



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 5 Spring Term 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and children,

Turkey and Syria Earthquake

We would like to start this week by offering our thoughts to all of our West Jesmond families from Turkey or Syria, particularly to those who may have been directly affected by the earthquake. As a school and a community we stand with you and will offer any support we can. As always, we will be talking in an age appropriate manner to our children about the events on the news and will be there to answer any questions and concerns that they may have. We hope to organise a whole school response and collection next week and will send out details via Weduc.

Parent School Partnerships

Can we once again thank the many parents who have given up their time and energy to support the school. You have come in to talk to our children, supported us on trips, volunteered in school, helped with sports teams, offered your advice through the Parent Partnership and organised the great Cake Stalls...and that is on top of all you do to ensure our children are ready and eager for school every day!

Parent Partnership Group

On Wednesday, it was great to welcome in parents from across the school to meet with Miss Thompson and Mr Jones. We discussed how our Christmas activities were received by parents and how we may refine this in the future. We also talked at length about trips, the rising costs of these and how to help families. There was very positive feedback about having residential in Year 4 and Year 6 now. Parents also gave feedback on the new dinner ordering system and how they have found it useful to discuss with the children what they are choosing and eating each day. In response to the discussions, attached to this week's newsletter is a link to the new menu on the website which shows parents what each dish comes with. [West Jesmond Primary - Lunch Choices](#)

Parents also fed back on other areas of communication which we will be implementing. Our next meeting will be after Easter - we will send out information next half term

Our School Office Team

Parents also asked about our new members of the office team. We know most of you will have already had the chance to speak with Lisa Miller and Mahnaz Hussain and thank you for making them feel so welcome to the West Jesmond Family. The office team are now Sarah Waters, Mahnaz Hussain and Lisa Miller. Nikki Corbett is our Office Manager.

Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Cake Stalls

The Friday Cake Stall after school on the main yard is a highlight of the week for many children, parents and staff! It is made possible by the incredible dedication of the group of parents who organise and run the stall and by all of you who bake and donate cakes. As well as being an end of the week treat, the cake stalls also raise invaluable funds for your parent group, the [Friends of West Jesmond Primary School](#) who help us to enhance the opportunities we offer to your children.



Parent Evenings

You will have all received a letter from school inviting you to sign up for parent evenings on Wednesday 1st March and Tuesday 2nd March. If you have any problems signing up for an appointment please speak to the school office.

Dinners Update

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the home ordering dinner system. A couple of parents have asked about what happens if a child is absent. If your child is not in school, the office staff notify the kitchen. They then remove them from the dinners that day and you will not be charged for that meal.

Year 4 Robinwood

We hope the weather stays fine for our excited Year 4 children who are heading off to Robinwood for their residential visit next week.

Sports News

This has been another busy week of sport at West Jesmond Primary. Our **netball** team have reached the city finals, the **Boccia** team are in the County finals and we are competing in **rugby** and **football** tournaments! We will update you with results next week!

Egg-citing visitors in Year 2

This week, Year 2 have had some egg-citing visitors! On Monday, we had a delivery of some very special eggs. Over the next few days, we kept a close eye on them and have watched as they have now all hatched into fluffy chicks. We will be looking after them for the rest of the half term, learning about their lifecycle and hoping they will help us answer our science Big Question: 'What came first, the chicken or the egg?'



Life Saving Skills

Over the last week, Year 6 have been working with Geoff and Maria to revise and enhance the CPR skills they learnt in Year 5. We think that vital life skills such as these should always be a part of our school curriculum. The children have really grown in their confidence after the sessions. Thank you Maria and Geoff.



Safe and Ready for PE Lessons

Can we remind all parents about PE kit on PE days. Please remember to send your child in with the school PE kit. (Come and talk to us at any time if you have difficulties affording uniform for your child)

[West Jesmond Primary - Uniform information](#)

Can all children with longer hair come to school with a bobble/band to tie it back and any child with a stud earring must be able to remove it.

Please remind children that necklaces and jewellery are not worn in school at any time for safety reasons.

School Allotment

On Wednesday, Year 4MO visited our school allotment. Jenny showed us some amazing seed heads and talked to us about seeds and how different ones are dispersed and what they need to grow. One of the class was delighted to find that that her baby monkey puzzle tree she planted in October, had begun to grow! We then split up into groups and each had our own jobs to do; from planting seeds, to moving manure and compost and watering the seeds planted in the new greenhouse. We finished off with a sing song around the fire pit to warm us up! Thank you to all our brilliant volunteers, we learnt so much and had a great time!



Jesmond Community Orchard

Earlier this term we went wassailing to the West Jesmond Community Orchard led by our very own Green Man. We hope our song and apple juice toasts have helped the trees to flourish. This weekend, as spring approaches, why not take the chance to visit the orchard as a family to see the wide range of apples trees and the very exciting expansion! [Jesmond Community Orchard](#)



Chess Club

We will end the newsletter with a picture from Chess Club. The club was extremely busy this week with our very focussed players! We think the concentration shines out of this photograph!

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary



Next Week

- ❖ Year 5F to Sunderland Winter Gardens Monday 13th February
- ❖ Year 5S to Sunderland Winter Gardens Tuesday 14th February
- ❖ Year 4 Robinwood Residential Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th February
- ❖ Year 2 Visit to the Quayside Wednesday 15th February

- ❖ Break up for the end of half term Friday 17th February
- ❖ Return to School Monday 27th February
- ❖ Tuesday 28th February *Possible Partial Closure due to Industrial Action)*

- ❖ Parent Consultation Evening Wednesday 1st March 3.30 – 6pm
- ❖ Parent Consultation Evening Thursday 2nd March 3.30 – 6pm
- ❖ Enterprise and Aspirations Week Monday 6th – Friday 10th March

- ❖ *Possible Partial Closure due to Industrial Action: Wednesday 15th/Thursday 16th March*
- ❖ End of Term Friday 31st March
- ❖ Start of Summer Term Monday 17th April

Friends' Cake Stalls this half term

- ❖ 10th February Y5TS
- ❖ 17th February Y5S

