



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 6 Spring Term 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week in school with a wide range of events taking place and some great achievements by our children to celebrate in and out of school. It is very encouraging to see how we are able to welcome back more and more visitors and activities as the term progress and to ensure West Jesmond is buzzing with as much activity as possible.

Reception Animal Antics

We had lots of wriggling, squeaking and slithering around in Reception, but don't worry it wasn't the children! As part of our learning about Chinese New Year, we found out about some of the animals in the Chinese zodiac. Our friends at Animal Antics brought in a number of animals for the children to meet and learn about. Sadly we couldn't bring in a tiger!



Sporting Visitor

We enjoyed a very active day on Tuesday when we welcomed Team GB pole vaulter Charlie Myers into school. The children had a great time participating in fitness challenges and supporting each other. The Year 5 and 6 children heard how Charlie was inspired to get into pole vaulting when he was at school and even got to try out the Pole Vault!



On-Line safety week

We have been talking to our children about how to keep safe on-line this week and hopefully they will have been sharing some of their knowledge with you. Thank you to all of the parents who attended the meeting on Wednesday night and I hope you found it as informative and useful as we did.



Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 3AJ

☎ (0191) 2810000 ✉ office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

🌐 www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



Netball Finalists

Well done to both of our netball teams for great performances in the Newcastle School Games competitions last week. We were very proud that one of our teams came out top in their round and is moving forward to the regional finals in a couple of weeks!

Community Champions

We talk to our children about the importance of community in and out of school and the sense of belonging we have alongside our responsibilities. There was a great example of West Jesmond children making a difference in the community this week. Amelie and Josh were upset by the amount of litter they saw on their way home and decided to do something about it. Here they are with their litter pickers improving all of our environment! We are very proud of both of you!



Player of the Week

We were also very proud of Charlie in Year 4 who came to show us his special certificate for being the Player of the Week in his team at Gosforth RFC. It is always lovely to hear from our children about their efforts, achievements out of school.



Our School Our Voice

As you know, one of our big drives this year is to find every way we can to increase our opportunities to hear our children’s ideas and suggestions, concerns or worries. This week we have been involved in several wider consultations allowing them to speak up and be heard. Year 4 and Year 6 children have been responding to the Newcastle Health Related Behaviour Survey. We were also very proud to see our children’s voices being heard in the **Times Education Commission**: West Jesmond were one of the few schools in the country selected to take part in this wide reaching research into schools and learning in 2022.

In 2021 the Leader of Newcastle City Council announced a new strategy to ensure that no child or young person is left behind in Newcastle in the wake of the pandemic. To make sure that they can make Newcastle a great place to grow up, they are creating a ‘**No Child Left Behind**’ Plan which will inform what happens in the city for the next 8 years. On Wednesday 9th February, Rosie Plummer from the Voice and Influence Team within Newcastle City Council’s Children’s Services, came in to meet with School Council to hear what we had to say as the young people of Newcastle, to ensure we have our say in what our future, in our city, looks like.



You feel like you are helping impact change on people’s mental health and the environment’ Maiya Y6S

Scooter and Balance Bike Training

Reception and Year 3 have been working with the cycling and road safety teams from Newcastle Council to develop their skills and safety awareness this week. Year 3 can be seen here learning to Smart Scoot! As the weather becomes warmer and brighter over the next few weeks and months we encourage as many of our children as possible to scoot, cycle and walk to school



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Welcome Back Mrs Edwards

We are very pleased to welcome back Lucy Edwards from her maternity leave next week. Lucy will be working across a number of classes and I know children, parents and staff are all looking forwards to having her back in school.



Tackling Stereotypes

In PSHE lessons our children have been talking about how the views we can hold about people might sometimes lead us to label them or create stereotypes. In responding to these themes in Art and looking at how women have been represented, Emmy considered how the Mona Lisa might be presented in different ways and she gave us this radically different view of her playing for Man City! (Your headteacher thinks the enigmatic smile would be bigger if she was playing for Nottingham Forest!)



Parents Consultations Monday March 14th and Wednesday March 16th

We are planning on holding our Parent Consultations on Monday 14th March (Years 4, 5 and 6) and Wednesday 16th March (Reception, 1, 2 and 3). The meetings this term will be once again on Weduc. We have decided for safety and to ensure that all of our parents feel comfortable with the arrangements we will remain virtual for this meeting. However, we are very keen to get all of our parents and carers in to school as soon as we can and are making plans for a series of opportunities in the summer term when, hopefully, you will be able to come and share your children's learning and achievements with them.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

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