

This week has been full of wonderful accomplishments across the school. In assembly, we focused on the theme of commitment to change and embracing new challenges as we set our New Year's goals. We explored the idea of setting SMART targets—goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound—to help our children make meaningful progress.

We encourage you to ask your child about their personal goal for this term and think about how you can support them in achieving it. Together, we can make this a year of growth and success!

If you have important messages for your child's teacher, please contact the school office directly by phone or email. Teachers primarily use Seesaw to check homework and may not regularly see messages posted there. This helps ensure your message is received promptly and does not get missed.

School Governor visit dated January 2026: Loren Redmond, Chair of Governors, recently visited Jericho's Early Years provision, including Nursery and Reception, to observe and review the learning environment and curriculum.

During the visit, Loren met with Mrs Smith to review key documents and the Early Years improvement plans developed collaboratively by staff and governors. The curriculum was praised for being well-structured, fun, and interactive, blending national standards with Jericho's own high expectations.

In Nursery, children engaged in imaginative play and activities linked to the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," learning about size and maths through playful chalk drawings and games. The Reception classes focused on creative art, exploring fireworks through painting and learning about London landmarks, integrating art, colour theory, geography, and history in an engaging way.

Loren noted the excellent behaviour of the children and the effective classroom routines that balance fun with structure. The staff use creative methods to maintain attention and teach important social skills.

The Early Years Team warmly welcomes parent and grandparent volunteers to come in and read with the children. If interested, please contact the school office for more details.

Loren will return in six months to continue supporting and sharing updates with parents, reinforcing the strong partnership between governors, staff, and families.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

For the next few weeks Mrs Hayes will be sharing with parents and carers the various in- house therapies and programs that staff at Jericho are trained to deliver.

As Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead, Mrs Hayes, alongside Mrs Leck in her role as Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Ball in her role as SENDCo, meet weekly and together children that have had concerns raised about them whether it be by a parent or teacher after discussion with a parent are triaged. The support that we feel the child needs for whatever the presenting issue is can then be put in place as speedily as possible.

This week we are looking at Drawing and Talking Therapy.

"Drawing and Talking is a therapeutic intervention for children, young people and adults. It is designed as a short-term, time limited, pro-active intervention intended to complement, rather than replace, the work of specialist mental health services.

Through a 12-week cycle of 30-minute one-to-one sessions, this non-intrusive tool allows children, young people and adults to process emotional pain resulting from trauma. The child or adult utilises drawing as a way to help them express their feelings differently from ordinary verbal language.

Drawing and Talking takes place in the same place at the same time every week and what is discussed between the child or young person and the adult stays between them unless a disclosure is made that needs to be passed onto the DSL.

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!

Taekwondo club information and free taster sessions available locally. Please see the attached flier for further information and opportunities.

Let's celebrate...

Cora (Year 3) and Matilda (Year 2) performed in the musical Matilda Junior with A&B Stage School at the weekend. The show was sold out on both Sat & Sun performances.

Matilda (Year 2) and her horse - Conker competed recently & they came away with 4 rosettes including 1st places in Handy Hunter & Fancy Dress. Well done Matilda.

Mabel (Year 6) was selected to play for her club, Team West, against Kirby Stephen Netball Club. This was her first competitive netball game, and she was amazing, really settling into the WD role while playing against some much older players. Team West came away with a fantastic 10-6 win

Golden work - Our golden work superstars for this week:

Zenny in nursery for her independent cutting and constructing of her bear.

Vinnie in Year 4 - marvellous multiplication work.

Annie in Yr 4 for fantastic presentation of her column multiplication in Maths.

Jake in Reception for super improvement in his handwriting.

Bodhi in Year 6 for accurate and speedy subtracting fractions in Maths.

Looking ahead:

Wk. beginning:

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.

Laura Ball
Deputy Head Teacher



Jericho Primary School
Windsor Court
Whitehaven

Cumbria
CA28 6UX

t: 01946 514545

w: <https://www.jericho.cumbria.sch.uk/>

The information contained within this e-mail / attachments are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete the message and attachments immediately and notify the sender. Any unauthorised dissemination or copying of this e-mail, or any misuse or wrongful disclosure of the information contained in it is strictly prohibited and may be illegal. The opinions, statements and thoughts expressed in this e-mail and its attachments if any are those of the individual sender and not necessarily of Jericho Primary School or any associated party.