

West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 3 Autumn Term 2026

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

In my time as a headteacher I have learned that every day can bring interesting surprises and sudden changes. I have also had lots of different animal encounters over the years including lost parrots, escaped dogs, burrowing foxes and an inquisitive badger family! On Wednesday afternoon, our visitors came from a wasp nest that suddenly appeared on the yard. Thank you everyone for being so understanding of the sudden change of pick-up arrangements!

Year 5 Anglo Saxon Experiences

Year 5 welcomed in experts from Durham Museum to talk to us about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. They brought with them lots of artefacts for us to learn about, try on and explore. This was a great start to one of our favourite history topics!





Local Study Week & Another WJPS Pop Up Museum

During the week before half term, we will be holding our annual Local Study Week. The whole school joins in with a historical or geographical theme linked to our area. This year, we are returning to a hugely important part of the past of the North East – details to be revealed soon! We wanted to give parents advance notice about an event at the end of the Local Study Week. We will, once again, be holding a special exhibition of the children's learning in another of our **WJPS Pop Up Museums**. This will be held from 2pm Friday 25th October until the end of the day in the school hall.

Supporting Great Attendance at WJPS



Thank you everyone for supporting our children to a great start to the year with very high attendance. Last year we reached our best attendance for many years at 96.2%! We are all especially pleased over the last few years with the reduction in the numbers of children judged to be Persistent Absentees – attendance below 90%. **Every day counts in school!** When your child misses days of school it can have a significant effect on learning and on their friendships. **Exceptional Absence:** We cannot authorise any absence for holidays/family visits etc. outside of the 13 weeks of school holiday. The school is only allowed to give Exceptional Absence permissions for a very limited number of cases. We know there are times when a child cannot come into school or is struggling to come to school. We want to work with you and offer support. If you are ever concerned about your child being unwell or struggling, please speak to the school office and one of our Wellbeing Team.

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Reception 2027 Parent and Carer Tours of School.

We are starting our tours for families who are choosing schools for Reception 2027.
If you know any families who have children at a Nursery and are joining Reception in 2027, please tell them to look on the website or contact the school office to book a visit.
https://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk/web/welcome_to_west_jesmond_/519235

Parent Consultations 13th, 14th and 15th October

Information and Weduc sign-up forms for our Parent Consultations will be coming to you next week. Please sign up for a meeting with your child's teacher. If you have any problems with the sign-up process, speak to the school office. If, for any reason, you cannot make the meetings on these days, please speak to the classteacher to arrange a time.

Friends Of West Jesmond

The Friends of West Jesmond play a very significant role in our school and through the money they raise and the experiences they create, they add so much to the enjoyment of every child at West Jesmond. All of our parents and familes are members of the Friends and all their success is down to the energy, creativity and dedication of all of you! Please see the message below about the AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Friends of West Jesmond – AGM | Monday 28th September, 4pm at school

We'd love to see as many parents as possible at our AGM — whether you've been involved with the PTA before or have absolutely no idea what we do! We're keeping the first part really informal, with an open house from 4–4.30pm. Come along, grab a cuppa, meet some of the people involved and find out a bit more about the Friends of West Jesmond and how you could get involved (if you'd like to!).



From 4.30pm, we'll move into the more formal AGM, where we'll:
- Look back at last year's fundraising and see how the money raised benefited our children
- Share the plans and events calendar for the year ahead
- Formally vote in new committee members and confirm role changes

There's absolutely no pressure or expectation to take on a role or commit to anything. We'd simply love more parents to feel connected to what we do, understand where the money goes and have the opportunity to get involved in whatever way works for them — whether that's helping at an event, sharing an idea, volunteering occasionally or just coming along to find out more.
Everyone is welcome, and you're very welcome to just come along for the informal bit too. Hope to see you there!

Cake Stalls

The Friends' Cake Stalls are up and running. Each week, we ask a different class to bring in cakes from home. It would be great if some of the parents from that class help to set up and staff the cake stall in the Undercroft. The stalls raise huge amounts of money for the school and every penny goes towards enhancing the experience of school for your child!
When it is your child's turn please come and join in with the volunteers on the cake stall!



WJPS Sports News



Our year of sports is up and running!
Well done to our Under 11 Boys' football team who narrowly missed out on qualifying for the knockout rounds. They scored some fantastic goals and won 2, drew 1 and lost 2 of their games. Special mention to Hamza for his amazing goalkeeping.
The Girls' Team also played their first game. They narrowly lost 3-2 to the team that won the competition last year. Mr Mellons and Mrs Iliadou were impressed by the talent of our team and look forward to a great year of football ahead!
We also want to congratulate Orlaith in Year 5 who has got through to the Newcastle Girls' Football City squad after a series of trials.

Great North Runners



Congratulations to all the parents and children who ran the various Great North Runs at the weekend. It was lovely to see so many children proudly wearing their medals in school. West Jesmond also had some very talented Year 4 runners who won first and second places in the junior runs! An amazing achievement among so many runners!







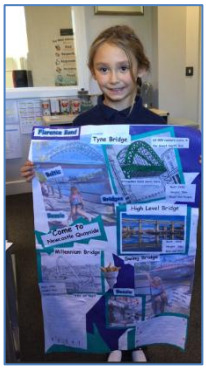


St George's Church Cinema Night

St George's Church are showing the classic silent comedy *Sherlock Jr.*, with live organ accompaniment, at St George's Church, Jesmond on **Saturday 3 October at 4.00pm**. It's a fun event for children and families.

Achievers

This week, we were wowed by two extremely creative, detailed and beautifully presented homework projects about the Quayside! The time, thought and effort to create these presentations, and the knowledge the girls had was so impressive! Well done!







We also want to share pictures of two very proud footballers showing their medals and trophies.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week:

- Tuesday 22nd September — Girls' Football Match
- Weds 23rd – Friday 25th September — Year 6 residential
- Friday 25th September — Cake Stall 5D

Further ahead

- Monday 28th September — Friends of West Jesmond AGM 4.30pm
- Weds 30th September — 2W Trip to Newcastle Quayside
- Thursday 1st October — 2DE Trip to Newcastle Quayside
- Friday 2nd October — Children's Photographs (siblings from 7.45am)
- Wednesday 7th October — Year 5/6 STEMFest
- Thursday 8th October — 2M Trip to Newcastle Quayside
- Friday 9th October — Year 4 Jarrow Hall Trip

- Tuesday 13th Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October* Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm (*Tuesday and Thursday for most classes)

- Week Beginning 19th October — Local Study Week

- Friday 23rd October — Break up for half term
- Monday 2nd November — Back to school
- Friday 18th December — End of Term
- Monday 4th January — Start of the Spring Term