

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe it's the end of another school year. It has been as eventful as ever, with many opportunities for the pupils across the year. Throughout it all, we've all enjoyed working with your children - they have so much to be proud of themselves for.

Transition: On Monday morning, all pupils met their new teacher and spent time in their new classroom. There were lots of smiles from pupils (and staff) and I have spoken to lots of children, and they all seem excited for September – so they must be pleased with who they will be with.

Open Afternoon: Thank you to everyone who was able to attend on Monday afternoon, and I hope everyone was impressed after looking through your child(s) workbooks. Every single pupil has worked so hard this year and made progress across all areas of the curriculum.

Family Picnic: My sun dance worked on Tuesday morning, as the rain held off yesterday so the annual picnic could take place. As always, it was lovely that so many of you could join the picnic yesterday on our field. As I walked around talking to many of you, everyone seemed to be enjoying the event, and it's times like this that makes me so proud to be the Headteacher with such an amazing extended J.F.K. family.

Year 6 Leavers: This week has been mixed with emotions in the two year 6 classrooms, as they have been having their final week at J.F.K. before starting out on the next academic adventure. Today, we have had the tradition of signing leaver books and t-shirts – I hope they treasure the messages written by their friends and staff. Personally, I couldn't have asked for a better year 6. They have worked so hard across the year and achieved some excellent SAT results (above national data) that they should be proud of. Make sure that you grasp every opportunity next year and fulfil the potential you have shown all year. I can't wait to hear of all your successes in the future.

Attendance: This week our attendance is 92.94%. Our attendance for the 2025/26 academic year ended at 94.15%.

Today, we had a raffle for families around attendance. Pupils were entered into draws based on their overall percentage attendance this term. Katie C (6VS) won the draw for 100% attendance, River S (RST) won the 96%+ attendance and Scarlett G (Treehouse) won the draw for improved attendance this term. They all won vouchers for Hollywood Bowl and a range of outdoor summer games, Katie also won a voucher for Sarah's North Biddick. Well done to all winners and to everyone who was entered into the draw.

Attendance will be a continued key focus for our school next year, and we will be looking to work with all families to help us achieve the government 96% target.

Staff: It is always sad when a member of staff leaves the school, and this year we have three members of staff who are leaving us today:

Mrs Mewes, our wonderful SENDCo, is moving to Fellgate Primary School to become their new Deputy Headteacher. Over the last three years, Mrs Mewes has played an instrumental role with all our SEND pupils, where she has created an environment that is nurturing and supportive for all our children to succeed. As we say goodbye to

Mrs Mewes, I want to express my deepest gratitude for her unwavering dedication and the inspiration she has brought to our school over the years, not only as a member of the leadership team but also a brilliant class teacher.

Miss Keogh, our amazing year 4 teacher, leaves us today to explore pastures new. Over her time at J.F.K., initially as an HLTA before becoming a teacher, she has been committed to provide a rich curriculum for the pupils she has taught.

Last, but not least, after an astonishing 35 years at John F. Kennedy, Mrs Johnson is retiring. During her time at the school, she has not only worked and supported almost 2, 000 pupils personally to shine, but her love and commitment to all pupils across the school goes a lot further. She has left some very big shoes to fill, and she will be sorely missed as an important member of the J.F.K. family. I hope she will still find time to fit us into her busy schedule for a visit in the future!

I would like to wish all three members of staff good luck for their new adventure – they will all be missed!

Finally, Mrs Stewart is leaving today but will be returning next term as Mrs Kennedy. We are wishing her all the best for her upcoming wedding over the summer.

I have listed below the teaching staff for next year.

Chair of Governors: Hello everyone, I can't believe another school year is over. It's been a busy year as always, with an OFSTED inspection thrown in but what a year it's been. One of my favourite things to do as Chair of Governors is to attend the year 6 end of year performance which marks the end of an era as the children move onto year 7. This year was Mary Poppins and what a fabulous show it was. Massive congratulations must go to the children who all performed so well and a big thank you to all the staff who worked so hard in the background to ensure the show ran smoothly – well done everyone! This year's performance was particularly special for me as my little boy Jude performed – I can't quite believe he is leaving primary school, but I know his time at J.F.K. has given him all the skills needed to thrive in secondary school. Good luck to all of year 6 as they continue their journey next year. It was also lovely to chat to Mr. Downing who returned to the school for the show – even though he has retired as site manager, he is still very busy around the house and sends his best wishes to everyone! There are lots of changes in staffing next year and I know Mr. Adams has written to you all, but I just wanted to say a few thanks.

