



Headteacher Newsletter Friday 25th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been yet another busy week in school and spring term is very much underway. One spring term favourite that's just around the corner is our **annual talent show**. This year we have had to make some changes. On reflection, after last year's event, we realised that the show had simply become unmanageable. With the large number of acts last year, the audience was in a constant state of flux as parents came and went. This disrupted the flow of the evening, and on occasions interrupted acts and resulted in some children performing to a much smaller audience. With the volume of performers and adults, it was also difficult to keep everyone 'fed and watered' throughout the evening – the catering team never stopped!



It has always been our intention to provide the children with a supportive and attentive audience; reducing numbers, allowing more time for each act and having a consistent audience which stays to watch every act will ensure we meet this aim. Finding a means or criteria to reduce numbers was never going to be easy and, believe me, we looked at every possible way of doing this – first come first served; restricting entry to certain year

groups; names out of a hat etc. etc. Disappointment, whatever the criteria, was inevitable. The team eventually settled upon auditions as the best way forward.

The fact that so many children even put their names forward for auditions was fantastic; this in itself took real courage and every child concerned should be rightly proud of themselves for doing so.

Inevitably, there were some disappointed children, who didn't get offered a slot to perform this year. No parent finds it easy seeing their child upset; if your child was left feeling disappointed, I'm sure you have already taken the time to reassure and help them place, what may feel like a setback, in to perspective.

My own son Sam was very tearful just two weeks ago when he didn't get a part he had auditioned for with a local theatre group. He inevitably questioned his talent and ability to perform. Providing him with the perspective that disappointment is an inevitable part of life and helping him to reflect on the many successes he has already had helped steer him back to a more positive outlook, and over the days that followed, his sense of disappointment faded.

Moving forward, I know the team and the children will put on a fantastic show with a wide variety of talents on show from confident performers to those taking to the stage for the first time. I'm sure everyone will get behind those performing and the show will once again be a huge success.

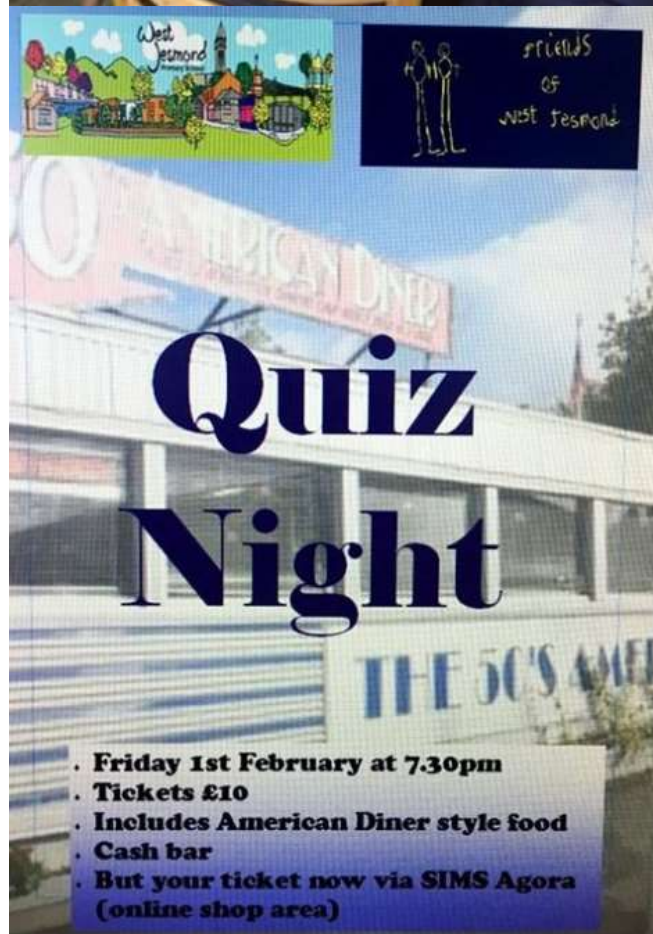
It's also been **Take One Picture week** across school. I've found it fascinating to look at how different year groups have interpreted our painting in writing or in pictures.



Our **Rainbow creators** were back at Cake Stories this week making more plans for their future collaborations. We look forward to seeing what unfolds!



This week we took delivery of some rather **fantastic new coding equipment**. A huge thank you to **Red Hat** for their support and generous donation. Dave Ingham presented the equipment to Digital Leaders today. This week's Code Club had the chance to try out the BBC Micro:Bits by coding a digital game of Rock Paper Scissors!



Don't forget there is still time to secure tickets for next week's **Quiz Night**. The food will be fabulous; the questions challenging and the inevitable banter will be good hearted - what's not to like!!!

Our school, along with many others, has agreed to participate in a very important **health related behaviour survey** of children and young people. This survey supports the work of Newcastle City Council and its partners. Children in Year 4 and Year 6 will take part.

As a result of the survey Newcastle City Council will have reliable information from which it can better plan to meet the health needs of children and young people. They, and the school find the content of the questionnaire acceptable. We hold a copy of the questionnaire in the school office. You are welcome to view it; please ask at the School Office.

Each questionnaire is anonymous and confidential, and no pupil will be identified when the data is returned to school. The City Council's Public Health team will receive a summary of schools' results and data for use in further analysis. They will use this to help in planning and targeting resources and services.

With best wishes for the week ahead,



Dominic Martin

Head of School

<div>  Young Achievers  </div>	
Betsy Y10	Stage 1 Swimming Certificate
Kayden Y10	Achieved 100% in Chinese Exam
Joshua Y2H	Star Team Player in Rugby
William R3	Aquajets Swim School Swimmer of the Year Award and Promotion to the Future Stars Programme
Kai Y2JT	Super Mathematician
Lucy R1	Level 7 Gymnastics Certificate
Phoebe Y1B	Level 4 Gymnastics Certificate
Lex Y2H	400m Swimming Certificate