

# John F. Kennedy Primary School

## The Buzz Newsletter



6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week after half-term.

**Ofsted:** I hope by now you have had the opportunity to read our recent report from the inspection that took place in January. As I said in my letter which accompanied the report, the inspectors recognised lots of strengths within the school, which I am extremely proud of. The areas of development had already been identified and we were already working on them. I keep going back to the section of the report where it describes what it is like to be a pupil at this school, where it states:

*Pupils enjoy being a part of this welcoming and inclusive school. They feel valued and supported to succeed. Staff know pupils well and understand their individual needs. This helps all pupils to feel a strong sense of belonging. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), including those who attend the school's specially resourced provision for pupils with SEND, 'The Treehouse', are included in the life of the school and take part in whole-school activities.*

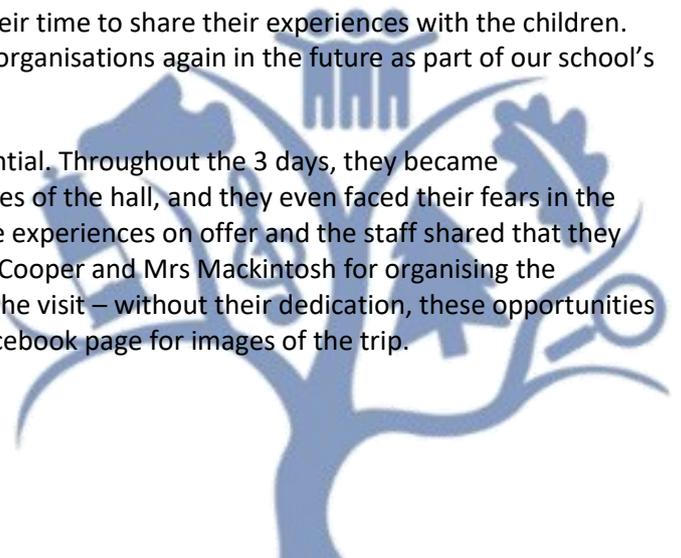
*Pupils enjoy learning and describe school as a fun place to be. They talk enthusiastically about the wider opportunities available to them, including forest school and residential visits. These memorable experiences help pupils to develop confidence, independence and positive attitudes to learning.*

**National Careers Week:** This week in school, we have been celebrating National Careers Week. It has been a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about the wide range of jobs that are available. They have really immersed themselves in thinking about future careers and considering what they might like to do when they are older.

Throughout the week, we welcomed a variety of visitors from different professions who spoke to the children during morning assemblies and afternoon sessions. These included a paramedic, a bus driver, an engineer, an IT manager, a sushi restaurant owner, a children's author and illustrator, a chartered surveyor, and a retired firefighter, to name just a few. We hope the children enjoyed hearing from these professionals and that it has helped open their eyes to the vast number of career opportunities available to them in the future.

A huge thank you goes to all our visitors who kindly gave up their time to share their experiences with the children. We look forward to working with parents, carers, and outside organisations again in the future as part of our school's wider curriculum offer.

**York:** This week, our year 5 pupils visited York for their residential. Throughout the 3 days, they became chocolatiers, archaeologists, Vikings, historians, Lords and Ladies of the hall, and they even faced their fears in the dungeons! I have spoken to both classes and they loved all the experiences on offer and the staff shared that they were a credit to the school. I must thank Miss Newsome, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Mackintosh for organising the residential and to all the staff who volunteered to support on the visit – without their dedication, these opportunities can not take place for our pupils. Please have a look at our Facebook page for images of the trip.



**Bedtime Stories:** What a fantastic turnout for our Bedtime Stories event on Thursday evening. It was great to snuggle up in pyjamas and share stories together. Our reception team thoroughly enjoyed the Gruffalo performance. We can't wait to plan our next family event; it is always lovely to share this Early Years journey together.

**World Book Day:** Today, to conclude Careers Week, we have also celebrated World Book Day. Throughout the week, each year group has focused on one of the 'Little People, Big Dreams' series of books, looking at a famous person. Around school, as well as being a book character, pupils (and staff) had the opportunity to dress in a profession they would like to aspire to. I have been so impressed with the aspirations many of our pupils have, and I hope they achieve them when they are older.

**Year 3:** On Monday year 3 had a fantastic trip to Vindolanda Roman Fort and Museum. Despite the rain, the children had a brilliant time exploring the Roman ruins and spotting landmarks around the fort. In the museum, they enjoyed an exciting treasure hunt and discovered fascinating Roman artefacts. Thank you to Mrs Bolton and Miss Fairless for organising the visit. A great day of learning and adventure - well done, Year 3!

**Year 4 Parent Meeting:** On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, we'd like to invite all parents/carers of the children attending the Richmond residential to a parent information meeting. An email invitation will be sent next week.

**Attendance:** This week our overall attendance is 94.03%, and our year-to-date is now 94.51%. I am hopeful this term we can build this back up to 95.00+% and be back within a closer range to the government target.

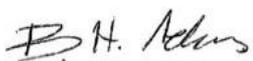
Class	NAM	RAO	RST	1ES	1MT	2MA	2MeA	3AF
Attendance	90.50	96.92	96.67	94.76	93.00	96.67	93.33	97.60
Class	3GB	4BK	4MS	5DF	5RN	6PP/LM	6VS	TH
Attendance	91.25	95.16	93.58	93.45	94.33	88.40	95.00	92.08

**House Points:** The winner of last week's house points was Franklin.

**Just a reminder:** Next week, Miss Newsome's class will have the opportunity to participate in Bikeability. Please ensure that all bikes are in correct working order and are pushed on the yard at the start of the day. Also, remember to wear suitable clothes and bring your cycle helmet.

