



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 1 Autumn Term 2021

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

All the staff of West Jesmond Primary School would like to welcome you to the academic year 2021-22. We hope after the summer holiday, that everyone is refreshed, full of energy and excited about the year ahead! It has been lovely to be able to meet so many of you at school over this first week and to see the enthusiastic and happy faces of our children back at school.

I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to those children and families who are new to our school this year. We have all been so impressed with how well our newest children have confidently come in to school and settled so quickly this week. I am sure your child's time at West Jesmond Primary School will be happy and successful and I know all of our children, parents and staff will make you very welcome.

Staffing News: We have welcomed a number of new members of staff to the West Jesmond Family this year. Joanna Anderson our new Music Lead is ready to once again fill our school with song from our reopened music room and has started her music assemblies this week. We also welcome Jessica Soulsby who is joining our Teaching Assistant team and will be working in Key Stage 1 and year 3 and we are very pleased to have Maryam Doshanloo joining our lunchtime supervisor team.

Teacher Education at West Jesmond: The National teaching Schools programme ended last summer, but West Jesmond will continue to play a key part in supporting and leading in the development of new and existing teachers in our city and region. One area of this work is in Initial Teacher Training. We lead a Teach Direct trainee teacher programme alongside Northumbria University and organise training and placements in a number of partner schools. This year we will have two of the students, Jessica Draper and Rhiannon Griffiths with us at West Jesmond. During this first term Rhiannon will be working in Year 1 with Mrs. Young and Jessica will be in year 4 with Miss McKellar.

School Improvement Priorities 2021-22: Each year we identify several aspects of our work in school to be key areas for further improvement. These priorities are identified through analysis of data and assessment, staff discussions and in response to local or national priorities as well as through our conversations with you. This year, as we respond to two years of disrupted education, we have three key priorities. We will be talking more about each one of them with you over the year.

Priority 1: To ensure consistently outstanding outcomes for our children in every part of our outstanding West Jesmond Curriculum. We will be reviewing our provision to ensure our children are learning more, knowing more and remembering more across an enriched and ambitious curriculum.

Priority 2: Renew our inclusive vision to ensure every child of all backgrounds, abilities and needs achieves and thrives in our school: As we bounce back from the difficulties of the last two years we will be working hard

Headteacher: Mr Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Tom Jones

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to ensure no child is left behind and that all of our children are supported to be successful and happy in our school.

Priority 3: Strengthen Our West Jesmond Community: Coming out of some of the restrictions of Covid, we will be working hard to strengthen the coherence, communication and opportunities within our and across our school as well as with our parents and to broaden the experiences for our children through our wider community.

Arriving and Leaving School:

Thank you to everyone for helping to make the first few days and the new arrangements for the start and end of the day work for our children. Can we remind parents of the timings below. If your child arrives after that time they may need to enter through the main reception and be recorded on the register as late to school. Please aim to arrive at school well before the end of the time window for your child.

Late Arrivals: Late arrivals must always be signed in by a parent at the school office. For safety reasons, no child should be left unaccompanied to enter at the school office.

	Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3	Y4, Y5 and Y6
Start	8.40 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00
End	3.10	3.20

Attendance and Leave of absence Requests:

As you know, the highest possible attendance is vital for your child to make progress throughout school and, over the year, children are expected to be at school for at least 97+% of possible sessions. Even a handful of absences throughout a year can prevent this being achieved. At West Jesmond we will always work hard with you at home to support you in ensuring your child attends school as regularly as possible. We also understand, especially at the moment, that there are times of illness when a child cannot attend school.

Please remember that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are extreme exceptional circumstances and that the school cannot authorise holidays. If you do need to take your child out of school for one of these *exceptional circumstances*, please submit a leave of absence form on Weduc.

Our attendance officer, Helen Jordan works to support all of our parents to have the very highest attendance and if you have any concerns about getting your child in to school please arrange to talk with Helen or with one of leadership team.

Communications:

Communication between home and school is always an area in which we strive to improve. The main ways we communicate with you at home about school news and events is through the Weduc App. The vast majority of our families are now using Weduc, but if you cannot access it for any reason please speak to the school office and we can arrange for hard copies of letters. School news and information are also shared by the **school website, Facebook and Twitter**. You can help us by making sure you check Weduc regularly and by looking at the Calendar and Newsletters section of the website.

Birthdays:

We ask that children do not bring in any food, sweets or cakes when it is their birthday. This due to concerns about the spread of Covid, food allergy and dietary concerns and as part of our Healthy School approach. We also hope that it eases some pressure on parents who might have felt obliged to spend money on these gifts. However, we do like to celebrate birthdays and invite children to come to school in non-uniform on the day so we can all do our best to make it feel special for them.

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Music Lessons and Clubs:

Last year large numbers of children in school took up a musical instrument with tuition supplied by NEMCO (North East Music Co-operative Ltd). This year we aim to offer individual and small group tuition in guitar, violin, viola and keyboard. If there is another instrument your child would like to play come and talk to us and, if there is enough interest from other children, we will try to organise lessons. If you are interested please speak to the school office for more information. We know music tuition can be expensive and we do not want any child to miss out. If your child is or has been eligible for Free School Meals the school is able to fund music tuition; please speak to for details.



We are starting to reintroduce a number of our extra- curricula clubs in school. Numbers and year groups are more limited than usual, but we hope to greatly expand opportunities over the year. Please look out for information coming out to parents. Some of our clubs will be provided by staff in school and are free for all children, we also bring in some external providers who charge a fee. If you are eligible for Free school Meals we can fund your child's place in a club, please speak with the school office for details.

Parking and Drive and Stride

Thank you to the parents who are supporting our drive to keep the streets free of cars. We still have a number of parents parking outside of school. We strongly encourage all West Jesmond children to walk, ride or scooter to school. If you do need to drive, we ask politely that you **do not drive, turn or park on the road next to school.** We ask all parents to park 5-10 minutes from school and then join with other families walking through car free streets to our gates.



All the staff at West Jesmond Primary School are looking forward to another happy, exciting and enjoyable year for all of our children and their families.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!
Matt Ward (Headteacher)