

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



Friday 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Even though it has been a very short half-term, there has been lots packed into it! The pupils and staff have worked extremely hard and are all ready for their week off to recharge batteries. We had a visitor from DfE in school this week, and she was so impressed with everything she saw, but what made me burst with pride was how complementary she was of the behaviour and manners of all the children.

Year 2: On Wednesday, year 2 enjoyed a full day out in Forest school linked to their science topic of plants. They explored different plants and tasted some nettle, mint and dandelion tea. Using tools, the children also enjoyed making plant prints and dens. It was a lovely day full of fun!

Year 1 Trip to Sunderland Museum: Yesterday, Year 1 visited Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens as part of their learning about plants. During the day, they spent time with museum staff talking about plants, before planting their own pea seeds to take home. The children took a trip down memory lane, looking at what life was like in Sunderland in the early 1900s, and even had the opportunity to view some taxidermy (stuffed animals) which they all found very exciting! The children were so well behaved and were a credit to the school. A huge thank you to the Year 1 team and all the parent volunteers for their help throughout the day. A great day had by all!

Non-Uniform Day: Thank you for all of the donations we received today! They will all go towards our annual Summer Fayre in July. More information on this event will follow next half-term.

Derwent Hill Parent Meeting: Thank you to the parents/carers who attended our parent information meeting for Derwent Hill last night. For anyone who was unable to make this, the information will be shared via ParentPay email and if you have any questions, please speak to the school office or one of the year 6 teachers.

York Parent Meeting: On Thursday 19th June, there will be a parent information meeting for the year 5 pupils who are attending our residential in York. The meeting will begin at 4pm and take place in the school hall, which you will be able to enter via the small gate to the left-hand side of the school office.

Nursery Open Evening: On Thursday 5th June from 4pm - 5pm, we will be holding a nursery open evening. This is an opportunity for children turning 3 in the academic year 25/26 to visit our wonderful nursery. It is also a chance for children and families to talk to our early years staff and get an insight into the fantastic provision and opportunities available at JFK.

Attendance: This week our attendance is 91.35%, and our running total since the start of the year has dropped to 93.93% The class with the highest attendance in Key Stage 1 was 2MA, and in Key Stage Two was 4AF.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	92.55	80.48	97.50	93.08	86.52	90.00	93.46	94.29
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	93.00	97.33	90.71	91.20	94.38	93.85	91.43	82.92

Staffing: Today was Mrs Pearce's last day as she starts her maternity leave. On behalf of the school, I would like to wish her all the best and we will all look forward to hearing her good news next month. Miss Thornton will be the class teacher for the remainder of the academic year.

JFK Superstars: On Sunday, some children from 5RN (Evie, Norah, Rosie, Sophia) took part in the Children's Cancer Run 2025 at Gosforth Racecourse. They were running to support their friend and classmate Evie, who, as you know, was diagnosed with cancer in 2024. It was such a special, heart-warming moment for their parents to see the girls come together in such a kind and supportive way. Well done girls!



Dixie P (3DF) has been working so hard in her kick-boxing classes and on Sunday was awarded her orange belt! This is a fantastic achievement Dixie, well done! I look forward to hearing about your next level.



Leo H (4BK) had his kick-boxing grading on Sunday and was excited to share with his class that he had been awarded his red belt! Well done!



School Football Team: On Thursday evening, the school football team took part in the final of the Columbia Cup at Rickleton.

The first game of the night saw the team take on Usworth Colliery. Early in the first half, Richard B was able to open the scoring with his effort rifling past the goalkeeper. JFK continued to threaten the opposition, Lucas S picked the ball up and fired a powerful shot past the keeper to double the lead. JFK showed their fantastic technical and teamworking ability for their third goal. Starting with Jenson T at left back, the team passed the ball along the defence before splitting the defence with two phenomenal passes from Adam W and Lucas S to find Lennox B, who was able to slide the ball into the far post. Deep into the second half, Joseph B took a long throw in and found Richard B, who was able to complete the 4-0 victory.

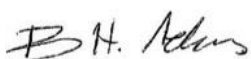
The second game of the night saw JFK take on Biddick Primary. Biddick started off the brighter of the two teams, passing the ball well but were limited to chances from outside the area - Henry A dealing with each one with ease. JFK battled all the way through the game, not giving the Biddick players any time to think on the ball. In the second half, Lennox B was able to break free of his defender and power an effort towards goal. The Biddick keeper was able to push it onto the post and watched as the ball ricocheted off the near post, all the way along the goal line before stopping against the opposite post. Evan M came on and was full of energy, pressing the Biddick defenders and was nearly rewarded for his efforts, his shot going a matter of inches wide of the post. Lennox B was once again in the thick of the action and in the last minute forced two good saves from the Biddick goalkeeper. JFK were unable to break the deadlock with the game ending 0-0. This meant that the team needed a draw in their final game to bring the trophy home.

