



West Jesmond Primary Newsletter 5 Autumn Term 2021



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

West Jesmond Primary has been full of energy, creativity, a lovely buzz of happy children and lots of learning this week. I had the privilege to show some visitors around school and, from Reception to Year 6, the effort and enthusiasm shone out. Please thank your children for another great week!

Harvest Collection: We are so grateful to everyone for the huge demonstration of care and solidarity with our community from West Jesmond families in responding to our appeal for the Peoples kitchen. The volunteers from the charity had a very full van load to take away!



Parent Consultations Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th October: Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for the video parent evenings on Weduc. All parents should have received a letter with details about how to sign up this week and a useful tutorial to help you access the meeting. If you have any difficulties in booking or accessing the meetings please speak to us as soon as possible. This is the first time we have carried out consultations like this and, although they cannot replace face to face discussions, we hope they give you the chance to find out about your child's start to the school year, talk about their learning and ask any questions.

Music at west Jesmond: Music is hugely important to our school and we want to give as many children as possible the chance to learn an instrument, join a choir and develop their musical ability. We have been so pleased by the large numbers of you who have applied for music lessons already. We know there are even more who would like lessons and our music leader, Jo Anderson, is working hard with the North East Music Cooperative (NEMCO) to try to arrange extra tutors and sessions. We have been really pleased to start our school choirs over the last few weeks. There are still some places especially for our older children so please encourage your child to join in!



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Shakespeare Auditions: Over the last couple of weeks, we have really enjoyed seeing many of our Year Six children displaying a great amount of both courage and creativity as part of the audition process for this year's Shakespeare production of Romeo and Juliet as part of the Coram Shakespeare for Schools' annual festival.



Last week, nearly 70 children came along to a workshop to try out a few drama games. It was fantastic to see the children's personalities show themselves in different ways and we were so impressed with their attitudes, enthusiasm and dramatic contributions.

Then, this week, more than 40 children prepared, rehearsed and performed in the audition phase, giving us an incredibly difficult decision to make when putting the final cast together.

In fact, we have expanded the cast up to the maximum number allowed and are developing the script even further to accommodate them - the standard was that high! Many thanks go to everyone who came along and auditioned: it was great to see and we really appreciate the hard work that was put in by all participants. You should all be very proud of putting yourself forward for the play regardless of the outcome. We will keep exploring as many different opportunities as we can this year to give further opportunities to perform to those that may have missed out this time.

Congratulations to those children who are in the cast; I can't wait to get started with the rehearsals after half term! We are very excited at the prospect of the cast performing on the Northern Stage; the performance date is yet to be confirmed but is likely to be in the Spring Term. Further details will follow.

Mr Rimmer

West Jesmond Walks for Rocco: On Sunday 17th October, 23 intrepid West Jesmond staff members are embarking on a 20 mile walk from The Stadium of Light to St James' Park, in the hope of raising funds for Rocco's Fight Against Neuroblastoma.



This is a daunting challenge, but our staff were quick to volunteer to help support a cause so close to our community's heart. Rocco is a member of one of our West Jesmond Families who was diagnosed with this aggressive childhood cancer and the family are fundraising to raise money for specialist treatment in New York.



If any of our families have any contacts in local media and would like to help us publicise the walk, please contact smatthews@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

Can you help? Bucket Collection

On the same day, the Bradley Lowery Foundation has organised a bucket collection in Newcastle City Centre. All money raised goes directly towards Rocco's cause. The aim is for the walkers to join the bucket collection at St James' ahead of the Newcastle vs Tottenham match.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with this collection; it would, of course, be fantastic to have as many West Jesmond Primary pupils collecting as possible! If you are interested in taking your children to volunteer, please visit the event page at: <https://fb.me/e/1g2kcZY6k> or contact [Rocco's Fight Against Neuroblastoma - Home | Facebook](mailto:smatthews@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk) for more details. If you are not on Facebook, feel free to email smatthews@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk and you will be put in touch with the organisers.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

Year 6 Applying for Secondary School Reminder: Can we remind all of our parents in Year 6 that the deadline for applying to Secondary School is now only 3 weeks away. You have until 31st October to apply. The link below gives some useful advice and support. Remember if you have any difficulties with the process we are always there to offer support and advice. <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places>

Have a lovely weekend of conker collecting, leaf jumping and autumn sunshine!

Matt Ward

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