

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a gorgeous week we have had – I have loved seeing the pupils enjoying the warm sunshine. It's been a very busy week in school, especially with the number of wider opportunities that have been offered across the school.

World Autism Day: On Wednesday in school, we celebrated World Autism Awareness Day. The day started with all children listening to the story *Leo and the Octopus*, which helped them better understand the experiences of children with autism. After the story, each class participated in different activities that focused on raising awareness about autism and how to support those who are autistic. It was a day filled with learning and fun! All children truly enjoyed the activities and everyone gained valuable insights into how we can be more inclusive and understanding towards individuals with autism. A special thank you goes to Miss Walker for arranging the planning and activities within school for this day.



Wetlands Centre: On Monday, year 2 went on their trip to Washington Wetlands Centre. This was linked to all the science work they have carried out around living things and their habitats. During the trip, the children went on a minibeast hunt in their forest area, pond dipping and went to visit the otters and flamingos during feeding time! The children were fantastic and represented the school brilliantly. The staff at the centre were very impressed with their listening skills and excellent questions throughout. The WWT have also kindly given all year 2 pupils a family voucher to attend the Wetlands for free during the holidays. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who supported. Please have a look at our Facebook page for photos of the visit.

Vocal Showcase: Our amazing year 5 singers were in full voice on Wednesday, where they took part in a showcase at Washington Arts Centre. They took part in vocal warm-up exercises and sung two songs for other primary schools in the area. We were so proud of them for standing up on stage and trying their best.

Butterfly World: On Thursday, our nursery pupils went to Butterfly World at Preston Park. We were so proud of the children for having the courage to hold the butterflies and caterpillars in their hands (the children were much braver than the nursery staff). The glorious sunshine allowed us to explore the park grounds and play on the outdoor play park. We were very impressed with the children's behaviour throughout the day, you would not think the children are only three and four years old! Thank you to the parent volunteers who joined our trip, it would not be possible to go on our nursery adventures without you.



Richmond Residential: This week, year 4 went on their first ever residential to Grinton Lodge in Richmond. They have practised and perfected some brand-new skills, such as fire lighting and clue finding when orienteering. They worked well together in team challenges before toasting marshmallows around the fire pit. They went on a lovely scenic walk through the countryside before enjoying a well-deserved treat of an ice cream at the end. Check out Facebook for all the updates and photos!

Year Group Assembly: Next Wednesday at 2.00pm, our year 1 pupils will be showcasing their recent work in a class assembly. Access to the hall will be through the small gate to the left-hand side of the school office. We look forward to seeing as many of the parents/carers as possible.

Attendance: This week our attendance is 92.92%, and our running total since the start of the term has now dropped to 93.91%. This is significantly below the government attendance targets of 96+%. The class with the highest attendance in Key Stage 1 was 1MT and in Key Stage 2 it was 3DF. These classes will be rewarded with an additional break time next week.

| Class | Nurs | RAM | RES | 1AP | 1MT | 2JW | 2MA | 3DF |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Attendance | 89.45 | 91.43 | 89.00 | 87.31 | 95.65 | 94.40 | 93.85 | 97.86 |
| Class | 3GB | 4AF | 4BK | 5MA | 5RN | 6LM | 6PP | TH |
| Attendance | 94.00 | 95.19 | 90.71 | 97.20 | 95.00 | 91.92 | 93.93 | 90.00 |

An Egg-citing Delivery: This week, AK Teaching kindly delivery some Easter eggs to us! Members of the School Council were there to meet our Trust liaisons from AK and receive these egg-tra special gifts. Details on how children could win an egg will be shared next week.



House Points: The winner of this term is Darwin. They will be rewarded with a house prize next week.

Afterschool Clubs: The teacher-lead afterschool clubs, including football training, have now ended for the Spring term. We will look at the Summer clubs on our return after Easter and send a message to parents once they have been finalised with a start date

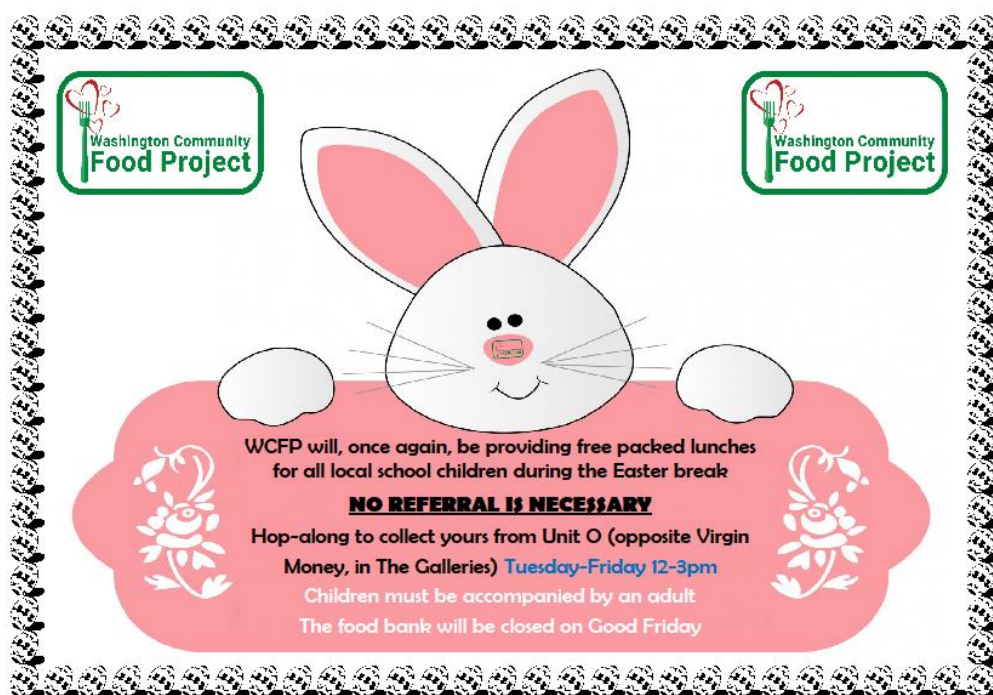
Easter Competition: Next Thursday, children are welcome to bring in either a decorated egg or bonnet as part of our annual Easter competition. Families are welcome to work together- so siblings across year groups can submit a joint entry. The eggs and bonnets will be displayed in the school hall on Thursday at 3:20pm. We will open the doors, which you can enter via the small gate to the left-hand side of the office, once children have been dismissed from the yard.

