



Your Weekly Head Teacher Newsletter Friday 3rd November 2017

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

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable half term break. I certainly know I appreciated a little more time to spend with family and friends. November is already upon us and December not that far away, with Christmas festivities and celebrations to come and of course the new Star Wars film! I love this half term, with its crisp winter mornings and what feels like one festivity following another. It will be a fun packed and engaging half term for the children, but no doubt a tiring one!

With lots of dressing up, costumes, sparklers, fireworks and candles etc. please do take care – we want everyone to have a wonderful, but safe time.

Speaking of safety, as designated lead, safeguarding is a major part of my role in school, working with Mrs McVittie and supported by our wider inclusion team. I spend a good part of my time working with wider agencies to help and support our children and yourselves as families. I've said this before, but it's worth repeating again, you and your children join our school as a family, as a 'package'. All families have their ups and downs, even crises, which often fall upon us without warning. As a school, we will always be there to help in whatever way we can, from galvanising support from outside agencies, to simply offering a cup of tea and a chance to talk. If you have thought twice about asking for help or calling in for a chat, please think again; we are interested; we will listen and we do want to help.



If you are concerned about your child; their well-being or safety your first point of contact will always be your child's class teacher. After that, or if you have a concern about the health, safety or care of another child, you can also speak or email in confidence myself or Mrs McVittie:

dmartin@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

rmcvittie@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

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If either of us is not available we have other trained safeguarding staff across the school: Jacqui Nicolson (Breakfast Club / After School Club); Miss Thompson (EYFS); Mr Jones (KS1) Miss Sykes (Lwr KS2) and Miss Trickey (Upr KS2).

Additionally, Mrs Hogan, as SENDCo, chogan@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk is available to respond to concerns about additional needs and provision, as well as any health concerns whether emotional; relating to mental health, or physical health such as those relating to diet or healthy eating. She can also arrange appointments with our school nurse Karen Nicolson. Finally, Mrs Groot vgroot@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk is available to talk about provision, and where necessary support, for bi or tri-lingual pupils.

Together we make up West Jesmond's inclusion team. At Governing body level, we also have Jill Maddison, who is our safeguarding link. Jill and I are in regular contact about everything from health and safety, to policy and provision.



Bike it Breakfast and visit from Dr Bike – the bike mechanic

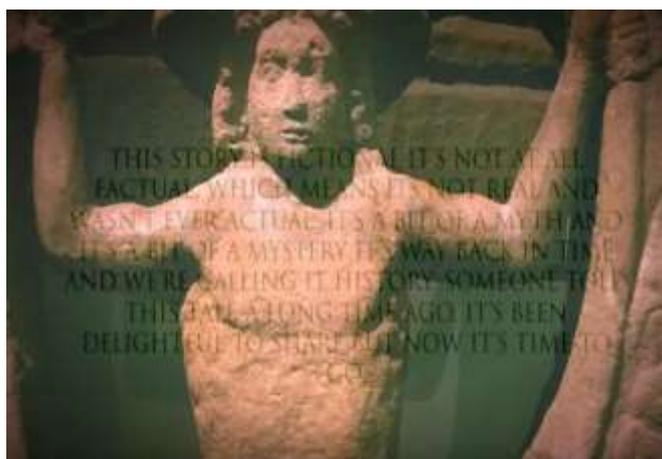
Over the summer I uncovered my Dad's early 90s mountain bike rusting away in the back of my brother's garage. With some tlc from the Cycle Hub mechanics it's now up and running again, allowing me to cycle or run / cycle to work a few times a week. I really love the cycle to work along the Quayside, particularly when the sun is coming up!

If you've got a bike at home that needs similar attention **Dr Bike**, one the Hub mechanics, will in school on **Thursday 23rd November** from **8.15am** fixing and checking family's bikes. This service is available for adult and children's bikes; it's free, so do make the most of this opportunity. If you would like your own and /or your child's bike to be fixed, please lock your bike in the usual bike area and put the keys in an envelope with your name and a description of the bike on it and hand this to Hub mechanic who will be in the KS2 playground from 8.30am or to the school office.



Additionally we will be hosting our first **Bike it Breakfast** of the academic year, sponsored by the Cycle Hub, from 8.15am on **Thursday 9th November**. I'll be cycling in myself, so if you are cycling or scooting to school on Thursday, please do come and join me and the Bike it Breakfast team for some healthy breakfast and the chance to win some wonderful 'spot' prizes donated by the Hub. **Thursday's breakfast will be for Reception and KS1 children, but older siblings are also welcome.**

KS2 Bike It Breakfast will be held in the new year.



