

# John F. Kennedy Primary School

## The Buzz Newsletter



15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yet another busy week in school! I know I shouldn't use the 'C' word yet, but it has been lovely to hear the children beginning to learn the songs they will sing in their Christmas shows and services next month. They sound amazing already!

**Remembrance:** On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, the school took part in an assembly to mark Remembrance Day. The focus of the assembly was around the significance of the poppy and what they represent at this time; an illustrated book 'Alive with Poppies' by Tomos Roberts was shared to help explain the reasons behind this symbol. The two-minute silence was impeccable and it was lovely to include a recording of a past pupil – Ankit – playing the Last Post. I must thank members of the school council, who have been actively selling poppies and other items around school to help raise funds for this worthwhile charity.

**History Event:** If you were able to attend the history homework event in the hall this week, I hope you were impressed with the amazing pieces on display. The standard of the topic homework this time has blown me away, and it has been great to see families working together to create work linked to the curriculum being taught. Please have a look at our school Facebook page for images of each year groups display.

**Special Visitor:** We have been very lucky this week to have had two visits from a very important bear – Pudsey. He came around KS1/EYFS on Tuesday to meet the children and he returned today to meet KS2 and Treehouse children. Pudsey was a big hit with the pupils and many of the children were very excited to receive a high 5 or a cuddle.

**Raising Awareness:** This week we have been asking the pupils to support and raise awareness on a number of issues. On Tuesday, for Anti-Bullying Week we all wore odd socks (or if you were Mr Titmus – plain black as he always wears odd socks) to show that it's okay to be different and to stand up against bullying and discrimination. On Thursday, pupils were encouraged to wear something blue to support those affected by the condition of diabetes on World Diabetes Day. Today, we were in non-uniform to raise funds for Children in Need – thank you if you were able to donate to this charity. If you would still like to donate, please follow this link: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=16553>

**Attendance:** This week our attendance is at 94.97%, and our running total since the start of the term is at 94.27%. The expectation of all schools is to have attendance of 96%+. Well done to RAM who have 100% attendance this week! Below are the attendances for each class.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	90.83	100	96.25	93.75	97.40	97.12	95.19	91.20
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	94.17	96.63	98.15	96.88	97.71	88.94	97.32	93.23

**Job Vacancies:** We have some vacancies for Lunchtime Assistants within JFK. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in this position please visit our school website on the following link to view the job description and application process: <https://www.jfkprimary.co.uk/our-school/our-vacancies/>

**House Points:** Well done to Darwin, who won the most house points this week!

**JFK Superstars:** This week, Oliver R and Daniel C (4AF) have both had big sporting success! Oliver proudly earned the Man of the Match trophy for his effort in football matches when playing for his team last weekend. Daniel also earned a certificate and medal for his amazing tennis skills at a tournament last weekend. As his tennis team were so successful, they have made it through to take part in the tournament final, which will be held in London, to decide which team will be the overall champions!

**Christmas Activities:** As a school we always look forward to Christmas and the staff have arranged some wonderful trips and activities for each class. We understand the cost-of-living crisis many families are facing currently, and school has heavily subsidised all trips to ensure that we can continue with these events in the lead up to Christmas. All parents/carers should have received a letter this week with the details of their child's Christmas trip/activity. Permission and payments must be made via the Payment Item section on ParentPay. Please see below table of events taking place:

Year Group	Date	Location
Year 1	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Washington Arts Centre
Year 5	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Wharton Park
Treehouse	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	West Boldon Lodge
Reception	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	ArtVenturers (in school)
Nursery	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Hardwick Park
Year 2	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Gibside
Year 3	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Rainton Arena
Year 4	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Gala Theatre, Durham
Year 6	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Silksworth Ski Slope

**Secret Christmas Raffle:** Just a reminder that we have a fantastic prize to give away in our latest raffle of an "Elf for Christmas Magical Reward Kit" (kindly donated by a local company Elf for Christmas). Tickets cost £1.00 and can be purchased via ParentPay. The raffle will be drawn next Friday, and the winning family contacted directly.

