

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. It has been lovely to welcome our children back this week for the new academic year and to see lots of new faces joining us in our Early Years provision, as well as some new pupils in other year groups. As I have walked around school, there has been a buzz in the atmosphere as the pupils have been working – and the standard of what I have seen in books has been impressive. All the children have set a very high benchmark, and I can't wait to see what everyone will achieve this year.

RSE Consultation: Thank you to all parents who took the time during the summer holidays to look at the new RSE curriculum and respond to the questions. Your comments have been very useful, and based on the feedback given, we are going to add to the Healthy Relationships – Family, to include disabilities. The final curriculum will be launched across the school from next week, and each Friday, we will share the lesson for the following week regarding RSE, as several of you were keen to continue conversations at home with your children.

RSE Lesson Overview: week beginning 07/09/26		
Year Group	Topic	Lesson Overview
1	Emotions	Describing our feelings – describe how the basic emotions feel in my body. Knowing how I feel – name the emotion I am feeling and begin to explain why I feel that way.
2	Emotions	Things that affect how we feel – identify what affects how I feel. Managing a range of emotions – explain how to respond appropriately to a range of emotions.
3	Emotions	Emotions and deep feelings – explain what deep feelings are. Managing strong emotions – describe the range of ways I can respond to strong emotions and explain where to get support.
4	Emotions	Feeling down and lonely – explain what it's like to feel down and lonely and what might make me feel that way. Managing my emotions – describe several strategies to manage mental health.
5	Emotions	All emotions are important – explain why all emotions are important and why our emotions can change.
6	Communities	The history of racism in Britain – describe different groups who have immigrated to Britain and explain why racist myths about immigration are wrong. The arrival of the Windrush generation – explain who the Windrush generation were and describe their contributions and the challenges they faced in Britain.

Homework: We value the important role that parents and carers play in supporting learning at home. Our homework is designed to be manageable, purposeful and to help children practise key skills that support their learning in school. Please see below an overview of homework for this academic year.

- **Early Years** (from Autumn Two) will receive phonics, tricky word pot and reading homework, along with seasonal family learning activities each half term.
- **The Treehouse** pupils may receive reading, tricky word pot and/ or times tables homework, depending on individual needs.
- **Year One** pupils will receive a weekly reading book, phonics and spelling homework.
- **Years Two and Three** will receive a weekly reading book, spelling times and tables homework.

- **Years Four, Five and Six** will be encouraged to read regularly, choosing either a school reading book or their own age-appropriate books, magazines, newspapers, blogs or articles. They will also receive weekly spelling and times tables homework.
- **Year Six** pupils will receive additional weekly Arithmetic and S.P.a.G. homework from Spring One to support preparation for S.A.T.s.

This year, **spellings and times tables will be sent home every Friday and tested the following Friday**. This gives children a full week to practise and become familiar with new learning before it is introduced in class on the Monday.

For **Early Years and Year One**, reading books should be returned weekly and signed by a parent or carer. Any comments about your child's reading are always appreciated. Books will be changed throughout the week by staff.

Thank you for your continued support. Working together helps us to develop confident, successful learners and a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Key Dates for Parents/ Carers: A separate email has been sent via ParentPay with key diary dates for this year. These dates now include all Staff Training dates for this academic year. Please note, our first date will be Monday 21st September – school will be closed to all pupils on this date.

JFK Superstars: During the summer holidays, Harrison C (2AP) received some amazing news – he received an official place to join Middlesbrough Football Club's Pre-Academy. What an amazing opportunity – I know is family are extremely proud, and I can't wait to hear more about his experience when he joins them from next week.

Lily McE (1EK) started swimming lessons at Washington Leisure Centre 10 weeks ago. This week she has passed her Stage 1 level and is now moving up to Stage 2 – a little mermaid in the making. Well done Lily!



Uniform: As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind parents/ carers of the importance of ensuring that pupils attend school in the correct school uniform each day and have an appropriate P.E. kit to change into on their designated P.E. days. Our school uniform helps to promote a sense of pride and belonging amongst all pupils. We ask parents and carers to check that clothing, footwear and P.E. kit meet those outlined in our uniform policy.

Please note that our updated uniform policy was shared, via ParentPay, in July and is also available to view on the school website. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring that all pupils come to school wearing the correct uniform and that items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name or initials. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Medication: If your child requires any medication to be administered in school, for example an inhaler or antibiotics, this must be brought into school by an adult and signed in with our school office staff. Medication must not be handed to staff on the year group doors (without prior sign-in) and must never be left in a child's school bag. If you have not already brought in your medication for this academic year, please do so as soon as possible.

