

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A slightly shorter week for pupils this week with staff INSET. I know that the press (or posts on social media) often perceive that training days are a day for teachers to relax; however, all the staff spent Monday working hard with the English Lead from Oak Learning Trust to become familiar with a revised English curriculum for pupils across the school. Over the remainder of the year, these plans will be embedded into classes to help ensure that all pupils continue to make progress in English.

Lunar New Year Celebrations: This week, reception have been learning all about Lunar New Year.



We learned that to prepare for Lunar New Year you need to clean your house and put up decorations. They usually wear red clothes because red is a lucky colour and eat 8 or 9 dishes because these are lucky numbers. The children loved making dragon masks and Chinese lanterns as part of their learning this week. Finally, on Friday, a selection of reception children walked to the local Chinese takeaway to collect an order. When they were back in school, we had a Chinese banquet and did a dragon dance to the beat of a drum.



Yr5 Dodgeball: On Tuesday morning, some of our Year 5 children took part in the Year 5 Dodgeball Competition Final at Sunderland Tennis Centre. Thanks to their excellent efforts when taking part in a Dodgeball



competition earlier in the year, their team were successful enough to qualify for the final! The qualifying team played five, intense games against lots of different schools, from across the northeast, and despite not winning any medals, they played well as a team, encouraging each other during every game. Their fantastic sporting attitudes and team spirit helped them and our school to shine!



Treehouse Bowling: On Tuesday morning, Squirrel Class from the Treehouse went on an exciting trip to Riverside Bowling Alley. They enjoyed a game of bowling while also working on turn-taking and communication skills. They enjoyed competing against each other and congratulated the winners at the end.



Year 6: This week, our oldest pupils have been working really hard completing practice SAT papers. I have been so impressed with their attitude and commitment to the papers, and I am very impressed with the results by every pupil. Well done, year 6! The completed papers will be used to identify further teaching in year 6 and possible areas to be covered during SAT club.

Stop Smoking Workshop: On Tuesday morning, pupils from years five and six had a workshop from Sunderland Stop Smoking Service where the risks associated with smoking and vaping were discussed. This informative session informed pupils of the impact of vaping and what nicotine is. Pupils all listened well and represented our school excellently.

Staffing: Today has been Mrs Palmer's last day at John F Kennedy Primary School, as she begins her new role at Columbia Grange on Monday. I would like to thank Mrs Palmer for her commitment to the pupils during her time at JFK, from her first day in my class to supporting our pupils in the Treehouse. Good luck with the next stage of your career – you will be missed.

Attendance: This week our attendance is 94.94%, and our running total since the start of the term is now 93.88%. Unfortunately, this is still significantly below the government attendance targets, as the expectation of all schools is to have attendance of 96%+. The class with the highest attendance in key stage 1 was **2JW** and in key stage 2 it was **6PP**. These classes will be rewarded with an additional break time next week.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	87.76	93.75	98.75	96.15	97.73	99.00	96.15	92.59
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	92.92	92.31	93.52	99.00	97.75	98.08	100	91.67

National Storytelling Week: Next week, the school will be focusing on stories and the importance for all children to read and listen to stories. I hope that lots of you have signed up to come to the breakfast reading event (refreshments will be provided), the Treehouse parent afternoons, or you may even have volunteered to be one of our mystery readers around school. During the week, please look out for post on Facebook and I will be sharing the week-long event in next week's Buzz newsletter.

Mental Health Day: Next Friday, we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Day. This year the focus is on the movie Inside Out 2, and they will be looking at how to grow their mental health during PSHE lessons. Children can come to school next Friday wearing an outfit that represents their personality/individuality which makes them happy (this is not a costume).

SATs Club: Starting from Tuesday (4 February), our year six SATs club will run after school (3.20pm - 4.15pm), leading up to SATs week. This is a great opportunity for pupils to go over key concepts as well as receive further practice and support. If you haven't already signed up your child, please use the following link – [SATs Club Sign Up](#)

Multiplication Table Check Information Evening: Next week, on Tuesday 4th February at 3:30pm there will be a meeting for parents and carers of Year 4 children. At this meeting, we will share information about the upcoming Multiplication Table Check, what we are doing in school and how you can support your child at home. Remember, the expectation is that by the end of year 4, all pupils know all their tables fluently up to 12 x 12.

