

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



24th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a windy end to the week!! Thanks to everyone who battled through the weather to make sure your child was at school – we do appreciate this. This week has been excellent around school – the work being produced in each class has been amazing – I have been so impressed!

Staffing: I would like to welcome Mr Turner to John F Kennedy, who is the new school Site Manager. I know everyone will make him feel very welcome in his new role.

Library Visit: On Wednesday, our reception classes visited Washington Library. The children were excited to walk up to the Galleries, looking for different features of the community along the way. We were lucky enough to see lots of things such as double decker busses, zebra crossings, a lollypop lady and much more. The highlight along the way had to be when a police van stopped, waved at the children, and put their lights on for us. Once we got to the library, we were met by a lovely librarian who explained how we could join the library and borrow books to share with our families at home. Then she read us a story and we were able to explore the children's section. We had so much fun reading stories with each other and colouring in pictures. We then listened to another story before we walked back to school. All the children were amazing and were a credit to John F Kennedy Primary School. Well done, reception!

SATs Information Evening: Thank you to those of you who were able to join us last night for our SATs information evening. Information shared at the meeting will be sent out via ParentPay along with useful documents to support your child at home. If you have any further questions or were unable to attend the meeting and would like any further information, please contact Mr. Pearson or Mrs. Mewes.

SATs Club: Starting Tuesday 4 February, our year six SATs club will run after school (3.20pm - 4.15pm), leading up to SATs week. This is a great opportunity for pupils to go over key concepts as well as receive further practice and support. If you haven't already signed up your child, please use the following link – [SATs Club Sign Up](#)

Multiplication Table Check Information Evening: On Tuesday 4th February, there will be a meeting for parents and carers of Year 4 children. The meeting will start at 3.30pm and last for approximately 30 minutes. At the meeting, we will share information about the upcoming Multiplication Table Check.

Parents' Evening: A reminder that parents' evenings will take place on Monday 17th and Wednesday 19th February. If you have not already done so, please complete the following form to request an appointment time – [Parents' Evening Form](#). As always, we will do our best to give you appointments within your chosen time slot and keep sibling appointment times as close together as possible. However, there may be instances where we are unable to do this and we thank you for your understanding.

Spring Term After School Clubs: You will have received an email yesterday confirming your child's choice of after school club. We have had a lot of interest in clubs this term, so children have only been allocated one club (except for those children in years 4 & 6 attending Times Tables and SATS clubs).

Attendance: This week our attendance has dropped to 92.92%, and our running total since the start of the term is now 93.83%. Unfortunately, this is still significantly below the government attendance targets, as the expectation of all schools is to have attendance of 96%+. The class with the highest attendance in key stage 1 was **1MT** and in key stage 2 it was **5RN**. These classes will be rewarded with an additional break time next week.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	82.30	96.00	92.00	90.38	95.65	93.60	88.85	97.04
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	96.33	93.08	97.78	91.20	98.62	93.46	95.56	92.50

JFK Superstars: Jack McE (2JW) has recently moved up to stage 4 in his swimming lessons – and was over the moon after all his hard work. Well done Jack!



Talia K (2JW) took part in a gymnastics competition last weekend for a regional qualifier and achieved first place in her round. Well done Talia!



Ernest S (6LM) was successful last weekend in a dancing competition at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. He was awarded two trophies, coming sixth and second. Well done Ernest!



Refreshments: This was mentioned in last week's Buzz newsletter, but can I just remind everyone again that if children are on packed lunch, they should bring in their own drink to enjoy at lunchtime (which can be a juice drink), however, if they don't bring one school are happy to provide them with water to drink. Also children should only have water in their bottles for during the school day.

PE Kit: In recent weeks, we have noticed that there have been a number of children wearing earrings on their PE day. If children are unable to remove their own earrings, they should be taken out by an adult before they come to school. There have also been several children wearing coloured or patterned t-shirts for PE. Please see the PE section of the newsletter for information about the kit children are expected to wear each week.

Nursery Chinese New Year Celebrations: Next week, on Thursday 30th January our nursery children will be celebrating Chinese New. The children will have the opportunity to order food from our very own Nursery Chinese Restaurant, take part in dragon dancing and have our very own festival. The children are welcome to come into nursery dressed in red to represent one of China's lucky colours.

Football: On Thursday, the girls' football team kicked off their first week of competition in the futsal league. Their first game was against Biddick Primary. Both teams battled well in the opening minutes of the game, seeing chances narrowly going wide of the goal. Biddick were able to open up the scoring with a well worked move being finished off with a shot into the near post. JFK girls did not let their heads drop and showed excellent determination to get straight back into the game. Not long after, Ella-Mae R burst away from her defender before poking the ball past the opposition keeper to make the score level. Moments later, Ella-Mae R was involved in the action again, this time playing a ball forward into space for Lucy H - who was able to slot the ball past the keeper and into the back of the net. Excellent defending from Grace N and goalkeeping by Darcey G prevented Biddick from getting back into the game; the final whistle confirming the 2-1 victory.

The second game of the evening saw the girls take on St John Boste. The confidence was flowing through the team from the get go, instantly piling on the pressure from the first whistle. Within the first two minutes of the game, Ella-Mae R was able to break past an opposition defender to open the scoring. Moments later, the score was doubled, Ella-Mae R once again showing fantastic technique to power the ball into the bottom corner. Midway through the game, Ella W came on up front and within seconds of entering the field of play saw her shot hit the post. A well worked move from a kick in found the ball at Ella W's feet, who was able to take a good touch before placing the ball into the bottom corner. Georgia T showed fantastic technique while defending, making several perfectly timed tackles to stop any potential threats. A quick-fire double from Ella W and Ella-Mae R, who was able to seal her hat trick, secured a 5-0 victory.

A brilliant display from the team during both games - showing magnificent determination and teamwork throughout - they were wonderful representatives of our school. Well done to everyone who played!

INSET Day: Just a polite reminder that school is **closed** to pupils on Monday due to staff training.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr B. Adams - Head of School





John F. Kennedy
Primary School



Stars of the Week

Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAO	Max H Zachary M
	RAM	All children for excellent behaviour during our library visit
Reception	RES	All children for excellent behaviour during our library visit
	1AP	Millie H Lucas B
One	1MT	Nathan B Hannah H
	2MA	Darcie P Elliott H
Two	2JW	Isla L Mia M
	3DF	Jorgie T Archie H
Three	3GB	Irada E Harry B
	4AF	Joe E Tilly R
Four	4BK	Ava S Wesley H
	5RN	Heidi D Jude C
Five	5MA	Rosie C Henry L
	6PP	Evie J Ella-Mae R
Six	6LM	Lilly-Rose M Sam S
	TLC	Nathan Mc
Treehouse	TNP	Daniel M

Head of School Award:

Congratulations to **Adam W** from Mr. Pearson's class who was awarded Mr. Adams' Head of School Award this week for being an incredible role-model and always putting 100% effort into all his learning.

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 may still be held outdoors, therefore please ensure your child bring appropriate clothing.

Week Commencing: 27 th January		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		Year Two
Wednesday		Year Four
Thursday	Treehouse	Year Six
Friday		5MA – Swimming 5RN – 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 other 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 th January		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Treehouse	Nursery
Thursday		
Friday	Nursery	1MT