**Christmas Fayre Donations:** As you know, we will be holding our 'tree-mendous' Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We are so excited to welcome our JFK families once again into school for one of our most wonderful events of the year! To help support some of the stalls and games we have planned, we would welcome donations of the following items:

- Bottle bags
- Books & Toys (in excellent condition)
- Items for a tombola (such as small gifts sets, toiletries, nik-naks etc)

If these items could be brought in over the next couple of weeks that would be great.

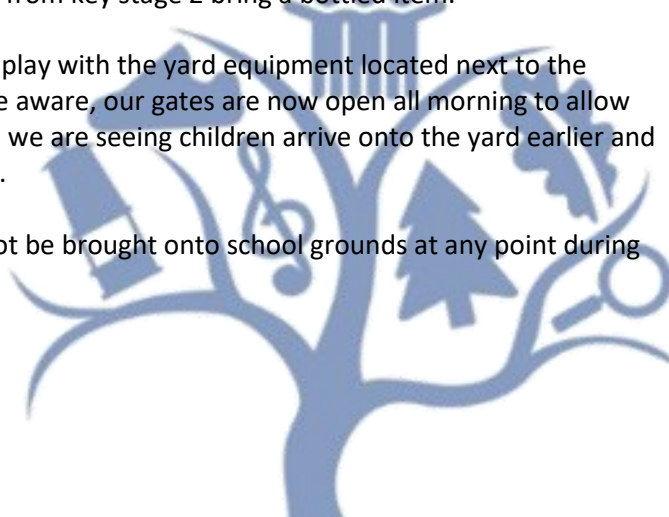
**Non-uniform:** Next Friday we are having a non-uniform day, where we kindly ask for donations to help towards some of our Christmas Fayre activities. The theme of the day will be 'Crazy Hair Day'. We ask if pupils from early years and key stage 1 could bring a chocolate item and pupils from key stage 2 bring a bottled item.

**Treehouse Yard Equipment:** Could I ask that children do not play with the yard equipment located next to the Treehouse on a morning as they come into school. As you are aware, our gates are now open all morning to allow access for those attending our breakfast club, but due to this, we are seeing children arrive onto the yard earlier and moving/playing with the equipment not intended for this use.

In addition, may I remind all parents/carers that dogs must not be brought onto school grounds at any point during the school day.

Have a lovely weekend.

*B. H. Adams*





**John F. Kennedy**  
Primary School



# Stars of the Week

Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAO	Amelia M Rudy S
	RAM	Grayson A James B
Reception	RES	Poppy N
	1AP	Edward D Isaac D
One	1MT	Yahya H Alex S
	2MA	Imogen H Poppy R
Two	2JW	Mia M Kaiden S
	3DF	Lilly-Mae C George B
Three	3GB	Harry B Harrison G
	4AF	Brooke M Keira M
Four	4BK	Ada G Jessica B
	5RN	Heidi D Dane L
Five	5MA	Scarlett R Alfie Y
	6PP	Ella-Mae R Matthew T
Six	6LM	Sam S Emmy H
	TLC	Isla E
Treehouse	TNP	Lily A-M



# Timetables

**PE Lessons:** This year we are asking for pupils wear their normal school uniform and bring their PE kit on the day of their lesson, where they will have time to get changed. Just to remind that the PE kit should be a plain white t-shirt, black shorts or black jogging bottoms/leggings and trainers. A jumper can also be worn. At this time of year, PE is generally on the yard or field depending on the weather

Week Commencing: 18 <sup>th</sup> November		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 4 (swimming) Year 1	Year 3
Tuesday		Year 2
Wednesday	Reception	Year 4
Thursday	Treehouse	Year 6
Friday		5MA – Swimming 5RN – P.E.

**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: 18 <sup>th</sup> November		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		Reception
Wednesday	Treehouse	Nursery
Thursday		Year 4
Friday	Nursery	1AP

