



Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Home-Schooling Arrangements

As many parents will be aware we were initially given very little notice of the enforced closure of schools back in March (2 days actually).

In the interim period of lock-down we have put together a range of resources for children to work through online via the school website with a special section for each year group.

I can assure parents that all staff that are not ill, including those having to shield at home for a minimum of 12 weeks, have been working very hard to try and keep education, support and contact with families going as best we can under these very difficult circumstances. This includes running the emergency child care for key workers.

I have become aware that there is considerable anxiety on 'WhatsApp groups' amongst the Year 5 parents about further educational support to help prepare children for entrance exams to our local independent schools and preparation for Year 6 and possible SATs in September.

We are currently working with the LA, Trade Unions and a specialist governor group on the logistics of what might happen should schools be allowed to return from June if the medical data allows it; though following information released today this is beginning to look more and more unlikely, especially within this region.

Should we be unable to open in the Summer Term we will look again at our online provision and see what we might be able to offer. At this stage, I cannot offer any other support due to staffing capacity. Parents should also be aware that the government guidance makes it very clear that if we are able to open, all staff will be needed to physically support any year groups returning and any online provision will only be dealt with by staff unable to be on site.

Government Announcement

After the government announcement on Sunday, I wrote to you all, below is a link to this letter in case you have not read this. We will update everyone further as plans and discussions progress next week.

http://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk/website/letter_from_mr_wallis_clarke/482450

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Art Competition

The Jesmond Health Partnership are launching a design competition for those budding young artists in school! Have a look on our website, where there are 3 design templates to download.

The winning designs have the chance to win book vouchers for the school! The closing date for entries is 22nd of May. You can post your entries to the school office or email in your designs. Please click on the following link for more information: <https://cutt.ly/wymEpYk>



West Jesmond Rainbow

Our beautiful West Jesmond rainbow is growing each day. Thank you for all of your fabulous hand prints- each one is unique! Please keep creating and sending them in!

With my very best wishes for the week ahead,

G Wallis-Clarke