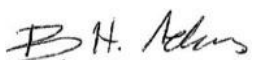
Firstly, congratulations to Mrs. Johnson who is retiring after 35 years - good luck in your next chapter! We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Mewes, who is taking up a deputy head role on secondment to Fellgate Primary School – I've seen at firsthand the work Mrs Mewes does, and she has been an amazing member of staff who deserves this new opportunity – very well done. I hope you all enjoy your summer whatever you have planned – Andrew

Wrap Around Care: The link for breakfast and afterschool club for week commencing 1st September will be sent by Mrs Watson towards the end of the summer holidays.

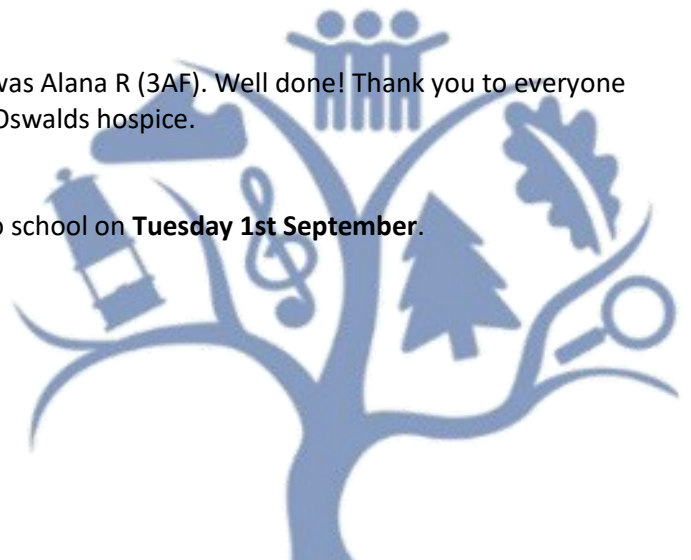
Timetables: There will be no PE or Forest School on the first week back. We will send out the timetables for week commencing 7th September on our return.

Peter Rabbit Hamper: The winner of our Peter Rabitt draw was Alana R (3AF). Well done! Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets; all fundraising will be donated to St. Oswalds hospice.

Have a lovely summer holiday, and we'll see all pupils back to school on **Tuesday 1st September.**



Mr B. Adams
Head of School



2026-27 Staffing: We are also welcoming new staff to join the JFK family next year – they have already been in school to meet and work with the pupils. For a full list of all staff, please see the table below.

Chief Executive Officer	Dr Taylor	
Headteacher	Mr Adams	
Deputy Headteacher	Mr Pearson	
Assistant Headteacher	Miss Sheriff	
Year Group	Teachers	Teaching Assistant
EYFS	Miss Thornton Miss Owens	Mrs McDonald Mrs Ross Miss Bell
Year 1	Mrs Kennedy Miss Middlemiss	Mrs Appleby Mrs Bell (Acorn Room) Mrs McDermott (Acorn Room)
Year 2	Mrs Pearce Mrs Mowatt	Miss Hartshorne
Year 3	Miss Newsome Mr Thompson	Miss Stockdale
Year 4	Miss Anderson Mr Smith	Mrs Sarma
Year 5	Mrs Fort Miss Atkinson	Mrs Cooper
Year 6	Miss Sheriff Mrs Bolton	Mrs Prasad
Treehouse	Mrs Murphy Mr Titmus	Mrs Punshon (H.L.T.A.) Mrs Curry Mrs Hope-Hindmarsh Miss Ovington
PPA	Miss Elder Mrs Lyall Mr Mackintosh Mrs Punshon	
SEND		Mrs Bell (Acorn Room) Mrs McDermott (Acorn Room)

