



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 1 Autumn Term 2026



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of our children and families for such a successful first week back to school. It has been lovely to see the enthusiastic and happy faces of our children and to hear about their summer activities!

Welcome to the West Jesmond Family

We would like to welcome to the West Jesmond Family our new families who have joined us in Reception and further up the school. I am sure your child's time at West Jesmond Primary School will be happy and successful, and I know all of our children, parents and staff will make you very welcome. We look forward to working in partnership with you over the years to come. All of our team are here to speak with you at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Year Group Welcome Meetings Reminder

This is a reminder about our Welcome Meetings over the next two weeks. We invite you to come and meet year group teachers and staff working with your child and to find out lots of important information about the year ahead. All the meetings are held in the School Hall. Parents enter through the external hall door to the left of the area outside the main school entrance.

Reception	Wednesday 16 th September Parents' Reading and Phonics Workshop 9am
Year 1	Monday 7 th September 9am
Year 2	Friday 11 th September 9am
Year 3	Wednesday 9 th September 9am
Year 4	Tuesday 8 th September 9am
Year 5	Thursday 10 th September 9am
Year 6	Thursday 17 th September 9am

Books and Reading: West Jesmond Home Reading Challenge 2026-27

Reading is at the heart of our school and our curriculum. Every day there are opportunities for individual, group and class reading and also the chance to enjoy a shared story. However, we know that regular reading at home is the key to the educational progress of the vast majority of our children and has a significant impact on future academic success. This year, with your support, we will be encouraging every child from Reception to Year 6 to read, share stories and feedback in their **Reading Journals** every night! If you want support with how to support your child with their reading at home, please talk with us!

Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Mark Dinsley

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🌐 www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



A few Important Reminders!

Please label Uniform

We already have a rather lovely new coat in lost property and can't find the owner! Please can we remind parents to make sure all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

IMPORTANT: Travelling to School - Please Keep Our Children Safe!

This is an especially important reminder to all of our parents and a plea to those of you who are new to the school. Make the journey to school safe, comfortable, and enjoyable for our children! Please do not drive or park near school and avoid turning in the street. **If you need to drive, please park 5-10 minutes away and enjoy the healthy walk to school with your child.** We appeal to all of our community to make every effort to keep the streets near school as car-free as possible.



Communications

The main ways we communicate with you at home about school news, clubs and events is through the Weduc App. Information is also shared by the school website, Tapestry (Reception), Seesaw and Facebook. You can help us by making sure you check Weduc regularly and by reading these newsletters.

Facebook And Sharing Images

Along with a number of schools, we have decided that we will look carefully at how we share images of our children online. From the start of this year, we will continue to share photos through Weduc and school systems such as Tapestry and Seesaw. However, when we use Facebook, we will try to ensure that we do not have clearly identifiable photographs of the faces of children.

Birthdays Reminder

We request that children do not bring in any food, sweets or cakes when it is their birthday. This is due to concerns about food allergies and dietary concerns and as a part of our Healthy School approach. We also hope that it eases some pressure on parents who might have felt obliged to spend money on these gifts. However, we do like to celebrate birthdays and invite children to come to school in non-uniform on the day so we can all do our best to make it feel special for them.



Sorry No Dogs

To safeguard the health and welfare of our children and families and to follow wider council and schools' policies, we do not allow dogs on site with the exception of assistance dogs or therapy dogs. Dogs are also not allowed to be carried on site. We ask that parents consider the safety of tethering dogs outside the school site and ensure that the dog is able to be left unattended safely.



Items From Home

Please can you remind your children not bring in any toys or personal items from home unless for a special reason asked for by the teacher e.g. a homework project. These can get lost around school or damaged.

Books are an exception to this rule.

If it is judged that a child needs a fidget device, this will be provided by the school in discussion with parents.

Music Lessons and Clubs

Many of the children in our school take up a musical instrument with tuition supplied by NEMCO (North East Music Co-operative Ltd) and external music teachers. Please speak to the school office if you would like your child to sign up for lessons. We know music tuition can be expensive, and we do not want any child to miss out. **If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to fund music tuition; please speak to us for details.**



Lunches and Snacks

Your child can choose to bring a packed lunch or have a cooked school meal. School meals cost £3.10 but are free to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. In order for your child to have a school meal, please download the **iPay** app and we will provide you with your login information. You must choose and pay for your child's school meals, from home. The lunch menu works on a 3-week rotation, and you can choose the meals several weeks in advance, based on what your child likes.



IMPORTANT: Free School Meals

The government has changed how Free School Meals eligibility is established. **This means the parents for all children who currently receive free school meals will need to be checked again against the new eligibility rules.** The school receives **Pupil Premium Funding** for all children eligible for Free School Meals. This helps us to offer additional support which includes academic support and funding free music tuition, trips and clubs. You can check your family's eligibility for Free School Meals using this link:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals>

Packed Lunches

If you choose to give your child a packed lunch, please remember to seek out healthy options.

[Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS](#)

Snacks

Our younger children are given fruit as a snack in school. Some of our older children choose to bring in a snack for morning break. Can we ask that these are healthy choices. <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

No crisps, sweets, chocolate bars, packets of biscuits or energy drinks are permitted. If children bring these in the teacher will keep them safe and return them to parents at the end of the day.

Nuts and allergies: No nuts or products containing nuts allowed in school

Please remember that we are a nut free school. Due to a number of children with allergies, we do not allow any products which contain nuts in school. Please note that this includes any chocolate spreads, energy/snack bars that contain nuts. Please also talk to your children about why this is so important to keep their friends safe.



Will You Join Our West Jesmond Lunchtime Team?

We are looking for parents/grandparents who would be interested in joining our lunchtime teams. This is a paid role for between 1-1 ½ hours a day (with flexibility over days) and involves helping to make dinner times as enjoyable as possible for our children. If you are interested in working with us, please come and speak to the school office about how to apply.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week:

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| ❖ Monday 7 th September | Year 1 Parents' Welcome Meeting 9am |
| ❖ Tuesday 8 th September | Year 4 Parents' Welcome Morning 8.50am |
| ❖ Wednesday 9 th September | Year 3 Welcome Morning 9am |
| ❖ Thursday 10 th September | Year 5 Welcome Meeting 9am |
| ❖ Friday 11 th September | Year 2 Welcome Meeting 9am
Year 5 History Workshop |

Further ahead

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| ❖ Wednesday 16 th September | Reception Parents Phonics/Reading Workshop |
| ❖ Thursday 17 th September | Year 6 Welcome Meeting 9am |
| ❖ Weds 23 rd – Friday 25 th September | Year 6 residential |
| ❖ Friday 2 nd October | Children's Photographs |

- ❖ Tuesday 13th Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October* Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm(*Tuesday and Thursday for most classes)

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| ❖ Week Beginning 19 th October | Local Study Week |
| ❖ Friday 23 rd October | Break up for half term |
| ❖ Monday 2 nd November | Back to school |
| ❖ Friday 18 th December | End of Term |
| ❖ Monday 4 th January | Start of the Spring Term |