

# John F. Kennedy Primary School

## The Buzz Newsletter



14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week at John F Kennedy.

**Bikeability:** 5MA pupils had their bikeability session this week. During their Level 2 training, they learned how to identify and respond to hazards, communicate with other road users, comply with road signs, and negotiate junctions. All of this while still maintaining a suitable riding position and being able to start and stop appropriately. The instructors were very impressed with their listening skills and teamwork while out on the road.



**Garden Centre Visit:** Earlier this week, the children from Squirrel Class in the Treehouse enjoyed visiting Clay's Garden Centre. They picked a variety of seeds which they are going to plant and watch grow over this half term as part of their learning in science. They also had fun exploring the garden centre and completed a hunt to find different items. The staff at Clay's were really impressed with the children's behaviour and manners and gave us some free seeds too.

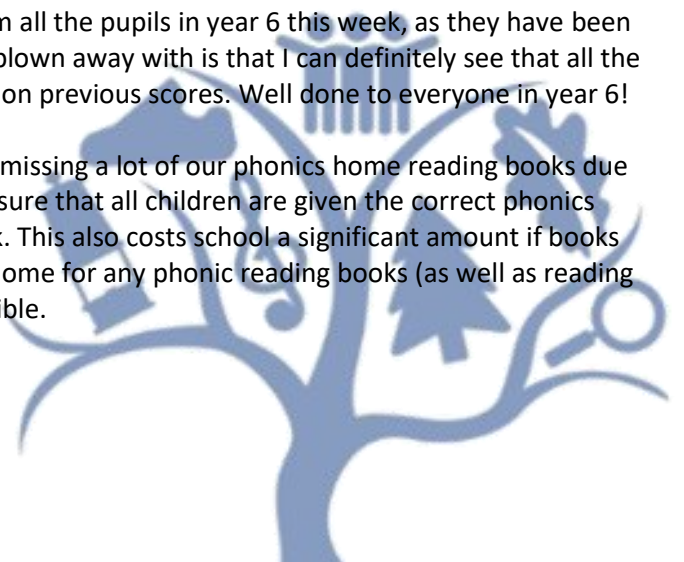


**Bugs 'n' Stuff:** On Thursday, as part of British Science Week, Year 4 children were visited by some incredible creatures from Bugs 'n' Stuff. The children learned about how each of the animals were cleverly adapted to suit their habitats through things like camouflage, fangs and venom. They were able to ask questions about each animal to find out about their adaptations, habitat, diet and special skills. But best of all, they were allowed to carefully touch and hold an assortment of amazing animals such as scorpions, cockroaches, crickets, spiders, lizards, snakes. Please check out our Facebook page for photographs of this amazing visit.

**Year 6:** I have been very impressed with the commitment from all the pupils in year 6 this week, as they have been completing a practice week of SAT papers. What I have been blown away with is that I can definitely see that all the hard work is starting to pay off, because every pupil improved on previous scores. Well done to everyone in year 6!

**Home Reading Books:** Recently, we have noticed that we are missing a lot of our phonics home reading books due to these not being returned. This makes it difficult for us to ensure that all children are given the correct phonics book to match the reading they have done in school that week. This also costs school a significant amount if books need to be replaced. Please could all parents/carers check at home for any phonic reading books (as well as reading for pleasure books) and return them to school as soon as possible.

**House Points:** This week's winner of house points is Darwin.



**Attendance:** This week our attendance is 93.80%, and our running total since the start of the term is now 94.02%. While this is still significantly below the government attendance targets, I am still hopeful of reaching a minimum of 95% by Easter. The class with the highest attendance in key stage 1 was 2JW and in key stage 2 it was 5MA. These classes will be rewarded with an additional break time next week.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	87.81	98.57	98.00	89.23	93.64	94.80	93.46	97.78
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	94.33	94.07	94.81	99.20	93.23	94.62	93.57	91.67

**Book Fair:** Just a polite reminder that we have booked the Scholastic Book Fair to come into school during next - this will take place over three evenings after school. Books will start from £2.99 and if you still have your World Book Day voucher; this can be used to contribute towards your purchases. Any book sold will also help to earn free books for school, helping to develop our class reading libraries and shared reading areas. Please find dates and times below for your child's session. We hope to see you there!