WCFP: Once again, the Washington Community Food Project are offering free packed lunches for all local school children during the Easter holidays. Please see poster for details on where to collect.

Have a lovely weekend.

B. H. Adams

Mr B. Adams - Head of School





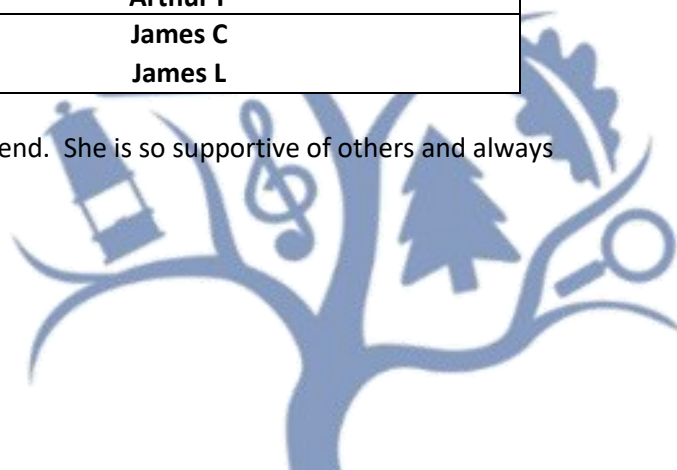
John F. Kennedy
Primary School

Stars of the Week



| Year Group | Class | Star of the Week |
|------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Nursery | NAO | Dre A Alayna K |
| | RAM | Grayson A Dougie H |
| Reception | RES | Mason A Poppy N |
| | 1AP | Alex S Rebecca S |
| One | 1MT | Jaxon J Elliot A |
| | 2MA | Mason R Georgina H |
| Two | 2JW | Maxi C Sylvia H-F |
| | 3DF | George H Stanley R |
| Three | 3GB | Harry B Peter B |
| | 4AF | The whole class |
| Four | 4BK | The whole class |
| | 5RN | Ted C Thomas B |
| Five | 5MA | Jacob L James B |
| | 6PP | Ella W Dallas W |
| Six | 6LM | Mia R Reuben H |
| | TLC | Arthur F |
| Treehouse | TNP | James C James L |

Head of School Award: Milly S (3DF) has been an amazing friend. She is so supportive of others and always celebrates their success. Well done, Milly!



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: 7 th April | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Day | Morning | Afternoon |
| Monday | Year 4 (swimming) Year 1 | |
| Tuesday | | Year 2 |
| Wednesday | Reception | Year 3 Year 5 |
| Thursday | Treehouse | |
| Friday | | Year 6 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 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 April | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Day | Morning | Afternoon |
| Monday | Year 3 | Reception |
| Tuesday | Year 5 | |
| Wednesday | Treehouse | |
| Thursday | | |
| Friday | | |



Sports News

School Football Team: On Thursday, the school football team took part in the first round of the Columbia cup.

Mr Titmus and Mr Smith were away with year 4 on their Richmond residential, so Mrs Mowatt and Miss Elder stepped in to support the team at the games – and they did a fantastic job!

The first game was a tough one against St Bede's. The whole team played brilliantly and managed to win 1-0 with a goal from Mason.

The second game was against Barmston – which we won 6-0 with goals from Jude (2), Lennox and a hat trick from Lucas.

Our third game was against Marlborough, where the team won 4-0 with goals from Joseph, Jude (2) and a final phenomenal goal from Jacob.

We'd also like to give a special Thank You to Mr Charlton for stepping in and helping to referee the first game, your help was very much appreciated!

JFK Superstars: Last Saturday, Alfred R (6PP) was invited to take penalties at half-time at the Sunderland V Millwall league game. He was one of three children chosen from their participation in sport through the Foundation of Light at the Beacon. The penalty shoot-out was part of a wider WEAR ONE charity event including several schools across Wearside. Alfred did brilliantly and scored two out of three attempts against the club mascot, Samson!



Last weekend, Imogen H (2MA) participated in a ten-pin bowling tournament at Shipley. She got to third place at the semi-finals, winning a trophy. She also gained a new personal best of 127 – what an amazing achievement! Well done, Imogen.

Harrison C (RAM) was awarded 'Player of the Week' at his brand-new football club. He couldn't wait to show his friends his trophy. His coach was very impressed with his skills.



Last night, Grayson B (RES) was awarded player of the match at football. His coach said that Grayson played with a lot of confidence which was a pleasure to see. He controlled the ball very well and drove his team forward with some impressive runs which resulted in him scoring some brilliant goals. As well as his attacking play being very good, Grayson defended extremely well by not allowing his opponents any time on the ball. Well done, Grayson!

