



## The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 1 Spring Term 2024



Happy New Year 2024 and welcome back everyone to the new school term.

I hope all of our families were able to enjoy time together over the holiday period and that the New Year has started well for you all.

### Attendance update

Parents will be aware of the national concerns about attendance in schools that are in the news at the moment. Over this term, we will be talking regularly about attendance in the newsletter and what the school can do to support you and your child to get to school every day. We know there are many and complex reasons that can affect attendance and want to talk with you about your child. Emma Clark [eclark@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:eclark@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk) our Family Support Officer is there to meet with you at school and offer help. Attendance across school was just under 96% last term, which is above national averages, but still represents a large number of missed sessions for our children. The link below is a useful reference for parents who are concerned about whether your child is okay to come to school, but please speak to the school office if you are unsure, [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

### Inclusion Parents coffee morning Drop-in Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan

All parents are invited to the next of our regular Inclusion Coffee Mornings. We have two guests who will be there to talk about how to access support to support with the increased costs of living. This will include a focus on welfare rights and there will be the chance to talk with them individually and in confidence. Emma Clark and other members of the team will be there to talk to you about any other concerns you may have in or out of school.

### RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat institution)

On Wednesday, the RNLI came to speak with Year 4 and Year 6 as part of their water safety work. Ask us what the different coloured flags you see at the beach mean! We also discussed what to do if you or someone you are with gets into difficulty in water and how to avoid some potential dangers at beaches.



Headteacher: Matt Ward

Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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## Year 4 Went a Wassailing

On Wednesday, 4TC went to the allotment to take part in a traditional Wassail. They wore green, carried instruments and made a great hullabaloo to encourage the spirits in the apple trees to give us a good harvest. We also sang our Wassail song accompanied by Mrs Anderson on the accordion. Our Green man led us in our Wassail and we look forward to visiting the orchard later in the year to see the fruits of visit!



## Friends of West Jesmond Events

The Friends have been working hard planning some great events for this term:

- On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 5 – 6:30pm, all children and parents are invited to a **Story Telling Evening** at school. Children can come in their pyjamas and have some bedtime stories read to them by members of staff. More details will be sent via Weduc next week.
- On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, children in Years 1 and 2 are invited to a **Valentine's Disco**. More details will be sent out soon.
- And there will be parents only event on 8<sup>th</sup> March - a **'Bongo Bingo'** - we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

## Year 6 Engineers

This week, Year 6 have completed the Primary Engineer project in their Design Technology lessons. The children had to use their knowledge of structures, gears and electric circuits to create a train that could move in a straight line. There were lots of success stories and hopefully some will be going to a North East competition later in the year.



## Dance Club Years 4, 5 and 6 Places Available

We still have limited places available at Dance Club for this half term for Years 4, 5 and 6. The club is each Wednesday at 8am. It is £21 for 6 weeks. Please email [brooke@freelance-dance.co.uk](mailto:brooke@freelance-dance.co.uk) to secure a place.

## Keeping safe Online: Advice For Parents

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for our Online Safety workshop for parents only on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 9am**. Please sign up via Weduc if you are able to attend. You will find the details in the Payments – Offers section (there is no charge for the session). Our Online Safety consultant Julian Hughes will talk about the very latest apps and ways children are interacting with the online world and will give practical and useful advice on how to help keep your child safe. . The session is open to parents in all year groups.

## Tickets for Year 6 Shakespeare on Sale

Tickets for Year 6's performance of Twelfth Night on the 26th March are on sale now! They are available to buy from the Northern Stage Box Office in person, over the phone or online (see link below). Get in there quickly; because once they go on sale, they sell rapidly.

<https://northernstage.co.uk/>



Have a lovely weekend everyone!  
Matt Ward (Headteacher)

## Dates for Your Diary

### The Week Ahead

- ❖ Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 5F Visit to Sunderland Winter Gardens
- ❖ Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 5ES Visit to Sunderland Winter Gardens
- ❖ Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January Year 5 CPR and First Aid Training
- ❖ Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January (5-6pm) Year 4 Robinwood Information Meeting (Hall)
- ❖ Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 9am Parents' Online Safety Workshop (Hall)  
Y1S Cake Stall

### Further Ahead

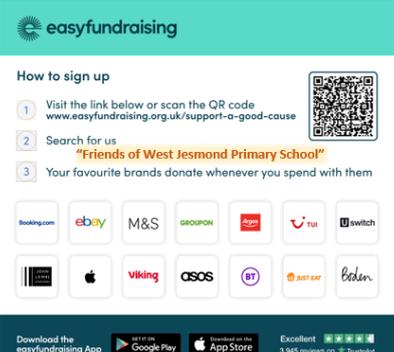
- ❖ Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 5HS Visit to Sunderland Winter Gardens
- ❖ Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January Yr. 4 trip to El Torero Restaurant
- ❖ Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January Reception trip to Great North Museum
- ❖ Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 5 – 6.30pm Story Telling Evening
- ❖ Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Weds 15<sup>th</sup> February Year 4 Residential Robinwood
- ❖ Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February KS1 Valentines Disco

### Break up for Half term Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

- ❖ Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March STEM Week
- ❖ Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March Careers Week
- ❖ Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March Parent Consultation Evenings
- ❖ Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March Comic Relief
- ❖ Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March Break up for Easter Holidays

## EasyFundraising

The Friends are registered with a shopping app called **easyfundraising**. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use the **easyfundraising** link to shop with them – at no extra cost for you. All you need to do is sign up and remember to use **easyfundraising** whenever you shop online. It is easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us.



**easyfundraising**

How to sign up

- 1 Visit the link below or scan the QR code  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)
- 2 Search for us  
"Friends of West Jesmond Primary School"
- 3 Your favourite brands donate whenever you spend with them

Banking.com, ebay, M&S, GROUPON, ASDA, V.I.TA, SWITCH, BT, JUST EAT, Borden

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Excellent 3.9/5 reviews on Trustpilot