Leadership Team	Staff
Headteacher	Mr Adams
Deputy Headteacher	Mr Pearson
Assistant Headteacher/Key Stage One Lead	Miss Sheriff
S.E.N.D. Lead	Mrs Pearce
Key Stage Two Lead	Miss Anderson
E.Y.F.S. Lead	Miss Owens



Summer Activities

 Rainbow Best Start Family Hub Summer Timetable Monday 27th July - Friday 4th September 2026 Family.hubwashington@togetherforchildren.org.uk Postcode: NE37 3AE Telephone: 0191 561 3995 				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time for Rhyme (0 - pre crawlers) 9.30 - 10.15am Move to Rhyme (Crawling to pre-walking) 10.30 - 11.15am Play Space - Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm Sensory Room - Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm Busy Bodies (walking - 5 years) 1.30 - 2.30pm Breastfeeding Support - Drop in 1 - 3pm	Play Space - Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm Sensory Room - Drop in (0-25 years with parents/carers) 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm Family Fun Stay & Play (0 - 8 years) 10 - 11am Community Café - Drop in 10 - 11am School Ready Programme 28th July - 1st September (6 weeks) Bookable 1.00 - 2.30pm Antenatal Programme 3.45 - 5.45pm To book call 03000 031552	Play Space & Sensory Room Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am & 1 - 3pm Outdoor Play Family Fun Usworth Park (0 - 8 Years) 10 - 11am Exc 12th & 26th August SEND Stay & Play (Parent led) (0 - 4 years) 10 - 11.30am Exc 12th August Summer Fayre 12th August 10 - 12pm Review & Development Clinic 10 - 11.30am Summer Fest Princess Anne Park 26th August - 12 - 4pm Play Matters 5 week Programme - Bookable 5th - 2nd Sept 1.30 - 2.30pm Baby Messy/Sensory Play (0 - 12 months) 1.45 - 2.30pm Exc 12th & 26th August Birth Registrations - Bookable	Sensory Room - Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am & 1 - 3pm Stay & Play - Drop in Marlborough Park (Sulgrave flats) (0 - 8 years) 9.15 - 10.15am Growing Healthy - Drop in 10 - 11.30am Bread & Butter Thing 2 - 2.30pm To reserve a bag text 07507237311 Play Space - Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm Story Time 1.30 - 2.15pm Gro Brain for Dads Bookable (Expecting a baby or with babies 0 - 12 months) 3.30 - 5.30pm	Play Space - Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm Sensory Room - Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm Outdoor Play @ Building Blocks 9.30 - 10.30am Exc 28th Aug & 2nd Sept Baby Stay & Play (0 - pre walkers) 1.30 - 2.30pm Exc 28th August Introduction to Solids 1 - 2pm To book call 03000 0031552

Social media
Please check www.linksforlifesusunderland.co.uk/familyhubs
Follow Sunderland Family Hubs on Facebook and Instagram.





Saturdays @ Rainbow Family Hub:

- Stay & Play 10 - 11am - Every week
- Dad's and Little'uns - 1st August - 10 - 11.30am


FOUNDATION OF LIGHT
THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET


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SPORTS CAMP

Enjoy a day of inclusive sports, including football, cricket, dodgeball and team challenges. Sessions are funded by Together for Children. A free hot meal will be provided, food choices will be sent to you via the EEOU system after you have booked.

FREE T&Cs apply

Beacon of Light
10am-2pm | Ages 8+

Tuesday 28 July
Thursday 30 July
Tuesday 4 August
Thursday 6 August
Tuesday 11 August
Tuesday 18 August
Thursday 20 August
Tuesday 26 August
Thursday 27 August


SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK

SEN
DISABILITY
INCLUSIVE

SUMMER WEAR 4 ALL

FUN SAFE ENJOYABLE

NEED MORE INFO?
Get in touch via
Wear4All@foundationoflight.co.uk


FoundationofLight
Registered Charity No.1089333

Five ways to well-being drop in session

We are hosting a 2-hour drop-in workshop for parents/carers and children of primary and secondary school age to help support and improve well-being.



