



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 3 Autumn Term 2024



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Our Jacqui!

We start the newsletter with the sad news that our Wellbeing and Extended schools Lead, **Jacqui Nicholson**, will be leaving us after half term. Jacqui is moving on to some very exciting plans – here and overseas! For many years, Jacqui has been a hugely important part of the West Jesmond Family and, from her base in The Nest, she has provided incredible support for so many children and families. Jacqui has also been the driving force in establishing, growing and running our Out of School Club that so many of our children have attended. We look forward to talking a lot more about Jacqui before the end of the half term and we will celebrate all she has given to West Jesmond Primary.



We are very pleased that **Rachael Spanner**, who has worked closely with Jacqui, will be taking over the lead role in supporting the Wellbeing of our children and providing the check-ins, supportive conversations and interventions that Jacqui has developed so well in our school. Rachael will also be taking the lead in our Out of School Club alongside our Deputy Leaders, **Deborah Mallone** and **Allison Quant**.

As a part of our growing and developing well-being team, we are also increasing our in-school counselling. **Vanessa Corker**, a fully trained School Counsellor will be working with our children in school offering a therapeutic counselling service. Look out for further details on how she can support your child.



Triathlon Triumphs!

We are very proud of the sporting achievement of one of our Year 4 stars who took part in the Ability Triathlon in Hexham last Sunday.

The event included a 100m swim with a woggle, cycling round a track on an adaptive bike and racing around the athletics track – phew! We were so proud to hear about her efforts and to see the special medal that she was presented with by Danny Adams from CBeebies! Well Done!



Headteacher: **Matt Ward**

Deputy Headteacher: **Tom Jones**

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Great Event West Jesmond Families! One World One Family Indian Festival

This week, Years 4, 5 and 6 had a special assembly led by some of our parents about a very exciting festival taking place at the Glasshouse (previously the Sage) on October 13th. The festival will feature our children who are part of the Indian Music Club alongside a very exciting programme of dance, drama, music and song. There will also be stalls with food, Henna, jewellery and more! Tickets are only £1! We hope lots of our West Jesmond children and parents will come and join us for this fantastic event.



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, attendance levels rose again to a very encouraging 96%+. We were all especially pleased with large reduction in the numbers of children judged to be Persistent Absentees – attendance below 90%.

You may well have seen in the news the changes to government approaches towards school attendance. This summer new guidance was provided for schools and parents, including about Fixed Penalty Notices. The guidance for parents from Newcastle Local Authority is attached with this Newsletter.

Exceptional Absence: When reading the guidance, please note that we cannot authorise any absence for holidays/family visits etc. The school are now only allowed to give Exceptional Absence permissions for a very limited number of cases and only usually for short periods of time. 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 to come to school please speak to the school office and one of our Wellbeing Team.



Reception Reading and Phonics Meeting Monday 23rd September

We hope lots of our Reception Parents are able to attend the important meeting about supporting our children in the first steps in their reading. If you are unable to attend please speak to the class teachers or Mrs Thompson who will be able to talk with you about the key messages and share materials.

Well Done Football Team

Well done to our Year 5/6 football team for a great effort in their first games of the season. The U11 team competed in the English Schools Cup qualifiers on Tuesday evening. They battled hard and came third in their group, scoring in every match whilst winning one and losing two. We are looking forward to see how they progress in the league and the other cup competitions coming up soon.



Jesmond Park Academy Open Evening: Wednesday 2nd October 5 – 7.30pm

Year 6 parents will have received information about the Jesmond Park Academy Open evening in two weeks' time. This is a great chance to have a look at the school, meet some of our past pupils who will tell you about their experiences and meet the Principal, Mr Campbell, and key staff.

Year 7 Open Evening

Wednesday 2nd October

5:00pm to 7:30pm

Exciting New Novel By Our West Jesmond Author!

Our very own school author, Miss Bellwood is very excited to announce that her first full-length children's novel has now been published! Called **WRENS: Answering the Call**, it follows the adventures of four intrepid young women who joined the WRENS (Women's Royal Naval Service) and worked as motorcycle dispatch riders on the front line in France. It's the first in the series of four books and available now on the publisher's website (mogzillabooks.shop) or on Amazon from next month. Miss Bellwood also has a limited number of copies to buy for the discounted price of £8!

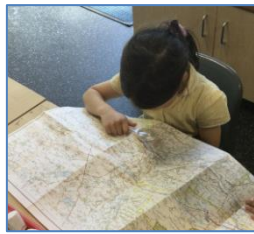


Reminder: Children's School Photographs - Sibling Photographs

The Tempest photographers will be coming in to school on Friday 27th September, to take the individual school photos. This will be during the school day. For Sibling Photos, **please come to the school office, between 8:00 and 8:50**, and you will be invited into the music room. You will need to supervise your children at all times and then take them to their classroom door/drop off area for normal drop off time.

Year 1 Geographers in Action

This week in Geography, Year 1 have been exploring maps and their keys. The children were excited to use the symbols to find things like airports, train stations, carparks and information centres.



News From the Friends of West Jesmond

All of our parents and carers are a part of our Friends of West Jesmond. The Friends raise thousands of pounds to support the school and provide great experiences for children and families.

On Friday 4th October they will be holding the **Annual General Meeting** and all parents are welcome.

In the dates for your diary section you will see the dates for Friends Cake Stalls for this half term.



Please also look out for information about the ASDA Rewards Cashpot scheme.

A colorful poster for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of West Jesmond Primary School. At the top left is a circular logo with cartoon faces of children and the text 'Friends of West Jesmond Primary School'. To the right, the text 'AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING' is written in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'STAY INFORMED- GET INVOLVED'. The date 'FRIDAY 4TH OCT 24' is prominently displayed in purple. The time and location '9:15 AM SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM' are listed in purple. A pink box contains the text 'FIND OUT HOW OUR PTA WORKS, HOW TO GET INVOLVED AND HOW THE FUNDS BENEFIT OUR CHILDREN'. At the bottom, it says 'EVERYONE IS WELCOME' in green.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week:

- ❖ Monday 23rd September Reception Parents Phonics/Reading Workshop
- ❖ Tuesday 24th September Year 5/6 Girls Football Tournament
- ❖ Friday 27th September Children's Photographs
Cake Stall 4TC

Further ahead

- ❖ Tuesday 1st October Reception Parents Meet The Team Coffee Morning 9am
- ❖ Wednesday 2nd October Archaeologist Visiting Year 4
- ❖ Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th October Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm

- ❖ **Week Beginning 21st October** Local Study Week
- ❖ Friday 25th October Break up for half term
- ❖ Monday 4th November School Closed for Staff Training
- ❖ Tuesday 5th November Back to school
- ❖ 20th – 22nd November Year 6 Lockerbie Residential Visit
- ❖ Friday 29th December Friends Christmas Fair (from 3.15pm)
- ❖ Friday 20th December End of Term
- ❖ Monday 6th January Start of the Spring Term