



**January 24<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week our staff CPD sessions for both teachers and teaching assistants focused on learning from each other about how we use technology to support teaching and learning. As Computing Lead it was great to see how effectively this is used across the school and how this opens so many opportunities for our children. I even tried a few ideas in Year 3 yesterday afternoon. This morning I listened with interest to the news that Tesco will no longer be selling multipacks of cans wrapped in plastic. On Green Day a couple of years ago I took my Year 2 class to Tesco in Jesmond to look at products that used too much plastic. We then designed new packaging and tweeted the supermarkets our recommendations. The can wrapping was something that many of the children focused on – I'd like to think it was our work that got them thinking!

### **Learning Beyond the Classroom**

On Monday Year 6 used Skype in Education, as part of their current topic, to contact Asma. She is originally from Aleppo and moved to Germany to study as a result of the ongoing civil war in Syria. The children were struck by the impact this conflict had on her and her family's life. From the comments on our Facebook feed from parents it obviously promoted interesting discussions at home too.



### **Seizing the Clay**

The Creative Stars had a fantastic morning painting our 'All About Me' plates at The Pottery Experience with Hazel and Anna yesterday. The group, Mrs Oades and Gill had a brilliant time and they can't wait to get their finished products back in two weeks' time!



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## Big Bird Watch

This weekend is the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. This was very popular with the children as part of last year's Dippy School challenges. If you would like to take part in the world's largest wildlife survey on 25-27 January, just choose an hour any time over the three days and enjoy time with nature counting birds. You can sign up using the link below and enter your data via the RSPB website. It's a great opportunity to spend time together enjoying the great outdoors and doing your bit to support wildlife and contribute to the excellent work our Eco Group, Miss Jordan and Mrs Edwards promote in school!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch>

## Australia Wild Fires Coffee Morning

Just to update you on the wonderful fundraising effort by the Friends of West Jesmond last Friday - we raised a huge £525! We have chosen to donate to the NSW area as this is the worst affected. You can find out more information or make a donation at:

<https://www.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/make-a-donation/>

I hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting week at West Jesmond on Monday,

Tom Jones  
Assistant Headteacher

Young Achievers	
Nasim 2E	Levels 5, 6 and 7 Lexia Certificates
Ishaal R2	Stage 2 Swimming Award
Freya R1	25m Swimming Award
Jessica 3ST	Level 7 Swimming Award
Sam 1C	20m Swimming Award
Alissa 1W	Completing 1 <sup>st</sup> La Jolie Ronde French course
George 6W	Runner of the Week Certificate