That final game was against Rickleton, a familiar foe who the team have faced off with many times over the years. From the minute the first whistle blew, you could tell JFK were determined to get a result. Jacob L was fantastic at right back, making a number of high-quality tackles and interceptions throughout the first half as JFK settled into the game. On the stroke of half time, Lennox B saw his shot tipped over the crossbar before Lucas S had another effort go just wide of the post. Moments after half time, Henry A launched the ball out deep into the oppositions box. The defenders misread the bounce and this error allowed Lucas S to smash the ball into the top corner, giving JFK the lead. The team knew this was not the end and that they would have to focus to ensure the win. Joseph B, Lucas S, Jenson T and Jacob L won countless amounts of headers and tackles to help protect the clean sheet. In the final moments of the game, Rickleton sent in a corner, but Henry A did well to get a hand to it before it was eventually cleared away. The final whistle blew with JFK taking the 1-0 victory as well as being crowned 2025 Columbia Cup Champions!

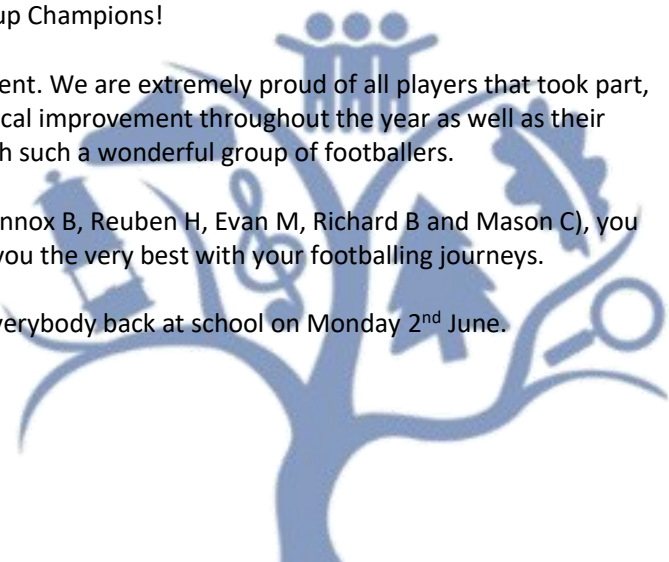
A fantastic result for the team, who thoroughly earned this moment. We are extremely proud of all players that took part, not just in this competition but throughout the year. Their technical improvement throughout the year as well as their attitude has been outstanding and it has been a pleasure to coach such a wonderful group of footballers.

To our year 6s (Henry A, Adam W, Joseph B, Jenson T, Lucas S, Lennox B, Reuben H, Evan M, Richard B and Mason C), you have been superb to coach during your time at JFK and we wish you the very best with your footballing journeys.

Have a relaxing half-term holiday, and I look forward to seeing everybody back at school on Monday 2nd June.



Mr B. Adams - Head of School



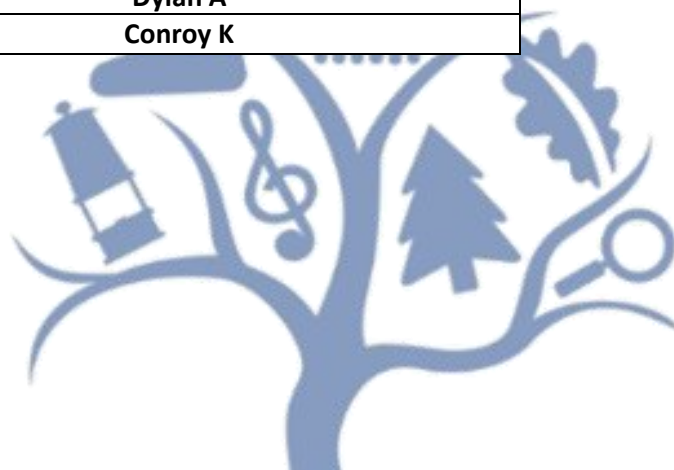


John F. Kennedy
Primary School

Stars of the Week



Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAO	Lily B Laya Sh
Reception	RAM	James B Dougie H
	RES	Harrison M
One	1AP	The Whole Class For being superstars all year!
	1MT	Junior S Jaxon J
Two	2MA	Ayesha B Reuben D
	2JW	Cecil R Leon T-M
Three	3DF	Sophia C Lilly-Mae C
	3GB	Craig R Lia-May B
Four	4AF	Willow B Ollie F
	4BK	Finlay B Hatty C
Five	5RN	Niamh C Sophia H-H
	5MA	Riley L Scarlett R
Six	6PP	Matthew T Lucy H
	6LM	Noah H Ayda R
Treehouse	TLC	Dylan A
	TNP	Conroy K



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 (not a football 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: 2 nd June		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 1 Year 4 (swimming)	Year 3
Tuesday		Year 2
Wednesday	Reception	Year 4
Thursday	Treehouse	Year 5 (5MA & 5RN)
Friday		Year 6 5MA – Swimming

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: 2 nd June		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		Reception
Tuesday	Treehouse	
Wednesday		
Thursday		Nursery
Friday	Nursery	1MT



Half Term Events

Please see below a variety of events happening locally during the half term holiday which may be of interest.

