

John F. Kennedy Primary School

The Buzz Newsletter

Friday 12th December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas has truly arrived here at J.F.K. with another week filled with festive cheer. Our school has been alive with Christmas productions, trips, our year five and six church service, a wonderful Christmas lunch enjoyed by all, a visit by Santa, and 2 Grinch themed evenings. The school has been full of excitement, and we look forward to carrying this into next week as we approach the end of the Autumn term. Alongside our Christmas activities, all pupils have continued to work hard in their lessons, across a range of subjects, which has been excellent to see. As always, thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported our events this week - your involvement is very much appreciated, and it has been lovely to see so many of you in school sharing these special moments with us.

Rotary Club Church Service: Last Friday, Norah R and Olivia S (both from 6PP/LM), represented our school at the Washington Rotary Club's Christmas Service. I have been informed by the staff who attended that both girls were an absolute credit to the school and also their parents. They read beautifully and with such confidence. I know their parents are immensely proud of them – as standing up and reading in a packed-out church can be daunting, but this did not faze the girls one bit and their confidence shone through. Well done girls and thank you!



Christmas Lunch and Special Visitor: Yesterday, our school sparkled as children (and staff) arrived in Christmas jumpers ready for our annual Christmas lunch. The hall was filled with a warm, magical buzz as everyone enjoyed their delicious lunch. A massive thank you must go to our kitchen staff, whose hard work and Christmas spirit helped make the event a success. The magic continued throughout the day as our younger pupils and Treehouse children were thrilled to meet a very special visitor, as Santa Claus took time out of his busy schedule to visit our fabulous children and deliver an early gift ahead of the big day. Before heading back to the North Pole, he also left sacks full of presents for our older pupils. Judging by all the smiles, we're sure the children will enjoy their gifts.

Christmas Performances: It has almost been like the west-end in school this week as the hall has been in use with lots of Christmas shows. I have been so proud of all the pupils who made each performance a huge success – whether that was learning lines for a speaking part, singing as part of the chorus, or even bringing the props on stage – they are all important for the final show. It has also been lovely that for some of the performances, residents from Washington Care Home have been able to join us – they loved the shows.

Visit to Whoville: What a magical few days we've had celebrating our festive Grinch-themed nights! They were a wonderful success, with children returning to school dressed in cosy pyjamas, colourful festive outfits and armed with blankets and cushions for their magical visit to Whoville. They loved being with their friends to watch The Grinch and we hope they all enjoyed their special bauble gift. A real highlight for everyone - children and adults alike - was the snow machine, which brought extra sparkle to the event. A massive thank you must go to the staff for organising the evenings, creating the brilliant props and generously giving up their time. Our Early Years children enjoyed their own Whoville adventure this morning, and we look forward to our Treehouse pupils visiting their Grinch event next Tuesday. If you haven't already, please head over to our school Facebook page to see videos and photos from the event.

Nursery Christmas Trip: On Wednesday, Nursery visited Wharton Park for a day full of crafts and activities centred around 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. The children had a lot of fun looking for Santa's Reindeer around the park and showed excellent listening skills when we were walking to and from the bus stop. Thanks to all parent and grandparent volunteers who helped support the children on their first nursery trip. We are so proud of the children for such a wonderful day!

Year 2 Christmas Trip: On Thursday, year 2 visited the Customs House to see Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children set an amazing example while representing the school and impressed both the adults and staff in the Customs House on the visit. Thanks again to all parent volunteers who took the time to support on this trip.

Year Six Christmas Market: Our Year Six pupils held their Christmas Market this morning as part of Virgin's Make Five Pound Grow project. Each group worked incredibly hard to develop their marketing pitch, choose and refine their final product, and design eye-catching advertising before creating their festive goods. It was wonderful to see parents and carers browsing the wide variety of stalls and our pupils also enjoyed the chance to visit and purchase some seasonal treats. Well done, Year Six - your hard work certainly paid off; we may have a few future entrepreneurs in the making! All profits from the stall will be going to a local charity - St. Oswald's Hospice.

Treehouse Christmas Trip: Today, The Treehouse children had a brilliant time at Lanchester Garden Centre. They met some of Santa's elves, meet lots of different animals in Potter's World and enjoyed the enchanted grotto. They then met Santa who gave them a special coin so they could choose their own gift in the Candy Cane Cabin. Everyone had a fantastic time! We would like to thank our parent volunteers for supporting our visit.

Year 1 Christmas Trip: Today, Year 1 visited Alnwick Gardens and had a truly magical time! They were greeted by the forgotten snowman and explored the Lilidorei Village with the Christmas elves before listening to stories, playing on the Elfwin Drin and they even had time to make their own Lilidorei Christmas gift. The children had an amazing day and were a true credit to the school. Thanks to our parent volunteers who helped on the day.

