



The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 11 Summer Term 2024



Dear Children, Families and Friends,

Year 4 Vikings Opera Performance

I am sure that all of our parents and friends who were in our school hall on Wednesday afternoon were as excited and impressed as we were by the powerful and great fun Year 4 Opera performance of Vikings! The Quest for the Dragon’s Treasure. We were so proud of every one of our performers as they blasted out the songs, moved in perfect unison and brought such energy to their roles. Our thanks go to all the children, to Mrs Anderson and to the Year 4 staff and especially to our friends at Scottish Opera for working so hard with our children to create this great opportunity for our school.



Staffing Changes

This week you will have received a letter about your child’s new class. You will have seen that we are welcoming several new teachers to our school next year. Last week we told you about three members of our West Jesmond Family who are retiring and this week we want to talk about a number of other special members of our team who are moving to new opportunities from the end of this year. We are very proud of them all and each one will be deeply missed.



Mark Rimmer is leaving us to further develop his exciting teaching career in Australia! As well as being an exceptional teacher, Mark has also been the very talented director of our Shakespearean performances at the Northern Stage. Mark has had a huge impact on the learning and development of hundreds of our children over the last decade and I know our parents and families will join me in expressing our huge gratitude to him.



Lauren Stenhouse is also moving on to explore exciting new opportunities. Lauren has given a very warm welcome to so many Reception children. The families of children in her classes will always be very grateful to Lauren for making the first few days and the first year in school such a happy and successful experience. Lauren will be greatly missed by us all and we thank her for everything she has given to West Jesmond.

Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Jodie Leeson has been an integral part of our talented Learning Support Team. She has worked across KS1 and KS2 and has particular specialisms working with children with SEN. Jodie's patience, kindness and positivity towards all the children she has worked with have had a huge impact. We know Jodie will take those skills into her important role out of education and will continue to give so much to families and children in our region.



Katie Rennison has been a Learning Support Assistant, Deputy Leader of our After School Club and an outstanding Sports Mentor at West Jesmond. She has brought huge energy, passion and talent to all of these roles. Over the last two years, she has been instrumental in the expansion of sporting clubs and activities for our children. Katie will be moving to a promoted role in a local school and, although we will miss her, we are extremely proud of her very well deserved success.

Olympic Week and Sports Days

Next week is a very special week at West Jesmond. It is our Olympic week! The children will all have their sports day and each year group will also have a fantastic opportunity to try a new sport. (Look out for the messages telling you when your child will need their PE kit). We will also be talking about where and why the Olympics began, famous Olympians and the qualities that top athletes would need to succeed.



Sports days next week.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Monday 8th July

Years 1, 2 and 3 9.30am – 11.30am

Years 4, 5 and 6 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Reception Sports Day Thursday 11th July (1:45pm – 3pm). This will take place on the School Main Yard. We will try to go ahead if there are showers (so bring your umbrellas). However, if there is a risk of heavy downpours or lightning we will need to cancel and will make that decision early in the morning to give you as much notice as possible.

WJPS Choir on Tour

This week our talented choir took their voices and songs on tour across Newcastle. Mrs Anderson and over 70 singers performed at the Great North Museum, the Grainger Market and Newcastle Cathedral as a part of the Big Sing. Thank you to all of our parents who accompanied the singers or watched our performances.



Imagine A Story

On Thursday, a very excited 'Imagine a Story' group travelled to The Fire Station theatre in Sunderland to hear our very own story 'Snorehampton goes SPLAT' read aloud to us by the author Lisette Auton and illustrator Chante Timothy. We were all thrilled to see our names in print and have the chance to have a Q and A with a real author and illustrator!



'It was my dream to meet a real-life author and get my book signed and to become a published author myself, and I've done it all in one day! Mimi Y5

Allotment Open Day

Thank you to everyone who came to our West Jesmond School Allotment Open Day. The weather wasn't quite as dry and warm as in previous years, but the site looked fantastic, the choir sang, the cakes were tasty and the pond was full of newts. We always enjoy sharing this very important part of our school with our parents and wider community and I know from all the comments on the day how impressed you all are by what our volunteers and our children have created. We are hugely indebted to the great team of volunteers who keep the allotment going and work so well with the children. However, we are always looking for more people to give up a little time, develop their gardening skills (novices welcome) and join the West Jesmond allotment team. If you are interested, please contact our school office.



Year 3 Roman Trip

Salve! On Monday, Year 3 continued their important historical research into 'Romans Raids and Resistance'. They considered different viewpoints from the past on why the Roman Army was so powerful and successful by practising real Roman Army formations including 'The Wedge' and 'Testudo'. They then tested their defences against the army of Boudicca! Later on, they looked at different sources where we get our historical evidence from, for example looking at ancient mosaics and looking at artefacts brought in by the children.



Year 1 Eco Warrior!

Evan in Year 1 has been working hard to help his local area stay safe and clean! He has volunteered some of his spare time to litter pick in Jesmond. It is amazing to see Evan helping his community! Evan has been awarded a special Eco certificate and 10 Dojo points for all his 'eco-efforts' by Miss Askew, the school eco-schools lead. Thank you for helping to look after Jesmond, Evan!



Community Hero Award

Congratulations to Milo who won the Community Hero Award at the Northern Leaders Trust Community Champion Awards on Friday night. We have shared on this newsletter Milo's great effort fundraising and donating of his hair. Here is Milo receiving his award from two players from the Newcastle Eagles.



Have a lovely weekend everyone
Matt Ward (Headteacher)

Dates for Your Diary

Next Week

❖ Monday 8th – Friday 12th July

- ❖ Monday 8th July
- ❖ Weds 9th – Friday 11th
- ❖ Thursday 10th and Friday 11th
- ❖ Thursday 11th July (pm)

Olympic Week



- Sports Day Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- Year 6 Transition Days
- School Transition Days
- Reception Sports Day

Further Ahead

❖ Tuesday 16th July

Year 1 RNLI trip to Cullercoats

❖ Wednesday 17th July

Year 6 Graduation Evening

❖ Friday 19th July

End of Term

❖ Thursday August 22nd 10-12am

New Reception Parents Family Fun Day

❖ Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September

School Training Days

❖ Wednesday 4th September

Back to School For New School Year