



Headteacher Newsletter Friday 23rd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I feel I need to make a rather impassioned start to this week's newsletter. Since I arrived at West Jesmond in 2013, issues with **parking and road safety** have unfortunately been a major feature of my working week. There does not seem to be the will at Council level to amend street layouts, parking restrictions etc.; for the moment at least we are stuck with arrangements we have and simply need to make the best of them. However, practically what we can change is ourselves and our habits.

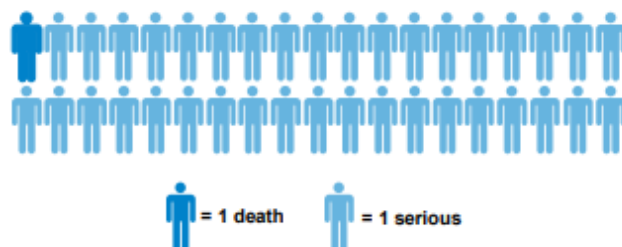
Just so this is absolutely clear, what follows are a number of polite requests; these are obviously not legally enforceable by school but genuinely have staff, parent and most importantly children's safety in mind. **If we don't change our parking and driving habits around school a child will be seriously injured or worse and we as a school community will have to bear that responsibility.**

Moving forward, we intend to start regularly recording number plates of cars that consistently park either illegally or dangerously around school. These numbers will be passed on to the local police and parking enforcement at the council. At drop off times, please do not park across the staff car park. A number of staff have nearly been knocked over by cars manoeuvring or fighting over spaces.

Furthermore, please, please take note of the parking restrictions on Tankerville Terrace and don't park on double yellow or white zigzags. These restrictions are not in place to inconvenience us all; they are in place because risk assessments deem them necessary for pedestrian safety around school.

The statistics below, published by the Department of Transport, highlight how vulnerable children are:

An average of 1 death and 37 seriously injured children per week



1 = 1 death **1** = 1 serious

Child pedestrians account for the majority of child KSI casualties



(KSI – killed or seriously injured)

Apologies for starting the newsletter off on such an 'uncheery' note, but our habits need to change.



This week **Y5M visited the Grainger market** as part of their Virgin Money Make £5 Grow project to sell their produce this week. They made approximately £381.49 in profit. A huge congratulations and thank you to the children for working incredibly hard and to the parents for all their help and support. A special mention to David Griffiths who kindly volunteered to transport our delicate items to the market considering the rain was not kind to us.



Throughout the week, often braving the rain, **Year 2 were out exploring the Quayside**. They're now experts on the Great Fire of Gateshead, what landmarks are there and how people use the Baltic.



Our **Rainbow Creators group** have had a fantastic morning at **The Flower Folk** making two large terrariums to brighten up the inside of our school. The first is complete and is looking fabulous at the top of the main staircase. Thank you to Miss Glen for loaning it to us! The second was a more tricky design and requires a little more work, but we should be able to get it finished before Christmas. Watch this space!



We've now raised over £5000 towards our intended **Secret Garden project** in memory of Mrs Hainsworth. If you'd like to sponsor me for next weekend's 55 mile Cheviot Goat ultra-marathon it would be much appreciated. I've set a target of £1000 towards the project. To sponsor me click here: [secret garden sponsorship](#)



On Wednesday 20th November the **Y6 netball team took part in the first Ouseburn Netball League**. The team won 2 matches of their matches, beating Ravenswood and Cragside. Well done Bella, Megan, Chalida, Milena, Robert, Emily, Layla,



Serena, Ntokozo and Mercy.

- 1st - Benton park -18 points
- 2nd - Hotspur - 16 points
- 3rd - West Jesmond - 12 points
- 4th - Craggside - 8 points
- 5th - Ravenswood - 6 points

Each year the **Eco Committee** put an entry into the **St Hilda's Parish Church 'Festival of Decorated Christmas Trees'**. We have had huge success over the last few years and are hoping for this to continue! This year we would be grateful for any tin cans. We do not want drinks cans, only cylindrical food cans such as baked bean tins or tinned tomato tins. Please ensure they are empty and washed but do not worry about removing the labels. Please send them in over the next two weeks. The Festival of Christmas Trees takes place at St Hilda's Parish Church on Saturday 1st December from 11am – 6pm. Viewing of the trees is until 4:30pm with a carol service at 5pm before they announce the winning entries. It would be wonderful for as many people to go and look at our tree (and hopefully vote for it too!)

On **Friday 30th November** we are holding a **coffee morning** in the main hall to raise funds for **Myeloma UK**. Please come in for a hot coffee, a slice cake and a chance to chat. We are opening the doors at 8.15am so why not pop in before drop off?

Please come along between 8.15-9.45am

<https://www.myeloma.org.uk/fundraisin.../how-your-money-helps>



There will be a **second hand book and toy stall at the school Christmas Fair** (9th December). This is the ideal opportunity to have a good clear out. If you have any items we could sell at the fair, it would be great if you can drop them off at the office as soon as you can. **Raffle tickets** for the fair should be coming home in the book bags today or early next week. Please buy tickets if you can and return the money and stubs to school as soon as possible - the team have worked very hard to get some fantastic prizes and all money raised goes towards the school.

With Christmas fast approaching there a couple of **easy ways to support school with fundraising** – using the following links:

[Easy fundraising](#)

[Amazon Smile](#)

 Young Achievers 	
Dillion R2	Climbing Wansfell Pike in the Lake District (1600 ft above sea level and a 4 mile walk)
Kai Y2JT	Filled his smiley chart
Hamta Y3F	Level B in Kumon
Ethan Y3F	Climbing event for Scouts
Freddie Y2S	Star Team Player for Rugby
Wilf Y1W	Polar Bear Ski Club 'Skier of the Week'
Eli Y5G	200m swimming
Alba Y1B	15m swimming certificate

With best wishes for the week ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic".

Dominic Martin Head of School