organising a magical disco for our Reception children this week. There were so many excited and happy faces in the hall – including the adults! The decorations were amazing, and the space was transformed into a summer beach paradise!



**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](mailto:office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk)

🌐 [www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk](http://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk)



## Sports Days

On Monday and Thursday next week we have our sports days. You will have received a letter from our PE lead, Mrs Peggs, with details of the events. All children will need to wear PE kits on their Sports Day.

### Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Monday 7th July

- ❖ Years 1, 2 and 3 9.30am – 11.30am
- ❖ Years 4, 5 and 6 1.30pm – 3.00pm

**Reception Sports Day Thursday 10th July (9.30 -11.00am).** This will take place on the School Main Yard.

The current weather forecast looks a little mixed! We will try to go ahead if there are showers (so bring your umbrellas). However, if there is a risk of heavy downpours or lightning, we will need to cancel and will make that decision early in the morning to give you as much notice as possible.



## Summer Concert

Lots and lots of west Jesmond musicians performed at our Summer Concert last week. Thank you so much to Mrs Anderson and our music teachers for organising the event and to all of our families who came to watch. Music is a hugely important part of our school and every year there are more children taking up instruments. Look out for information about how you can sign your child up for music lessons next year. Remember, if your child is eligible for Free School Meals the school will pay for lessons.



## Fantastic Falcons!

Last week, Year 4 were visited by Falconry Days, who brought some birds of prey to school to help enrich our Science topic on birds and their habitats and adaptations. Those who wanted to got a chance to handle one of the birds and we even got to see an amazing flying show at the end of the day (though our resident sea gulls did not take kindly to our visiting birds). **A big thank you to the Friends of West Jesmond for funding this incredible experience for our Year 4 children!**





## Staffing Changes

This week you will have received a letter about your child's new class. You will have seen that we are welcoming several new teachers to our school next year. Joining us in September are Miss Emily Davey who will be teaching in Year 5, Miss Hollie Conlin who will be teaching Year 3 and Mrs Claire Richardson who will be teaching alongside Mr Farooqi in Year 4. Children will be meeting their new teachers next week.

We also have a number of other special members of our team who are moving to new opportunities from the end of this year. We are very proud of them all and each one will be deeply missed.

**Tim Cook:** As a teacher and as a driving force behind a lot of our outdoor learning, Mr Cook has been an incredibly important part of our school. Tim has taught at West Jesmond since 2013 and as well as being such a dedicated classroom teacher, he has also given up a great deal of his time and creativity to further extending opportunities for our children of West Jesmond. In all weathers, Tim has led our Running Club across the Town Moor and also taken groups of children to weekend cross-country events all around Northumberland. He has worked tirelessly with the West Jesmond Allotment volunteers to give as many children as possible the chance to grow, care for and harvest crops as well as opening the space up for parents during our Open Days. And... we will hold a fond image of Tim as the Green Man leading our annual wassail at the orchard!



**Steph Bellwood:** Steph has been working at West Jesmond since 2016. Over the last 9 years we have been very fortunate to share in her many, many talents. Steph has supported a huge number of our older children developing the learning skills ready for the next stage in their education. Her patience, encouragement and dedication have had such an impact on so many children. Steph has also had an impact right across school. She is a talented author and one of her books has become a class text inspiring a Year 6 topic. This love of books has been seen in her role in our school library and the tireless work running our Friday Pupil - Parent library after school. Steph has also taken on the role of recruiting, organising and encouraging our Year 6 Team Leaders. Any parents who have walked around school will have seen the incredible whole school displays that Steph has created!



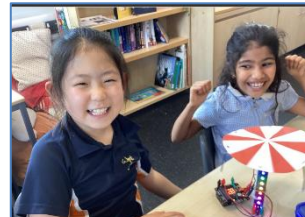
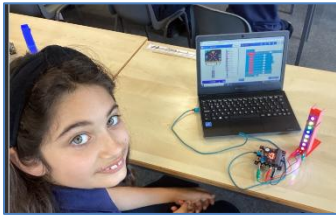
**Julie Lymath:** Julie has been a very dedicated member of our Learning Support team over the last 5 Years. She has a wide range of skills supporting whole classes, groups and individuals and built up very strong links with children all across Key Stage 2. Julie's calm, patient and caring approach to the children she has worked with has had an enormous impact and helped so many children to thrive at West Jesmond. As a talented musician, Julie has performed for our children – most memorably with her brass band. Julie moved to her new role over this half term but will be coming back to join us for our special Leavers' assembly at the end of term where we will join together to give her our thanks!



**Aoibhinn Donnelly:** We have been very privileged to have Aoibhinn with us this year. Aoibhinn is an outstanding teacher, who worked alongside Lucy Oades in Year 4. From the moment she joined West Jesmond, she threw herself into all of our activities and has given huge amounts to our school. Alongside Mrs Nelson, she gave up many evenings after school to direct the fantastic Shakespeare performance at the Northern Stage. Aoibhinn is moving to a full-time teaching role at Hotspur Primary, and we wish her the very best as her career develops!



### Year 3 Coders, Scientists and Artists!



Year 3 have been coding superstars this week! Inspired by The Hoppings, and with some help from visiting expert, Julian Hughes, we coded and created our very own moving (and light-up!) carousels using Micro:bits. All of our teachers were incredibly impressed with our collaboration and debugging skills. It was fantastic to see everyone's creativity and problem-solving in action!

A big thank you to Daisy from Magic Lantern, who led an inspiring art workshop all about rocks and fossils with Year 3 this week. The children were incredibly enthusiastic and knowledgeable, eagerly engaging with work from a range of different artists. They went on to carefully emboss foil designs inspired by the repeating patterns found in fossils. Curiosity and imagination were demonstrated by everyone!



Have a lovely weekend everyone!  
Matt Ward (Headteacher)

## Dates for Your Diary:

### Next Week

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|---|--|
| ❖ Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July                           | KS1 and KS2 Sports Days (am Yr. 1-3) (pm Yr. 4-6)<br>Yr. 3 & Yr. 5 Computing Workshops |
| ❖ Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> | Transition Mornings  |
| ❖ Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July                        | Reception Sports Day (9.15am)  |
| ❖ Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>      | Transition mornings.   |

### Further Ahead

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ❖ Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July    | Year 6 End of Year Cinema Visit |
| ❖ Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July   | Year 1 Trip to Cullercoats RNLI |
| ❖ Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July | Year 6 Graduation               |

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| ❖ Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 | End of Term |
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| ❖ Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September  | Training Day  |
| ❖ Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September | Start of Term |