

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that today is the last day of the half-term – these last 8 weeks have flown by! It was lovely speaking to lots of you at both parent's evenings and at the scarecrow trail and hearing your positive comments about the school – your words are appreciated.

Parents' Evening: Thank you to everyone who was able to attend parent evening on either Monday or Wednesday - I hope you enjoyed looking through your child's books and hearing about their progress. Unfortunately, some classes appointments had to be postponed; these will be rearranged after the half-term holidays.

Pumpkin Trail: Thank you to everyone who came to our scarecrow and pumpkin trail - it was lovely to see so many families to look at the wonderful creations made by the children. The final scarecrow designs were outstanding, along with lots of spooktacular pumpkin designs! I must thank all the staff for their support with this event (creating decorations, organising refreshments, making scarecrows). Please see our post on Facebook for photos of the trail.

Well done to the following winners for their pumpkin designs:

- Travis B (Treehouse)
- Myles A (Early Years)
- Rebecca S (Key Stage 1)
- Imogen H (Lower Key Stage 2)
- Jacob K (Upper Key Stage 2)

Year Six Safety Works: This week, year six had a great time on their Safety Works trip on Wednesday morning. They learned about keeping safe and how the emergency services are there to help us. All pupils took part in a range of activities which they enjoyed and got to sample different scenarios such as what to do in an incident involving water. They also learned about road safety as well as how the police, fire brigade and R.N.L.I. support us as well as how to stay safe when using the Metro. They were a credit to our school and very well-behaved. Well done, year 6.

Year One History: Earlier this week, as part of our 'families through the generations' history topic, year 1 hosted and attended their own coronation ceremony. On the morning, the children voted for who they wanted to be their new king and queen and prepared for the celebrations in the afternoon by making jam sandwiches and creating Union Jack flags. It was a fun-filled day of learning, linked to our British Values, and one the children thoroughly enjoyed!



Year Six Author Visit: Yesterday, year six had the highly-talented and local author Adam Bushnell visit them for a creative writing workshop. They had a fabulous day exploring World War Two artefact such as Tommy guns, gas masks and ammunition before using all of their learning from this half term's history focus to produce creative writing around The Blitz. The children's engagement was excellent throughout and showcased their excellent historic and writing skills. A highlight was also meeting Adam's pet tortoise, Jet. It was lovely to hear such complimentary comments from Adam Bushnell himself, before he left school, in relation to effort and hard work of our eldest pupils.

EYFS Open Day: Last Saturday, we held our Early Years open day for potential reception and nursery starters. The morning was a great success with over 30 families visiting the provision during the morning to see what our EYFS can offer. Huge thanks must go to Miss Owens (our Early Years Lead) and the rest of the staff for organising the morning and making sure the provision was ready for our visitors. If you have a young child due to start in nursery or reception, or know of a family who may be looking for a place in a local provision, please let them know about our amazing school. Photos of the EYFS provision can be found on our school Facebook page.

S.A.F.C. Flagbearer: Thomas B (6PP/LM) was the lucky winner of our recent draw to become a Sunderland flagbearer at their home game on Saturday against Wolves. Thomas had the best time at the stadium and really enjoyed the experience! He was even caught on camera by the Sunderland Echo –



Staff: As we reach the end of the first half-term, we are saying goodbye to one of our members of staff. Miss Barron has been working in The Treehouse, supporting our pupils in the provision. She will be missed and on behalf of the school, can I wish her all the best in the next stage of her schooling journey.

Attendance: Our attendance this week is 94.78%, which is a decrease from last week. Our year-to-date attendance is 95.40%.

Our school attendance is up on last year, and is the highest it has been at this stage of the year since before covid, so thank you for your support. However, can I remind all parents that any holiday requests during term time should be made in writing and sent to the school office before the holiday is due to take place. Each request will be considered, however, unless there are exceptional circumstances, these will be classed as unauthorised, and following government guidelines this could lead to the local authority being involved.

The class with the highest attendance in Key Stage One was 1MT, and in Key Stage Two was 5DF.

Class	NAM	RAO	RST	1ES	1MT	2MA	2MeA	3AF
Attendance	98.65	91.54	96.67	91.00	98.42	92.54	98.10	89.62
Class	3GB	4BK	4MS	5DF	5RN	6PP/LM	6VS	TH
Attendance	90.43	94.00	95.33	98.21	97.92	94.80	94.62	96.00

JFK Superstars: Alfie Y (6VS) took part in a gymnastics competition last weekend, and placed 1st in his category! This is a fantastic achievement and I know his family are extremely proud of him. Well done, Alfie!



School Photos: Just a polite reminder, that any photograph orders need to be placed directly with Tempest by Tuesday 28th October to qualify for delivery to school free of charge.

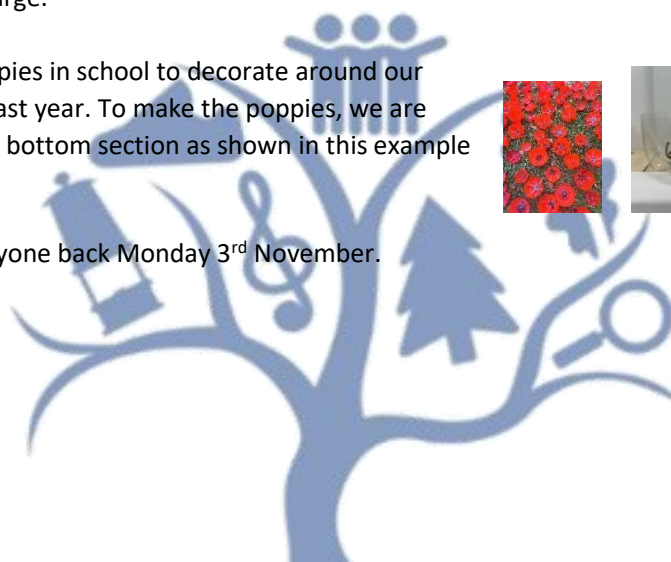
Remembrance Day Cross: We are going to be making more poppies in school to decorate around our Remembrance Day Cross – I found this such a poignant display last year. To make the poppies, we are asking pupils to bring in plastic bottles – but we only require the bottom section as shown in this example picture. We hope you can help with this request.



