



Headteacher Newsletter Friday 1st February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's February already - where is the time going? With **plummeting temperatures and possible snow forecast** please make sure your child is well wrapped up. If snow does fall, we want the children still to be able to spend time outside having fun, so please ensure your child has appropriate warm clothing and possibly a spare pair of socks or tights to change into in the event of wet feet!



Jonah 1B, Jacqui and Mr Pretswell look this photo after experimenting with bubbles in freezing temperatures on the yard.

We will always do our best to keep school open despite challenging weather conditions. Please keep an eye on social media feeds, particularly Facebook, which you can also view on the school website, in the event of heavy snowfall.

It is a while since we have written about **Class Dojo** in the Newsletter. Dojo has become an integral part of promoting positive learning behaviours around school, since we introduced it a few years ago.

Dojo allows the teacher and their class to interact and recognise positive learning behaviours above and beyond the everyday good behaviour we expect from children at West Jesmond. Dojo can be displayed on the classroom whiteboard, or the teacher's Ipad, allowing the children to keep track of their progress, as well as view the special avatar character they have chosen to represent themselves and their tally.



All classes have a set of common skills to aspire toward; part of **West Jesmond's Fantastic Five** to promote learning behaviours:

Collaborating: We are looking for our children to fully engage on all activities across the curriculum and approach these with a positive attitude. Often in class we ask children to work in pairs or groups and we want to make sure everyone has a role and is being included to reach a shared goal. By encouraging these behaviours, we are developing well-rounded learners and equipping them with important life skills.

Creativity: To encourage approaching work and tasks in different ways and showing originality.

Independence: this is to encourage children to be able to try something before asking for help, ask peers for advice or select resources to help them be successful in work set.

Reflecting: As a learner are they able to understand what they have done well and know what they could do to make it even better? Also, can they identify where they haven't been so successful and improving on their work.

Taking a risk: This recognises when children really go that extra mile to challenge themselves. This can range from choosing to approach a more challenging task in class to performing in assembly in front of their peers.

Once children reach 250 Dojos they have the chance to come and celebrate this achievement with Mr Wallis-Clarke or myself and receive a special postcard certificate. Individual teachers may also highlight additional and different milestones appropriate to class routines and the age of the children. Each teacher can also set their own "skills" they would like to highlight, again depending on the age of the children and individual class routines.

We would be very interested to hear your views as parents on class dojo. If you have the chance to answer a few questions that would be most appreciated:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JSFJFSZ>



We would love you and your family to join our school team at the **37th Children's Cancer Run** at Newcastle Racecourse, Gosforth Park on Sunday 19th May 2019. Children have been given a leaflet today with details about the race. Please read the letter in this week's mail with all the information on how to apply. It is a fun filled family day out, all for a good cause.



I'm delight to share our **initial plans for the new Secret Garden** following consultation with parents and children. A huge thank you Oobe Architects and parent Usue Ruiz Arana for turning our thoughts and ideas in to what could become a wonderful space for our children to enjoy. The full concept document is attached in the parent mail for you to read.



This week **road use in Jesmond** has once again hit the headlines. We would like to reassure parents that we, as a school, are working together with Newcastle City Council Road Safety Officers to secure the **safest**

possible and eco-friendly solutions for all of our children. A number of schemes have been suggested and we would welcome collaboration with the Council to ensure our children's needs are a key priority.



Our School Council will be gathering views from our children and parents over the coming weeks, starting with the Survey Monkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJV7FZR>

We are interested to know what your solution would be to the challenges we face to deliver a positive, collaborative outcome that meets the needs of pedestrians, road users, local residents and the environment.


In the meantime, the most cost effective and timely method to improve road safety and air quality around school is for us all to positively consider our own behaviours and attitudes to the situation; always putting our children first.

Our next **Charity fundraiser** will be a Breakfast/coffee morning in the school hall on **Friday 8th February** from 8 am until 10am. We will be raising money and collecting donations of 'smart wear' for the 'SMART WORKS' charity. Please read the attached poster for criteria on clothing donations. We are also collecting and recycling Bra's for the charity 'Against Breast Cancer' again please see the attached info.

If you can do any of the following to help either of these excellent charities it would be much appreciated.

- Donate Smart wear for SMART WORKS – Anytime from 1st – 8th February (drop off at main school entrance)
- Recycle your Bra for AGAINST BREAST CANCER – Anytime from 1st – 8th February (collection box at the main school entrance)
- Make and donate a breakfast bake for our SMART WORKS breakfast fundraiser (bring to the school hall on the morning of Friday 8th February 8AM)
- Help on the morning, setting up, serving, washing cups and tidying up.

If anyone would like to propose a charity or run a coffee morning please send your request or ideas to info@friendsofwestjesmond.co.uk

 Young Achievers 	
Jonah 1B	Super investigating with bubbles and freezing temperatures
Henry R2	Novocastrians RFC Under 6's 'Star Player'
Keren Y10	Fabulous letter writing and great spellings
Shaun Y4S	Level 3A Kumon Maths Programme
Isla R1	Great artwork
Cecile R2	25m Swimming Certificate
Adam Y2H	Awarded a personalised ice hockey puck (and scored first goal in match)
James Y3L	Outstanding French homework
Milena Y6W	Outstanding Spanish homework

With best wishes for the week ahead,

Dominic Martin

Head of School