

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter



20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fun-filled run up to the Christmas break this year.

I'm sure you will join me in thanking all the staff for the hard work this term and for the opportunities they have helped provide for the children. Also, on behalf of the staff, can I just thank all the children and families for your effort and support during the term - it really is appreciated to know that everybody is prepared to support each other as we strive to do the best for all the children.

Mr Downing: We say goodbye to Mr Downing today - an amazing site manager, who has given over 10 years of dedication to the school and the pupils. He will be a huge miss around school – not only from his welcoming smile at the school gates on a morning, or for his support during lunch, but for all the hard work to maintain the school building and site every day. Mr Downing will be a big miss to the school, and he will leave a huge gap for us to fill.

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish Mr Downing all the best for his retirement, and to thank him for everything he has done for the school

Retirement: We are also saying goodbye to Anthony, who has manned the school crossing outside the main entrance to the school for a number of years. He is so caring towards every child who uses his crossing at the start and end of the school day. I know I will miss his friendly waves every time I pass in the car. In January, there may not be a school crossing outside of school – the local authority are still recruiting a replacement for Anthony.

Carols Around the Tree: If you managed to join us today for any of the singing in the hall, I hope you still have the festive glow. The pupils were amazing in their performances, including Makaton, and it was lovely that lots of you joined in with the songs as well – you definitely brought your singing voices! This final day event is a tradition in school, and it is one of my Christmas highlights each year.

Christmas Trips: We have had the remaining class visits this week. Year 3 enjoyed (oh no they didn't!) a wonderful pantomime at Rainton Live Arena, and year 4 loved (oh yes they did!) the pantomime at Gala Theatre, Durham. Year 6 became winter Olympic athletes as they hurtled down the slope at Silksworth on skis and snowtubes. Please look out on Facebook for any photos of these trips.

Christmas Parties: Over the last week around school, all the children have enjoyed a party day; some of the imaginative games being played around school have kept the children entertained.

Washington Community Food Project: As always, the WFCP will be providing free packed lunches during the Christmas holidays – see poster for details:



Attendance: This week our attendance is at 94.96%, and our running total since the start of the term is at 93.67%. Unfortunately, this is still significantly below the government attendance targets, as the expectation of all schools is to have attendance of 96%+.

Class	Nurs	RAM	RES	1AP	1MT	2JW	2MA	3DF
Attendance	93.06	90.50	91.00	95.77	93.75	92.31	98.46	97.78
Class	3GB	4AF	4BK	5MA	5RN	6LM	6PP	TH
Attendance	97.33	94.23	98.52	94.31	96.31	97.69	97.78	91.67

In recognition of attendance this term, electronic postcards have been sent to over 300 pupils who have 100% attendance, 96%+ attendance, or improved attendance since last half term – congratulations!

We also held our attendance family prize draw this week; all pupils who received a postcard were included.

Congratulations to our 3 winners:

- Evelyn M (3GB) – family game night pack
- Khadija D (2MA) – Mister Twisters soft play
- Aurelia B (1MT) – Millie’s Magical Garden & Millennium Centre

We will continue to look at ways to improve attendance next term, and as a school, we need everyone’s support to improve our attendance.

JFK Superstars: Well done to Sophia H-H (5RN) has recently received 4 awards in tap and jazz dance – receiving honours distinction in one of them! She also received an award in musical theatre.



Well done to Tommy S (RES) who passed his first ever Titan grading this week in Taekwondo. He received his new orange belt with his certificate.

Autism Outreach Team: If you could benefit from autism training the North East Autism Society is offering two courses each on two different dates:

- Introduction to Supporting Autistic Children Tuesday 28th January 2025, 1pm-3pm
- Tuesday 25th March 2025, 1pm-3pm
- Supporting the Emotional Wellbeing of Autistic Children Tuesday 25th February 2025, 1pm-3pm Tuesday 29th April 2025, 1pm-3pm

Please note this course is suitable for parents/carers of children 5 and over who are experiencing low level emotional wellbeing difficulties. You only need to attend one session per course, they are repeat sessions.

Places are limited and must be pre-booked by emailing Rebecca.Welch@ne-as.org.uk or calling 0191 410 9974.

