



## Weekly Newsletter: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're coming to the end of another great week at West Jesmond. This week I've had more opportunities to visit classrooms and each time I've come away really impressed with the learning taking place and the enthusiasm of the children. Having also been back in the classroom teaching Year 4 and Year 2 myself this week, it is a different way of teaching, but it is lovely to see the creative ways all the staff are making to continue to deliver an exciting curriculum. We had great fun in Year 4 creating life size models of our digestive system out on the yard. They couldn't believe how long their intestines actually are!

This week I have also been working with staff to plan our annual curriculum events and days that we usually celebrate. Although these will have to be slightly different this year, we are determined to give our children as much of the West Jesmond experience as we can. We are starting with our Humanities Local Study Week after half term which this year will focus on Shipbuilding. Miss Smith and Miss Byatt will be sharing more details soon.

### Parent Consultations

Normally after half term we would be holding our parent consultations in the hall. Obviously this can't happen in the usual way this year. This term these will be taking place via a 10 minute telephone conversation and will be focused around how the children have settled back into school. You will be able to book your appointment via a new app which we will be sending details about in the coming weeks. The dates for the consultations between 3.30pm and 6pm will be:

	Week 1	Week 2
Rec	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Y1	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Y2	Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Y3	Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Y4	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Y5	Thu 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thu 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Y6	Thu 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thu 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov

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## Tankerville Terrace

We were informed this week that Newcastle City Council have taken the decision to change the road layout on Tankerville Terrace outside the front of the school. The current parking bays, apart from one Disabled Bay, are going to be removed to become part of the road. The pavement and railings in front of the school will then be extended so this path is wider. This will mean there will be fewer parking spaces for parents. We don't have a date for the changes yet. Once again can we please ask parents not to park in the Disabled Bays unless you have a valid badge. We have had parents with a badge who have been unable to park this week, as people without a badge have been using these. We would also ask again that parents are not parking between our bollards on Brentwood Avenue where we have pupils and parents queuing to enter school. Please leave enough time to travel to school and think of the safety of all pupils.

## Music Mark

Last month we were delighted to find out we had been awarded Music Mark Status, 'in recognition of our commitment to providing a high-quality music education for all children and young people.' We were recommended for this award by the local Music Hub and it is a great recognition of the musical opportunities given to our children co-ordinated by Mrs Hague throughout the school.



## A Fond Farewell

After 20 years at West Jesmond, next week we say goodbye to Derek Stuart. Derek has held different roles in school over the years but more recently has been our IT Technician. Alongside this role he is well known to parents, staff and children for his wider contribution to school life. He enthusiastically welcomes children into school in the morning, has been the director of our staff music videos and has also been integral to the success of West Jesmond's Got Talent. I know this is one of his favourite events of the school year and something he'll really miss. He is leaving to concentrate on his own business and we all wish him well for the future.

## Year 6 Transition to Secondary

Although it seems like we have just returned to school, we would like to remind all Year 6 and carers that the deadline for applications for secondary schools is 12 noon on October 31st. To apply for your child's secondary school, please visit:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places> Select 'Primary to Secondary applications' and then 'apply here'.

## World Mental Health Day

On 10<sup>th</sup> October, it is World Mental Health Day. To access support and guidance from the Anna Freud Centre, which aims to help children and young people in light of the ongoing impact of Coronavirus, please visit <https://www.annafreud.org/media/11245/option-3-covid-advice-parents.pdf>.

## A few updates from your friendly Deputy Head Teacher

- Please can we ask parents to make sure any children are waiting with them while you are collecting siblings from another class. This will help movement around school and ensure social distancing between families.
- Please can children not use trim trails, the Secret Garden or pens before or after school as these are allocated to specific Bubbles through the day.
- Can we also ask that children are just pushing their bikes and scooters around the school site. We have had a few very close high speed misses and it also makes social distancing difficult if children are riding around.
- Just a reminder that emails to class teachers should be for emergencies only. Please use hello@ or office@ for more general queries.

### **Drop off and Pick up Staggered timings reminder**

Breakfast Club 8.00 am

Year 2, 4 and 6 8.30 – 8.45 am                      3.05 – 3.20 pm

Year 1, 3 and 5 8.45 – 9.00 am                      3.20 – 3.35 pm

Reception 8.45 – 9.00 am                              3.20 – 3.35 pm

After School Club                                        3.30 – 5.55 pm

If possible do drop your child off at the gate and let them come into school on their own under our staff supervision.

Please keep watching and listening to the news next about how any new regulations and lockdown measures may apply to the North East. We will see what announcements are made next week but as far as we know we are currently staying open, apart from our planned half-term break.

Best wishes to you all. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday for another exciting week at West Jesmond.

Tom Jones

Deputy Head Teacher