



## West Jesmond Assemblies

### Through our assemblies we:

- come together and celebrate our school community
- develop our children's characters through Our **West Jesmond Way and Fantastic Five**
- celebrate the diversity of our school and what makes us the same and different
- share in the events and stories that unite our communities
- sensitively introduce, discuss and reflect on important issues in our society

### How do our assemblies contribute to the development of our children and of our school?

We call ourselves the West Jesmond Family. When we come together in our assemblies it is our chance to explore what this sense of community means, to celebrate our successes and to create a strong sense of belonging. Our assemblies form one part of our **West Jesmond Personal Development Curriculum**.

### They help to develop our children Spiritually, Morally, Socially and Culturally.

#### **Spiritual development: West Jesmond Assemblies allow our children to**

- be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- have Knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values
- develop a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them

#### **Moral development: West Jesmond Assemblies help our children to**

- recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives
- understand of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- explore and share moral and ethical issues and learn to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues

#### **Social development:**

- participate in local and national events including charities and community causes
- Learn about and engage with shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Learn about how to keep healthy and safe

#### **Cultural development:**

- Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures in the school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- Ability to recognise, and value, the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

### How do we ensure our assemblies contribute to these areas of development?

**BIG QUESTIONS:** We have a carefully planned assembly schedule across the year that repeatedly return to key themes as well as responding to local and national events and the interests of our children. Each week there is one shared question that we all share in our assemblies. These Big Questions reflect the questions we use throughout our Curriculum. Teachers adapt the responses to the questions according to the age of the children.

### What will we see in a West Jesmond assembly?

- **The Big Question on display each week!**
- Music or video as the children enter and leave the school. Often introducing them to new music or musicians
- Children actively involved in discussion, reflection and the planning and presentation
- Children being encouraged to retrieve knowledge and ideas and to retrieve learning
- Visitors from our community talking to our children
- Stories and songs & celebration of school even

## Spring 2022 Big Assembly Questions



Week	Theme(s)	Question (s)
Week 1	New Year, New Beginnings (Growth Mind-set)	<b>What changes do I want to make? (WJPS Fantastic Five)</b>
Week 2	Respect/ Democracy	<b>How do we do make sure that we listen to everyone's opinions and ideas in our school?</b>
Week 3	Martin Luther King Day Fairness; injustice and equality	<b>How do we make sure everyone is treated fairly?</b>
Week 4	Community Climate Change/Saving the environment	<b>What can I do to help be a West Jesmond Eco champion?</b>
Week 5	Chinese New Year	<b>How is Chinese New Year celebrated in Newcastle? How do children in our school celebrate Chinese New Year?</b>
Week 6	Children's Mental Health Week	<b>How they have you grown, and how can you help others to grow?</b>
Week 7	Our West Jesmond Characteristics	<b>How do the Fantastic Five make us better learners? (Responsibility and choices)</b>
Week 8	Books and stories from around the world (World Book Day)	<b>Where in the world can a story take us?</b>
Week 9	International Women's Day (+ Votes for women)	<b>How do we make sure everyone is treated fairly?</b>
Week 9	Comic Relief Red Nose Day (Empathy and solidarity with others)	<b>Why is it important to think of others? What difference can we make?</b>
Week 10	Friendship	<b>What does it mean to be a good friend?</b>
Week 11	Ramadan	<b>Why is Ramadan important for members of our West Jesmond Family?</b>
Week 12	Easter	<b>Why is Easter important for members of our West Jesmond Family?</b>