

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels like Spring is finally here – after cold starts, the warming sun has really helped cheer up everyone. I hope this continues.

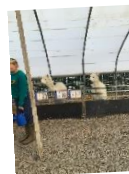
Red Nose Day: It was lovely to see the school become a sea of red today as we celebrated Comic Relief 2025. Thank you to anyone who used the link to donate to this worthwhile charity. If you would still like to contribute to the fundraising, please use the following link: [Red Nose Day Donations](#)

Reception: On Wednesday, reception went on a trip to Hall Hill Farm. Whilst we were there, we fed sheep, alpacas, donkeys and even bottle-fed lambs. We went on a tractor ride, played on the park and also held some bunnies, gunnie pigs and chicks. Here are some of the comments the children made about our day at the farm.

I loved holding the bunny rabbit. It was so soft.
Poppy N



The llamas are chasing us on the tractor.
Lockie B



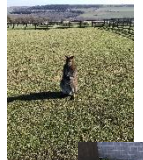
We got to feed the baby lamb milk in a bottle.
Harlow M



The tractor ride was really fun. It was so bumpy.
Dylan R



The piglets ran round and round their mam.
Nell P



Book Fair: As we continue to develop and foster a love of reading across the school, it was great for the Book Fair to be available for all pupils. I must thank everyone who attended the sessions after school, and I hope the range of books provided enough choice when deciding on any purchases. The commission made, an amazing £573.11, from the event will be used to purchase new books for the pupils across the school. Thank you to Miss Anderson for organising the fair and to all staff who volunteered to support.

Year 1 Penguins: There have been some strange happenings in Year One this week! On Monday, the children were greeted by a giant egg in their provision area. After some fantastic discussion, many children correctly predicted that it was in fact a penguin egg and set about their mission to protect it! After reading *The Emperor's Egg* by Martin Jenkins, the children became overnight experts in how to look after a penguin egg and produced some wonderful information booklets on how penguins keep their eggs safe. The egg finally hatched on Wednesday night and the children were ecstatic to have a little chick for company! I have been so impressed with some of the wonderful penguin work that has been produced this week. Well done everybody!

House Points: This week's winner is Swan.

Bikeability: It was the turn of the pupils of 5RN pupils to participate in Bikeability this week. During their training, they learned how to communicate with other road users, identify and negotiate hazards and navigate junctions correctly. The instructors were very pleased with their positive attitude and their willingness to follow instructions to improve their safety while out on the road.



Attendance: This week our attendance is 93.02%, and our running total since the start of the term has now dropped to 93.97%. This is significantly below the government attendance targets of 96+%. The class with the highest attendance in Key Stage 1 was 2MA and in Key Stage 2 it was 6LM. These classes will be rewarded with an additional break time next week.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	87.77	94.29	89.00	92.69	91.82	94.40	98.46	94.81
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	85.00	96.07	94.07	94.80	95.77	96.92	94.29	90.00

Free School Meals: We sent a letter out to all parents this week after seeing a reminder on the Martin Lewis television show on Tuesday evening regarding applying for Free School Meals. If you apply before 31st March and are successful, this free school meal continues throughout the whole phase of education for your child. From 1st April, there is a change of rules, and regular eligibility checks will be needed to determine if your child is eligible. If anyone thinks they may be eligible, I am advising you to apply before the end of March.

HAF: The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme - named 'Wear Here 4' in Sunderland - is a Department for Education funded programme delivered locally and providing fun, enriching activities and tasty, nutritious meals during school holidays. The funding provided by the Department of Education makes this scheme available for families eligible for Free School Meals. If anyone is interested in their child attending over the Easter holidays, the programme of events available around the Sunderland region can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/article/21867/Holiday-Activity-and-Food-HAF-Programme>

Parking: After receiving a complaint, I was visited by the police this week to discuss the parking situation around school at the start and end of the school day. The police were made aware that as a school, we have spoken to our local councillors, involved the Road Safety Team, and regularly informed parents to remind everyone about parking considerately. They feel that we are doing all that we can. However, can I please remind all adults again about parking safely around the school site and not parking on pavements, or being too near to junctions, or blocking areas of streets. I would like to thank everyone who is working with the school to try and improve the parking situation, as I really don't want the police to visit again.

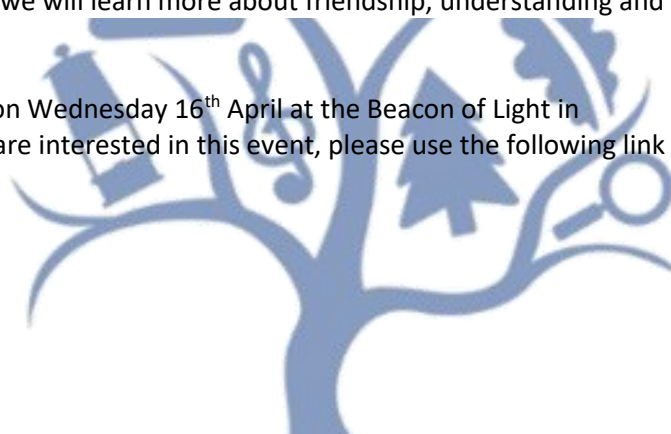
Save the Date: On Wednesday 9th April, Year One will be hosting their class assembly, showcasing all their wonderful work from the Spring Term. It'll be a great opportunity to listen to the children talk about what they have been learning about. More information will follow via email very soon.

World Autism Day: On Wednesday 2nd April, our school will be celebrating World Autism Awareness Day. On this day, children can come into school wearing the colour **blue**. Autism is a condition that affects the way some people think, feel and experience the world around them. To raise awareness in school, children will be focusing on PHSE linked to the book 'Leo and the Octopus'. Through this book, we will learn more about friendship, understanding and how we can support people with additional needs.

Rainbow Skyes: There is a free SEND Family Day being held on Wednesday 16th April at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland, and Rainbow Skyes will be in attendance. If you are interested in this event, please use the following link to book: [Sunderland Parent Carer Forum](#)

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	Yigit B Winter H
Reception	RAM	The whole class for exceptional behaviour during their farm trip and forest school day.
	RES	The whole class for exceptional behaviour during their farm trip and forest school day.
One	1AP	Logan S Frankie P
	1MT	Bella P Elsie C
Two	2MA	Poppy R Eve D
	2JW	Freya D Jake A
Three	3DF	Flynn W Travis H
	3GB	Can Y Craig R
Four	4AF	Tallulah H Tilly R
	4BK	Isla D Rosie M
Five	5RN	Calvin S Lucy R
	5MA	Sophia H Riley A
Six	6PP	Lucy W Andre C
	6LM	William H Thea T
Treehouse	TLC	Jack M
	TNP	Lily A-M



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:		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 1 Year 4 (swimming)	
Tuesday		Year 2
Wednesday	Reception	Year 3 Year 5
Thursday	Treehouse	
Friday		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:		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	5MA	Reception class
Tuesday	Year 3	
Wednesday	Treehouse	
Thursday	Year 4 Forest School Day	
Friday	Nursery	1AP

