



## West Jesmond Family Newsletter 11 Autumn Term 2024



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

### Year 6 Lockerbie Adventure

During this cold, but bright week, our year 6 children have been at Lockerbie for three days full of adventurous activities. Here are a few pictures of them and we will be sharing a lot more with parents and carers through Facebook. We look forward to welcoming back some very tired, but very happy children (and staff) on Friday afternoon!



### Smartphones and Online Safety

You will be aware of a great deal of debate about the possible impact of online activity on children's development. As a school, we know that all of our parents and carers will have different views about children's access and use of the internet, smartphones and the wide variety of apps, games and online sites that are available. However, a number of you have talked about the pressure parents can feel to give children phones at an early age and the worry that they may be missing out. We wanted to share with you a link that parents have shared with us to a rapidly growing movement among parents of primary age children that is looking to restrict access to smart phones at an early age - [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) Teaching about online safety is a key part of our Computing and PSHE (Personal Social Health and Economic) curricula. Parents often talk with us about concerns and we are always happy to offer advice. The next of our workshops for parents with one of our external safeguarding consultants will be coming up in the new year.

**Phones in school:** We allow our older children who may be walking home by themselves to bring a phone into school. This is handed in to the teacher for safekeeping throughout the day and no child is allowed access to the phone while at school.

**Watches:** For the safeguarding of all children, we strongly discourage any type of smart watch or any watch that can take a photograph. If your child does come to school with this type of device they must hand them into the classteacher and they will be handed back at the end of the day.

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Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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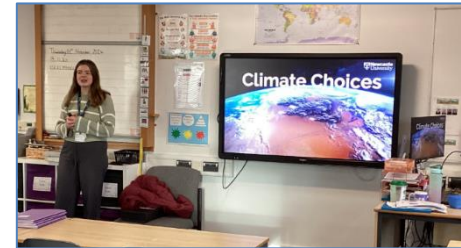
## School Council Children in Need 2024 - Be Spotacular

Thank you to our School Council and Mrs Oades and to all of you for your generosity during Children in Need last week. You donated an incredible £2414 to the cause – wow!



## Climate Change Workshop

Environmental education and preparing our children to be active global citizens is a very important part of the West Jesmond Curriculum. On Friday, Sarah from Newcastle University came to visit Year 6 to talk about climate change. We learned about what global warming and climate change are and talked about which human activities are accelerating this process. Then we played a game to get us thinking about the small changes that we can put in place to reduce our carbon footprint.



## School Council Visit to The People's Kitchen

This week, School Council visited The People's Kitchen to find out what happens to all our donations, once they leave our school. We met lots of the wonderful volunteers and asked lots of questions about the amazing work they do there, helping an incredible 300 people every day!



## Year 3 Go Back To The Stone Age

Year 3 have been visiting the Rising Sun Country Park for an exciting Stone Age experience. They have threshed, winnowed and ground wheat, baked bread and cooked it over an open fire. They also explored Stone Age artefacts, including trying on clothes and handling flints and tools. A highlight was learning about wattle and daub houses and building their own shelters in the forest. The children were able to gain a glimpse of how people lived off the land and the creative and innovative ways they survived and thrived.



## Friends Christmas Fair Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm

Our fair starts after school at 3.30pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be able to access the fair after picking up children. We ask parents to wait outside a few minutes until 3.30pm while we ensure all children have been collected before we open the doors.

**Non-Uniform Day:** On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec, children are invited to come in non-uniform. If they have a Christmas Jumper, they are welcome to wear it. On the day, we are asking for donations for the fair - bottles, chocolates and new toy donations if possible.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

## Dates for Your Diary

### Next Week:

- ❖ Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November Girls' Football Team League Matches (JPA)
- ❖ Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November Year 2 visiting Artist workshop
- ❖ Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November Friends Xmas Fair (From 3.30pm)  
(Non-uniform for fair donations: Christmas jumpers or accessories welcome)

### Further Ahead (Seasonal events in green)

- ❖ Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December Choir to Newcastle Sings Christmas
- ❖ Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Weds 11<sup>th</sup> December Reception Christmas Shows (9.15am)
- ❖ Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December Year 2 Christmas Show 9.15am & 2.15pm)
- ❖ Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December Year 1 Christmas Songs and Crafts (2pm)  
Choir Singing at the Grainger Market
- ❖ Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December Winter Stories with Chris Bostock (Yr. 1 & 2)  
Key Stage 2 Christmas Lunch
- ❖ Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 5-6pm Winter Songs by Lantern Light Key Stage 2  
Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Lunch
- ❖ Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December End of Term
- ❖ Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January Start of the Spring Term 2025