Have a fantastic half-term holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone back Monday 3rd November.

B. H. Adams

Mr B. Adams
Headteacher





Stars of the Week



Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAM	Shahzain M Riley G
Reception	RAO	Dominic W Lucie H
	RST	Henry R Amelia M
One	1ES	Kayla C
	1MT	Bobby Y Tommy S
Two	2MA	Rebecca S Lina B
	2MeA	Junior S Imogen B
Three	3GB	Esmae M Harlow D
	3AF	Frankie B Tallulah T
Four	4BK	Ethan M Harry R
	4MS	Harper P Jessica G
Five	5DF	Isla D Lily-Rose M
	5RN	Rosalia-Ivy R Lexi K
Six	6PP/LM	Thomas B Heidi D
	6VS	Scarlett R Hayden S
Treehouse	THLC	Ronnie G
	THIT	Luka J

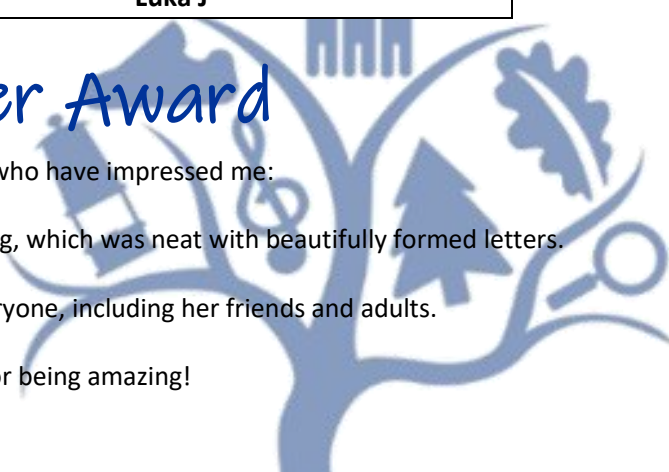
Headteacher Award

There are two pupils this week who have impressed me:

Dougie H (1MT) has completed some amazing handwriting, which was neat with beautifully formed letters.

Lily S (TH) for being so kind and helpful to everyone, including her friends and adults.

Well done to you both for being amazing!



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: 3 rd November		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 1 Year 4 Swimming	Year 3
Tuesday	Treehouse	
Wednesday	Nursery	
Thursday	Reception	Year 2
Friday	Treehouse (Y4 & Y5 pupils) – Swimming	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: 3 rd November		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		Reception
Tuesday	3AF	
Wednesday	Treehouse	Year 4
Thursday	Year 1	Nursery
Friday		2MeA (Miss Atkinson's class)



Sports News

Girls' Football Team: On Tuesday night, the Girls' football team continued their league campaign with matches against Rickleton and Usworth Colliery as well as a friendly against Holley Park. Our first game was against Holley Park. Unfortunately, Holley Park took the win with a 5-0 scoreline – showcasing some very good technical and teamworking ability. Despite the loss in the first game, the girls did not let this affect their determination going into the league game against Rickleton. Midway into the first half, Olivia B was able to pounce on an opportunity to put JFK 1-0 up. JFK continued to pile on the pressure at the start of the second half and were rewarded as Brooke M slot the ball past the keeper and doubled the lead. Defending from Ada Grace T, Willow B, Emily May M and some great saves from Sophia S were enough to secure the clean sheet and the win. The final game of the night was against Usworth, a strong team who are doing very well in the league this year. Just before half time, Usworth were able to take the lead through a powerful effort finding the bottom corner. Motivated to get straight back into it, JFK worked the ball well finding Brooke M, who was able to make it 1-1. Ada Grace T played the game in goal and produced a number of fine saves and blocks to keep Usworth out. Usworth once again took the lead but were again beaten by a Brooke M effort making it 2-2. In the final seconds of the game, Usworth were able to break through and nab the winner – the game ending 3-2 to Colliery. Well done to all of the girls who took part for showing fantastic attitudes!

School Football Team: On Thursday, the school football team took part in their league games against Rickleton and George Washington. The first game was against Rickleton. The opposition started the stronger of the two sides, seeing early chances go just wide. Midway through the first half, Rickleton were able to break the deadlock – their striker breaking through the defence before slotting the ball into the back of the net. JFK continued to battle on with Miles M and Seth A battling well in the midfield. Joshua R made a number of good saves to keep the score at 1-0 for most of the second half. As JFK pushed for an equaliser, Rickleton were able to double their lead. The score finishing 2-0.

The second game saw JFK take on George Washington. All throughout the game, JFK dominated the ball with George Washington only having a handful of touches in our half. In the opening minutes of the game, Jacob L showed some incredible acrobatics – seeing his bicycle kick fly past the keeper to open the scoring. Joe E continued to show his coolness under pressure, dealing with all potential threats with ease. During the second half, Jude C sent a corner in and found Daniel C at the back post, who was able to poke it into the back of the net. In the dying moments, Dain L burst through but was denied by a good save from the George Washington keeper. Well done to everyone who took part!