Parents' Evening: A reminder that parents' evenings will take place on Monday 17th and Wednesday 19th February. The link to request an appointment has now closed, but you still contact the school office for an appointment if you missed this. Children will bring home details of their appointment time by the end of next week.

JFK Superstars: Last weekend, Poppy H (4BK) took part in her first panto - a production of Hansel & Gretel at Washington Arts Centre with her dance group from 'Trish n Trina's School of Dance'. I hope we'll be seeing you on stage at the Sunderland Empire one day Poppy!



This week, Beau H (RES) was awarded a trophy at football for listening very well throughout the whole session. Well done, Beau!

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	Katie W Rhys D
	RAM	Kayla C Darcy S
Reception	RES	Jack B Nell P
	1AP	Maisie L Rosie S
One	1MT	Quinn B Bella P
	2MA	Lilly N Jude B
Two	2JW	Kaiden S Freya D
	3DF	Sophia C Milly S
Three	3GB	Harrison G Dexter E
	4AF	Seth A Lara AM
Four	4BK	Finlay B Jacob K
	5RN	Elliott D Lucy R
Five	5MA	Scarlett R Oliver H
	6PP	Nathan A Husna I
Six	6LM	Amelia A James J
	TLC	Dylan A
Treehouse	TNP	Georgia P

Head of School Award:

This week, we have two Head of School awards from Mr Adams! The first congratulations goes to Heidi Smith from Mr. Pearson's class who received the award for excellent progress in her SATs scores and always having a brilliant attitude to her learning. The second congratulation goes to Grayson Brash for always trying his very best and being so helpful with his friends in reception. Well done Heidi and Grayson!

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 may still be held outdoors, therefore please ensure your child bring appropriate clothing.

Week Commencing: 3 rd February		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 4 (Swimming) Year 1	Year Three
Tuesday		Year Two
Wednesday		Year Four
Thursday	Treehouse	Year Six
Friday		5MA – P.E 5RN – Swimming

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 other 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: 3 rd February		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Treehouse	Nursery
Thursday		
Friday	Nursery	1AP



Sports News

Girls Football: On Thursday, the girls football team continued their Futsal league campaign with games against Holley Park, George Washington and a friendly against Biddick.

Their first game saw the team take on Holley Park. This was a very tight game throughout with brilliant determination shown throughout from both sides. In the final minute of the game, a Holley Park shot was saved by Darcey G but an unfortunate deflection resulted in an own goal. Despite the setback, the girls were determined to find an equaliser. A last chance effort was saved by the Holley Park goalkeeper, the game finishing 0-1 to the opposition.

The second game of the evening was against George Washington. This was an excellent display of attacking and defending by JFK, who were able to show strengths on both ends of the pitch. Grace N, Georgia T and Lucy H were fantastic in defence, making block after block to deny the opposition from getting a shot on goal. Emily May M was a constant threat up front and never stopped running, always pressing the defence, and giving them no time on the ball. A long throw from Darcey G found its way up to Ella Mae R, who was able to continue her goalscoring form with her shot flying past the goalkeeper and into the near post. This turned out to be the only goal of the game with JFK securing the 1-0 victory.

The final game of the night was a friendly game against Biddick. JFK girls were exceptional during this game and showed outstanding team spirit throughout. Darcey G was inspirational in goal and made a number of top-quality saves, earning praise from coaches of the other schools that were there. In the opening moments of the game, Ella W was able to take a touch before a composed finish put JFK 1-0 up. Lucy H was exceptional in defence, not being afraid to get stuck in, she provided a number of wonderful tackles in the bid of keeping a clean sheet. In the dying moments of the friendly, Ella W once again found herself in the right place at the right time, doubling her tally and wrapping up 2-0 win.

