



Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a restful Easter break, I am sure it will have been very different to other school holidays. At this time of year I would usually travel home to Wales to spend time with my family and to help on the farm. Whilst those things have to wait for the moment, I have found lots of pleasure in talking with my family, friends, colleagues and also our West Jesmond families. At the moment we are trying to make contact with all of you. Our aim is to maintain our strong connections and support families in any way we can. I know during the phone calls I have made, we've talked about many things from peeling potatoes, impending transitions to den making. We can also hopefully signpost to different activities or services, as well as support with practical issues such as login details.

During this time it is likely we are all having good days and more challenging days. There are lots of support and advice services on our website, with some really useful tips on how we can make everyday a little more manageable.

During this period of online learning, we are in no way expecting you to cover the same amount or depth of work that children would usually cover in school. My own personal focus with my son has been to create opportunities to talk about how he is feeling, helping him gain an understanding of the world and also doing lots of practical tasks, like watering the plants. If you have any concerns or queries, then please do email hello@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk.

The Secret Garden

This week, work has started on creating the Secret Garden in memory of Mrs Hainsworth. We hope this will be an exciting project that we can open together very soon. We have been posting daily updates on our Facebook page.



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Online Resources



This week we would have been welcoming everyone back for the summer term. We now have new activities for each year group on our website under the "Summer Term 1" tab in the "Activities to complete during the school closure" section.

http://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk/.../summer_term_1.../470228

We know that home learning will be very different for different families. These are just suggestions of activities to help you. We would love you to share what you have been doing via our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

There are also daily live lessons available online.

The BBC launched theirs this week at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

And there are also plenty of ideas from the Oak Academy at:

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

Every Mind Matters



During this time, it's essential to take care of our minds as well as our bodies. There are lots of helpful sites online including: everymindmatters.co.uk. You can access helpful tips to take better care of your mental wellbeing.

Eco Schools at Home

@EcoSchoolsatHome have a challenge for any West Jesmond Wombles:

Take part in their [#THEWOMBLESECOSCHOOL](https://twitter.com/thewomblesecoschool) competition, to be in with a chance to win a visit from Orinoco to our school and £500 to donate to a wildlife charity of our choice!

You can find out more and see more eco home learning tasks here: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/litter-ecoschoolsathome/>

Thank you for sharing so many wonderful photos, ideas and creations on social media. It is really lovely to see them all.

Take care in the week ahead, sending my very best wishes

Rebecca McVittie