



**Your Weekly Head Teacher Newsletter
Friday 20th October 2017**

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Friends of West Jesmond,

Take One Object

Our Take One Object collaboration with the Great North Museum, Chillingham Road and Hotspur Primaries has got off to a flying start! We can now reveal that the three objects are: an Egyptian Wand, a statue Mithras and a reptile fossil called an Ichthyosaur.



Staff across school took time to reveal the objects in different ways to the children; the focus being on creating that sense of awe and wonder!



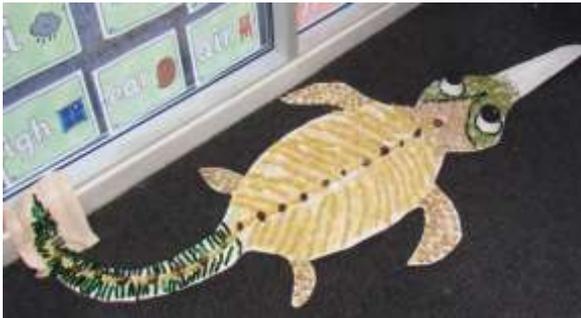
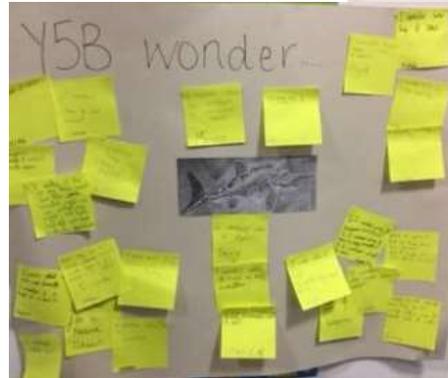
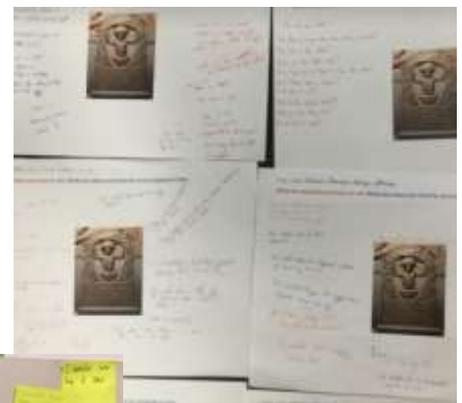
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Below are some of the pupils' initial responses to the objects. There are lots more pictures and videos of visits and project work on the West Jesmond Primary Facebook page and the Take One Object Project Facebook page. You can also see work from the other schools on the Take One page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Take-One-Object-278257389353057/>

One final reminder that it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible at our family visit during half term on Wednesday, leaving school at 10am or meeting at GNR at 10.30am.



Shakespeare Schools Performance

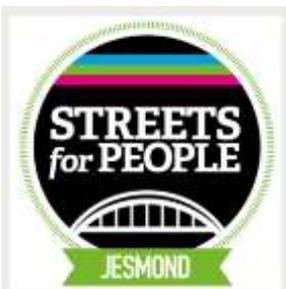
The performance of *The Tempest* on Monday, 6th November is rapidly approaching and the cast are rehearsing brilliantly in the build up to their big night on the Northern Stage. Over the last week or so, as you may have seen on social media, we have been focusing on projection, stage movement, choreography and putting the sound effects in, as well as getting into our roles with costumes.



The cast will also be performing the play for everybody in Key Stage 2 at 9:45am on Wednesday 8th November in the school hall. Any younger siblings of the cast members who are in Key Stage 1 are invited. Similarly, any of the actors' parents who can make it are more than welcome too!

Heaton Manor Careers Fair

We were very grateful to colleagues at Heaton Manor who extended an invitation to Year 6 pupils to visit their careers fair on Friday last week. The children had a really interesting morning pondering their future job prospects and introducing themselves to an employer for the first time.



Streets for People proposals

Based on the experiences, insights and ideas they collected in last year's survey about what it's like getting around in Jesmond, the Jesmond Streets for People Group have worked with an Urban Designer to come up with a set of proposals to address the issues that were raised last year.

The Jesmond Neighbourhood Plan includes 8 broad proposals. To find out more about these proposals, you can click on the link below view the plans and find out more about each proposal. We've been informed that an online survey about the proposals will be made available on their page shortly: <https://streetsforpeople.org.uk/jesmond>

Reception Stay and Play Afternoon

A huge thank you to all of the families who were able to join us in Reception for our Stay and Play afternoon. It was lovely to watch families playing alongside their children, engaging them in conversation and joining in with the fun. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the children did!

Play is such an important part of the day in Reception and it is at the centre of everything they do. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity and physical, cognitive and emotional strength. It is also important for healthy brain development.

It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. For children, play is not a break from 'learning', it *is* learning.

We hope that the afternoon highlighted just how much learning can come out of playing alongside children and gave you an insight into how we use play to develop lots of skills.



Year 6 Robinwood visit

Yesterday, Mrs McVittie and I visited Year 6 pupils and staff at on their residential at Robinwood activity centre near Alston. As usual, the Robinwood staff had done an amazing job establishing a really supportive environment for pupils to take on the challenge of being away from home, as well as the activities themselves.



Both Mrs McVittie and I were very impressed with how well pupils supported each other through each activity, particularly those in the dark or up high in the trees. Well done Year 6 we're so very proud of you; what remarkable young people you're becoming. More photos to follow!



Young Achievers



Omar Y2J	Level 2 Swimming Badge
Amelia Y2H	Stage 6 Swimming Badge
Hamta Y2H	Football Certificate
Freddie Y2J	Excellent progress and effort in French
George Y2J	Excellent progress and effort in French
Edward Y4F	Excellent effort at Rock Project and medal

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a restful half term break and thank you all for your ongoing support. It is much appreciated.

Dominic Martin
Head of School