

# John F. Kennedy Primary School

## The Buzz Newsletter



24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome all the children and staff back in school this week – I hope everyone enjoyed their time during the Easter break. The weather was lovely, I know I spent many days in the sunshine walking with my dog.

**World Earth Day:** As part of our ongoing geography work, we celebrated World Earth Day in school today. Pupils from across the school took part in a range of practical activities linked to protecting our planet. These included litter picking with Washington Tidy, planting plants around school and looking at reducing our carbon footprint with Northern Gas. Over the remainder of the term, we will continue with some of the activities so more pupils can have the opportunity to help save the planet. I must also thank everyone who completed topic homework over the Easter holidays to demonstrate what we can do to protect the planet – the display in the hall on Thursday evening was excellent. Thank you to Mr Thompson for organising the event this week. Please look out for a post on Facebook that captures the learning taking place.

**Year Four Residential:** Yesterday our year four children travelled to Grinton Lodge in Richmond to embark on their overnight residential – based on the Alex Rider spy novels. They transformed into ‘agents’, taking part in various action-packed activities where they developed their teamwork and communication skills. If that wasn’t enough, they set off on a delightful, and tiring, walk down the valley before stopping off for a well-deserved ice cream in the village. Please do look on our school Facebook page to see all the photos and updates of their adventure. Thank you to all the staff who volunteered to make this residential possible.

**Year 1 Parent Information Evening:** Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to join us for the Phonics Screening Check information session earlier this week. If you could not make this session, or have any queries following this, please speak with Mrs Stewart or Mr Thompson who will be more than happy to support you.

**Reception Farm Trip Reminder:** Reception will be visiting the farm for their Spring trip, and the children are excited to meet the new baby animals born at this time of year. They will also have the chance to explore the park and enjoy a ride on the tractor trailer. Children must arrive at school on time, as the coach will leave no later than 9:15. If your child is bringing a packed lunch, please send it in a small backpack so it is easy for them to carry. Children should wear their school jumper or cardigan and polo shirt on the day, but they may wear joggers or tracksuit bottoms with suitable outdoor shoes, such as wellies. A waterproof coat/cap may also be helpful in case of wet/hot weather. We’re very excited to have a fun filled day. Please speak to a member of our EY team if you have any other questions.

**Attendance:** Our first week back into the summer term, and our attendance has been 95.87%. We ended the week in a strong position, which has brought our year-to-date figure to 94.74%. The class in Key Stage One with the highest attendance was **1MT**, and in Key Stage Two this was **5DF**. Both classes will be rewarded with an extra break-time next week!

Class	NAM	RAO	RST	1ES	1MT	2MA	2MeA	3AF
Attendance	99.21%	98.08%	98.89%	92.57%	97.50%	95.38%	95.71%	96.92%
Class	3GB	4BK	4MS	5DF	5RN	6PP/LM	6VS	TH
Attendance	96.40%	90.32%	96.60%	98.62%	95.74%	85.60%	96.92%	99.58%

**JFK Superstars:** On Easter Monday, **Ava S** (5DF) and **Brooke M** (5RN) took part in a football tournament with their team Washington Athletic Wolves U10's and won! A huge well done to the girls and the rest of their team on their fantastic achievement.



Also, during the Easter holidays **Poppy H** and **Jess B** (5DF) had the privilege of dancing at the iconic Blackpool Tower ballroom! Showcasing their dancing skills with The Elite Squad Trish and Trina school of dance, for the Showtime Future Stars show. What a fantastic opportunity for the girls, we hope you had an amazing time!



**Upcoming Early May Bank Holiday Weekend:**

On Sunday 3rd, and Monday 4th May Hylton Castle will be hosting a battle re-enactment day. The event runs from 12:00PM – 5:00PM on both days and is £1.00 per person to attend (per day) - under 2's can attend for free.