- KS2: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm
- KS1: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm
- EYFS: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm



**Book Fair Vouchers:** As a part of our ongoing work on attendance, we have given out some special prizes to children with most improved attendance this term. These children have been selected from across the school and have been awarded with a voucher to enjoy at our Book Fair next week. A big well done!



**JFK Superstar:** This week, Beau H (RES) received player of the week at football. He said, "I was good at passing the ball and I scored lots of goals." Beau likes to play football because he likes to play for a team, and he likes to train with his friends. Well done, Beau!



**Comic Relief:** Next Friday, we will be celebrating Red Nose Day, children are welcome to come to school wearing something red. We request that no cash donations are brought into school and instead donations are made via the following link – [Red Nose Day Donations](#)

**P.E. Day Swap:** Starting from next week, Year Five pupils will have P.E. on a Wednesday afternoon until the Easter holidays. They will still have their swimming lessons on a Friday, alternating between classes.

**Head of School Award:** I have two awards to share this week – one in Key Stage 2 and the other in Early Years.

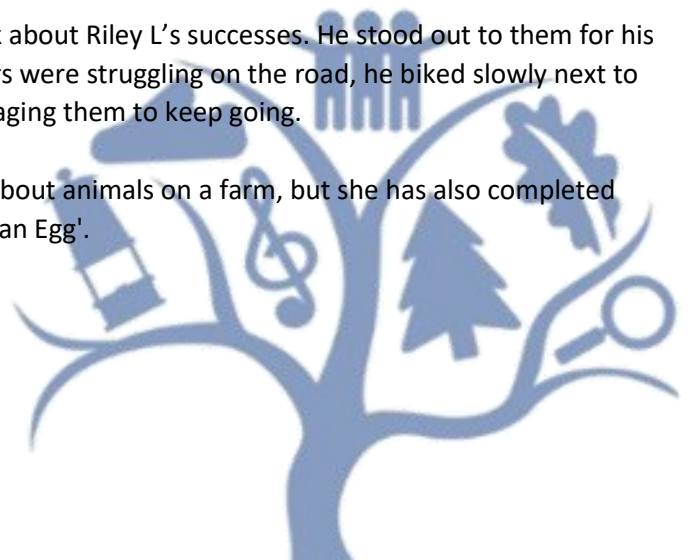
It was great to hear from the Bikeability instructors this week about Riley L's successes. He stood out to them for his excellent behaviour, biking skills, and teamwork. When others were struggling on the road, he biked slowly next to them, supporting them with the required signals and encouraging them to keep going.

I was so impressed with some writing from Nell P this week about animals on a farm, but she has also completed some fantastic sentences about the book 'The Cow that Laid an Egg'.

Kind regards

*B. H. Adams*

Mr B. Adams - Head of School



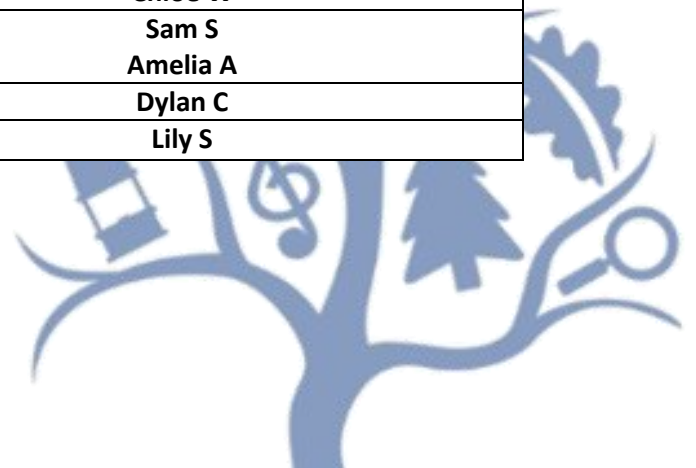


**John F. Kennedy**  
Primary School



# Stars of the Week

Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAO	Penelope Ella
Reception	RAM	Eden G Jaxon L
	RES	Mylaa C Thomas S
One	1AP	Kayden B Olivia C
	1MT	Hannah H Quinn B
Two	2MA	Ayda D Mason R
	2JW	Joshua R Harry M
Three	3DF	Ethan M George B
	3GB	Honey D Grace L
Four	4AF	Willow B Theo L
	4BK	Olivia O Ada G
Five	5RN	Niamh C Alfie K
	5MA	Katie C Alfie Y
Six	6PP	Adam W Chloe W
	6LM	Sam S Amelia A
Treehouse	TLC	Dylan C
	TNP	Lily S



