



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 9 Summer Term 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

NEU Possible Strike Days 5th and 7th July

I am sure you will be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) have called for two more days of industrial action in July on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July. A large number of our staff are members of the NEU and, as previously, a number of classes in school will be affected. Several other education unions are also balloting over possible strike action, however the results of these votes have not yet been announced. We will be able to tell you the details of which classes and children are affected at the start of next week. Once again we are very sorry for the disruption for our children and families.

STEM Week 2023

This week the school has been full of the smells of baking breads, the sounds of enthusiastic scientists carrying out investigations and lots of fascinating expert visitors as we engaged in our annual STEM Week. Science, Maths and Technology are important parts of our curriculum throughout the year and for STEM week we make them our key focus for very active experiments and learning. This year, the whole school investigated the question 'Does bread always land butter side down?'. Each year group tested out the idea in different ways, reflecting the skills and knowledge expected for their year group. Thank you very much to Mincoffs for all their support over the week.

In **Reception** each class decided what they would need to carry out the investigation. The children worked out how high to test from and predicted if the bread would land butter side down or up. They have been busy testing with very interesting results!



Year 3 were lucky to welcome in Dr Matteo Sommacal, a Mathematician from Northumbria University, to talk to them about what it means to be a Mathematician. He spoke to Year 3 about the importance of questioning as part of problem solving and spent time challenging our hypothesis skills with a session about "Strips, bands and loops: A story with many half-twists"

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Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Year 1 learned about all things bread related! The children weighed different types of bread, put the results in a bar chart and used results tables and bar charts to help them reflect on and compare the results. They also enjoyed meeting Hannah Evans, the founder of Cake Stories. We loved learning about the yummy treats that Cake Stories make and how they use bright packaging to grab customers' attention!



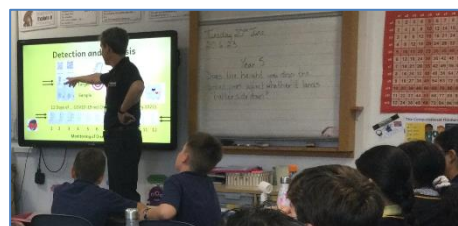
Year 5 really enjoyed Dr Demuth's Science visit for STEM week. He told them science wasn't just in a lab and told us more about COVID 19 and what the word stands for.

CO - corona

VI - virus

D - disease

He told us to follow our dreams and that he had followed his, and even though he had had a few bumps along the way, he never gave up!



Year 4 carefully planned our investigations and looked at the ingredients of white and brown bread. They then carried out fair tests to answer our STEM week big question; 'Do white and brown loaves affect if it lands butter side down?' They found very different results across all the groups, which prompted some interesting discussions before they drew the final conclusions. Year 4 also filled the school with the smells of freshly baked pizzas as they experimented with different bases and toppings!



Year 6 have been busy baking sweet baps, experimenting with fillings like lemon curd, jam and honey and flavours like cinnamon and nutmeg to create different combinations. They were delicious! All that is left is to leave a review on the JesmondEats app...

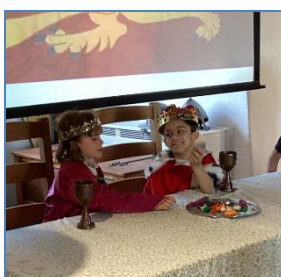


Thank you everyone who bought STEM pocket money items to help support our STEM week activities. Our STEM week creator Mr Jones looks very pleased with this very successful week of experimenting, developing skills and proving we are a school full of scientists, mathematicians and designers, cooks and makers! Thank you to all the staff, especially Mr Rimmer, Mrs Laidler, Mrs Oades and Miss Sykes, for organising and running the week and to all of our parent visitors.



Year 2 Travel Back in Time

Last week, Year 2 enjoyed an exciting trip to Newcastle Castle, where they had a fantastic tour and learned about the history of the castle and how Newcastle got its name. They also took part in a Castles and Courts workshop, learning about the foods and customs of the people living in castles during medieval times. The children took part in a re-enactment of a royal banquet, making food (using Play-Doh) for the king and queen. They also learnt and performed a song and a dance.



Cricket Finals!

Well done to two of our cricket teams who were successful at the city championships and are now moving forward to the County Finals in two weeks' time!

Free Work Book

We have a number of free children's workbooks in school that we have not had to pay for, but are not used in any of our classes. Rather than have them sitting in a cupboard, we would like to give each child one to take home this Monday.

Have a lovely weekend everyone

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

June

- ❖ Year 4 Parents' Workshop Friday 30th June 2pm
- ❖ Friends' Quiz Night Friday 30th June
- ❖ Year 4 Parents' Workshop Friday 30th June 2pm

July

- ❖ Cricket Finals Monday 3rd July
- ❖ Possible Strike Day NEU teachers Wednesday 5th July
- ❖ Year 5 Parents' Workshop Wednesday 5th July 2pm (to be re arranged)
- ❖ Choir at Newcastle Sings Thursday 6th July
- ❖ Reception Trip to St Mary's Lighthouse Thursday 6th July
- ❖ West Jesmond Green Day Friday 7th July (to be re arranged)
- ❖ Possible Strike Day NEU teachers Friday 7th July
- ❖ Years 1, 2 and 3 Sports Day Monday 10th July (9.30 – 11.30am)
- ❖ Years 4, 6 and 6 Sports Day Monday 10th July (1.30 – 3.00pm)
- ❖ Reception Sports Day Thursday 13th July (9.15am – 11am)
- ❖ Year 6 Graduation Wednesday 19th July 5pm
- ❖ End of Term Friday 21st July