



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 8 Autumn Term 2025



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of our children for their efforts over this first half term and thank you to our families for all of your support and a great start to the year.

Local Study Week 2025: Coal Mining in the North East!

This week we have digging deep into the history of coal mining in our region. The children have been exploring a different Big Question in each year group.

What is under the ground? Who went down the mines? What was a miner's day like?
What did miners and their families do in their spare time? How did mining help the North East develop?
Was it safe to work in the pits? Was it right to shut the pits?

Year 6 were exploring the question - was it right to shut the pits? They had the opportunity to look at some artefacts which helped them to gain a greater insight into what life was like for miners. They also began to look into the Miners' Strike of 1984 and made their own miners' badges. Key Stage 2 also had amazing visit from Robert from Beamish who talked to us about the Felling Mining Disaster and showed us how an explosion could occur.



Year 3 have had a very exciting Local Study Week! They have been exploring what the miners did in their spare time. One hobby we've explored in detail is pigeon racing. We were incredibly lucky to be visited by arguably the world's most famous pigeon, Bob and his owner Mr Todd! Bob accidentally made his way from the North East to Alabama, almost 4,000 miles away. We heard all about his adventures and read his now best-selling books together! How coo-ool is that! Year 3 were also history detectives this week and handled some coal mining artefacts, creating careful, detailed drawings, using inference skills to think about what objects were used for and writing our own museum labels.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-62362307>



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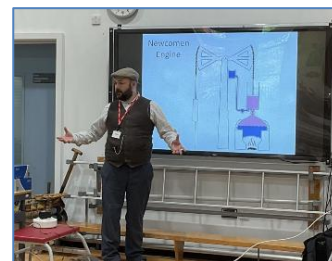
🌐 www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



Year 2 also had a visitor from Beamish Museum who spoke to us about the different jobs in the coal mines. We even found out that children worked in the mines! We had lots of fun looking at the artefacts and learning what each item was used for.



Year 4 have been finding out about how mining helped develop the North East. They had a special workshop all about the impact of steam engines within the coal industry with live demonstrations!



Across school we have been working with charcoal for our art study. For our subjects, We have taken inspiration from Norman Cornish and from the Pitman Painters!



Thank you to everyone at home who has supported us this week and special thanks to Miss Byatt for organising Local Study 2025!



Year 6 Parents Secondary School applications

It is very important that parents submit their application before the deadline of **31st October 2025**.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places>

If any families would like support completing the application form, the Newcastle Council Admissions team hosts drop-in sessions at the Riverside Community Health on 28th October Tuesday from 9:30am to 11:30am and on Wednesday 29th October from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

Reception Visit To The Library

Last week Reception visited the library! We heard a story, practised stamping books, and picked two stories to bring back to school.



Year 4 Visit to Jarrow Hall

Last Friday, Year 4 visited Jarrow Hall to enrich our historical learning of the Anglo-Saxons. We had a tour of an Anglo-Saxon farm where we learnt about how they would have used all of the animal products to survive. We also visited a real mead hall where we heard the story of Beowulf around a fire. Later on, we took part in a workshop on Anglo-Saxon justice where we took part in a "moot" to decide if someone was guilty or not and then one on religion where we created a pagan burial and read some runes! We had a wonderful time and thanks to the Friends for supporting our trip!



Year 1 Explore Signs of Autumn

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 1 children have become scientists, observing the changes that autumn can bring. On a walk to the community orchard, they collected signs of autumn in egg boxes such as colourful leaves and fallen conkers. Back in class, they wrote down questions they wanted to investigate all to do with autumn.



Year 3 Trip to Tynemouth

The year 3 Geographers embarked upon an exciting fieldwork trip to Tynemouth last week to help us answer our Big Question: On A Tour of the UK, Where would you go and What would you see? We explored OS map symbols, human, physical and coastal features, and the differences between urban and rural areas. We even managed to look round the priory, have a play on the beach and to top off a perfect day we were then treated to a dolphin show! A whole pod playing in the shallows!



