



# West Jesmond Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to begin by saying a huge thank you to all the staff, governors and parents that have been personally so supportive to me this week. As some of you may have seen on ITV and BBC news my husband as the Head teacher at Hotspur primary school was subjected last week to some hurtful and libellous graffiti that appeared around the school on pavements, signs and houses facing the school. This was obviously very distressing but the support and love shown on Facebook and at the school has been quite overwhelming. The children and parents at Hotspur have rallied and categorically stated that their school is a safe place for everyone and such behaviour and attitudes have no place in their school where children grow and learn.

This is critical for us at West Jesmond too. I often call us the United Nations of Schools and together we learn and grow harmoniously together. Within the Ouseburn Learning Trust we want to ensure you that we will not tolerate behaviour like this in any of our schools and we want all of our parents to know that they are valued and recognised for who they are. Sadly, I feel we are living through a difficult time where political governance and ethical, dignified leadership is sadly lacking and not representative of the behaviour we expect from those that dedicate their life to public service. It is inevitable that this would spill out eventually into changing what some people feel is acceptable behaviour.



Miles was very clear in his newsletter (available to read on the Hotspur website and also on Facebook) to his parents that sadly many people experience some form of hate crime on a regular basis based on their race, religion, gender and sexual orientation. It is our duty to educate our pupils and show them a better way to live together and respect and value our differences.

### Parent Governor Elections

Thank you to the parents that have volunteered to be considered for this role and to join our governing body. We will be in touch with them and with our wider parent body over the next few weeks so that you have the opportunity to consider who you would like to join our governors to represent you.

Executive Head Teacher: Gary Wallis-Clarke MA in Education BA (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Head Teacher: Rebecca McVittie MSc, BSc (Hons) PGCE

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## Attendance

Congratulations to all our classes that are making a huge effort to attend school. Last week Miss Condliffe's class and Mr Cook's class had the best attendance with 100% and 99.7% respectively! Every day makes a difference.



## Viking Workshop

Year 5 had a visit this week from Erik the Viking who demonstrated daily life as a Viking warrior. The children found this absolutely fascinating and really enjoyed exploring a range of food, weapons, costumes, traditions and stories. This is a critical part of our history and geography teaching to bring the past to life and to help children understand how this connects to other periods of history and the impact of the Vikings on the UK today.



## Friends of West Jesmond AGM

Please do try and come along to the Friends of West Jesmond AGM and Social evening on Tuesday at 7pm in the staff room. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and contribute to life in the school. The work of the Friends is critical to our school community along with some absolutely essential fundraising.

## Christmas Diary Dates

Please make a note of the date and time of your child's performances in the School Hall and our other Festive events.

**School Christmas Fair Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 12 – 2pm**

**Christingle Service at St Hilda's Church Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 4 pm**

**Reception Christmas Performance Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 am**

**Year 1 Christmas Performance Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 am**

**Year 2 Christmas Performance Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 am**

**Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert at St. George's Church Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 pm  
(NEW EVENT!!!!)**



## Christmas Parties

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December and  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**School will close at 3.20 pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and re-opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 8.45 am as usual.**

With my very best wishes for the week ahead.  
Gary Wallis-Clarke

<b>Young Achievers</b>	
Harriet Y2S	Stage 6 Gymnastics Award
Milo Y2H	Excellent comparison of Victorian Life to today after trip to Beamish
Matthew Y2H	Stage 4 Swimming Award
Emma Y4C	Cubs Promise
Sammy Y4C	Brownies Seconder Badge
Takien Y4C	Karate Purple Den
Betty Y2H	Royal Academy of Dance Certificate and Badge
Arthur Y2O	Fantastic Chef's Video on Youtube
Esti Y1W	Stage 2 Swimming Award
Nicholas Y4E	Stage 7 Swimming Award
Milo Y6M	Level 3 Suzuki Violin Graduate
Sam Y1C	Stage 3 Swimming Award
Zinedine Y1C	Little Kickers Certificate of Achievement
Matilda Y4C	Stage 7 Swimming Award
Isla Y1B	Stage 7 Gymnastics Award
Finn Y3L	Silver Stage 3 Lifeguarding Certificate