



West Jesmond Primary End of Year Newsletter July 2021



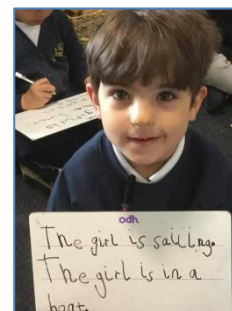
Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our final newsletter of a very unusual year at West Jesmond Primary School. Since September, our school has faced many changes and challenges and our school family has responded to them all with huge amounts of resilience, determination and kindness. As we reflect back on the achievements of the last year, we are also looking forward with excitement to September and, hopefully, returning to more of the activities and opportunities that enrich the lives of our children.

Thank you to our West Jesmond Rainbow Children

Throughout the lockdowns, isolations and disruptions our children have shown great enthusiasm and energy and the ability to bounce back, maintain their positive attitude to school and sustain their levels of learning. We hope the children enjoyed the topics, activities and events we were able to hold and we look forward to building on these in 2021-22. Despite the lockdowns, the standards reached by pupils in our school continue to be very high. We are also especially proud of the progress achieved by our Year 6 children and their readiness for the next stage of their education at secondary school and we are very pleased to be sending out from our school so many writers, readers, artists, historians, geographers, scientists, mathematicians, dancers, actors, musicians... and young people who embrace opportunities and find enjoyment in learning.

You will have seen your child develop in so many ways since September. At school we have had the privilege of seeing the small daily achievements of every child. We have watched our Reception children bravely saying goodbye to parents on their first day; seen the pride of children conquering fears (including climbing walls!) and trying something new; applauded the teamwork that creates plays and performances; admired the courage of those who have stood up in front of their class to read out work they are proud of and, above all, we celebrated the determination of every child who has found an area of learning or school life challenging and has showed resilience to keep trying, push themselves and make progress in the area that is important to them!



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Thank you to all of you at home and to all the West Jesmond Family

Parents and Carers:

For every family the experience of the last year has been very different. There are Key Workers whose children were at school throughout, those of you juggling childcare and working from home, parents with young children of different ages trying to support learning, those worried about illness, relatives, jobs, financial issues...and, throughout, the chance of the school contacting you about your child isolating. We know how hard it has been for our families and to each one of you, we want to say thank you for everything you have done over the last twelve months to support your child's learning and our school.

Everything we do is only possible with the help of our community and once again you have shown the West Jesmond community is one of the great strengths of our school.

Can I give a special thank you to the **Friends of West Jesmond** who, despite the reduced opportunities provided by the last year, have continued to support us and all of our children so well.

Governors:

Your governing body has worked tirelessly this year supporting the changes of leadership and helping to guide the school through the pandemic. We are extremely grateful for the time, energy, experience and expertise they have so generously provided and that contribute so much to the success of West Jesmond Primary. We would like to give special thanks to Ishy Bruce, one of our parent governors, who is stepping down from the Governing Body this year for all her invaluable support for our school.

Goodbyes!

This is always a sad time of year at school as we have to say goodbye to a number of people who are very special to the West Jesmond Family.

Year 6 2021

We would like to say thank you to all of our wonderful Year 6 children for everything they have brought to our school. You have all been West Jesmond Stars!! 🌟🌟 We have watched them grow and develop in so many ways over the last seven years and they leave with our pride, gratitude and very best wishes for the future. We look forward to meeting them in the years ahead and finding out about all the exciting things they achieve.

We are also saying goodbye to a number of other children and families who have been with our school for many years and we would like to extend our very best wishes to them all. We hope that all children and families leaving us this summer will always look back on their time here with great fondness and many very happy memories and that they will take a small piece of West Jesmond Primary School with them in to the future.



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Staff Goodbyes

Some other very special members of our West Jesmond Family are leaving us this summer and we wish them well in the future and we know you will join us in thanking them all for everything they have done for our children.



Bethany Condliffe and Euan Stenhouse have made very impressive starts to their teaching careers at West Jesmond and we know they are going to achieve so much in their future schools. We thank them for both for the impact they have had on our children's education and for sharing their talents with us in school.

We are also saying farewell to Emily Anderson who has been teaching in Year 2 since Christmas. Despite joining us at a very strange time, Emily very quickly built up strong relationships with the children in 2E and with all of us and we thank her and wish her the very best with an exciting teaching career ahead.



David Pretswell, is retiring from our Teaching Assistant team at the end of term. David has given invaluable support to hundreds of children and many teachers during his time with us as well as being a key link with our local Jesmond community.



Our Director of music Karen Hague will leave a trail of musical notes hanging in the air behind her and a legacy of incredible concerts, performances and the highest level of musical participation and achievement. We know Karen will bring music to even more children in her exciting new job and we feel privileged to have had her with us at West Jesmond.

Dates for your diary: Return to School Tuesday 7th September

Our most important great, big final thank you goes to those who make this school the special place it is... to all the fantastic children of West Jesmond Primary School. It has been a real privilege to work and learn alongside you all. Well done for all your hard work this year, have a great summer full of sunshine and fun!



Matt Ward (Headteacher)

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