



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 10 Autumn Term 2021

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,



This week we have been joining with other schools in **Anti-Bullying Week**. We believe the behaviour and relationships of our children at West Jesmond are outstanding, but no school can ever say that there is no bullying taking place and we know how important it is to empower our children to be able to talk about different behaviours and to speak up when they have worries. We have been talking about the different forms bullying can take, how to define it and what to do if they feel you are affected. We have also celebrated the power of One Kind Word. One way we help children to identify if it is bullying is to use

STOP (Several Times On Purpose). We then talk to them about what they should do which is **STOP 2** (Start Telling Other People).

This week one of our children, Francesca, led an assembly for Key Stage 1 all about bullying. Her presentation was insightful, powerful and very engaging. We could tell from the younger children's faces and reactions how seeing an older child in school talking about the subject really had an impact. Speaking and presenting in public is a skill we want to develop in all of our children and Francesca showed great maturity in the way she created and presented her assembly. We were extremely proud of her!



West Jesmond Playtimes & Book Club:

We have been working hard to improve our playtimes this term. We introduced a large amount of new play equipment for the children and created zones to allow for some quieter spaces for children who sometimes want to sit and talk, play games or read books. They are supported by our great Year 6 Sports Leaders and Playtime Leaders who are helping to make playtimes even better for everyone. We are listening to what our children are thinking about the changes and will continue to adjust our plans over the year. One real highlight of the playtimes is the Book Club that our Year 5 children have organised, resourced and supervised this year. The photos show just how well they have created this extra playground opportunity.



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Urgent Appeal: Can you help New Arrivals to our area?

A core strength of our West Jesmond School is our sense of community. We talk about and celebrate what this means within our school and look to extend our empathy, understanding and sense of togetherness into our local community and the wider world.

Over the last few weeks, a number of asylum seeking families have been temporarily housed in our local area. We are working with many groups across our locality to ensure they have a warm welcome and to see what support we can offer.

The families have arrived with very few, if any, belongings and have very limited indoor space and we are asking our families if they can help.

The children would especially like outdoor toys such as footballs, tennis equipment etc. and small toys they can play with in their rooms such as chess, cards, dolls etc.

There is also a need for clothing. All types of clothing in good condition is welcome, but in particular underwear. New underwear would be especially appreciated.

The team supporting the families are working from **St George's Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays** so, if possible, can items be dropped off there. If you are unable to drop off at the church, please bring items to the school at the start of the day on **Tuesday 23rd November**.

Children in Need:

Thank you to Mrs Oades and the School Council for organising our Children in Need this year. School has never looked so sparkly (although we do question the outfits of some of the staff!). The School Council have been leading some special assemblies and we have joined in with a mass Joe Wicks workout and some mindfulness sessions thanks to one of our talented parents!



Friends of WJPS:

Last week we held our Friends of West Jesmond AGM. We are extremely grateful for the hardworking team of parents who do so much for our school and your children through this important parent body and we are looking forward to re-establishing some of the programme of events in the year ahead. The money you raise makes such a difference to our children's experience at school and we thank all of you for your support.

If you shop on Amazon you can support our school at no cost to you. Friends of West Jesmond Primary School are registered with Amazon Smile, which donates 0.5% of every one of your eligible Amazon purchases to us. To sign up, all you have to do is follow these three steps:

Go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and enter you Amazon account details

Search for **Friends of West Jesmond Primary School** and select us as your chosen charity

Next time you shop be sure to do so through smile.amazon.co.uk (rather than amazon.co.uk) to make sure we receive your donation. Amazon Smile can also be activated in the Amazon Shopping app.

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Christmas Fair for Rocco – Donations:

A group of parents are organising a Christmas Fair at the United Reform Church on Saturday 11th December to raise funds for Rocco's lifesaving treatment.

They are in need on prizes for a tombola stall. If you would like to bring in a donation for this, they'd be hugely grateful. Please could you drop off any of the following items on Friday 26th November:

- NEW toys or games
- Chocolates
- Alcoholic or non-alcoholic bottles



Any donations can be dropped off on the trolleys either outside the main entrance or the Reception gates. More information about the event itself will follow.

Year 3 Squash Stars:

And finally, we thought it would be nice to get the weekend off to an energetic start with some pictures of our burgeoning squash players from Year 3 at their weekly sessions at the Northumberland Club!



Reception Reading Workshop

A reminder to all parents and carers of Reception to book a slot for our Reception Reading Workshop via Weduc. During this workshop we will be talking you through how we are teaching your child to read in school, and offer lots of support for how you can support your child's reading at home.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

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