



Draft West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 7 Autumn Term 2023



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

A Message to all of our West Jesmond Family

We know that many of you will share the deep feelings of shock, concern and distress about the events in Israel and Palestine. We have a number of families with direct connections to the region and our thoughts are with all of you at such a difficult time. If any of our children need any support from school, including someone to talk to about their worries, please come and speak with us.

In schools we cannot hide from events in the outside world and where questions are raised, as trusted adults, we will aim to deal with them as sensitively as we can. However, we are also aware of the need to be very age sensitive and to be cautious with images and news that could cause upset.

The greatest strength of our school is our West Jesmond Family. We are diverse and international and reflect many ideas, backgrounds and experiences. We come together with warmth and respect in our school. We do not ever take this for granted. We will continue to strive even harder at this time to work with our children, and all of our community, on all that we have in common, all that binds us together in our humanity and on the values of our West Jesmond Way that reminds children every day about our values of being respectful, being inclusive and above all about being kind.

Local Study Week 2023: Jesmond Dene

Next week is our annual Local Study Week. During the week, we focus on the history and geography of our area. Over recent years, we have looked at topics including shipbuilding, coal mining and local suffragettes. Each year group has a different focus for their study. The Big Questions they will investigate look at the use of the Dene, conservation and the environment, the industrial history and legacy and human and physical characteristics. There will be lots of fieldwork with an emphasis on reading maps and mapping the area. Year groups 1-6 will be visiting the Dene during the week and we look forward to finding out much more about a much loved and important local site.

Lockerbie Kit Donation

In a few weeks, our Year 6 children will be going on their residential visit to Lockerbie.

We are planning to hold a kit swap stall in the Year 6 courtyard before and after school on Fri 27th Oct and Fri 10th Nov. If anyone is able to donate Year 6 size waterproofs, fleeces and walking boots, they would be very welcome. Families of children going on the trip are welcome to come and select any items they may require to help with costs. Please bring donations in w/c 23/10.

Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 3AJ

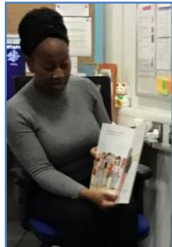
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Black History Month Special Visitors

This week we have continued with our school assemblies and focus on Black History Month. The learning has had an exciting extra dimension this week as we have welcomed in a number of special visitors. Three of our parents have come into school to lead assemblies, speak and read to classes. Anna captivated our Year 3, 4 and 5 children in assemblies about five inspirational black children in history, Lember told us the fascinating story of black pioneers in the field of cardiology and Sekai read to our younger children about the importance of respecting privacy especially people's personal space brilliantly explained in the book, Don't Touch My Hair.



King Lear Workshop and Auditions

Shakespeare fever has definitely hit Year 6 these last couple of weeks, as nearly 80 children attended a drama workshop in the hall to see if they were interested in auditioning for a part in this year's production of King Lear. Then, many chose this week to learn and perform a short extract from the play to audition for a role in the cast, posing the Year 6 team a series of very difficult decisions! Mr Rimmer would like to say a massive well done and thank you to all that have shown such interest and enthusiasm for the play - we have been so impressed by people's attitudes and courage, and urge you all to keep pursuing such opportunities in the future, regardless of the outcome of your audition. It is never easy to take such risks and challenge yourself in these situations, but the maturity and ambition shown by all has been commendable.



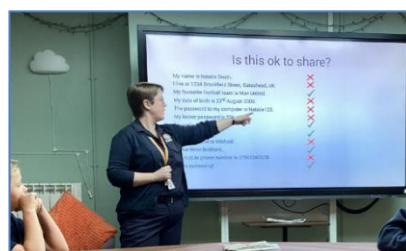
King Lear is set to be performed on the Northern Stage on March 26th, 2024, and will also be performed in school for the rest of Key Stage 2 to enjoy.



SafetyWorks Trip

This week, Year 6 visited SafetyWorks!, an interactive safety centre in Newcastle aimed at educating children and young people how to be safe in different, every-day situations. The children learnt about how to be safe on the Metro (as well as hearing all about the exciting new fleet of trains on its way), how to be safe around dogs, dangers to look out for and prevent in the home, how to reduce the amount of deliberate fires in the community and how to respond to one, and how to be safe near water (provided by the RNLI). We also revisited how to be safe online - a key part of our PHSE and Computing curricula - and the importance of blocking, reporting and telling a trusted adult like a parent or teacher if there is ever a situation that we feel concerned by online.

The children also discussed the importance of how to avoid or respond to peer pressure. Year 6 families have hopefully already been told by their children about setting up a codeword that can be sent via text if your child ever needs picking up or calling in a particular situation that they want to be away from.



Online Safety Message

One of our parents has asked us to make you aware of WhatsApp groups that have been potentially targeting children in nearby schools. In particular, there are groups that ask members to share all their contacts and then asks children to share information about their school etc. Please work with us to remind our children about which Apps are suitable for their age and about never sharing sensitive information or joining groups, they do not know the members of.

Year 5 RE Visitor

This week, Canon Clare from St. George's Church in Jesmond came to school to speak to Year 5 children in RE lessons about what it means to be a Christian. She was very impressed by the children's knowledge and the questions they asked.



Horse of the Year Show Champion

We are all extremely proud of one of our Year 4 children who won an award at the prestigious Horse of the Year Show and featured in Horse and Hound magazine! An amazing achievement from a very talented rider!

Football Team Cup Victory

Our boys' football team had a very successful first round cup match last night. A convincing 6-3 win to take us through to the next round. They played well as a team, demonstrating great skills and working together. Bring on the next round! Mrs Rennison and Mr Collier



Closed Bridge Warning

We have been advised that the pedestrian bridge over the metro on Tankerville Terrace will be closed for maintenance for 10 days from today.

Scooters Appeal

Last year you were extremely generous in donating spare scooters that children no longer use to support journeys to school for groups of vulnerable local children . If you are able to help this year please drop off at the school office. Thank you

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week:

❖ Week Beginning 23rd October

- ❖ Monday 23rd October
- ❖ Tuesday 24th October

❖ Wednesday 25th October

❖ Thursday 26th October

❖ Friday 27th October

Local Study Week

Year 5 visit to Jesmond Dene
Reception Parents' Vocabulary Meeting
Year 2 and Year 4 visit to Jesmond Dene
Year 1 and 3 visit to Jesmond Dene
Parent Partnership Meeting 1.30-2.30pm
Flu Vaccinations in school
Halloween Disco Year 5 and Year 6

Cake Stall 4MO
Break up for half term

Further Ahead

❖ Monday 6th November

School Closed for Staff Training

❖ Tuesday 7th November

Back to school

❖ Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th November Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm
(Some appointments on Wednesday for 6R, 5HS and 3TE)

❖ Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th November Year 6 Lockerbie Residential

❖ Friday 8th December 5-7pm

Christmas Fair



❖ Tuesday 12th & Weds 13th December Reception Christmas Shows (9.15am)

❖ Thursday 14th December

Year 2 Christmas Show 9.15am & 2.15pm)

❖ Friday 15th December

Year 1 Christmas Songs and Crafts 2pm

❖ Friday 22nd December

End of Term

❖ Monday 8th January

Start of the Spring Term