



## West Jesmond Family Newsletter 12 Autumn Term 2023



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

### Parents' Voice

At the recent Parent Consultations, our governors had the chance to speak with lots of you about the school. We are very grateful to them for spending the time gathering your thoughts and to all of you who were able to spend a few minutes talking with them.

We were extremely pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response to all we are trying to do at West Jesmond to continuously develop and further improve our school. Your comments and encouragement mean a lot to us and inspire us to do more. We were particularly pleased with your comments about the teachers and curriculum, the range of clubs and opportunities and above all the school's sense of community and of being a family.

There were a number of areas you want us to keep looking at. There are some we are working on, some we can strive towards and a couple, including 'buying a field' that might be a challenge, but would certainly be seized on if there was ever the chance! A number of you raised further increasing and diversifying activities that take place out of school time. Suggestions included more clubs for younger children and looking for clubs that might suit children with different interests. Several of you talked about traffic around school and we will continue to push as hard as we can in this area. Homework is an area that can divide our parents and we are looking at your comments to try to maintain the best balance of activities for the children. There were some useful comments about Weduc that we will reflect on and make changes to simplify systems, where we can. There were a number of questions about school meals and the School Council are going to take these forward to the kitchen. The children who stopped to talk to the Governors have challenged us to continue to develop the outside spaces and play opportunities.

### Friends Christmas Fair Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm

We are all looking forward to the Christmas Fair next Friday. After speaking with a number of parents, the Friends have decided on a change of time with the Fair starting earlier at 3.30pm to allow some people to attend straight after picking up.

**Non-Uniform Day:** On Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, children are invited to come in non-uniform. If they have a Christmas Jumper, they are welcome to wear it. On the day, we are asking for donations for the fair - bottles, chocolates and new toy donations if possible.



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Deputy Headteacher: Tom Jones

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## Introduction to Parliament

On Thursday, Gillian Bell from @UKParlEducation came to give all of Key Stage 2 a brilliant and engaging 'Introduction to UK Parliament' talk in assembly. We all learnt lots about what and where parliament is, how it all works and who makes the laws! Thank you Gillian, we really enjoyed your visit!



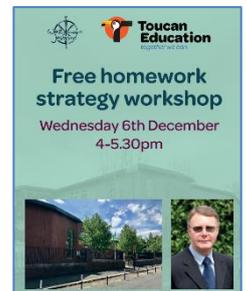
## Year 6 Synagogue Visit

This week, half of Year 6 visited the United Hebrew Congregation in Gosforth as part of their current RE (Religious Education) topic. During their fascinating visit, the children were able to handle artefacts and ask questions about how the Jewish community who go to this synagogue to celebrate their faith. We look forward to our visit for the rest of the year group next week.



## Homework Strategy Workshop Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

We are very excited to be hosting the world-renowned dyslexia expert, Neil McKay, at West Jesmond next week. Neil will be leading a workshop for parents and children on strategies to help with homework. Thank you to all of our parents and children who have signed up to event and to **Toucan Education** who have organised this fantastic opportunity.



## Year 6 at Lockerbie

Well done to all of our Year 6 last week who were at Lockerbie. We are immensely proud of all of our children for their behaviour, bravery and great attitudes on the residential. We were especially proud to hear the Manor Adventure staff comment on how brilliant our children. Can I also thank our children from Year 6 who were in school last week for engaging so well in our activities and for being a great team with Mrs Groot!



## Governor Election

Please check you have received your ballot paper for the Parent Governor election. Thank you to our parents who are standing for election. We are so proud and grateful that so many of our parents want to play this important role in the school and we hope, as many of you will cast your votes as possible.

### Too Good To Go: Friday Free Fruit and Milk!

Some weeks we find that the children do not finish all of the fruit and milk that is delivered for Reception and Key Stage 1. Jenny Finck one of Reception team wants to prevent any of this going to waste. She will be setting up a table next to the cake stall on a Friday after school with all the leftover milk and any fruit. So, rather than it being possibly thrown out, our families can take what they think they will use.



### School Council Christmas Campaign: People's Kitchen Donations

Next week, School Council will be holding a collection for donations of good condition, clean second-hand clothing, shoes and sleeping bags for the People's Kitchen. This is a difficult time of year for charities and those who are vulnerable and living on the streets and School Council are keen to help and make a difference where we can.

There will be trolleys out at the front of school and in the main yard, every morning, next week, from Mon 4<sup>th</sup> December to Fri 8<sup>th</sup> December, if you have anything you are able to donate.

Thank you from the School Council and Mrs Oades

### Well Done West Jesmond Athletes

Mrs Rennison, our Sports Mentor, was super proud of the 16 children who represented West Jesmond at the Sportshall Athletics competition yesterday. Fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship demonstrated.



Have a lovely, snowy, weekend everyone!

Matt Ward (Headteacher)



## Dates for Your Diary

### Next Week

- ❖ **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** Homework Strategy Workshop
- ❖ **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** Winter Stories with Chris Bostock (Rec, Yr. 1/2)
- ❖ **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm** Christmas Fair

### Further Ahead (See Christmas Letter)

- ❖ **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** Choir singing at City Library  
Telyn String Quartet in School
- ❖ **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** Key Stage 2 Christmas Lunch
- ❖ **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Weds 13<sup>th</sup> December** Reception Christmas Shows (9.15am)
- ❖ **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm** Choir Singing at the Grainger Market 
- ❖ **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** Year 2 Christmas Show 9.15am & 2.15pm)
- ❖ **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** Year 1 Christmas Songs and Crafts 2pm
- ❖ **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** Key Stage 1 Christmas Lunch 
- ❖ **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 2pm** Dance Club Show
- ❖ **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 5-6pm** Winter Songs by Lantern Light Key Stage 2
- ❖ **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** End of Term 
- ❖ **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024** Start of the Spring Term 