

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



21st February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The final day of half-term has arrived, but what a busy week we have had around school.

Parents' Evenings: Thank you to everyone who managed to attend the two evenings in school this week. I hope you found it useful and informative to look at your child's books and speak to the teacher about their progress. As a school, we will continue our open-door policy, and if you ever need to speak to a teacher, this may be possible either at the start or end of the school day. However, if this is not convenient, then a meeting can be arranged by contacting the school office. Miss. Keogh's Wednesday appointments and Mrs. Parker's appointments will be arranged after half-term – I can only apologise that these were unable to go ahead.

Year 3 Assembly: On Tuesday, the year three children were so pleased to show all the facts they have been finding out about the Romans and how they have influenced our lives today. We were so impressed with their reading and pronunciation of some very difficult words! One of the highlights was the singing of Roman songs, especially adding sign language for the chorus. Our year three children would have made excellent Roman soldiers as they followed the commands perfectly under the strict supervision of Oliver! Thank you to all that attended.

Forest School: This week, year 5 had a great day in the forest area. They had fun trying to cross the wobbly slack line, build warm nests and shelter for owls, create nature art (including drawing using charcoal made from the fire) and, of course, they practiced their climbing skills too! Alongside their activities was the opportunity to make a tasty quesadilla, which was heated over the fire.

English Hub: We had a visitor in from English Hub this week to observe and support our work around phonics in Early Years and KS1. She was very impressed with the standard of all the pupils, and how they are becoming more confident and fluent with the phases since she last visited the school. Thanks to all staff, parents and pupils who have worked to improve phonics.

Attendance: This week our attendance is 93.88%, and our running total since the start of the term is now 93.92%. 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 1AP 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	86.46	98.10	99.00	97.31	94.55	96.80	96.15	91.85
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	92.00	97.31	97.04	96.00	91.69	90.00	97.50	89.17

Can I remind everyone that improving attendance is a collaboration between school and home and I would love school attendance to be over 95% by Easter, which I believe is achievable. If your child is going to be absent from school (illness or appointment) can the school office be notified, and not just via messages or the year group doors – this helps with safeguarding and accounting for all pupils daily. Family holidays during term time will remain unauthorised, and could also result in a fine. School should be notified at least 2 weeks in advance of any holidays arranged.

JFK Superstar: This week, Evie (5RN) received a star award from Cancer Research UK for her courage and bravery following her cancer diagnosis last year. This is amazing Evie! We are looking forward to seeing you in school more next half term!



World Book Day: This year, we will celebrate World Book Day on **Friday 7th March**. The theme is 'What Makes me Special?' and as a school, we will be reading 'The Most Remarkable Children I've Met – So Far!' by Clotilde Perrin. Each class will be exploring the characters from this story in detail. This is always an exciting time in school, and we can't wait to see how the children (and staff!) come dressed.

Bedtime Stories: On Thursday 6th March at 4:15pm, reception children and their parents/carers are invited to come into school to enjoy an evening of bedtime stories. This is becoming a JFK tradition and something reception children have loved in the past. Children can come back to school in their pyjamas, bring a cuddly blanket to snuggle up with and watch their teachers retell a class favourite! Unfortunately, this event is for reception children only. Please can we ask that younger/older siblings do not attend.

World Book Day Celebration Meal: On 7th March, our school catering services team are holding a special menu. If your child does not normally have a school meal on a Friday but would like to have one on this day, please complete the following form by Monday 3rd March: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/wi7Zi2Tf7c>

Scholastic Book Fair: We are pleased to announce that we have booked the Scholastic Book Fair to come into school during the week of the 17th of March. This will take place over three evenings after school. Books will start from £2.99 and you can use your World Book Day vouchers to contribute towards your purchases. Any book sold will also help to earn free books for school, helping to develop our class reading libraries and shared reading areas. Please find dates and times below for your child's session. We hope to see you there!

KS2: Monday 17th at 3:30
KS1: Tuesday 18th at 3:30
EYFS: Wednesday 19th 3:30



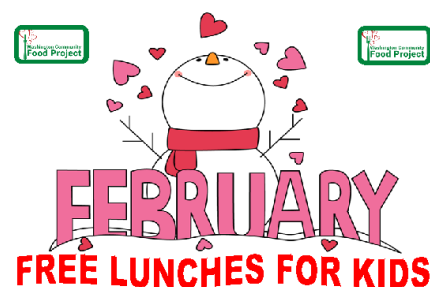
'Book in a Box' Home Learning Project: As a part of World Book Day, we are running a home learning project. This will be 'book in a box'. Children will recreate their favourite story by decorating the inside of a box to recreate the front cover or a scene from the story. Your child will come home with a slip that will include more information regarding this. Projects are due back into school on Thursday 7th March.

WCFP: During half-term, the Washington Community Food Project will be offering free packed lunches to all local school children. Please see details on poster.

Have a relaxing half-term holiday, and I look forward to seeing everybody back on Monday 3rd March.

Kind regards

Mr B. Adams - Head of School



This half-term, the **WCFP** will be offering our **LOVELY** packed lunches for free to all local school children

NO REFERRAL NECESSARY
CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Lunches may be collected from our outlet in Unit O (upstairs, opposite Virgin Money in The Galleries) **Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri: 12-3pm**



John F. Kennedy
Primary School

Stars of the Week



Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAO	Oliver J Isabelle
Reception	RAM	Hallie W Oakley F-G
	RES	Halle B Mylaa C
One	1AP	Lina B Alex S
	1MT	Harrison F Elijah J
Two	2MA	Imogen H Bobby M
	2JW	Jack M Talia K
Three	3DF	Oliver R Oliver C
	3GB	Olivia T Thomas A
Four	4AF	Lexi K Keira M
	4BK	Esme-Rose S Carson S
Five	5RN	Dane L Rosie B
	5MA	Ben G Tymon B
Six	6PP	Grace N Melody D
	6LM	Victor H Lauren C
Treehouse	TLC	Jack M
	TNP	Daniel LP

HoS Award: This week, lots of adults around school were impressed with some astonishing magic performed by Elijah M (Treehouse). He created his own magician's hat and was able to deliver a fantastic trick which amazed his audiences and put a smile on everyone's face.

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 March		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year Four (swimming) Year One	Year 3
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Year Four	Reception
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 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 March		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		Reception
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Treehouse	Nursery
Thursday		
Friday	Nursery	

Sports News

Girls Football: Congratulations to our girls' football team for finishing third in their recent futsal league campaign. All the team have demonstrated a brilliant attitude and teamwork throughout the course of the futsal league, earning praise from multiple schools along the way for being excellent representatives of JFK. The girls' team are now looking forward to getting back out onto the grass to complete their league campaign after half term.

