



## Head Teacher Newsletter

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### National Tests

National tests are now underway in school. A test would never be my preference for assessing pupil understanding or progress, but they are here to stay. As a school we have a duty to prepare our children for national and internal tests both practically and emotionally; we would be doing our children a great dis-service if we didn't. However, we must always strive for balance; our commitment to our curriculum offer must never be swayed in favour of drilling our children to pass a test in English and Maths.

So if your child is sitting a national test remind them how proud you are of them. Help them place the test in context – full marks doesn't equal success. Whatever the outcome, it should not dampen their dreams and it certainly won't take away their talents.



As a primary school, we are just one small stepping stone in a child's life. I want children to leave us with memories imbued with a love of learning and the curriculum in its entirety. Who knows, in our midst we may well have a future sporting superstar; a soon to be discovered great artist or composer; an engineering or scientific visionary or a writer who will leave a cultural legacy upon our world.

Newcastle CAN



Some of you may have seen the work that Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has been doing on the TV of late to promote healthy eating and address obesity rates in adults and children. I recently posted a video on our Facebook page about portion size in breakfast cereals – it's so easy to give children too much. If you missed it you can watch again [here](#).

The video prompted me to have a look at the Newcastle CAN website. It's got some great recipes – good ideas for reducing those carbs and a letter which you can sign to the Health Secretary. Whatever your politics, it seems a worthwhile cause to get behind. Hugh wants Jeremy Hunt MP to answer the following questions:

ARE YOU PREPARED TO RESTRICT JUNK FOOD MARKETING?

WILL YOU SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL AND MARKETING PROGRAMMES TO GET KIDS EATING MORE VEG AND HELP THEM TO CONSUME LESS OF THE FOOD & DRINK THAT'S DOING THEM HARM?

WILL YOU IMPROVE FRONT-OF-PACK FOOD LABELLING?

CAN YOU GIVE GPs AND PRACTICE NURSES MORE SUPPORT TO SENSITIVELY HELP PATIENTS WITH MANAGING THEIR WEIGHT?

You can sign the letter [here](#)



### Squash Tournament



Today the squash team came second in the Inter-schools squash tournament held at Northumberland Tennis Club. Well done Dhruva, Ruari, Theo, Jacob and Alanna. Thanks too to parents and governors who came along and supported.

### Choir Performance

Our school choir, recorder group and string orchestra will be performing as part of Jesmond Community Arts festival on Monday 21st of May. Do pop along if you're free.

**MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY**



# Musical Performance

by Children of West Jesmond Primary School

Monday 21 May  
11.00am - 12.00noon  
All welcome, including parents, friends and local residents  
Donations welcome

For further information  
events@jesmondlibrary.org or 0191 281 2385  
www.jesmondlibrary.org

St George's Terrace  
Jesmond  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE2 2DL

 <b>Young Achievers</b> 	
Serenna Y2H	Badge 6 – City of Newcastle Gymnastics Academy
Freddie Y2J	50m Swimming Award
Tom Y2J	250 dojo points
Alisha Y2J	250 dojo points
Rahaf Y2J	10/10 in her Arabic test
Maya Y4M	Achieved her Pen License
Aaron Y1W	250 dojo points
Olivia Y1W	250 dojo points
Raife Y1W	250 dojo points
Annabella Y3C	Badge 5 in Gymnastics
Milo R1	Mr Martin Head of School Award for sounding our words and

	listening
Lyla R1	Gymnastics Level 6
George Y10	Award for Skiing
Sofie Y4F	Grade 1 Violin

With best wishes for the week ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Dominic Martin

**Head of School**