



## The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 15 Autumn Term 2024



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of our children, parents and friends, for all your support and encouragement over the Autumn Term. It has been lovely to see so many of you in school and at our events over the last few weeks. We think all of our children deserve a lovely break and we hope our families get time to enjoy the next two weeks.

For all of our families celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah over the next two weeks, we wish you a very happy time!

### Thank You Mr Jones

We want to start this newsletter with a special goodbye to our deputy headteacher, Mr Jones. This morning at the end of a special assembly Mr Jones travelled down our special West Jesmond Staff Arch and into his exciting future! I know all of our West Jesmond Family will join me in expressing their thanks and best wishes to Mr Jones as he moves to his richly deserved headship at Rockcliffe First School.

For over a century, our school has been created by the children, families and staff who are a part of it. Each member of West Jesmond Primary brings something to the school and leaves a legacy behind for us to build on. Tom's rich legacy will shine out from his time with us. He has been a hugely important part of the West Jesmond Family for the last decade. As an outstanding teacher, Science and Computing Lead, Assistant Head and inspirational Deputy Head, he has done so much to help create the very best school for all of our children.

Tom has taught, worked with and inspired so many of your children and I know from all of your comments he will be greatly missed. There are many, many highlights of Tom's time at West Jesmond that stand out, but behind all of them has been the enormous enthusiasm, humour and creativity he has devoted to school life and his relentless drive to make our school truly special.

We will really miss Tom, but feel very grateful for the time we have had with him at West Jesmond and he will always be a member of our West Jesmond Family.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the inspirational Science teacher Professor Jones, who is also sadly leaving today. We never did get to see him and Mr Jones in the same room did we.....?



**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](mailto:office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk)

🌐 [www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk](http://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk)



## A Special Message From Mr Jones

Dear West Jesmond families,

I can't quite believe I'm writing to you for the last time. In some ways my 11-and-a-term years here seem to have gone in a flash, in others it seems like I've been here a lifetime. West Jesmond has been a huge part of my life and will continue to be. Back in May 2013 I was offered a year-long secondment to West Jesmond - a decision I had to make in less than 48 hours due to teacher notice periods. At that point I had no idea if I would stay beyond the year let alone still be here 10 plus years later having been Assistant Head and Deputy Head along the way. It was a fantastic decision.



I'm always really proud to tell people which school I work at. I have had so many highlights here - including representing the school on a Newcastle delegation visit to China and being awarded Primary Science Teacher of the Year. But the best bits are the many, many memories I have with the children - whether it's the multitude of experiments in STEM Weeks with Professor Jones; watching children perform Shakespeare, Scottish Opera and nativities; covering many miles at Cancer Runs; taking hundreds of soggy sponges to the face in the stocks at school fairs; scooting around the hall as part of the staff act at West Jesmond's Got Talent; eating more than my fair share of delicious food at International Evenings; not sleeping many hours at residential and even falling in the freezing lake at Lockerbie. I could list hundreds more!

I have been really fortunate to work with so many brilliant colleagues past and present. It has been a real pleasure to work with a great team who work so hard to create the fantastic opportunities for the children. I often say West Jesmond is the busiest school in the world but it's because staff are so keen to be involved in things. I'm going to miss them all and feel very lucky to have worked alongside them.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and families too. Your support with everything we do is really appreciated. Over the last term, your very kind comments on the gate and at school events have really meant a lot.

Finally it's a huge thank you and goodbye to the children of West Jesmond. You never cease to amaze me and you all make me smile every day. I'm going to miss your cheery hellos and little stories and facts you tell me each week. I've learnt to never be surprised by what you come to the office to share with me - all I know is it will be amazing. I know you will all go on to do incredible things in the future and I would love to know what it is.

So it's goodbye for now but I'm sure I will see you in the future,

Tom Jones

### Whole School singing at the end of term.

We continued with our West Jesmond end of term tradition today. The whole school gathered on the yard to sing songs and to wish each other happy festive holidays! As always, we finished with a rousing rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas!

### Winter Songs

Thank you to all our families who joined in with our Key Stage 2 Winter Songs. Our children lifted their voices and warmed us all with their singing. We are very grateful to Mrs Anderson and all the Key Stage 2 staff for working on the songs with the children.

We were also warmed by the refreshments provided by the Friends of West Jesmond – thank you!



### Christmas Meals

Once again, this term our fantastic kitchen staff have served thousands of meals to our children. Over the last week they have been working especially hard when producing hundreds of Christmas dinners! A huge thank you from all of us to the incredibly hard working team!



### Choir singing in our community

Thank you to Mrs Anderson and the school choir who have given so much to us all over the last few weeks. They have been extremely busy entertaining the public, parents and children in and out of school. For the final gig of the term, they went to entertain the residents of Fleming Court on Thursday. The children sang Christmas Songs and then the School Council gave out gifts as part of the Be A Santa campaign and wished our friends at Fleming Court a very Happy Christmas!



Have a lovely holiday everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)



## Dates for Your Diary



### First Week Back 2025:

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ❖ Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January    | Start of the Spring Term 2025         |
| ❖ Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January | Year 4TC Wassailing Community Orchard |
| ❖ Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January   | Cake Stall 1A                         |

### Further Ahead

#### *SEN Reviews for children across January*

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January    | 5S Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens<br>4TC/BC River Tyne Fieldwork Visit |
| ❖ Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January   | 5TG Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens<br>4DO River Tyne Fieldwork Visit   |
| ❖ Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January | Parent Online Safety Workshop (9am)  |
| ❖ Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January  | 5F Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens                                      |