Rebecca's Day Care: Please see leaflet for details of a local holiday club running next week.

Rebecca's Daycare MAY HOLIDAY CLUB

DATES
TUESDAY 27TH MAY
WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY
THURSDAY 29TH MAY
FRIDAY 30TH MAY

£10 PER DAY 9.00AM-3.00PM

PACKLUNCH REQUIRED

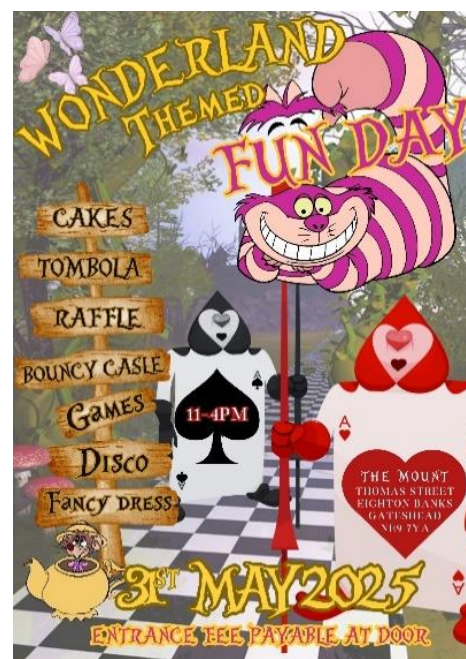
LOCATIONS ACROSS WASHINGTON

WRAPAROUND HOURS AVAILABLE
8-9AM £5.00
3-6PM £10.00

SCHOOL OF WIZARDRY

CALL 07985 476 298 TO BOOK

Daisy Chain: A charity event is being held to raise money for Daisy Chain who provide support for the neurodiverse and their families.



Together for Children – Rainbow Family Hub (Concord):

Rainbow Family Hub Half Term Timetable Tuesday 27th May - Friday 30th May 2025 Family.hubwashington@togetherforchildren.org.uk					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rainbow Family Hub Washington, NE37 3AE 0191 561 3995	Bank Holiday Closed	Family Fun Stay & Play (0-10 years) 10 - 11am - Bookable Rainbow Community Café 9.30 - 11.30am Play Space 1.00 - 3.00pm Sensory Room 1.00 - 3.00pm Sensory/Messy Play (Birth - 18 months) 1.30 - 2.15pm Stop Smoking Support Drop in 1 - 3pm SEND Sensory (5 years and over) 3 - 4pm - Bookable 4 - 5pm - Bookable Antenatal Programme 3.45 - 5.45pm To book call 03000 031552	Review & Development Clinic 10.00 - 11.30am Book via Health Visitor Welfare Rights (referral) 9.00am - 12noon Birth Registrations Book via Sunderland Council website Thorney Close Family Hub Open Day 11am - 2pm 0-11years Colour Fun 11am - 3pm (Field next to Thorney Close Family Hub) SR3 4JQ	Play Space 9.00 - 11.30am 1.00pm - 3.00pm Sensory Room 9.00 - 11.30am 1.00pm - 3.00pm Growing Healthy Drop In 10.00 - 11.30am Bread & Butter Thing 1.15 - 2.15pm To Reserve a bag text 07860063304	Play Space 9.00 - 11.30am 1.00 - 3.00pm Sensory Room 9.00 - 11.30am 1.00 - 3.00pm

Active Sunderland: Active Sunderland will be hosting 2 FREE Family Fun Days during May half term, here's where to find the fun:

- Wednesday 28th May, Ford Football Hub Keelman's Ln, South Hylton, Sunderland SR4 0RW
- Friday 30th May, Downhill Football Hub Kingsway Rd, Sunderland SR5 4BB

Both sessions are free to attend and no booking is necessary, just simply turn up and enjoy the fun between 10:00am-3:00pm. There will be multiple providers delivering different activities such as Clubbercise, Boxercise, Dodgeball, Cross fit, HIIT training (High Intensity Interval Training), Basketball, Rugby and more! As well as multiple information stalls on Health and wellbeing. There will be providers such as NHS Oral Health community team, Everyone Active, Links for Life, Financial Inclusion and information around Active Sunderland.