



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 7 Spring Term 2025



Welcome to our end of half term newsletter. Well done to all of our children for their efforts since Christmas. I think there will be some quite tired children in need of a break at the end of this week and we hope the weather is kind for everyone!

Parent Workshops

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Reception Writing Workshops and Year 5 Maths workshops this week. We hope you found them an enjoyable and useful insight into your child's learning. Please remember if you want any more information about any part of your child's curriculum you are welcome to speak with your child's class teacher or one of our curriculum leads.

WJPS Careers Week 2025

When we return from half term, we are holding our annual Careers Week. Once again, Mrs Oades has created a busy programme of exciting activities to inform and inspire our children as they learn more about some of the many opportunities they might be interested in, as they grow older. During the week, our many visitors will talk to children about how their interests, education and passions helped them to develop their careers. Look out for the whole school homework challenge! Thank you to all of the parents and friends who have volunteered to come in during the week.



Parent Consultations

We are holding our mid-year parent consultations on March 18th and 20th. A letter has gone to all parents with the details of the times and how to sign up. If you have any difficulties with signing up for an appointment, please contact the school office.

Please remember, although these are our official meetings with parents and carers, all of our team are there to meet with you throughout the school year.

Term Dates for 2025- 26

Please also look out for the letter this week with the term dates and training days for next year. Please can we remind parents to ensure any holidays or extended visits are booked during the weeks when school is closed over the year.

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Deputy Headteacher: Mark Dinsley

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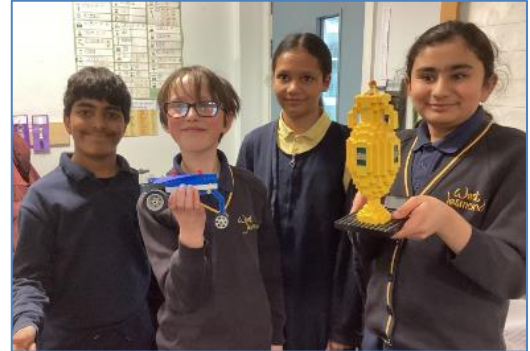
🌐 www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



Primary Engineers

Year 6 have been very busy with engineering projects this week.

On Monday, they had fantastic Lego Engineering session with Shaun and Keeley from NERAP (North East Raising Aspirations Partnership). They spoke to us about the huge number of careers that involve STEM and explained some of the routes into these careers. We were then given the same kits and had to work collaboratively in teams to build a vehicle with at least four wheels that would be able to travel down a ramp. We tested and improved our vehicles to increase the distance that they travelled.



On Thursday, we were invited to a Primary Engineering Celebration Event. 'Our Primary Engineers did a fantastic job of building their train and the judges at the Primary Engineering Celebration event were really impressed. There was a lot of fierce competition so, unlike last year, our train didn't win the overall prize but we picked up a school award for our engineers in the making! We are so proud of them.'

Miss MacKellar and Miss Aske

This is what two of our engineers said about the event.

'Today, we went to Sunderland University CitySpace to test our trains that we have designed and built in school. Firstly, we had an interview with a mechanical engineer from Network Rail. In this interview, we got asked about how we produced our train and what improvements we could make. After that, our train was tested. When we were testing our train's ability to pull carriages, we were told that we had done the best so far, with 17 out of 20 points. Then, our train was tested in the straight line test. Unfortunately, we did not do as well in this test as our train moved at a bit of an angle. We then made the design better by adding some creative touches. Doing this, we went with a design based on the LNER Azuma design and the Newcastle train station. We hope that our train will do well in the ceremonies where we discover where we placed compared to other schools from the Tyne and Wear area.'



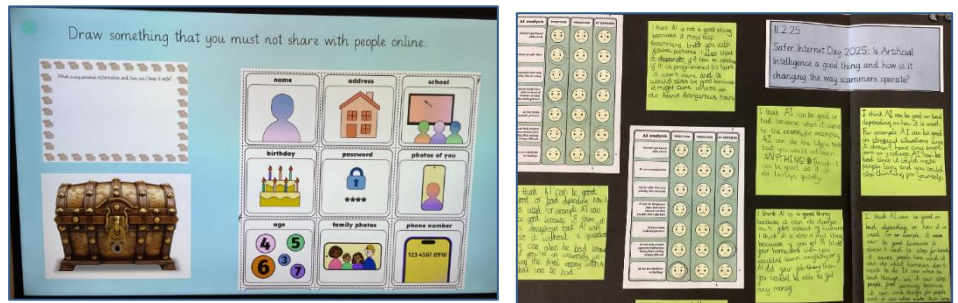
Girls Football Team

The girls' football team had another amazing night of competition with two great wins. Once again, they played brilliantly as a team and we are really proud of them.