Take One Object

Many thanks for everyone's continued contributions to our Take One Object project. There have been some incredibly creative responses to the objects whether spoken, written, drawn or even video. Do take a moment to visit to the Take One Object Facebook page and have a look at them all. I was particularly struck by two video contributions, one by Jaya and Ravi and the other by Delilah and Talullah. Both videos were really thought provoking responses to the objects.

Festivity Diary Dates

Just in case you've not already got them in your diary, here are the dates festivities and activities for this half term:



Event	Date
Take One Object Open Day	16 th November 2pm onwards
Museum Take Over Day GNM	17 th November – more details to follow
Children in Need – non uniform	17 th November
Christmas Fair	10 th December 2pm – 4pm
Reception Christmas Nativity	15 th December 9.30am
KS2 Christmas outdoor carol extravaganza	18 th December 6pm onwards
Year 1 Christmas Performance	19 th December 9.30am onwards
Year 2 Christmas Performance	20 th December 9.30am onwards
Reception and Year 1 Christmas Parties	20 th December 1pm onwards
Christmas Parties Years 2-6	21 st December throughout the day

Proposed Micro Pub on Brentwood Avenue

A few weeks ago, I wrote about our concerns and objections to a proposed application to convert the ice-cream shop Igloo, on the corner of Brentwood Avenue, into a micro pub. The date to respond to the licensing application has now past, but there is still time to respond to the planning application for a change of building use. Again, just for reference here is a brief summary of the application:



- A micro pub operating over the ground floor with an outside seating area
- Film every day 09:00 - 23:00
- Sale by retail of alcohol for consumption both on/off premises every day 10:00 - 23:00

Further details can be found on the council website:

<https://publicaccessapplications.newcastle.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=OVLO4BBSLJA00>

As a school and governing body, we will be lodging our objections to this proposal; it is completely undesirable to have a pub so close to school. I know the local residents association also plans to lodge further objections. Should you wish to make your views known, you can do this via the

Council website or by emailing planning.control@newcastle.gov.uk and using the reference 2017/1612/01/DET.

PE News - A Runaway Success!

The Year 2 Cross Country team travelled to Ravenswood Primary School to compete against other schools within our trust. Six boys and six girls ran two laps of the course that was created around the Ravenswood field.

The boys were first up. After a speedy start, the field settled down into a steady pace. The West Jesmond team gradually worked their way through the field. At the finish, Will, Thomas, Alex and William had all made it into the top 10. Leo and Yuvraj showed great stamina to keep going to the finish. Once the combined scores had been totted up, West Jesmond were announced as the winners!



Next it was the turn of the girls. Walaa set the pace for the field with a blistering start. As she began to fade on the second lap, it was the turn of Sylvie, who had established a good rhythm, to work her way towards the front. By the finish, Sylvie was able to claim third place. Walaa held on for seventh with Farah, Sofia, Tanida and Husnaa all finishing in the top 20. Overall the girls team claimed a very creditable third place.



As we're just back from half term, please check that your child's **PE kit is back in school**, clearly marked with their name, in a bag we can hang on a peg or store in a box, in the classroom. Many thanks!

Teaching School Direct Open Day

On Wednesday we held our first School Direct Open Day at West Jesmond. Prospective trainee teachers were given informative tours by groups of Year 6 children, they also observed lessons throughout the school. Mr Edwards, a past School Direct trainee, shared his experience and offered welcomed advice along with Mr Helm and Mrs Armstrong who are currently 'in training'.



One applicant described the experience as 'A brilliant chance to really understand the exciting things that happen in schools, I wish I could be a student at this school!'

The application window is now open and we are receiving new applications daily. If you are interested in finding out more please contact me, Mrs McVittie:

rmcvittie@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk

Congratulations to the Wallis-Clarkes

Many of you may have realised there are two Wallis-Clarkes leading local primary schools. Those of you who have attended the City Hall singing event, will also have met Miles Wallis-Clarke who is the Head Teacher at Hotspur Primary in Heaton. On Friday of half term, Miles and Gary 'converted' their ten year of civil partnership to marriage witnessed by family and a great many friends. On behalf of us all, I'd like to extend our many congratulations to them both and wish them many further years of happiness together.



Year 3 and 5 Cooking Club Starts this Week!

Mrs Laidler and Miss Byatt will be restarting their ever popular after school cooking club this coming Thursday 9th November. Please look out for the letter to sign up in this week's parent's mail. Be quick as places are limited and do go fast!



