



SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

A NEW HEAD TEACHER HAS BEEN APPOINTED

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of West Jesmond,

As you know I had decided to end my time as Head teacher at West Jesmond back in January with the aim of leaving this term and to coincide with my 50th birthday next week. As ever, life can take some very sudden twists and turns as this year has certainly proved.

I am delighted to inform you that the Governing Body were able to appoint a new head teacher for our school last week and I have the great pleasure of informing you that the successful applicant was

Mr Matthew Ward
(Currently Head Teacher of Grange First School, Gosforth)

I have worked alongside Matt for many years on the Newcastle Promise Board and I know he will be a superb head teacher for our school and will certainly continue the successful journey we have been on during my ten years as the leader of this remarkable institution.

Mr Ward will start officially as head teacher at midnight on January 1st 2021 as the New Year breaks, which seems very apt.

Until then, I will remain as head teacher and ensure we all get back to school as smoothly as possible in September. I will be sending another special newsletter with full details of our re-opening plans later this week.

We are planning to meet up to ensure we have a detailed hand over and that he gets to know the school before starting in the Spring Term.

I wanted to let you know the decision made by the governors as soon as I possibly could and have also included a letter to you all from Ms Jane Edminson the Chair of Governors.

Executive Head Teacher: Gary Wallis-Clarke MA in Education BA (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Head Teacher: Rebecca McVittie MSc, BSc (Hons) PGCE

West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,

Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AJ

T: (0191)2810000 E: office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

W: www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



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Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all I would like to say thank you.

Thank you to all our families who have worked with us during these strange times and helped keep us together as a community. Thank you to the staff – leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, site and catering staff – who have gone above and beyond to keep the school open, keep education going and keep everyone safe. And thank you to my fellow governors who have continued to do their job of supporting the school.

On Thursday and Friday last week, a group of governors were finally able to interview for a new Headteacher. We have appointed Matthew Ward.

Matt is currently Headteacher at Grange First in Gosforth.

He is a long-serving Headteacher and has wide experience working in schools in this city. He is excited to join us and says he feels very honoured to have been offered the position. Matt will be joining us in January. As you know, Mr Wallis-Clarke offered to stay with us and support us in the autumn term, for which we are very grateful.

Best wishes and hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Jane Edminson

Chair of Governors