



## West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 3 Autumn Term 2021



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Summer has hung on at West Jesmond and we have enjoyed being outside as much as possible in the September sunshine. We continue to be so impressed with the way the children are adapting back to school operating in a busier, bigger...more normal way. This is particularly noticeable in our dinner halls, playgrounds and our reintroduced assemblies. Assemblies are such an important part of our school life. It is the chance to come together, talk, share news, celebrate and reflect. A highlight of the week are the signing assemblies with Mrs Anderson (Ask your child to see if they can sing the song they have learned today!)

**Sport at West Jesmond:** We have had to limit many of our sporting activities over the last year and we are very pleased to be able to return to full indoor and outdoor PE and swimming for Year 4 and Year 6. We have started a small number of clubs and are hoping over the year to be able to offer even more opportunities for our children.



**Tennis:** Year 2 have started their tennis coaching. Every Year class will have the chance to be trained by a professional coach from the Northumberland Club. **Squash:** All of Year 3 will be going to the Northumberland Club for Squash coaching over this year. We hope our tennis and squash players enjoy the sessions and hopefully join the many children from West Jesmond who take up these sports out of school. **Football Club** has started up for Year 5 and 6, **Netball** for Year 6 and **hockey** for Year 4.



We are also very lucky that one of our talented parents is coming into school to deliver **Yoga** workshops with our Year 4 children. They enjoyed their first yoga session on Thursday based around the theme of the autumn equinox. They practised a range of different poses and learned how to use their breathing to help with mindfulness. They are really looking forward to building on their learning next week. The rest of the Year group will get their chance later in the term.



**Reception Children:** Thank you to our Reception children for another happy and settled week in school. This has been their first full week and there may be some tired children by the end of this Friday! Over this period we have been getting to know your children, helping them to feel comfortable in class and in school and we are using our baseline assessments to beginning to plan how we will make sure every one of them will flourish and achieve in the years ahead.

**Harvest Food Collection Reminder:** Can we remind you that from Monday 27th September to Monday 4th October, we will be accepting food donations onto trolleys placed at the entrance gates to school to support the work of the People's Kitchen.



**Parent Consultations Week beginning October 18th:** We were hoping for the chance to meet with you face to face this term. However, with continuing high Covid cases we don't feel it is right to bring over 600+ parents into school. Therefore, this term our parent evenings will again be virtual. We will talk about how your child is settling in to class and plan for the year ahead and hopefully we will be able to invite you into school in the spring term. More details to follow next week.

**Important Medicines and medication:** Please can you ensure that all creams and medications are signed in through the office and that children do not bring them in by themselves in school bags.

**Year 4 Start of the Day:** To ensure all of our children are kept safe, please can parents stay with Year 4 children in the yard at the start of the day until the teachers open the doors to let them in

**Safe Travel to School:** Thank you again to everyone who is making the effort to keep cars away from our school. We are continuing to do all we can to make the streets around school safer. This week you will have noticed that new permanent bollards have been set up by Newcastle city Council to widen the pavements for our families. This reduces the width of the road and, as a result, it is even more important that cars do not park opposite the school as this will cause potential traffic hold ups



**School Bus:** We are talking with NEXUS about our school bus. Currently it is only used by a relatively small number of families and we want to see if we can increase the numbers using it to support you and to reduce traffic congestion. Look out for a survey in the next couple of weeks that will seek your views on the route and use of the bus.

**Free Metro Travel:** Another way to come to school is on the metro. There are great offers for children and families to support travel in this safe and sustainable way. Did you know you can take up to three children on the metro for free!!

**Take the kids for free all day, every day**

Up to three children aged 11 and under can travel for free on Metro and the Shields Ferry with a fare paying adult.

Part of everyday life

**Back to school**

**Pay as you go with Junior blue**

Simple, contactless travel for under 16s

**Buy and top up online** Available to all 5 - 15 year olds

nexus.org.uk/junior-blue

Part of everyday life

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

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