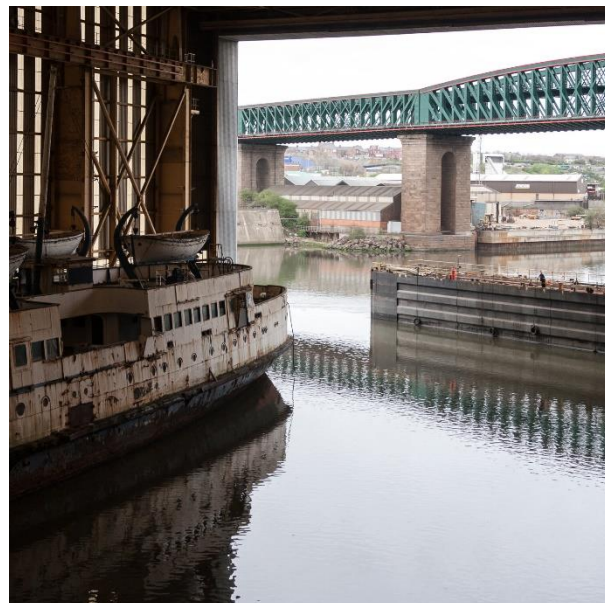




Weekly Newsletter: Friday 6th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful first week back exploring the local history of shipbuilding in the area. For me this has been personally significant as the previous 4 generations of my family worked or were closely linked to shipyards on the Wear. As a child, I remember my Dad going off to work with his orange bait box and hearing his stories of ships, welding, machining and metal turning. I remember the smell of him coming home and feeling the oil and grease on his grey ruck sack. I remember the very sad day that I came home aged 12 and my Dad telling me that the shipyards were going to close and he had lost his job. I remember going to my Grandma's house and sitting on the top floor of the bus to look down onto the cold river and imagine the shipyards; strong, metallic but silent. Seeing the children around school explore this history is a timely reminder of how fast the world moves and has found me reminiscing and long-forgotten memories have come flooding back. I cannot wait to see all the wonderful work the children have done this week and at home.



As we are now in a national lockdown, school will continue to run as normally as possible in line with our new timetable and the agreed risk assessment. The children have adapted really well, but this month will feel very different, especially at weekends. We are continuing with our hygiene regime and class and year group bubbles. So far, this week has been very quiet and safe with no reported cases in school (touch wood) and no classes or small groups of pupils having to be sent home to isolate. I want to reassure parents we have a lot of systems in place if this does need to happen at some point this term and we will communicate directly with you if we need to.

We are also planning our virtual Christmas advent calendar so look out for a wonderful visual treat from each class starting in December. We might not be able to get together as a community at the end of this term, but we are still going to make this term as wonderful and memorable for the children as possible.

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Congratulations

I am delighted to inform parents that Mr and Mrs Edwards are expecting their first child next year. Mr Edwards teaches in Year 1 and Mrs Edwards in Year 2. Next half-term Mrs Edwards will be in school and working alongside Miss Anderson who will be taking the class when her maternity leave starts at the February half-term holiday. That way we can ensure a very smooth handover and minimise changes and they also get two teachers in the class! I am delighted for Mr and Mrs Edwards as their first child will be a real West Jesmond baby as they met each other here.

Tempest Photographs

Children who had their individual photographs taken by Tempest just before half term should be bringing home their order forms this afternoon. If you are unable to place your order online and would like to return your order form via the school collection, please post your sealed envelope into the box labelled 'Correspondence from Parents and Carers', next to the hatch in the main office. **Please note, the deadline for returning completed order forms to school is Wednesday 18th November 2020.**

Children in Need Friday 13th November



Next Friday 13th November is the annual Children in Need Appeal day. As a school we have always shown fantastic support to this amazing charity. Although this year things are very different for us all, we still intend to have a fun-filled fundraising day in school to help the appeal.

Firstly, in exchange for a small monetary donation, next Friday is a non-uniform day. So come to school in

your choice of outfit, wearing your Pudsey ears and accessories if you have them. Just remember to choose something you are comfortable in and can move in!

Secondly we are inviting you to do something crazy with your hair! We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Finally, each class will be taking part in their own Children in Need Duckrace Sweepstake. For a suggested donation of £2 a duck, children can choose one duck from the sweepstake poster and then the race is broadcast live on the Children in Need Facebook page at 1pm (technology permitting!). There are 20 ducks to choose from, but all children who wish to take part will be able to, as we will double up on ducks where necessary. There will be a prize in each class for the winner or winners. For more information on the Duckrace, please have a look at the Children in Need website where you can watch a clip of last year's race and see the list of names for this year's ducks!



On the Friday in school we will be learning in our classes just what an important appeal this is and looking at where our money goes; listening to the stories of who we help. In the meantime, if you want to find out any more about this year's Children in Need appeal, please head to their website. **Please note, all donations for this year's appeal will be made online.**

Many thanks for your continued support.
Mrs Oades

Weduc

Following a technical delay, our App is now live in the App Store and through Google Play. If you search for West Jesmond Primary, you should find the logo as displayed in the picture below:



If you download the app you will be sent an enrolment guide via your email address held in school. Payments will then appear later next week, where you will be able to make purchases and donations. The system will replace SIMs Pay for all items in school. This is how we will be taking Children in Need donations this year. As we anticipate a large number of downloads this weekend, please do bear with us.

Friends of West Jesmond

Although we fully and absolutely support shopping locally, especially this year, we know many people will need to buy online for Christmas this year. If you shop on Amazon, then there is a great way that you can support our school at no cost to you.

Friends of West Jesmond Primary School are registered with Amazon Smile, which donates 0.5% of every one of your eligible Amazon purchases to us.



To sign up, all you have to do is follow these three steps:

- Go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and enter your Amazon account details
- Search for **Friends of West Jesmond Primary School** and select us as your chosen charity
- Next time you shop be sure to do so through smile.amazon.co.uk (rather than amazon.co.uk) to make sure we receive your donation. Amazon Smile can also be activated in the Amazon Shopping app.

Road Safety

Many parents will have noticed that the City Council are now **half-way** through their plans for changes to Tankerville Terrace.

Things have been very difficult this week as there have been cars still parked directly outside the school, blocking the road. The former parking spaces have been removed and double yellow lines will be added shortly to keep this important roadway clear. This will make the scheme much clearer and safer.

It is critical for safety that there are two moving lanes of traffic outside of the school so please do not park and block the road alongside our extended pavement and pedestrian space for COVID safety. There are further planned pedestrian pavement extensions coming on Tankerville Terrace on the other side of the school for Year 5/6 and Reception entrances so watch out for these coming at some point.

Please can I urge all parents to be kind, considerate and patient to each other whilst these road changes are implemented by the City Council.

Stay Safe

Enjoy lockdown with your family this weekend.

Best Wishes

Gary Wallis-Clarke

Executive Head Teacher