



## The West Jesmond Family Newsletter 11 Autumn Term 2021



We started December with some seasonal weather, rather worrying Covid news and a very treacherous walk to school on Thursday (see below). I hope everyone saw the 'Christmas 2021 at West Jesmond' letter this week. We are determined to do all we can make the end of term as special as possible for children despite restrictions. Schools have seen growing numbers of Covid cases over this term and we are continuing to do all we can to keep the balance of normality in school and also trying to reduce transmission risks. The biggest help you are giving is keeping children off who are unwell and arranging for LFD or PCR tests – thank you.

School life continues to be energetic and busy and this Newsletter will reflect some of the activities that have taken place in the last seven days.

### School Council go to Parliament (almost!)

On Friday our School Council took part in an online 'Introduction to UK Parliament' session. It was fun, engaging and informative and we all learnt a lot about what happens in Parliament. We were joined online towards the end by Nick Brown MP for a Question and Answer session.



**West Jesmond Sports Stars:** A team of 5/6 children represented school in the **Newcastle Sportshall Athletics** at the Walker Sports Dome. The children performed fabulously in a range of events including, triple jump, long jump, relays, speed bounce and sprints. All the children did us proud, showed great sportsmanship and were very encouraging to their teammates. We are eagerly awaiting the official results.

Our **Girls Football team** continued on their winning path beating Gosforth Junior High 2-0 to progress to the next round of the City Cup.

Tuesday saw a fantastic effort from everyone in our **Year 4 running club**. On a cold, gloomy afternoon we brightened up the Town Moor with some really enthusiastic running and our runners set a club record distance of three miles on only our second run since lockdown. Well done everyone, especially Michael Cavanagh, our proud Runner of the Week!

### Year 4 Multi-Skills:

Year 4 had a fantastic morning at multi-skills on Friday! We learned a whole range of different skills and were taught about how we can practise these outside of school too. Ask us all about it!



### Djembe and Choir:

One of the things we most missed during earlier parts of the pandemic were the sounds of music in school. It is lovely to walk around and see so many children having individual and group tuition and to hear Mrs Anderson's choir filling the music room with song. If conditions allow, the choir will be making two public performances out in the community in the next two weeks.

The school reverberated to the sound of drums on Thursday as Mrs Trench resumed her training of our children in the skills of Djembe drumming. It has been lovely to welcome back Mrs Trench's club this term. We are currently running it for Year 6's and have been very pleased with the mix of new and experienced drummers.



### Children in Need:

The final total raised by West Jesmond Primary for Children in Need 2021 comes in at an incredible £2766.20! Thank you so much to everyone who supported us, donated and bought merchandise.

### An Icy Week:

Thank you to those parents who responded to our message on Thursday about not driving near school. On all days we ask you not to drive or park near school and on snowy or icy days this is even more important. We were concerned at how dangerous the roads, crossings and footbridge were outside school and the lack of any gritting. We are speaking with the council about our concerns and in particular getting the gritting bin reinstated at the junction with Forsyth Road.

### Digital Leaders:

Mr McGrath is recruiting a team of Digital Leaders from across Key stage 2.

He led an assembly on Friday to talk to the children and is asking for applications from all those who are keen to be involved. Please ask your child if this is something they would be interested in!



### New Parent Governors:

We are very pleased to welcome our new Parent Governors to the West Jesmond Governing Body. Our Governors do a hugely important job challenging and supporting the school on the behalf of all of our school Community and we are very grateful for the time, effort and expertise they so generously give.

Deepa Gibson a parent of children in Reception and Year 3 and Imran Malik a Year 1 parent are joining the Governors for the first time and Laura Cordy a parent of children in Year 3 and Year 5 has been re-elected for a further term.

**Fleming Court Kindness Hampers:** You will have received a letter this week about our donations to our local care home Fleming Court. Their staff and residents would like to spread some Christmas spirit to people living on their own and for families in need. In the same way as we collected for the Foodbank earlier this year, there will be trolleys placed on the entrance gates into school every morning from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, on which you can place donations.

If you would like to nominate someone to receive one of the kindness hampers from Fleming Court, please email your nomination to me by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at the latest. [loades@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:loades@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk)

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### A Christmas Treat from the Friend of West Jesmond:

If you would like an exclusive Christmas gift why not order your own WJPS Christmas pudding! £5.50 (all proceeds to school funds) and a choice of three flavours: traditional, sticky toffee or lemon. To place an order please email [friendswjps@mail.com](mailto:friendswjps@mail.com)



### Year 3 Christmas Doors:

The children in Year 3 had a lovely surprise this week. When they arrived in school they found their class doors had mysteriously taken on a seasonal performance!



Have a lovely weekend everyone and especially our families who are celebrating Hanukkah. We wish you happiness, peace and light and hope that you enjoy your celebrations and time together this weekend.

Matt Ward



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