School Meals: This week, we have identified a discrepancy between the school meal numbers we have in our system and the number of pupils our catering team have provided a meal to. It is essential that we have the correct meal patterns in our system to ensure our staff can prepare for all children and appropriate meals but also to plan for any special dietary needs each day. If you haven't already informed the school office, please send an email before Monday morning to update this for your child: info@jfkprimary.co.uk

Leadership Team: Below is our leadership structure, outlining key members of staff who are available to support you and your child throughout their time at school.

Headteacher	Mr B. Adams
Deputy Headteacher	Mr P. Pearson
Assistant Headteacher, Maths and Key Stage One Lead	Miss V. Sheriff
English and Key Stage Two Lead	Miss M. Anderson
Early Years Lead	Miss A. Owens
S.E.N.D. Lead	Mrs A. Pearce

If you have a query, your first point of contact is your child's class teacher, followed by your child's Phase Leader if further support is needed. Year group staff are available at drop-off and pick-up times for brief messages. If you require a longer conversation with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment or telephone call with the appropriate member of staff. Before school, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will also be available on most days to also help with any queries.

Attendance: You may have read about the government guideline changes over the summer that schools must follow – more details of our attendance procedures will be shared next week. This week, our attendance has been 92.91%. (This would have been significantly higher, but unfortunately holidays have lowered the overall percentage). The class in Key Stage One with the highest attendance was 2AM, and in Key Stage Two this was 6GB.

Class	NST	RAO	1EK	1FM	2AM	2AP	3MT	3RN
Attendance	94.89%	94.36%	83%	91.67%	95%	91.25%	89.58%	95.37%
Class	4MA	4MS	5DF	5MA	6GB	6VS	THBM	THIT
Attendance	96.15%	92%	90.95%	95.16%	98.66%	93.75%	100%	88.54%

Gold Award: I would like to share that we have been awarded the Gold Active Sunderland School Charter for 2025-2026, after another successful year across the school regarding the wide range of opportunities we provide for PE. This is great for our pupils and is recognition of all the hard work Miss Fairless has organised for all pupils.



Have a lovely weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. H. Adams".

Mr B. Adams
Headteacher



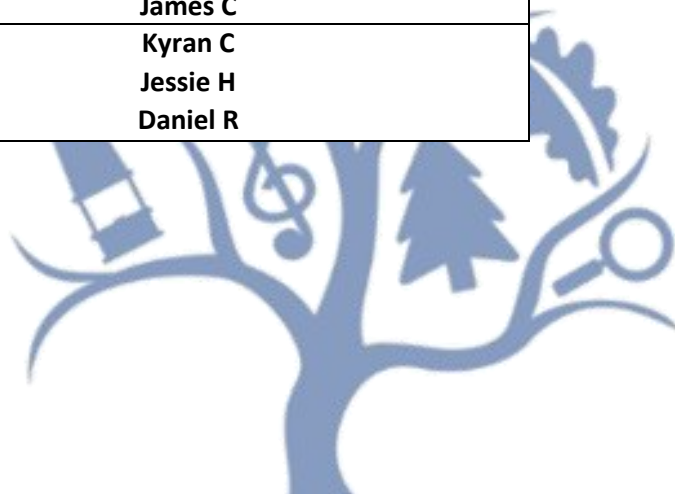


John F. Kennedy
Primary School

Stars of the Week



Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Early Years	NST	All of nursery
	RAO	All of reception
One	1EK	Alex E Sadie W
	1FM	Myles A Aurora H
Two	2AP	Macie N Thomas S
	2AM	Max M Eden G
Three	3RN	Rebecca M Klayton R
	3MT	Quinn B Albie L
Four	4MA	Arthur S Belle T
	4MS	Max F Katie H
Five	5DF	Harper G Ceejay C
	5MA	Dixie P Ethan M
Six	6VS	Jackson M-B Lily-Rose M
	6GB	Tilly R Miles M
Treehouse	THBM	Matthew H James C
	THIT	Kyran C Jessie H Daniel R



Timetables

P.E. Lessons: This year we are asking for pupils wear their normal school uniform and bring their P.E. kit on the day of their lesson, where they will have time to get changed. Just to remind that the P.E. 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: 7 th September		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year Four - Swimming	Year One
Tuesday		Year Three
Wednesday		Year Four
Thursday		Year Six
Friday		Class 5MA – Swimming Class 5DF - 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: 7 th September		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday	Year One	

