



Headteacher Newsletter

Friday 5th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

There have been some fantastic examples of sporting endeavour and excellence across school in the last few weeks.

I'm delighted and very proud to share the news that **Albie and Will from Year 6** have been selected to play for the **Newcastle District Schools football team**. They have already played Stockton Schools and this weekend play their second match against Sunderland Schools. Both boys have been on the score sheet already.

Special mention should go to Albie, who came 5th in the boys' Y6 race and Isla, who was first home for WJPS in her race. Well done everyone!



On Tuesday 3rd October the **West Jesmond Girls' Football Team took part in the English Schools FA competition**. The team played three matches in total, losing to both Walkergate and Gosforth Junior. In the final game the girls played brilliantly and drew the match. We are all very proud of all the girls who showed super team spirit. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Fourteen **Y5 and Y6 runners** took part in the **Northumberland Schools Cross-Country Championships** at Gateshead Stadium on Tuesday. On a blustery day, everyone ran their hearts out over a hilly course and did West Jesmond proud!



Year 2 went back in time at Beamish last week to learn what life was like for Victorian children. They quickly found out that their West Jesmond teachers are even lovelier than they thought.



This week Mrs McVittie and I travelled down to London on Monday to attend an event hosted by the **Department for Education**. During the day, we worked with colleagues from the **Education Endowment Fund** to look at evidenced based approaches to implementing new school based initiatives. We hope this training will help us become more and more effective in implementing, measuring and evaluating change in school.



On Friday morning, Mrs Oades, Jacqui and a small group of pupils took part in a **Terrarium Making Workshop at The Flower Folk**. It was a brilliant morning; learning step by step how to build up and look after our terrariums! Many thanks to Pip and Vicky for having us- we had an amazing time! Watch this space for more green fingered projects around school in the near future!

Some lucky Y6s had a fantastic day at **Bring It On** at The Stadium of Light today. They spoke to scientists and engineers from North East companies and found out about careers in the STEM industry. There was lot of hands on learning: virtual reality, coding, driving, problem solving, welding with chocolate, filming and trying to crack an escape room. Our future engineers should sleep well tonight!



On Thursday, **Year 5** were joined by the vicious Viking Erik Erikson from The Longship Trading Company.

During the day, the children learned first-hand about what life was like in the times of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Clothing, law and order, religion and weaponry were all on the agenda, as well as a good bout of Viking war chanting.

The children were also given the opportunity to try on authentic clothing and handle a huge variety of objects, including jewellery, tools, cooking implements, horns and (gulp) swords, spears and axes!



Tickets for next week's **Quiz Night** are still on sale using SIMS Agora. Mr Snelders and crew have been brushing up on their general knowledge, 80s pop, cricketing triumphs etc. ahead of the evening! Your £10 entrance fee guarantees you some lovely food from Layla's Kitchen and there is also a pay bar to keep you refreshed. **Friday 12th October, 7.30-10.30pm** at school.

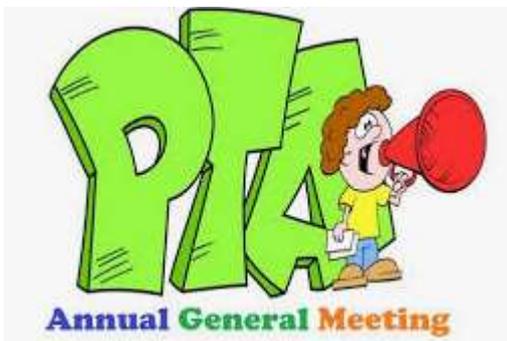
Please look out for order forms for your child's **Christmas Card artwork** next week. I'd like to thank Helen and Shona who've battled with GDPR regulations to find a company that will allow us to go ahead with this great fundraising project for the school; a lovely way to share your child's artwork at Christmas. Please do not delay in completing your order as the deadline is quite soon!



Year 1 had a wonderful time **visiting Jesmond Dene** as part of our humanities work on the local area. We completed a tally chart usage survey for the Dene to see what the area is primarily used for, looked for clues as to what the Dene was like in the past, and sketched the beautiful Armstrong Bridge.



Don't forget too it our **Friends (PTA) AGM on Wednesday 17th October 5 – 6.30pm** come along and hear about our fundraising successes and plans for the year ahead.



As a **Green Flag and Eco school** we are always trying to raise awareness amongst our school community about important environmental issues locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. During our Green Day event in May this year we looked at the impact of plastic and provided every child with a reusable cotton bag to promote the reusable alternatives to plastic bags.



I'm sure many of you will have watched the shocking **BBC documentary 'Drowning in plastic'**. If you haven't seen it, though some of the content with animals suffering is difficult to watch, I'd encourage you to watch it as a family, particularly if you have children in KS2. Personally, I feel as a generation of adults we failed to foresee the impact plastic would have on our planet. But one thing we can do is help our children learn from our mistakes, so they are not repeated. I've been talking with Miss Jordan our Eco Lead about how this important documentary might inspire some further work in school.

 Young Achievers 	
Evie Y5R	Achieving her Pen Licence
Faye Y5R	Achieving her Pen Licence
Zavi Y5R	Achieving his Pen Licence
Niamh Y5R	Achieving her Pen Licence
Ada Y5R	Achieving her Pen Licence
Cillian Y5R	Achieving his Pen Licence
Brooke Y5R	Achieving her Pen Licence
Otto Y4J	Trophy for Rugby
Zain Y3F	11 th Junior park Run – Equivalent to running a ½ marathon
Zinedine R2	15m Swimming certificate and badge
Araleea Y6M	Crest discovery award – for the project 'Power Up Autonomous Vehicle Challenge'

With best wishes for the week ahead

Dominic Martin

Head of School