

Welcome Back to a Busy and Exciting Week at Jericho Primary School!

We have had a fantastic first full week back, filled with activity and collaboration to enrich our children's play and learning experiences. It has been wonderful to have our Opal Play area leader in school, working closely with Miss Hope, Mrs Ball, and our dedicated dinner staff. Together, they have been exploring new ways to enhance our playtimes and increase the range of play opportunities available to all children.

We were also delighted to see so many parents attend this week's parent meetings. Your involvement is invaluable, and we thank you for taking the time to engage with us. As a reminder, our IEP meetings are scheduled for next week. If you have not yet booked your appointment, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can arrange a convenient time for you. These meetings provide an important first look at how well your child is progressing within their year group.

OPAL play: At the moment we are continuing to develop our grounds and we are looking for items that will support us developing these new and exciting areas! If your children have grown out of waterproofs and wellies we would be most grateful for them! We are also looking for small world toys such as dinosaurs, dolls and figures for imaginative play. In our mud kitchen and sandpit we would love some kitchen utensils, trays, bowls or other baking type items. We are developing a role play areas and dressing up therefore would love your old keyboards, telephones etc to have in the home corner (these do not need to be in working order).

If you are particularly handy or love a bit of DIY and have some time you could spare then please do let the office know as we would love your help!

Termly newsletters will be sent out this evening to provide further information for each class. So look out for these in your emails.

Celebrating Our New School Library! We are thrilled to announce the successful installation and handover of our newest building—our brand-new school library! We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents for your patience and understanding throughout the building work. Your support has been invaluable. Over the coming weeks, we will be busy transforming the interior into a welcoming and inspiring library space for our children. We plan to open the library before and after school, as well as during lunchtimes, to encourage a love of reading and provide a quiet place for study.

In addition, we are exploring the possibility of hiring out the building during the day and at weekends as a small training or meeting room. If you or anyone you know might be interested in using this space, please contact the school office for more information. We can't wait to share this exciting new resource with our school community!

Building Work Update: We are pleased to share that the building work is nearly finished! We expect the scaffolding to be taken down over the weekend, followed by the dismantling of the compounds. Once the site is fully operational again, I will inform all parents. Thank you once again for your patience and understanding throughout the building and roof work. It's hard to believe it's almost a year since the roof blew off—just look at how much positive change has taken place since then!

A great resource: 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives. This resource is hot of the press from the children's commissioner. Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence. Please follow this link for a recommended read: [What I wish my parents or carers knew...: A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/)

Reminders:

Just a few reminders this week about our policies and procedures to help kick the new year off to a flying start:

Uniform and Make-Up Reminder: We would like to remind all parents and children that Jericho Primary School has a full school uniform and PE kit, which should be worn every day. Details of our uniform policy can be found on our school website, and we encourage you to review it to ensure compliance.

Additionally, we have noticed that some children, both younger and older, have been wearing makeup to school. Please be reminded that wearing makeup is not appropriate during school hours, as it does not align with our school's expectations.

Smart watches / Cameras: Please can we remind parents that smartwatches with visual or audio recording capabilities are not allowed in school. For safeguarding reasons there are some children in each class who do not have photo or video permissions, and recording of them may place them at risk and would breach GDPR. This would be reportable to the ICO.

Punctuality and absence reporting procedures

A gentle reminder that the law states that you must ensure your child attends school regularly. Please report your child's absence before 8.45am; in person, by telephone or by using our Jericho Primary School parent mail app. You can also email: admin@jericho.cumbria.sch.uk

Please also ensure your child is not late for school. Doors are opened at 8:45 am and are closed at 8.50 am. Please help us to ensure learning is maximised by avoiding taking holidays during term time. These will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. Please also avoid taking your child out of school for non-urgent matters.

Celebrations:

A big shout out for William in Year 4 who has been nominated for best supporting male character for his lead role as Jeremy in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. William is being nominated for a NODA award -

NODA Awards recognise excellence in amateur theatre, primarily through the [National Operatic and Dramatic Association](http://www.noda.org.uk) (NODA). The award ceremony will be on the 28th Feb. Good luck William.

Golden work

Harlan in Year 1 for superb improvement in his letter formation and independent writing

Bodhi in year 4 for his wonderful Pobble writing

Laylend and Ava in Year 5 for accurate long multiplication work in Maths.

Rosalie in Year 6 for superb independence, simplifying fractions

Grayson in Year 5 - for being a 2%er in Mathematics - a shining star!

Esme in Year 5 - fantastic mastery of multiplication

Roo In year 5 - fantastic mastery of multiplication

Jewel in Year 5 - for great research into her future careers. Aspirational!

Ella and Zerah in reception for wonderful sound work.

Brontay in year 5 for superb independent multiplication in maths.

Looking ahead:

Wk. beginning: 19th Jan - IEP meetings

20th Jan - Shakespeare in School Workshop

21st Jan - Change 4 Life competition Year 3/4

29th Jan - Year 5/6 Athletics Competition.

2nd Feb - National Story Telling Week in School

10th Feb - 3w Trip to Keswick Museum

10th Feb - Internet Safety Day in School

11th Feb - 3H Trip to Keswick Museum

12th Feb - Year 2 Trip to Trotters Farm

Friday 13th Feb - Dress to Impress Mental Health Awareness

13th Feb - School closes for Half term.

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