



School Newsletter

Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to everyone who has come along to our **welcome meetings** so far. I've had lots of very positive feedback from you about them – this is much appreciated. I do hope you've found them informative.



We have set up a **Survey Monkey questionnaire** ([here](#)) to find out about your experience of the first few weeks; how your child has settled in and how you found the welcome meetings. It's only a couple of questions; your feedback would be much appreciated.

If you've been into our reception area since we started back last week, you will have seen the changes we've made. We're delighted with the **changes to reception and office areas** which were completed over the holiday. My life turned into an episode of Grand Designs during the last week of the holiday trying to make sure that everything was completed on time. If you're coming in to speak to the office team first thing in the morning or just after school, please wait to be

admitted through to the main reception area. We're no longer intending to use the hatch at these times. The changes have also provided us with a lovely conference room to host meetings, likewise a comfortable space to meet with parents and children. It was getting rather cramped in the upstairs office!

It's been a pleasure to see medals from all our **Great North Runners** this week. Amazing achievements all round. Well done too to our staff runners Mr Jones (who picked up a sub 2 hour pb), Mrs Hogan, Miss Thompson (completing her first half marathon) and Mrs Oades and family. Mr Jones, Miss Thompson and Mrs Hogan were all running in memory of our dear friend Deborah Hainsworth and Mrs Oades and family for Clic Sargent. Thanks to your donations a huge amount of money has been raised for an important charity. Likewise, funds raised by Miss Thompson, Mr Jones and Mrs Hogan will go into our Secret Garden project pot. We hope to have the Secret Garden in place by next summer for the children to enjoy.





In the meantime, we're delighted to launch our annual **Class Cake Stall Competition!**

If you're new to the school, or need a reminder, every Friday one class is assigned to bake or donate cakes or treats to be sold at the end of school (by the undercroft) to raise funds for the school. The Friends of West Jesmond (the PTA) coordinate these sales, which typically raise around £3000 each year. This money has been spent on resources throughout the school.

The class to raise the most money on their cake stall day will win a class treat. Last year it was Y1YR with a fantastic total of £205!

We are always in need of parent/carer helpers to sell cakes. Just come to the office at 3pm on a Friday and help set up.

All fund raising opportunities are much appreciated by the school and never taken for granted – so thank you!



Though we are in a secure position financially, school budgets are always tight. It's the same story across the country for all schools. Fund raising provides us with a vital additional revenue stream which allows us to purchase all sorts of wonderful things for the children that would otherwise be out of our reach financially.

We do a lot of fund raising through our PTA – the Friends of West Jesmond. For parents new to Reception we'll be talking about how you can get involved at the Afternoon Tea on Monday 24th September.



Many of our children benefited from visiting the **community orchard** just around the corner from school, situated in St Andrew's cemetery. Mr Cook has been hard at work creating some new raised beds to enhance the range of activities children can access. If you happen to visit the Orchard do look out for the newly installed **stone carvings** created by **the very talented Mr Pretswell** with stone from around the local region. The designs are based on drawings provided by children who visited the orchard on its open day. Well done Mr Pretswell – they look fantastic!!



On the subject of growing spaces, please do think about coming along to the **reopening of the entrance to the South Highbury Allotment site on Highbury (opposite Mildmay Rd)**. This entrance has been re-built and is to be dedicated to the memory of Hugh Smith. Hugh worked tirelessly for many years with his good friend Jenny and local community volunteers to provide our children with an allotment space to use. The allotment has won numerous awards of the years and is a huge testament to all their hard work.

Working with Jenny and former governor Gavin Aavrold, last year's Year 5 children were asked to provide some suggested art work to be placed on the gate to warn users of the danger from passing traffic. Two entries were chosen and the services of Alan Ramsay, Director of Roots and Wings Design, were sought to enhance and weather-proof them.

The entrance will be reopened with a dedication ceremony on **Saturday 22nd September at 2pm**, commencing with a glass of fizz and nibbles on the School Allotment after which people walk down to the gate where Hugh's widow, Trish Smith, will dedicate it. I do hope a good number of people are able to attend; another way of saying thank you to Hugh.

Finally this week, don't forget to purchase your tickets for our annual performance at the **Shakespeare's Schools Festival**. Taking place at Northern Stage this event is a wonderful showcase for our Year 6 children's acting talents. This year we will be performing Hamlet.





Young Achievers



Will Y4C	Head Teacher Star of the Week Award for Improvement
Annabelle Y3F	Completed a Summer Reading Challenge
Maisie Y3F	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Henry Y2S	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Jessica Y2H	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Rebecca Y2H	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Jenson Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Henry Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Laila Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Betty Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile and pre-primary award in Dance from Royal Academy of Dance
Emily Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile
James Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Emily Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Henry Y1O	Completed GNR Mini Mile
James Y3L	Completed GNR Mini Mile
George Y3L	Completed GNR Mini Mile
William Y3L	Completed GNR Mini Mile
Emma Y3F	Level 3 Swimming Award
Ethan Y3F	25m Swimming Award
Sofia Y3F	4 certificates: mini golf, limbo, 50m swimming award and art.
Felicity Y1W	Royal Academy of Dance award

With best wishes for the week ahead

Dominic Martin

Head of School