Keeping Our Children Safe Online

Last week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day and explored what we could all do to keep ourselves safe online. Our West Jesmond Digital Leaders led a special assembly introducing this year's theme - 'Too good to be true?' We learned all about what online scams are and how we can spot them. We also investigated the role of Artificial Intelligence and how this is changing the way scammers work. Here is a selection of some of the work carried out throughout school. Online safety is an ongoing conversation - ask us all about it!



Year 2 Eating Well!

On Wednesday, Year 2 had a dietitian, who is one of our West Jesmond parents, visit their classes as part of their science and PSHE topics. She explained about the different food groups using the Eatwell Guide. We all had the opportunity to sort pieces of food into the correct food group and we discussed why these make up a balanced diet.



Nos Gusta La Comida Española

As part of our learning about Andalucía in Geography, we visited El Torero, a Spanish restaurant in Newcastle, to try some authentic Andalusian food. We tried lots of dishes many of us hadn't tried before and we loved the spicy flavours of dishes like patatas bravas and the savoury pan y ali-oli.



Reminder World Book Day Storytelling Evening 6th March

We look forward to seeing lots of our children and families at our Storytelling event on Work Book Day. Come in your pyjamas or dressed as a book character, bring your favourite soft toy and settle down to hear the West Jesmond staff read their favourite bedtime stories. Please book a place for each child via Weduc in the payments section - it is £2 per child. All children must be accompanied by an adult (there is no charge for adults).

Whole School Attendance: Should My Child Come To School?

Our school attendance at the end of half term is 96.3%. This continues to be above national averages, but we want to ensure every West Jesmond child has the highest attendance possible. Attendance for a number of children remain below 90% the figure the government judge to be persistent absentees. We know that for a small number of children in school there are reasons for lower attendance and we want to work as closely with parents and carers to help support you and your child to be able to come to school. Sometimes we are asked 'should my child come to school?' Our website has lots of information about attendance, including useful advice about childhood health, including the link below.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

[West Jesmond Primary - Supporting Attendance](#)

Clubs After Half Term

| West Jesmond Primary School Extra-Curricular Clubs Timetable Spring 2 2024/2025 | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Day | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Before School | Invasion Games – Mr Mellons (Small Hall – Year 3 and 4) | Rugby Minis (Small Hall - Year 2, 3 and 4) | Dance (Small Hall - Year 4, 5 and 6) | Taekwondo (Small Hall – Year 2 and 3) | Fencing (Small Hall – Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) Girls Cricket – Mr Mellons (Main Yard – Year 5 and 6) |
| Lunchtime | | Knitting (Year 5 and 6) | Choir (Year 5 and 6) | Choir (Year 3 and 4) Chess (Year 5 and 6) | Band (Year 6) |
| After School | Rugby Minis (Small Hall - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) Indian Music Club (Year 1-6) | Ukulele Club (Year 4, 5 and 6) Invasion Games – Mr Mellons (Main Yard – Year 5 and 6) Chimney Sweep Interactive Storytelling (Reception and Year 1) Shakespeare Rehearsals – Mrs Nelson and Miss Donnelly (Small Hall – Year 6) Running Club – Mr Mills and Miss Dixon (Years 4 and 5) | Football – Andy Cartwright (Main Yard – Year 5 and 6) Cricket – Mr Mellons (Small Hall – Years 1 and 2) Art Club (Year 2) | Taekwondo (Small Hall – Year 4, 5 and 6) Netball – Mr Mellons and Miss Dixon (Main Yard – Year 5 and 6) Fun Little Foodies (Reception) | Irish Dancing (Small Hall – Year 1-6) Art Club (Year 4) Djembe Drumming (Year 5 and 6) |

Monumental Homework!

We thought you would like to see this fantastic model of Stonehenge created by one of our talented Year 3 children – and she knew so much about it! How did they move some of the stones all the way from Wales?



Half Term Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is eligible for free School Meals you will once again be receiving vouchers this holiday. Please contact the office if you are have any difficulties accessing them.

Opportunities for Our Children.

Look for half term craft fun in the Jesmond library and a rugby opportunity for our Year 6 children;



Have a lovely half term break everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

First Week After Half Term

3rd -7th March West Jesmond Careers Week 2025

- ❖ Monday 3rd March Back to school
- ❖ Tuesday 5th March (before school) Yoga on the Yard (All families welcome)
- ❖ Thursday 6th March Year 4 Trip to the Magic Flute at the Theatre Royal
World Book Day Friends' Storytelling Evening
- ❖ Friday 21st February Cake Stall 3EN

Further Ahead

- ❖ Tuesday 11th March Year 6 Oak Planting Jesmond Dene
Year 3 Roman Workshops
- ❖ Weds 12th & Thursday 13th March 4TC Parent Consultations
- ❖ Wednesday 12th March Year 4 Parents English Workshop
- ❖ Thursday 13th March Northern Stage Shakespeare Performance
OLT Inclusion Coffee Morning (Ravenswood)
- ❖ Tuesday 18th & Thursday 20th March Parent Consultations
- ❖ Friday 11th April End of Spring Term