On Monday 23rd March school will be closed to pupils for our final INSET day of this academic year.

Have a lovely weekend.



Mr B. Adams  
Headteacher





**John F. Kennedy**  
Primary School

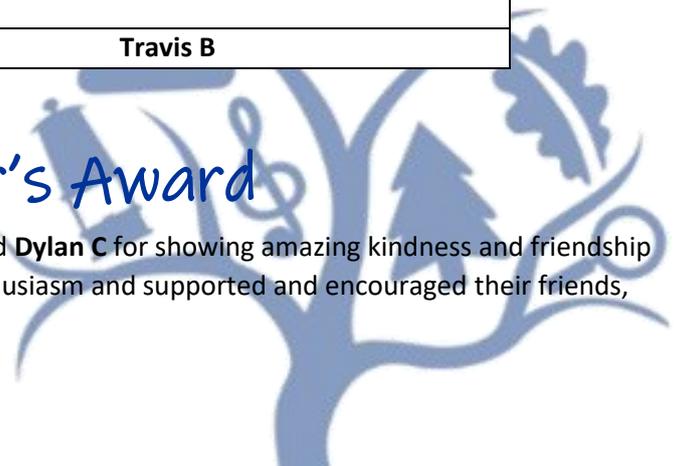


# Stars of the Week

Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAM	James W Theo A
Reception	RAO	Oliver J Alex E
	RST	River S Myles A
One	1ES	Abigail C Dylan R
	1MT	Noah C Oakley F-G
Two	2MA	Clara T Victoria R
	2MeA	Imogen B Hannah H
Three	3GB	Emily C Talia K
	3AF	Derrick A Georgina H
Four	4BK	Max A Charlotte T
	4MS	Harry F Sorch G
Five	5DF	The whole class
	5RN	The whole class
Six	6PP/LM	Thomas B Alfie K
	6VS	Cora P Bobby J
Treehouse	THBM	
	THIT	Travis B

## Headteacher's Award

Mr. Adams' Headteacher's Award this week goes to **Layla C** and **Dylan C** for showing amazing kindness and friendship during the York Residential. They faced every activity with enthusiasm and supported and encouraged their friends, representing a core value of our school. Well done!



# 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: 16 <sup>th</sup> February		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 4 – Swimming Year 1	Year 3
Tuesday	Treehouse	
Wednesday		
Thursday		Year 2
Friday	Treehouse (Y4 &Y5 pupils) – Swimming Reception	5DF – Swimming 5RN – P.E. Year 6

**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: 16 <sup>th</sup> February		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		RAO & RST
Wednesday	Treehouse	Year 4
Thursday	Year 1	Nursery
Friday	Nursery	2MeA



# Sports News

**School Football Team:** On Thursday, the school football team resumed their football season with two friendlies and a league fixture at Biddick Primary.

The first game was a friendly against Usworth Colliery, a team that JFK had drawn with earlier in the year. This was a very good performance, with the team showcasing excellent attacking and defensive phases on a tricky playing surface. Early in the first half, Joshua R made himself big in goal to deny Usworth Colliery from taking the lead. JFK were able to get the winner through a lovely finish by Jude C, who rifled the ball into the bottom corner. Great defending from Joe E, Dane L and Jacob L was enough to protect the lead with the game finishing 1-0.

The second game of the night was another friendly against the hosts, Biddick Primary. This was a very close battle with both teams showing off their ability throughout. Jude C was denied twice by two great saves from the opposition goalkeeper. On the stroke of half time, Biddick were able to break the deadlock with a headed goal from a corner. JFK continued to battle hard into the second half, showing fantastic determination to get the scores level. In the dying moments, Biddick were able to double their lead through another corner - the game finishing 2-0 to the hosts.

The final game of the night saw JFK go up against Marlborough Primary in the league. JFK dominated from start to finish in this game, with the opposition hardly getting a touch in our half throughout the game. A long ball from Jacob L found Jude C in acres of space, who was able to take a good touch to control before firing past the goalkeeper. Just before half time, Jacob L was able to add another goal, his long-range effort thundering past the goalkeeper to make it 2-0. Daniel C and Jack R were fantastic in the middle, constantly pressing throughout and did not allow the Marlborough players a second on the ball. In the second half, JFK showed some of their best football of the season with some excellent passing and constantly finding players in space. Some excellent crossing from the wing by Dane L found players in the box, however, last ditch defending denied the team from adding more goals to the tally. Joe E was excellent when bringing the ball up from defence, dancing his way through defender's time and time again to cause some dangerous attacks. The game ended 2-0 to JFK, which is a brilliant restart to the league campaign. Well done to everyone who took part!

**JFK Superstars:** Peter B (4MS) recently competed in the Derwentside and Gateshead Sprint Meet. Peter won a gold medal in his age category for 100m freestyle (front crawl). Then at the weekend, he competed in the Northumberland and Durham Teams Day competition where he was part of team races, each of which resulted in them going to the finals in each event; proudly winning the bronze medal in the 200m medley.



Ben G (6VS) had an amazing experience at the weekend, being a mascot for Manchester United at their game against Crystal Palace!

