



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 10 Summer Term 2026



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Sports Days 2026 Reminder

We are looking forward to our Sports Days next week and hope the weather stays dry! Here is a brief reminder of the arrangements for the day.

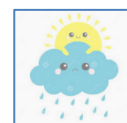
Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Monday 6th July

- ❖ Years 1, 2 and 3 9.30am – 11.30am
- ❖ Years 4, 5 and 6 1.30pm – 3.00pm

The events take place on the RGS Sports Field on the corner of Burdon Terrace and Abbotsford Terrace. When you arrive, please enter the field by the signposted parent gate and position yourself behind the cones on the far side of the field. For safeguarding reasons, we ask that parents stay behind the cones and please don't bring drinks or snacks for your child. Children will return to school with their class teacher after the event and will be collected by parents and carers as normal at the end of the day.

Reception Sports Day - Tuesday 7th July (9:20am – 10:30am) This will take place on the School Main Yard. Please drop your child at school at the usual time and then you are welcome to wait outside or pop for a coffee and we will re-open the Reception gates at 9:15am. At the end of the event, children will go back into class.

The current weather forecast looks a little mixed! We will try to go ahead if there are showers (so bring your umbrellas). However, if there is a risk of heavy downpours, we will need to cancel. We will make that decision early in the morning to give you as much notice as possible.



Choir Tour Of Newcastle

Our very large WJPS choir enjoyed singing in some fantastic venues across Newcastle City Centre on Monday as part of Newcastle Sings. Mrs Anderson led our singers in their performances at the Laing Gallery, Grainger Market, Great North Museum and the City Library. Many thanks to all of our parents who supported the tour and to the Newcastle Music Service for organising such a great event.



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Deputy Headteacher: Mark Dinsley

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Staffing Changes

This week you will have received a letter about your child's new class. Children will be meeting their new teachers next week during our transition visits and meetings. You will have seen that we are welcoming two new teachers to our school next year. Joining us in September are Miss Kelsey Dixon who will be teaching in Reception and Miss Helena Macaulay who will be teaching in Year 3.

We have a number of special members of our team who are moving to new opportunities from the end of this year. We are very proud of them all and each one will be deeply missed.

Paula Pocock: Paula has been teaching Spanish at West Jesmond for the last 7 years. She has brought her in-depth linguistic skills to our school and taught MFL to hundreds and hundreds of our children. Paula has extended the learning and cultural understanding of our children through developing links with schools overseas, bringing in language students and sharing her experiences of living and working in South America. We thank Paula for everything that she has given to our school and know she will continue to spread her love of languages in all the schools she works in.

Mahnaz Hussain: For many parents, Mahnaz has been the first person that you will see when arriving at school. Over the last few years, we have marvelled at her rare ability to balance the many demands of a school office role, with her in-depth knowledge of, and care for, our families and children. She is able to deal with a vast number of different tasks while maintaining her calm, friendly and thoughtful approach. I know our families will agree that she has been a hugely important part of WJPS and that you will miss her welcoming face and her kind and helpful manner. We wish Mahnaz the very best as she moves into her new careers, using her exceptional talents to support families and schools in our region.

Liz Walker: Liz has taught in Year 3 and Year 4 at West Jesmond over the last two years. Liz came to us with lots of experience and has shared her skills and talents with the children of West Jesmond. I know how much the children in her classes have enjoyed having her as their teacher and all she has given to them. As well as being an excellent classteacher, she has also contributed a great deal to the wider school through her leadership of Eco School and the fantastic Green Day as well as book clubs. Liz will be joining a school very close to us from September and we know they are very lucky to have such a talented teacher joining their staff.

Hollie Conlin: We have been very privileged to have had Hollie teaching in our Year 3 this year. She has brought lots of her creativity, kindness and enthusiasm to our school and I know she has built up lovely relationships with the children in her class. From the first day in September, she threw herself into all of our activities and has given huge amounts to our school and all of our events for the children. Hollie is moving to a teaching job in a local school in September. We know she will continue to build her exciting teaching career with her new class there.

Ellie Dixon: Ellie Dixon has been with us at West Jesmond for the last two years. She has worked as an LSA, HLTA and as a classteacher in Year 1. Ellie has brought a huge amount of energy to every role in school. She took over Class 1S at Easter and has given the class a very successful and happy last term. She is hugely popular with both children and staff in school. Ellie has also played a huge part in our ever growing sporting participation. She has shared her coaching skills with many children and led our football and netball teams to local success. Ellie will be a great asset to her new school in September and we are excited to see how she develops her career.