We will look at each of the five ways to well-being, participate in activities and support you with being able to implement these into your life to boost your wellbeing.

We are hosting sessions in the **Building Blocks Day Centre CIC, Concord**; you do not need to attend all.

Date 28th July Date 31st July Date 4th August
Time 1-3pm Time 11-1pm Time 1-3 pm

Date 7th August Date 11th August Date 14th/21st August
Time 11-1pm Time 9.30 – 12 Time 9.30 – 12

Date 18th August
Time 1-3



Midwife Booking In Appointments. As soon as you find out you are pregnant, contact a GP or Midwife and they will help you book your first appointment. Your first Midwife appointment (also called the booking appointment) should happen before you are 10 weeks pregnant.

Antenatal Parent Programme - a 5 week course book from 26 weeks gestation by calling 03000 031 552.

Birth Registrations - Please book via Sunderland City Council website. To register a birth, a new born baby must be registered within 42 days of the date of birth. The baby should be registered in the district where it was born.

Review and Development Clinic - please book through your Health Visitor. Call 03000 031552.

Sensory Room (from birth) sensory lights and equipment to help develop your child's senses. Also for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years. 30 minute exclusive slots are available.

Breastfeeding Support to share experiences and advice about your breastfeeding journey with other parents. There is no need to book simply drop into any of the sessions.

Growing Healthy Drop In

Do you have a baby and would like to meet others with children of similar age up to 2 years. Come along to meet others and learn some useful tips and advice. There will be scales available to weigh your baby.

Baby Massage A 5 week course for 1 hour each week. For babies from 6 weeks to 6 months. It supports with bonding, attachment, colic, and sleep.

GroBrain Baby Course is for pregnant parents or parents with babies up to 12 months. It focusses on bonding, brain development, and the vital part parents and carers play in 'wiring up' the connections in their baby's brain in the first 2 years of a babies life.

Baby Messy Play/Sensory Messy play /sensory play is a session that allows children to explore different materials encouraging creativity using their hands and feet. Often involving messy ingredients such as paint, sand, water, cereal or pasta, it is geared toward exploring feelings and imagination through textures and colours.

Time for Rhyme (birth - crawling) is an interactive session for babies and their parents / carers. Sessions are based around sharing nursery rhymes, action songs, musical instruments and books.

Move to Rhyme (from moving) an interactive session for babies and their parents/ carers to share nursery rhymes, action songs, musical instruments and books.

Busy Bodies - walkers - 5 years. A music and movement session to work on physical skills, experience free movement to support growth and development.

Stay and Play (0-5 years) have fun with your little one whilst socialising with parents. Each week we will have a themed activity such as books, messy play and everyday opportunities.

Play Space (0-5 years) a parent led session, where parents are encouraged to play and interact with your child/ren in a friendly environment.

Introduction to Solid Food (Weaning) - Support to wean your baby on to solid food, understanding baby's cues, healthy key messages and food tasting. Your baby should be around 6 months old to attend the class. Please contact Health Visiting Service on 03000 031 552 to book.

Stop Smoking Support - Join us for our free stop smoking drop in sessions or call to make an appointment at a time to suit yourself.

Young Mams n Dads is a dedicated friendly group for parents aged between 14 & 22 years old, to have fun and socialise. Includes sensory, messy play, crafts, cooking and much more for the children.

Gentoo Drop In Support for tenants struggling with mental health, addictions, substance misuse, housekeeping or sustaining their tenancy.

School Ready Skills Sunderland College are offering a 6-week programme to help prepare families with children ages 3-4 years old to develop school-ready skills.

Career Hub Supporting with jobs, CVs, training, college and apprenticeships. Open to young people only - parent or guardian consent required

Play Matters Programme - A 5 week programme for you and your child to enjoy play activities together.

Breast Pump Loan Scheme

Can be loaned on a 4 weekly basis. Each pack comes with information on how to use and a guide on how to clean. Call 03000 031552 to find out more.

Registering

Please complete a Family Hub registration form using the QR code, or visit any of our Best Start Family Hubs to register. After registering, remember to sign in each time you visit any hub. Everything is completely FREE!