Young Achievers



Ravi & Jaya Y5M and Y3L	Lego Animation linked to Take One Object
Delilah & Talullah Y1W	Film and song 'Mighty Mithras'
James Y3L	Amazing writing the Egyptian wand
Hashbala Y4M	Collaborative book publication project
William Y1O	Super writing about an Egyptian temple camel
Niamh Y4F	Stage 4 Swimming Badge
Milo R1	5 metre swimming Badge
Isaac Y4M	Lee Sterry Certificate of Achievement
Oula Y4S	Achieving Lexia Level 8
Lex Y1O	1 Mile Run
Anouk Y1O	25m Swimming Badge
Finn Y1W	Gold Explorer Certificate
Lily Y4M	Grade 1 Fencing
Jane Y2S	Bronze Stage 1 Rookie Lifeguard
Leo Y2S	Kumon Certificate
Shaun Y3L	5 Metre Swimming Badge
Nathaniel Y3L	5 Metre Swimming Badge
Siddha R1	10 Metre Swimming Badge
Levi Y3OB	Excellent Art Work
Walaa Y2J	Gold medal for listening from Arabic School
Maya Y4M	Stage 8 Water Polo
Matilda Y4M	Excellent improvement in handwriting
Chenyuan Y4F	Kumon English Certificate
Daniel Y3C	Stage 6 Swimming Badge

With best wishes for the week ahead,



Dominic Martin

Head of School

Attendance Update

Expectations for whole school attendance continue to rise. The education watchdog Ofsted is now challenging primary schools to aim for a whole school attendance of 97%. Last academic year our school attendance was 96.4%.

Our whole school attendance for the first half term this year (September to October) was 97.7% which is a fantastic start to the new academic year. It is great to see so many children attending school regularly and being on time each week and we look forward to celebrating this success.



Reception 97.26%

Year 1: 97.87%

Year 2: 97.60%

Year 3: 97.66%

Year 4: 98.30%

Year 5: 98.33%

Year 6: 96.96%

Congratulations to Year 5 who had the highest attendance!

Our whole school goal for the current academic year is to achieve 98%

How can you help?

- Ensure your children do not miss unnecessary time from school for low-level illness (e.g. coughs and colds)
- Bring your children to school on time (they should be in class for 8.50am)
- Let us know if you require support to boost attendance
- Please arrange medical appointments outside of school hours, where possible
- Do not take holidays in term time as school cannot authorise these absences

The Department of Education focuses on the attendance of those children who are “*on track to become a Persistent Absentee*”.

We have to provide information about our Persistent Absentee children to the Local Authority Attendance Service. If your child is a persistent absentee, with unauthorised absence, then the Local Authority could issue you with a Fixed Penalty Notice for failing to ensure your child attends school regularly.

If your child is at risk of becoming a Persistent Absentee then I am obliged to contact you to support an improvement in attendance. This may be by letter or telephone call.

How many absences result in my child becoming a Persistent Absentee?

End of Half Term 1 (Sept to Oct) —7 sessions of absence (3.5 days)

End of Half Term 2 (Sept to Dec) - 14 sessions (7 days)

End of Half Term 3 (Sept to Feb) - 20 sessions (10 days)

End of Half Term 4 (Sept to April) - 25 sessions (12.5 days)

End of Half Term 5 (Sept to May) - 31 sessions (15.5 days)

End of Half Term 6 (Sept to July) 38 sessions (19 days)

It doesn't take many absences for a child to become a Persistent Absentee! This also includes holidays taken during term-time.

Overall an excellent start to the new school year, let's keep up the good work and aim to achieve our school target of 98%.

Helen Jordan

School Attendance Officer.

Weekly Update from the Friends of West Jesmond

Christmas Fair

The Friends are currently collecting raffle prizes for the Christmas Fair from local shops and businesses. If any parent has a local business and is willing to donate a raffle prize, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail the Friends on info@friendsofwestjesmond.co.uk if you are able to donate a prize.

Don't forget that the fair will be held on **Sunday 10th December**. We will be in touch over the next few weeks with more information about the day!"

Cracking Christmas Cards

By now you will have received your child's fabulous festive art work which can be ordered as a card, tag, mug, tea towel and bag. This is a great way to enjoy and share your child's artistic efforts and raise valuable funds for the school too. Please complete your order form, (taking time to check the spelling of your child's name on the sample card), make payment on Agora and return the form to the school office by **Wednesday 8th November** so we can meet printing deadlines.

Thank you and enjoy your children's designs!

Friends AGM

The Friends AGM will be held at school on **Wednesday 15th November** between 6-7pm.

Everyone is very welcome. It will be an opportunity to hear how money was raised and spent last year as well as looking forward to this year's fundraising and requests from staff. Most importantly we will be looking for new committee members to help steer us. Being involved with the Friends can be an incredibly rewarding experience. In addition to being confidence building and fulfilling it can be great fun and helps to build great links between staff and parents/ carers.

If you want to know more details before the meeting please don't hesitate in getting in touch via info@friendsofwestjesmond.co.uk

We'd love to meet over coffee and tell you more!