Tickets can be booked via <https://hyltoncastle.org.uk/what-s-happening/hylton-castle-battle-re-enactment-2026/>, for those of you who may be interested.

Most of the activities at the event will be free, however ride tickets for the funfair will be available to purchase. Food and drink vendors will also be available.

**The Battle for Sunderland**  
HYLTON CASTLE  
The English Civil War Society  
£1 ENTRY

Hylton Castle, Craigavon Road, SR5 3PA  
Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th May 2026  
12pm-5pm both days

12:00pm - 5:00pm: Living History - Civilians  
12:00pm - 12:30pm: Cavalry Skill at Armes  
12:30pm - 1pm: Infantry Exercise of Postures  
1:15pm - 1:45pm: Artillery Display  
2:30pm-3:30pm: Battle for Sunderland

Battle Re-enactment | Face-painting | Heritage Crafts  
Food & Drink | Historical Story Telling | and more!  
Book online: [hyltoncastle.org.uk](http://hyltoncastle.org.uk)

For more information:  
☎ 0191 5373231  
✉ [hyltoncastle@outlook.com](mailto:hyltoncastle@outlook.com)

Community Opportunities | HYLTON CASTLE Castle in the Community | The English Civil War Society We Bring History Alive! www.ecw.org.uk | Sunderland City Council Supported by North Area Committee

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr B. Adams  
Headteacher



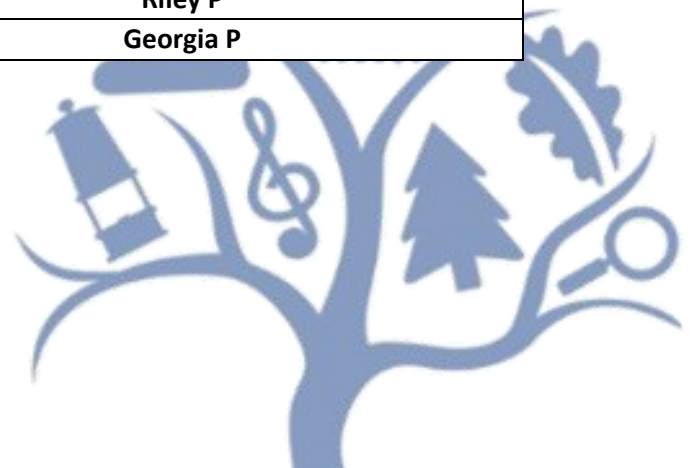


**John F. Kennedy**  
Primary School



# Stars of the Week

Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAM	Isabelle A Evie N
Reception	RAO	Noah H Lucie H
	RST	Auora H William E
One	1ES	Grayson B Eden G
	1MT	Harlow M Bobby Y
Two	2MA	Lucas B Alex S
	2MeA	Quinn B Freda C
Three	3GB	Amelia D Maxi C
	3AF	Ashton A Belle T
Four	4BK	The whole of Year 4 for their excellent behaviour on their residential trip1
	4MS	
Five	5DF	Isla Y Lilly H
	5RN	Imogen H Rosalia Ivy R
Six	6PP/LM	Mohammed A Tommy C
	6VS	Shahmeer M Riley L
Treehouse	THBM	Riley P
	THIT	Georgia P



# Timetables

**P.E. Lessons:** Just to remind that the P.E. kit should be a plain white t-shirt (not a football shirt), black shorts or black jogging bottoms/ leggings and trainers. A jumper can also be worn.

Week Commencing: 27 <sup>th</sup> April		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 4 Swimming Year 1	Year 3
Tuesday	Treehouse (THIT)	Treehouse (THBM)
Wednesday		Nursery
Thursday	Nursery	Year 2
Friday	Treehouse (Year 4 & 5)	5DF – Swimming 5RN – PE Year 6 PE

**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: 27 <sup>th</sup> April		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday	Year 3	Reception
Wednesday	Treehouse	
Thursday		
Friday		2MeA