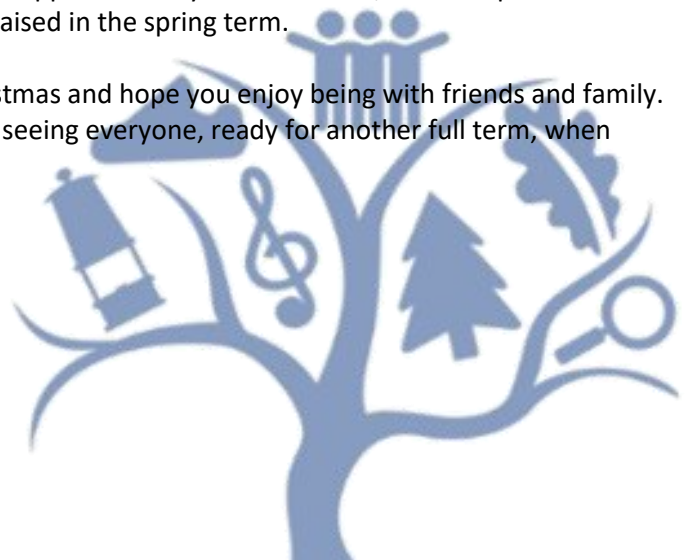
Parent Survey: Thank you to all parents who took time out of their day to complete the recent survey regarding our curriculum and in particular, our extra-curricular offer. We do appreciate all your comments, whether positive or constructive, and as a school, we will consider all the points raised in the spring term.

On behalf of all the staff, can I all wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope you enjoy being with friends and family. Thank you for your on-going support and we look forward to seeing everyone, ready for another full term, when school reopens on Monday 6th January.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year break.

B. H. Adams

Mr B. Adams - Head of School



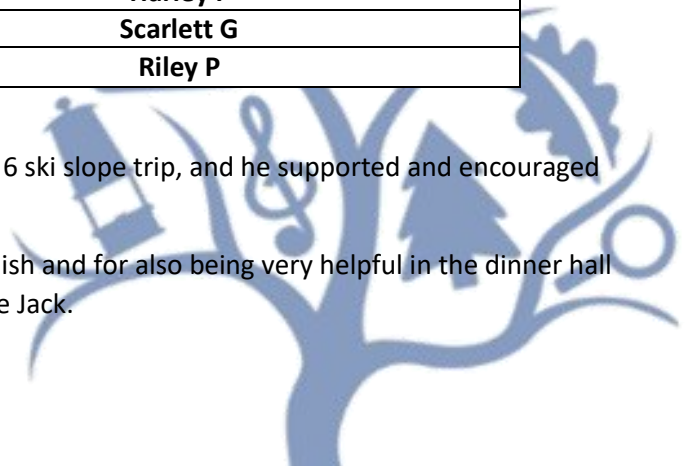


Stars of the Week

Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAO	The whole class
Reception	RAM	Grayson A Max A
	RES	Oakley C Harrison M
One	1AP	Lina B Chloe H
	1MT	Finley R Penny R
Two	2MA	The whole class
	2JW	The whole class for a fabulous first term in year 2! Well done all! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 😊
Three	3DF	Ollie S Jorgie T
	3GB	Lewis P Lia-May B
Four	4AF	Ada-Grace T Keira M
	4BK	Hatty C Lacey-Mae B
Five	5RN	Olivia S Niamh C
	5MA	Bella P Jacob L
Six	6PP	Ella W Lleyton P
	6LM	Amelia A Harley F
Treehouse	TLC	Scarlett G
	TNP	Riley P

Head of School Award: Lucas (6LM) was amazing on the year 6 ski slope trip, and he supported and encouraged other pupils across the day. Well done Lucas.

Jack (TH) for teaching me how to say Father Christmas in Spanish and for also being very helpful in the dinner hall when he picked a plate off the floor that had fallen. Well done Jack.



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: 6 th January		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 4 (swimming) Year 1	Year 3
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Reception	Year 4
Thursday		
Friday		Year 5MA swimming Y5RN - PE

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: 6 th January		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		
Tuesday		Reception
Wednesday		
Thursday		Year 4
Friday		1AP