Year Five on Tour: This week, pupils from year 5 have entertained the public at The Galleries and at Washington Mind's AGM. Once again, they were a credit to the school, spreading the festive cheer with their singing voices. There is one more opportunity to listen to our talented pupils next week, when they will be singing at ASDA on Monday at 1.15pm.

Attendance: Our attendance this week is 93.63%, which is an increase from last week. Our year-to-date is now 94.90%. The class with the highest attendance in Key Stage One was 2MeA, and in Key Stage Two was 4BK.





Class	NAM	RAO	RST	1ES	1MT	2MA	2MeA	3AF
Attendance	96.31	93.46	87.78	97.50	96.32	90.37	98.57	96.15
Class	3GB	4BK	4MS	5DF	5RN	6PP/LM	6VS	TH
Attendance	92.61	96.77	93.67	93.10	94.00	93.20	90.00	98.00

JFK Superstar: Talia (3GB) took part in the Schools Trampoline Competition at the weekend, representing the school and Apollo Trampolining. She delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing a range of skills including straddle, pike, and tuck jumps. Talia secured first place, qualifying for the next round on 31st January, and is now the regional champion for Years 1-6. Well done, Talia!

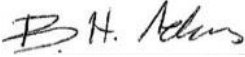


End of Autumn Term Date: Just a polite reminder we break up for the Autumn term on Friday 19th December. School then re-opens Monday 5th January 2026. Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on our last day, along with their school uniform.

Family Hub Christmas Timetable: Please see below the timetable for events happening at the Rainbow Centre in Concord over the Christmas holidays:

<div><div></div><div>Rainbow Best Start Family Hub Monday 15th December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026 Family.hubwashington@togetherforchildren.org.uk</div><div></div></div>				
Monday 15 th December	Tuesday 16 th December	Wednesday 17 th December	Thursday 18 th December	Friday 19 th December
<p>Christmas Sensory Time for Rhyme 9.300 - 10.15am</p> <p>Play Space 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm</p> <p>Sensory Room 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm</p> <p>Community Cafe 9.30 - 11.30am</p> <p>Festive Busy Bodies 1.30 - 2.30pm</p> <p>Breastfeeding Support Drop In 1 - 3pm</p>	<p>Christmas Stay & Play with a special guest 9.30 - 11am Bookable</p> <p>Community Cafe 9.30 - 11.30am</p> <p>Christmas Cafe (Festive back drop for photos) 1.15 - 3pm</p> <p>Play Space 1 - 3pm</p>	<p>Review & Development Clinic 10 - 11.30am Book via Health Visitor 0300 0031552</p> <p>Sensory Room 9 - 11.30am</p> <p>Birth Registrations Book via Sunderland City Council website</p> <p>Christmas Cafe (Festive back drop for photos) 1.15 - 3pm</p> <p>Play Space 1 - 3pm</p> <p>Choice SEND Stay & Play (4 years) 10 - 11.30am</p>	<p>Stay & Play Marlborough Park (Sulgrave flats) 9.15 - 10.15am</p> <p>Growing Healthy Drop In 10 - 11.30am</p> <p>Play Space 1 - 3pm</p> <p>Sensory Room 1 - 3pm</p> <p>Bread & Butter Thing 2 - 2.30pm To reserve a bag text 07507237311</p>	<p>Play Space 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm</p> <p>Sensory Room 9 - 11.30am 1 - 3pm</p>

Have a lovely weekend.



Mr B. Adams
Headteacher





John F. Kennedy
Primary School

Stars of the Week



Year Group	Class	Star of the Week
Nursery	NAM	All of Nursery children for such a brilliant Nativity and trip.
Reception	RAO	Sadie W Oliver J
	RST	Billie D William E
One	1ES	All of Year 1 for an amazing week of Christmas performances and excellent behaviour on our trip!
	1MT	
Two	2MA	Whole class for a fantastic week full of Christmas performances, singing and our trip!
	2MeA	Whole class for a fantastic week full of Christmas performances, singing and our trip!
Three	3GB	Orla G Lennox B
	3AF	Arthur S Khadija D
Four	4BK	All of Year 4 for a brilliant Christmas performance – showcasing fantastic acting, narrating and singing!
	4MS	All of Year 4 for a brilliant Christmas performance – showcasing fantastic acting, narrating and singing!
Five	5DF	Isla Y Thea G
	5RN	Imogen H Maisie C
Six	6PP/LM	All of year 6 for their fabulous Christmas Fayre.
	6VS	All of year 6 for their fabulous Christmas Fayre.
Treehouse	THLC	Scarlett G
	THIT	James L



Timetables

P.E. Lessons: Just to remind that the P.E. 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.

Week Commencing: 15 th December		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Year 4 Swimming	
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		No swimming for Y5

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: 15 th December		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday		RST
Tuesday		
Wednesday		RAO
Thursday		
Friday		