Caitlin Thompson: Caitlin Thompson has worked across school all the way from Reception to Year 6 – often on the same day! She has supported children on a one-to-one and group basis and developed very strong relationships that support the learning and wider development of those she works with. Caitlin is going to be furthering her expertise in this area as she embarks on a study course over the next few years. We know that with her dedication and talent, she will be moving on to many exciting roles in the years ahead!

Olena Horshkova: Olena has been an invaluable member of our LSA team who is now leaving to pursue a career in teaching. Olena has worked with year groups and with individuals. She has brought her calm, thoughtful and friendly approach to all of her work and has helped a number of children to flourish in their learning and in their wider social and emotional development. Olena's depth of knowledge and understanding of children will be missed by us all at West Jesmond, but we know she will go on to further achievements as a teacher!

Scottish Opera: The Dragon of the Western Sea! Wow! What a performance!

Year 4 parents were treated to a terrific operatic performance on Tuesday in our school hall. We were taken around the world in a fantastic display of great singing, dancing, acting and coordination! The children have been working incredibly hard to learn their roles and parts and, led by our friends from Scottish Opera, they performed with incredible energy, confidence and with so many smiles on their faces – when they weren't being fierce pirates! They created a truly memorable show! Our thanks go to all the children, to Mrs Anderson and to the Year 4 staff and especially to Scottish Opera for working so hard with our children to create this great experience!

Keeping Safe In Water

Year 6 had a visit from Martin, who works for the RNLI, who talked to us all about how to keep safe around water. He talked about what happens to the body when we enter cold water and showed us some rescue footage. Martin told us which flags to look out for to tell us where it is safe to swim, how to protect ourselves on the beach and what to do if we get into trouble in the water.



Pizza Making!

Year 6 have had a fantastic day making pizzas as part of our Design Technology project. They designed their own pizzas, practised weighing accurately and chopping toppings safely. They loved taste testing and evaluating the creations too!



Rugby Opportunities

Novocastrians Rugby Football Club are looking to attract new players for the coming season and will be running a free try rugby session at the club in Longbenton on 12th July. The session is for boys in reception through to Year 7 and girls from reception through to Year 9 and will run between 12:00 and 13:30. It will include an introduction to rugby followed by some food and time to socialise.

Rugby is a great sport for getting the kids active and building teamwork and there is a place for everyone. There is no requirement for any previous experience. Attached is a flyer for the event which has details of how to sign up. Also, there is a link below to register interest.

[Link to register for Try Rugby @ Novos - 12th July 2026](#)



Achievers

We have a whole page of great Achievers this week. Well done to a number of swimmers who came to show us their latest certificates – great effort! We also have some very proud footballers with trophies and medals!



We have more exciting news about two incredibly talented climbers! Two of our children represented West Jesmond in the inter schools climbing competition against all the other schools in the region. One of the boys was placed in the Under 13 category and one in the Under 11's. Both climbed exceptionally well and our older competitor would have placed on the podium in the under 15's!

We are extremely proud of one of our Year 2 children who has been offered a contract at NUFC to join the U9 academy in 2027. He has been impressing the coaches over the last 4 years in the pre-academy and we are very excited to see his football progress in the years ahead!



Finally, can we celebrate the achievement of another one of our Year 2 children Who was awarded two prizes for at the end of the academic year in Newcastle Chinese School. A crystal trophy for Best Academic Achievement and a medal for full attendance.

Well done everyone!

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week

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| ❖ Monday 6 th July | KS1 & Yr 3 (am) & KS2 (pm) Sports Days |
| ❖ Tuesday 7 th July | Reception Sports Morning |
| ❖ Wednesday 8 th July | EYFS Seaside Day |
| ❖ Thursday 9 th and Friday 10 th July | Transition Days |
| ❖ Friday 10 th July | R1 Cake Stall |

Further ahead

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| ❖ Monday 13 th July (pm) | Year 3 Voices in Colour Performance |
| ❖ Tuesday 14 th July | Year 1 Trip to Cullercoats
Year 6 Leavers Cinema Trip |
| ❖ Wednesday 15 th July | Year 6 Graduation Evening |
| ❖ Friday 17 th July | End of Summer Term |