

# John F. Kennedy Primary School

## The Buzz Newsletter



13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

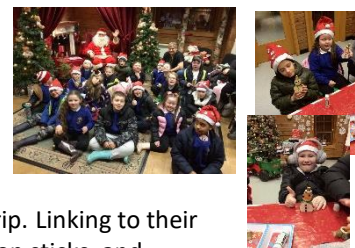
Dear Parents and Carers,

You can tell we are in the middle of the festive season at school as it has been so busy with performances, trips, special dinner, Santa visits, craft and singing. This is as well as completing work in lessons. I know that every adult is so proud of the continued commitment from all the pupils around school.

**Carol Singing:** Our wonderful pupils from upper key stage 2 have been out in the community this week spreading Christmas cheer with their excellent singing. Some of our Year 6 children performed at The Galleries on Tuesday and some pupils from Year 5 visited Washington Mind on Wednesday. We've received some delightful feedback from the community who have commented on their singing and if you were able to join us at our Church Service at Holy Trinity yesterday, I am sure you will agree they are very talented.

**Year Group Performances:** It has been wonderful to see so many families and friends join us during the week for the performances by the children – every single performance was full, with standing room only for many adults. We even had residents from Washington Grange Care Home for two of the performances. I hope you will agree with me that the shows, either in the hall, or at the church, were amazing. Every single pupil gave 100% effort, whether it be with a speaking part, an acting part, or by joining in with the singing. I do have to admit that I was bursting with pride throughout every show – it is always one of my highlights of the school year and really put me in the festive spirit. Please look out for photos on our Facebook page.

**Treehouse Christmas Trip:** This week, the children from The Treehouse enjoyed a brilliant visit to West Boldon Lodge. They made Christmas crafts, played Christmas games and enjoyed singing Christmas songs around the fire pit while toasting marshmallows. The morning ended with a visit to see Santa Claus and he was happy to report that all the children are on the nice list! Thanks again to all the parent helpers.



**Year Five Christmas Trip:** On Tuesday, Year Five children visited Wharton Park for their Christmas trip. Linking to their Geography topic 'Sustainability', the children made sustainable decorations (using oranges, cinnamon sticks, and pinecones) and sustainable presents by plaiting old cloths together to make a skipping rope. Then, they walked around the park, identifying the types of trees before choosing one to decorate with natural resources. The result was a beautifully decorated Christmas tree full of bird feeders. The children enjoyed all the activities and putting the sustainability ideas they'd learned about into practice. Massive thanks to the staff of Wharton Park and the parent volunteers.

**Santa Visit:** We had a special visitor in school yesterday who saw the children from Early Years, Key Stage 1, Year 3 and The Treehouse. The children were all excited to meet this important person who managed to squeeze in a visit to our school at such a busy time of year. Some children were so eager to see what their gift was and opened it shortly after leaving his grotto, whilst others I know are keeping this for Christmas Day. Pupils from Years 4 to 6 also received a special gift yesterday which we hope they enjoy.

**Polar Express:** We had two trains depart for the North Pole this week, as the hall was transformed for our pyjama wearing pupils. Bringing their sleeping bags and pillows, and armfuls of treats, they snuggled up on crashmats to watch the movie – they even got a delicious hot chocolate complete with marshmallows and cream! I am hoping that as every child left with their gift of a silver bell, that it continues to ring, because as the film mentioned, only those who believe can hear it (I know I heard every one of them as they left). Huge thanks must go to the amazing staff for creating this experience and who gave up their time to make this a memorable experience.

**House Points:** Congratulations to Curie house who won the most points this term! They will be rewarded with a special treat activity for them next week.

**Christmas Parties:** Next week is our year group Christmas parties. Children are welcome to come into school dressed in non-uniform/party clothes on the day of their party:

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Nursery & Reception
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 & 2 (AM)
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 & 4 (PM)
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – Year 5 & 6

**Reception and KS1 Reading Books:** Children in reception and KS1 will not be given a new reading book this week. If you are yet to return your child's book bag, please do so before the end next week. This means we can check all books so that they are ready for children to take them home at the start of spring term.

**Attendance:** This week our attendance is at 92.30%, and our running total since the start of the term is at 93.56%. Unfortunately, this is still significantly below the government attendance targets, as the expectation of all schools is to have attendance of 96%+. As a school, we need everyone's support to improve our attendance.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	92.33	93.00	92.50	83.85	89.17	96.92	94.62	96.30
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	87.00	95.77	91.85	88.93	93.46	93.46	97.86	89.58

**JFK Superstars:** I would like to thank Mia R (6LM) and Lucy H (6PP) who represented our school at the Washington Rotary Club's Children's Carol Service on Friday evening last week. Both Mia and Lucy took part in reading during the service along with some other children from local primary schools. Mrs Watson attended the service and feedback to me how amazing the girls were – shining examples of our school.



Lily, from the hedgehog class, has been working so hard in her swimming lessons. She has been awarded a Level 2 swimming certificate, and we are all very proud of her. Keep up the hard work Lily!

Eve D (2MA) recently passed her tap and freestyle bronze dance exams and had her presentation on Monday. Eve was so happy to bring her certificate and trophies in to show her class! Well done Eve!



Harlow, from RAM, participated in her dance schools Christmas performance and was awarded 2 trophies for her exams. She completed her nursery graduation award and her 1st bronze tap award! Well done, Harlow!



**Outdoor Nativity:** We hope you enjoy looking at our nativity scene which is situated in the front nursery outdoor area. Some of the children from The Treehouse have helped Mrs. Parker put the finishing touches to it by making the star of Bethlehem and the Kings' gifts.



**Next Week:** There is no PE or forest school, however year 4 will still be going swimming on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend.

*B. H. Adams*

Mr B. Adams - Head of School





**John F. Kennedy**  
Primary School



# Stars of the Week

Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAO	Sadie W Rayne K
	RAM	Mila H Dylan R
Reception	RES	Everyone for a fantastic Christmas performance
	1AP	Everyone for their Nativity performance
One	1MT	Elsie C Bella P
	2MA	Rory S Alana R
Two	2JW	All of 2JW for an excellent Christmas trip to Gibside!
	3DF	Everyone for Nativity performance
Three	3GB	Neve W Can Y
	4AF	Theo L Miles M
Four	4BK	All of 4BK for a brilliant Christmas performance
	5RN	The whole of 5RN for an excellent Christmas service at Holy Trinity Church.
Five	5MA	The whole of 5MA for an excellent Christmas trip and Christmas service.
	6PP	Mason C Lucy W
Six	6LM	Evan Mc Elsa A
	TLC	Jack M
Treehouse	TNP	Matthew H James L

