



Weekly Newsletter: Friday 2nd October

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to begin by reassuring parents about our health and hygiene systems in school, which so far, seem to be working very effectively in reducing the number of incidents and potential outbreaks. Many other schools in Newcastle, and even within our Ouseburn Learning Trust, have had some serious issues with multiple year groups having to be sent home to isolate and also a significant number of staff ill or having to isolate making running the school very difficult indeed.

This is not to say that this term we may not face similar challenges but by working together we can try and minimise disruption to the absolute minimum. Our children have been fantastic in adapting to our new routines and thank you for your support with the new start and drop off times. All of this helps to reduce congestion and keep us all safe. The weather has certainly changed now and so wrapping up warm is going to be important on these chilly mornings along with good nutrition to keep the usual coughs and colds at bay.

I also want to remind parents that whilst we encourage and allow parents and children to wear face coverings when coming to and leaving school, for some children and parents, **this is not possible. This can be for a whole host of reasons including communication issues and specific medical needs** so please be aware and kind to others if they cannot wear a mask when on the school site.

School Photographer

We have secured the school photographer to come into school on **Friday 23rd October** to take **individual photographs** of all the children. We have enhanced COVID security in place for this and have worked with the company for many years. Unfortunately, we will not be able to take wider family or sibling group photographs this year. Parents will then be able to have these latest individual photographs in time for Christmas.



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West Jesmond Website

Just to let parents know that we have now fully updated the year group pages with full details of our curriculum and work for this term. This will be a handy reference point to check what topics we are covering and lots of handy hints as to how you can best support your child at home and at weekends. It is well worth exploring together and thinking about trips and ideas that you can do as a household at this current time!

Topic: Invaders or Settlers			Science: Properties and Changes of Materials	
Big Question: Were the Vikings really that vicious?				
History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglo-Saxon invasions, settlements and kingdoms: place names and village life The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor Viking raids and invasion What changes took place due to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions and settlement? 	Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Geography Types of settlement and land use Economic activity including trade links, The distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water 	Key Vocabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglo-Saxon Viking invasion raids settlement conquer Danelaw longboat thatch shield Scandinavia 	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, Give reasons, based on evidence for comparative and fair tests for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals wood and plastic Explain how some materials dissolve in liquid to form a solution Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated Use the terms 'reversible' and 'irreversible' Explain that some changes 	Key Vocabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaporation soluble separation solids liquids gases reversible & irreversible magnetism conductivity & insulation
				Year 5 Autumn Term

Online Learning

Mr Jones sent every parent a letter last week clarifying our plan for our home learning processes for children if they are sent home from school or having to self-isolate. As a school we are well ahead with this and there are already resources available for emergency activities through our established links using the national White Rose and Oak Academy resources

If a class is sent home due to an outbreak we will make sure within 24 hours we have specific work online for the class. Our first priority is always to make sure the children are safe and dismissed carefully.

In the event of a national or specific local lockdown again, we will use the same learning platforms, but there will be more enhanced and tailored work including communication with class teachers. I would ask parents to be understanding that even if your child is at home isolating, their class teacher will be working at school teaching the other 29 children in the class.

We are awaiting more information from the Department for Education on possible changes to online learning in the coming weeks.



Secret Garden Update from Mr Jones

Was it a bird? Was it a plane? No... it was the Pentagon Play drone taking official pictures of the Secret Garden yesterday. The drone caused great excitement for the children and staff involved. We will share the official photos with you soon and this will launch the next stage of this important project to school. Mr Jones and Miss Jordan met this week to plan out putting the children and parents' suggestions of how to remember Mrs Hainsworth into this space. We want to say a big thank you to the Year 4 children who showcased the items so well.

New Science Resources

We had a very exciting delivery to school yesterday. Through our links with the Primary Science Teaching Trust we have secured a trial of investigation boxes from The Curiosity Box and The Faraday Institute. Year 6 and Year 4 will be using the boxes in their science lessons this term and the teachers will be giving feedback to the organisations before they are released nationally.

Woodwind lessons - spaces available!

Our peripatetic music teacher, Ms. Hurrell, has space on her timetable for new woodwind players. Children in Key Stage 2, who are interested in having lessons on either the flute or the clarinet, should let Mrs. Hague know. She will then contact NEMCO (our instrumental music providers) to ask them to send more details of group options, costs of lessons, instrument hire, etc. Further details can be found on the NEMCO website: www.nemco.org.uk

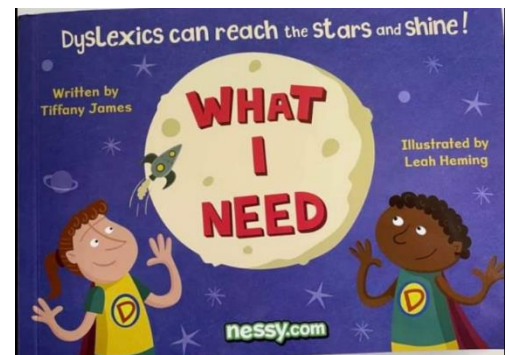


Our very own published author in Year 4!

Miss MacKellar and I are very proud that Heidi and her mum had a zoom call with the author of a very special book called "What I need" and they talked about what life is like with ADHD and dyslexia. The author has dyslexia as well and



dedicated a special page just for Heidi. It is a great book and shows the tremendous effort some of our children have to put into their daily life in school.



Every one of us faces learning challenges in our daily lives and it is always good to acknowledge and understand those challenges for others.

And finally

A few updates from your friendly Head Teacher

- Please can we ask parents to make sure you pick your child up on time at the end of the day. Due to the COVID regulations we cannot operate the Late Room as we used to. We have a small number of children who are now regularly being picked up very late, even with our extended pick up times.
- Please let us know if you or child has a COVID 19 test and **very importantly please let us know the result** – positive or negative. Drop us a line at: hello@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

Drop off and Pick up Staggered timings reminder

Breakfast Club 8.00 am

Year 2, 4 and 6 8.30 – 8.45 am 3.05 – 3.20 pm

Year 1, 3 and 5 8.45 – 9.00 am 3.20 – 3.35 pm

Reception 8.45 – 9.00 am 3.20 – 3.35 pm

After School Club 3.30 – 5.55 pm

If possible do drop your child off at the gate and let them come into school on their own under our staff supervision. This now applies to all year groups. **Well done to Year 1 pupils now coming in on their own too from the gate.**

Best Wishes to you all,

Have a lovely week. We are here for you and your children.

Gary Wallis-Clarke



Autumn days when the grass is jewelled,
And the silk inside a chestnut shell,