



Weekly Newsletter 28.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for another week of great support for home-learning and for our children in school. On behalf of the all the school, can I thank you for the many very kind and supportive messages you are sending to the staff and the school. These words encourage, inspire and spur us on in our work.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week we will be joining with Children's Mental Health Week organised by the charity Place2Be.

More than ever before, we are conscious of the stresses and concerns that some of our children may be feeling and also of the need for all of our children to find ways to look after their mental health and well-being.

This year's theme is **Express Yourself**. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good.

Teachers will be sharing ideas throughout the week and on Monday 1st February there will be a Virtual Assembly with Oak National Academy, Place2Be and BAFTA kids.



[Children's Mental Health Week - Place2Be](#)

Thank you parents: It is not just our children's mental health we are thinking of at the moment. For all of our parents there is the added concern at this time about our children's learning. Is my child doing as much as others? Will they fall behind? What happens if there are some days when we just can't complete the work set? We want to reassure you that you are not alone. I don't think anywhere in the country there are many families who have fully cracked the demands of home-schooling and everyone will have days juggling all the other demands of work and family life which can make completing every task the school sets a challenge.

We continue to be extremely proud of all of the work our children are doing at home and at school and hugely grateful and appreciative of the efforts of all of you and we will fully understand about that day or afternoon when work calls are coming in, Zoom meetings are set, the baby won't settle, the dog demands a walk, the printer won't work, Seesaw isn't downloading, children are reluctant to work... During this time of lockdown and when our children return to school, we will looking at the learning of every child and with your support we will be doing all we can to ensure we catch-up any missed learning as quickly as possible.

Signs of hope: One way that we want to lift the spirits of our community is through our **Windows of Hope** campaign. Lots of other schools across Newcastle are starting to join in with us to try and fill the windows of Newcastle (and the North East) with uplifting pictures of spring! Thank you to all of the children and families who have already created their pictures, including this lovely one! I hope when we all go for walks this weekend our children begin to see pictures sprouting up in windows!



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West Jesmond Unplugged: We are very aware of the amount of time our children are spending using screens, even when using our Tapestry and Seesaw approach. Parents have told us that sometimes their children finish work and they are looking for something to else to do or that occasionally they want ideas and the opportunity to do something way from the set learning. We also think it would be useful to offer parents a bit of a break during very relentless weeks. We are building up a section of the website that will have ideas that will have an emphasis on outside learning, creative projects and child led activities. We will talk more with you about during next week.

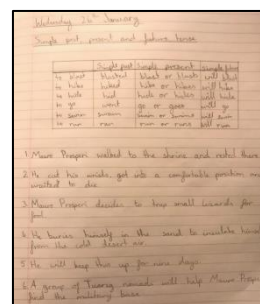
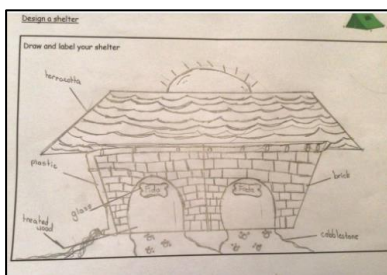
Free School Meals: We have had confirmation that we will be able to continue to provide vouchers to all of our families eligible for free school meals over the February half term break. We know that there will be a number of West Jesmond families who may be struggling financially at the moment. We are there to offer support to our families in every way that we can. Please contact the school and we will do all we can to help.

The Weekly Gallery of Great Learning!

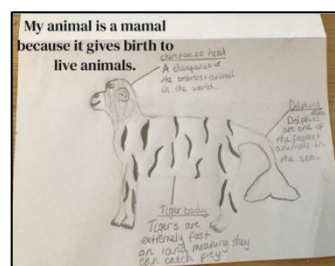
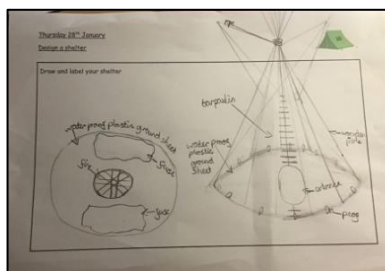
There are so many examples we could have selected, but due to space we can only highlight a few each week to give a flavour of what West Jesmond children have been achieving! See if you can spot yours!

This week we are celebrating a few of the great pieces of work **Year 6** have been doing based on the Survivors stories they have been reading. Year 6 parents ask your child what the lost runner in the desert drank to save their life (Not for the squeamish!) In DT this week, they were challenged to design a shelter and decide what the most appropriate materials were and why and in science children had to design their own animal and explain which classification group the animal would belong to and why.

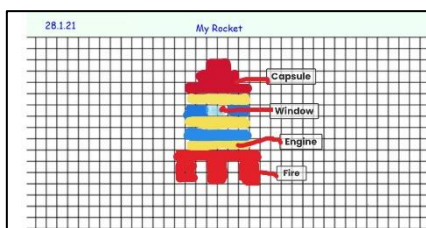
MATERIALS	
Material	Reason for choosing that material
Reinforcing tiles (roof)	Water runs off it quickly and they're not heavy.
plastic drain pipe	Water runs off the roof side it and it's waterproof.
glass sign	Once desert's hot with metal.
treasured wood door	It's waterproof and it can be very sturdy.
cobblestone (path)	It's very rough.
brick (walls)	Brick is very water proof and you can get it in different sizes.



MATERIALS	
Material	Reason for choosing that material
water proof plastic ground sheet	To keep the shelter dry and dry.
wooden poles	To hold up the shelter they are strong.
string	To tie up the shelter.
wooden peg	To secure it to the ground.
rope	To hold everything together.
carpenter's	To hold up the shelter.



And we think you will all be blasted away by Lia in **Year 2's** Design and Technology design for a model and the finished creation!



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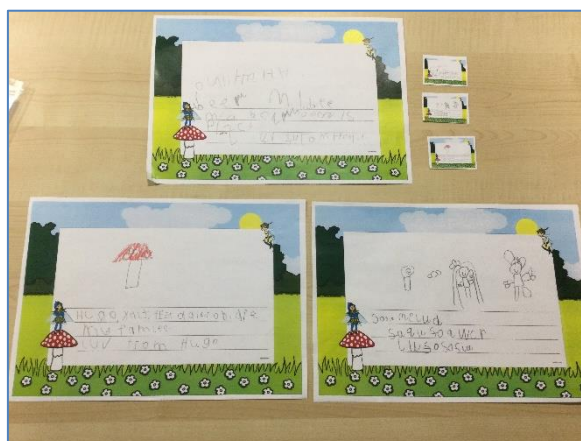
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This week **Reception** has been full of fairies!

The activities link to our Fairies topic including baking fairy cakes using measuring skills and following instructions, fairy artwork, addition to 10 and writing letters to the fairy. The letters have been reduced to 'fairy size'! The children have worked so hard and we are incredibly proud of them.

Reception Team



Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (headteacher)