

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fun-filled run up to the Christmas break this year.

I'm sure you will join me in thanking all the staff for the hard work this term and for the opportunities they have helped provide for the children. Also, on behalf of the staff, can I just thank all the children and families for your effort and support during the term - it really is appreciated to know that everybody is prepared to support each other as we strive to do the best for all the children.

Make £5.00 Grow: Year 6 have been taking part in the "Make £5.00 Grow" scheme with Virgin Money. Starting with just £5, Year 6 pupils had to design and make their own products to go on sale at their own Christmas Fayre which took place last week. The event itself was a roaring success and the Year 6 children really showcased a wide-range of skills: teamwork, budgeting and creativity. We are pleased to say that the children collectively raised a £221.90 profit, which will go towards St. Oswald's Hospice charity!

Christmas Parties: Over the last week around school, all the children have enjoyed a party day; some of the imaginative games being played around school have kept the children entertained.

Year 4 Christmas Trip: On Wednesday, Year 4 had a fantastic time at Hollywood Bowl for their Christmas trip. The children were all very excited on the morning as we arrived and were ready to get straight into it. Strikes, spares and fun were on the agenda, and it was fantastic to see all the children encouraging each other in a bit of friendly competition. They were wonderful representatives of our school, being extremely polite to staff and members of the public. Also, thank you to the adults that were able to attend as parent helpers. They finished off the fun filled day with their packed lunches in class while watching a Christmas film.

Year 3 Christmas Trip: On Wednesday afternoon, Year 3 were feeling fully festive when they visited The Gala Theatre in Durham to watch the theatre's Christmas pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. The children were all excited to be there. They sang along to all the songs and booed and cheered for the goodies and baddies. Thank you to all the adults that were able to attend as parent helpers on the trip, you were very appreciated.

Year Five on Tour: This week, pupils from year 5 held their final concert of 2025 at Asda (The Galleries) on Monday. Once again, the children sang beautifully and received numerous compliments from the public. During our public singing events we received lots of donations for the school in our collection bucket – totalling £123.28!

Singing Around the Tree: If you managed to join us on Thursday for any of the singing in the hall, I hope you still have the festive glow. The pupils were amazing in their performances, including Makaton, and it was lovely that lots of you joined in with the songs as well – you definitely brought your singing voices! This event is a tradition in school, and it is one of my Christmas highlights each year.

Christingle: During the week, the children have been making Christingles and today, pupils from yr1-yr6 attended a Christingle service at Holy Trinity Church. It was a fitting end to the festive season at school, where the Christmas story was shared alongside the significance of the Christingle. Throughout the service, the readers were clear and supported the created tableaux and the singing raised the roof. Thanks to Rev. Teresa for offering to lead the service today – it really helped spread the message as to the importance of Christmas and Jesus.

Attendance: Our attendance this week is 92.38%, which is an increase from last week. Our year-to-date is now 94.72%.

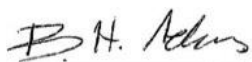
Class	NAM	RAO	RST	1ES	1MT	2MA	2MeA	3AF
Attendance	95.24	92.31	95.93	90.00	95.79	92.59	89.52	91.15
Class	3GB	4BK	4MS	5DF	5RN	6PP/LM	6VS	TH
Attendance	85.65	92.90	91.33	91.72	96.67	91.20	91.15	94.40

We have drawn our attendance raffle for all pupils with 100% attendance, 96%+ attendance or improved attendance for this term. The winners are as follows:

- 100% - Jude P (Reception)
- 96%+ - Jacob L (Year 6)
- Improved – Isla O’N (Year 3)

Our next attendance draw will be next term – the better the attendance, the more chances to win. We will continue to look at ways to improve attendance next term, and as a school, we need everyone’s support to improve our attendance.

On behalf of all the staff, can I all wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope you enjoy being with friends and family. Thank you for your on-going support and we look forward to seeing everyone, ready for another full term, when school reopens on Monday 5th January.



Mr B. Adams
Headteacher



Timetables

P.E. Lessons: Just to remind that the P.E. kit should be a plain white t-shirt (not a football shirt), black shorts or black jogging bottoms/ leggings and trainers. A jumper can also be worn.

Week Commencing: 5 th January		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 4 Swimming	Year Three
Tuesday	Treehouse	
Wednesday		Year 4
Thursday		Year 2
Friday	Treehouse - Swimming	5DF – Swimming 5RN – PE

Forest School: Please send your child into school dressed appropriately for their session – **long sleeves and trousers, wellies and a waterproof coat if possible**. No additional accessories should be worn. Forest School still takes place when raining, and we don't want children sitting in class with wet clothes, so it would be useful to provide spare clothing/shoes on the day.

Week Commencing: 5 th January		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		Year Three
Wednesday	Treehouse	
Thursday		
Friday		2MeA (Miss Atkinson's Class)