# 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: 17 <sup>th</sup> March		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year Four (swimming) Year One	
Tuesday		Year 2
Wednesday		Year 3 Year 5
Thursday		
Friday		Year Four 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 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: 17 <sup>th</sup> March		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Treehouse	
Thursday	Reception	Reception
Friday		1MT



# Sports News

**Year 4 Football:** On Monday evening, our year 4 football represented our school for the first time in the Durham County Year 4 Trophy. The first game of the night saw the team take on George Washington. This was a solid defensive performance by JFK, with George Washington being limited to a single opportunity all game. Combining with Seth A, Carson S was able to open the scoring, his powerful strike thundering past the goalkeeper and into the top corner - putting JFK 1-0 up. In the final minute of the game, Joseph W brilliantly broke through the lines of the midfield before his perfectly weighted pass found Joe E, who was able to double the lead. Excellent work rate from Miles M, Theo L and Brooke M all contributed towards the defensive effort, with George Washington being frustrated with the lack of space and time provided when they had the ball. The game finishing 2-0 to JFK.

The second game of the night saw JFK take on Rickleton. This was a tough game against a strong side, who will be representing Washington in the next stage of the competition. Joshua R produced a number of quality saves throughout the match, however, the Rickleton attack were clinical - winning the game 3-0. Finally, the team took on Biddick Primary, who were also able to claim the victory. Despite not getting the results they were after; the JFK year 4 team showed tremendous determination and never gave up for one second. We look forward to them playing again later in the Year 4 Trophy.

**Girls' Football:** On Tuesday night, the Girls' team played their final fixture of the season against a very strong George Washington team. They played very well, showing how they have improved across the year. They never let their heads drop and kept playing until the very end. Unfortunately, they succumbed to a 4-0 defeat.

As this was their final league fixture, Mr. Smith and Mr. Titmus want to say how proud of their progression and development they are. They have developed as individuals and as a unit. Up next their cup competitions to end the season.

**School Football Team:** On Thursday, the school football team competed in their next round of league fixtures.

Their first game was a friendly match against Biddick, who they had lost to a week prior. This was an excellent game of football, both teams showcasing why they are high up in the table with excellent displays of attacking and defending. Jacob L and Adam W were rocks at the heart of the defence, not being beaten by a single attacker throughout the entire match. Henry A produced some lovely saves as Biddick were limited to shots from long range. Deep into the second half, Lucas S was able to battle his way past his man before squaring the ball to Richard B, who was in the right place at the right time to break the deadlock. JFK continued to stand strong, with good defending from Reuben H and Jenson T contributing to the resulting clean sheet. The score ending 1-0 to JFK.

The second game of the night was against Marlborough. This was a dominant display from start to finish by JFK. Joseph B, playing in midfield, was able to play the ball through the defensive line to allow Lucas S to open the scoring with his powerful effort firing past the keeper. Joseph B, Lennox B and Jacob L all saw efforts tipped over the crossbar or saved by the keeper as JFK maintained the pressure on the opposition throughout the first half. The pressure continued in the second half with JFK hardly having to touch the ball in their own half. Richard B and Mason C combined well up front, being able to pass it around defenders with ease but were denied by some good saves. Richard's persistence paid off, however, being confident enough to dribble past two defenders before his shot nestled into the bottom corner. In the final moments of the game, Richard was again a pest for the defenders, winning the ball back before rifling home his second and JFK's third of the match. The game ending 3-0 to JFK.

The final game saw the team come up against Usworth Colliery, who sat near us in the league table. This was a joy to watch, with JFK showcasing some excellent football during this match - earning praise from opposition parents and teachers. Lucas S was once again able to open the scoring with his shot flying into the top corner. Lennox B was a constant threat and terrified defenders with his pace on the ball. Lucas S was able to double his tally before also showing off his teamwork, assisting Richard for JFK's third of the game. Usworth were able to score a consolation goal in the final minute but JFK took all of the points with a 3-1 win.

**Well done to everyone who has played this week and represented our school. You have been magnificent!**

