



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 8 Autumn Term 2023



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

The sunny days of early September seem a long way off as we approach a well-deserved half term holiday for all of our children, families and staff. We have spent some time over the last few weeks reflecting on children’s books and all of their learning since the start of the school year and feel very proud of the effort they have given and the progress they are making. I hope all of our children and families are able to spend some enjoyable and relaxing time together next week.

Local Study Week 2023: Jesmond Dene

West Jesmond children have thrown themselves in to our Local study Week with enormous enthusiasm, even on the rather wet walks down to the Dene. The Big Questions have provoked interesting investigations and discussions from Reception to Year 6 and today we held a special whole school assembly to share our findings. Here are a few snapshots of the week so far from different year groups, and we will share lots more details in the newsletter after half term. We would all like to offer huge thanks to our parents and grandparents who came with us on the visits, to all of you at home who supported our homework’s and to the Jesmond Dene volunteers who guided us on our visits.



Year 5 and 6 Halloween Disco

Thank You Friends of West Jesmond for putting on a great disco for our Upper Key Stage 2 children on Thursday night. There were lots of great costumes, spooky games and impressive dance moves!

On the Halloween theme, we thought we would share with you the Giant West Jesmond pumpkin grown from a seed on our school allotment. Good luck to any children guessing the weight!



Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Eco- Committee Challenge: Cut Your Carbon

Our Eco –Committee led by Miss Askew have made a strong start to the year and as November draws near, they are challenging us all to 'Cut Your Carbon'! 'Cut Your Carbon' is a month-long carbon-cutting challenge. Taking place throughout November 2023, the campaign challenges you and your families to complete nine simple actions that will reduce your carbon footprint. Will you help us?

From donating one item you no longer need to going meat free for a day - you can help us in our quest to cut carbon! How many of the nine actions will you tick off the checklist? Look out for the checklist and more information at the end of this newsletter.



Attendance: A Great Start to the Year: Whole School 96.6%

Next half term we will be talking to you about our updated attendance policy. As you have seen in the media nationally and locally, there are concerns about levels of attendance of some children in schools. Both the Government and the Newcastle Local Authority are challenging schools to do all they can to increase attendance. At West Jesmond, our school target is for 97% + attendance. Over the last few years, we have been below that figure and a number of children have been below 90%, which the government class as persistent absentees.

We know there are sometimes reasons why a child cannot be in school and try to talk with you to understand these. However, we want to work with parents to support the highest levels of attendance and to overcome barriers preventing children coming to school. Please speak with any of us and with our **Parent Support Officer Emma Clark** if you have problems getting your child to school every day and on time.

Requests for holidays and Absence from School

There are 13 weeks of school holiday each year and we ask parents to only book holidays during this time. Please remember we cannot authorise holidays and will not authorise requests for children to be away from school for extended periods to travel to see family.

Cat and Dog Shelter Art Competition

There is still time for your child to enter the Newcastle Dog & Cat Shelter 'Draw on the Door' art competition! It is a perfect opportunity for them to get creative over the half term holiday and use their imaginative art skills to draw or paint a design, which could end up being printed on the back doors of the shelter's brand-new van. The deadline is Tuesday 7th November and the design must be on A4 landscape paper. We are looking forward to seeing their creative masterpieces after the half term! Good luck and happy designing!

Important Year 6 Admissions: Deadline to apply for Secondary School 31st October

Year 6 parents please make sure you have submitted your application for secondary schools by Tuesday next week. [Applying for Transfer places | Newcastle City Council](#)

Have a lovely half term everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

- ❖ **Monday 6th November** **School Closed for Staff Training**
- ❖ **Tuesday 7th November**
Back to school
Year 4 Apple Juicing with allotment volunteers
School Council visit to Fleming Court
- ❖ **Wednesday 8th November** **Reception Magic Show**
- ❖ **Friday 10th October**
Lockerbie Kit Swap
Cake Stall 4TC

- ❖ **Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th November Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm**
(Some appointments on Wednesday for 6R, 5HS and 3TE)

- ❖ **Monday 13th – 15th** **Year 5 Classes visit Discovery Museum**

- ❖ **Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th November Year 6 Lockerbie Residential**

- ❖ **Friday 8th December 5-7pm** **Christmas Fair**

- ❖ **Tuesday 12th & Weds 13th December Reception Christmas Shows (9.15am)**
- ❖ **Thursday 14th December** **Year 2 Christmas Show 9.15am & 2.15pm)**
- ❖ **Friday 15th December** **Year 1 Christmas Songs and Crafts 2pm**
- ❖ **Friday 22nd December** **End of Term**

- ❖ **Monday 8th January** **Start of the Spring Term**