



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter End of Summer Term 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This is our final newsletter of 2023 and gives us the chance to reflect on the past year at West Jesmond Primary and to thank everyone for all they have done to make this a happy and successful year for our school.

Thank you to our West Jesmond Children

What a privilege it has been over this year to work every day with so many enthusiastic, inquisitive and energetic young people. Once again, our children have inspired and encouraged us all and the The West Jesmond Way has shone out through them. They have embraced all of our activities and we are already excitedly planning further curriculum improvements for the year ahead.

Once again results from national tests, including the Key Stage 2 SATs, are extremely strong and suggest our children are attaining well above national averages. At the end of Year 6, over 46% of West Jesmond Children reached the Greater Depth level in reading as well as an incredible 60% in Maths! However, we are especially pleased with the very high levels of progress children have demonstrated from their own individual starting points and, what matters most for all of us are the individual achievements of each child big or small. For some children stepping into school is a huge achievement, others have conquered fears at residential, stepped on to stages, stood up in front of their classes, formed their first letters and made new friends. We celebrate the determination of every child who has found an area of learning or school life challenging and has showed resilience to keep trying, to push themselves and make progress in the area that is important to them!

Many of our children have given even more to our school over the year. We are especially grateful to our School Council, Eco Team, Digital Leaders, Sports Leaders, Team Leaders and every child who has stepped into positions of responsibility to help other children and our school. Here are our fantastic Digital Leaders who have been working hard to support Computing in school. They have been responsible for maintaining equipment, testing sites, supporting other children in class and producing digital content for use across the school.



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Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Thank you to all of you at home and to all the West Jesmond Family

Thank you at end of another school year to all of our families and carers for the support you have given to your school. Our achievements are all rooted in our partnership with you and we are always grateful for the time and energy you give to attend our events, trips and workshops, the encouragement you give to our teachers and support staff and above all the support you give to all of our children.

I know that all of you will join me in extending special thanks to the **Friends of West Jesmond** for another year of fund raising and events. We are hugely appreciative of the time and effort the Friends give to our school setting up fairs, organising quizzes and throughout the year selling cakes on a Friday evening. The large amounts of money you give through them does so much to improve school provision for every child.

We are also very grateful to our **Year 6 Fundraisers** who worked so tirelessly to give the children a fantastic end of school party. As well as raising money for the event, they have also kindly donated a large amount to the school. Thank you to all the Y6 parents who helped and to the whole school for supporting all the fundraising efforts. Also, thank you to all the Y6 children - without them, none of this would have happened!



Governors

Your governing body has worked tirelessly this year challenging and supporting us and ensuring the school strives to continuously improve in all we do for the children. We are extremely grateful for the time, experience and expertise they have so generously provided and that contributes so much to the success of West Jesmond Primary.

Newcastle Achievement Awards

We are extremely proud that two of our children were given awards at the prestigious Newcastle Achievement Awards this month. At a packed out Civic Centre Banqueting Hall, they stepped on stage to loud applause to receive their award from the Director of Children, Education and Skills, Cath McEvoy-Carr.



Proud Goodbyes!

This is always a sad time of year at school, as we have to say goodbye to a number of people who are very special to the West Jesmond Family.

Year 6 2023

We would like to say thank you to all of our wonderful Year 6 children for everything they have brought to our school. You have all been West Jesmond Stars! We have watched them grow and develop in so many ways over the last seven years and they leave with our pride, gratitude and very best wishes for the future. We look forward to meeting them in the years ahead and finding out about all the exciting things they achieve.



We are also saying goodbye to a number of other children and families this term and we would like to extend our very best wishes to them all. We hope that all children and families leaving us this summer will always look back on their time here with great fondness and many very happy memories and that they will take a small piece of West Jesmond Primary School with them in to the future.

Staff Goodbyes

There are a number of important staff members of our West Jesmond Family who are leaving us this summer.



Glen Hopkins will be leaving West Jesmond after a very successful 8 years. We are very proud that he is the latest West Jesmond teacher to be moving onto a leadership position in another school as he starts a new job as an Assistant Headteacher. Glen has been an our Art Leader and outstanding member of our teaching team and richly deserves this promotion.



Ania Stevens has also been a fantastic member of staff over a large number of years. She is leaving us to start an exciting new career in the police from this summer. Ania has been an invaluable part of our Reception team and we will greatly miss her energy, enthusiasm and the huge amount of care she gives to our youngest children.



Mellissa Wright has been a great part of our admin and learning support teams and is moving to take up a new role working with the NHS. Melissa is an incredibly passionate and dedicated member of staff and we know she will bring her many strengths and qualities into her new career.



Amber York and Rebecca Wise are going to be starting their training to become teachers. We look forward to hearing from them as they move into the teaching profession. We are very pleased that Amber will be carrying out one of her placements at our school next year. We know both will make outstanding teachers.



Alex Moore and Jo Woodcock are leaving our Out of School Club. Alex is taking the next step in his career to become a full time Learning Support Assistant in a local School and Jo is moving to develop her career in other areas.

Although we are very sad to say goodbye to each one of our staff members, we are very privileged to have been a part of their growth and development and very proud that each is moving onto exciting new opportunities.

New Members of the West Jesmond Family

We are very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to our West Jesmond Family.

Emily McDermott, Jenny Finck, Kitty McKay and Ryan Mills are joining our LSA (Learning Support Assistant) team in September and I know you will make them very welcome.

Our most important great big final thank you goes again to those who make this school the special place it is... to all the fantastic children of West Jesmond Primary School. It has been a real privilege to work and learn alongside you all. Well done for all your hard work this year, have a great summer full of sunshine and smiles!



Matt Ward (Headteacher)