Halloween Disco and Pumpkins – Thank You Friends of West Jesmond

This week, we had a rather spooky event in school as Year 5 and 6 and a number of monsters, ghouls and skeletons enjoyed the Halloween Disco! Once again, thank you to our Friends of West Jesmond and all the parent volunteers! A big thank you also to the Friends for the creative and very popular, **pumpkin competition**! We think all the pumpkins are amazing! The School Council judged the competition, and the winners were Abdulaziz (72), Bibi (20) and Lumi (14). Runners Up were Archie (10), Margaux (64) and Finley (2)!



Trading Cards

Over this half term lots of children have been bringing football, Pokémon, and other cards into school. Although we know these cards and exchanges are popular among children, they do also bring a few problems in terms of children who may not have any cards feeling left out, lost cards, children being upset about swaps and quite considerable use of teacher time. Therefore, we have allowed a first half term of cards, but we will be asking children not to bring cards in after half term. The exception will be on a Monday lunchtime. We will hold a **Cards Club** for children in Year 3 and 4 and for children in Years 5 and 6.

Half Term Activities

There are lots of activities for families in Newcastle over the half term. The link below is a useful source of information.

<https://www.informationnow.org.uk/article/childrens-activities/>

Basketball Offer: at the end of this newsletter is an offer for children at our school for reduced price tickets for the Eagles' basketball game next Friday.

Achievements!

This week, we enjoyed hearing about and seeing an incredible ice skating routine and also seeing a very proud gymnast with her certificates and medals! We also wanted to share this great model maker and this fantastic model of the Baltic that is full of moving parts and information! Well done to all of you!



Happy Diwali!

We hope our families who celebrated Diwali this week had a lovely time and that celebrations were not dampened too much by the weather!



Have a lovely half term break everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Further ahead

❖ **Monday 3rd November**

❖ **Tuesday 4th November**

❖ **Wednesday 12th November**

❖ **Friday 14th November**

❖ **Monday 17th - Weds 19th November**

❖ **Weds & Thursday 5th/6th October**

❖ **19th – 21st November**

❖ **Thursday 19th November**

❖ **Friday 28th November**

❖ **Wednesday 3rd December**

❖ **Friday 5th December**

(Non-uniform day for fair donations: Christmas jumpers or accessories welcome)

❖ **Tuesday 9th & Weds 10th December**

❖ **Thursday 11th December**

❖ **Friday 12th December**

❖ **Wednesday 17th December 2.30pm**

❖ **Thursday 18th December 2.30pm**

❖ **Friday 19th December**

❖ **Monday 5th January**

School Closed for Staff Training

Back to school

School Council to People's Kitchen

Friends Coffee Morning and Uniform Sale

Year 3 Rising Sun Trip

Year 4 Bikeability

Year 3 to Great North Museum

Year 6 visits to SafetyWorks

Year 6 Lockerbie Residential Visit

Choir at Newcastle Cathedral

2WD & 2V Discovery Museum

2W Discovery Museum

Friends Xmas Fair (From 3.30pm)

Reception Christmas Shows (9.15am)

Year 2 Christmas Shows 9.15am & 2.15pm

Year 1 Song and Crafts (2pm)

Year 5 & 6 Winter Songs (School Yard)

Year 3 & 4 Winter Songs (School Yard)



End of Term

Start of the Spring Term 2026



 easyfundraising

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A Simple, Effective Way to Support Our School

If you haven't already, **please sign up** to EasyFundraising, a free initiative that raises money for the school whilst you make your everyday online shopping purchases. All you have to do is download the app, connect with the school, and remember to click through to your retailer from the platform before you do your shopping.

Every little bit helps—thank you for your support!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/westjesmondschool>

OFFER FOR YOUR SCHOOL

WATCH **EAGLES** BASKETBALL

VS **BRISTOL FLYERS** 

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 7:30PM

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subject to availability. See the box office for more details.