



October 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to JBuzz from the first half term. As usual it is full of the exciting learning activities that the children are engaged in during their time with us in school. We are always proud to showcase the great opportunities that we provide children with at John Ball Primary School. However, despite not having lovely photos of smiling children to go with this piece of good news, I can proudly report that our finalised data is officially in, and the academic achievements across the board have once again significantly exceeded national and local averages. These outstanding results are a direct result of the exceptional quality of teaching and learning at our school – every lesson, every day, every week. Our wonderful staff create a supportive environment where children feel secure enough to push their boundaries and take risks and these results are testament to that personal excellence the children and staff demonstrate.

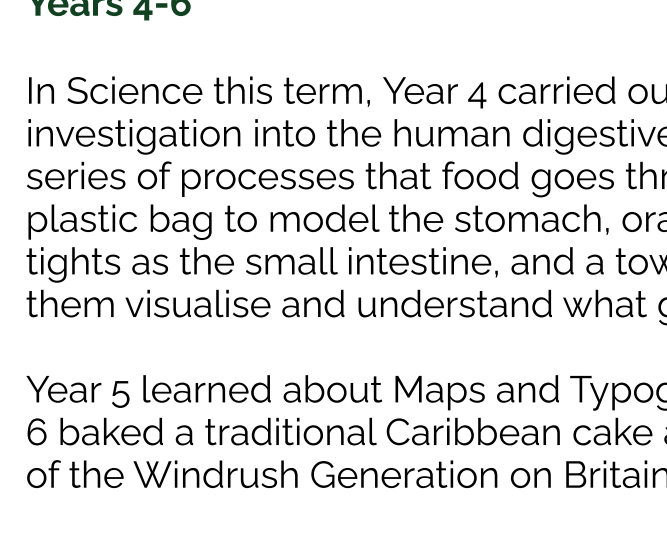
	John Ball	Local Authority	National
Good level of Development	89%	76%	72%
Phonics	87%	81%	82%
Expected Reading	89%	79%	75%
Expected Writing	89%	76%	73%
Expected Maths	85%	78%	75%
Combined expected R.W.M	82%	78%	63%
Higher standard Reading	50%	38%	31%
Higher standard Writing	26%	16%	13%
Higher standard Maths	48%	34%	27%
Combined expected R.W.M	21%	12%	9%

While we celebrate these academic results, we remain committed to developing the whole child. High test scores are only one piece of the puzzle; they are unlocked because we surround our pupils with wonderful, rich experiences that build confidence, curiosity, and a love for learning. From creative arts to hands-on projects, we ensure our children receive a vibrant, well-rounded education.

Thank you for your vital partnership in making these achievements possible.

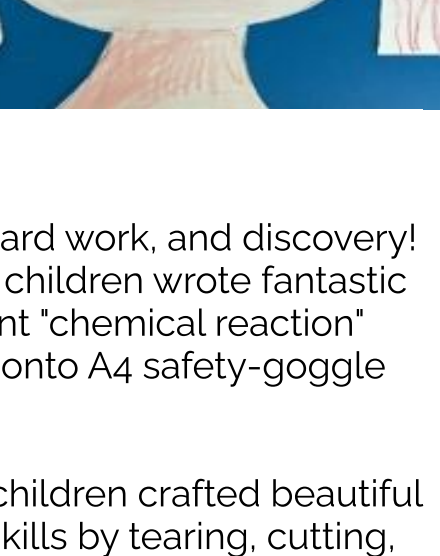
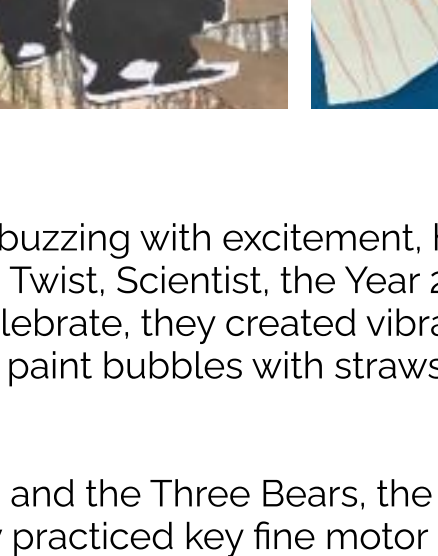
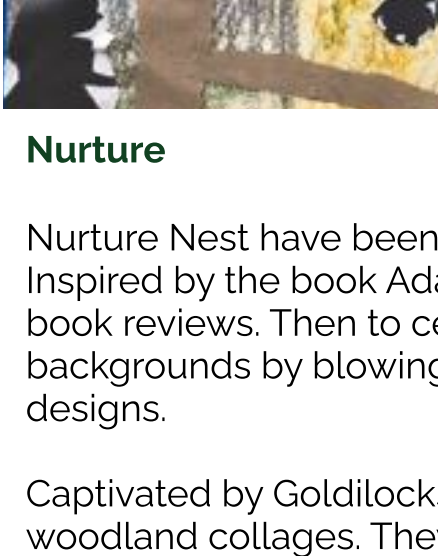
Jacqui

Learning highlights from this term



Early Years

This half term in Nursery their topic was 'All About Me'. The children used their creativity and artistic skills to create beautiful self-portraits, celebrating what makes each of them unique. In Reception children did a similar topic.

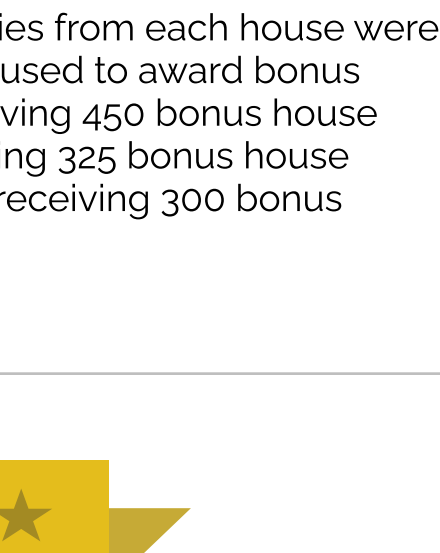
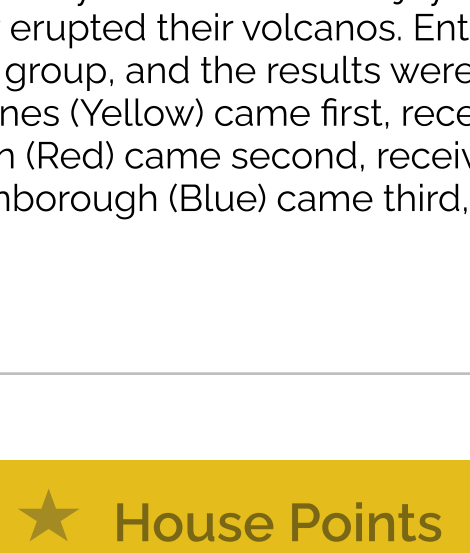
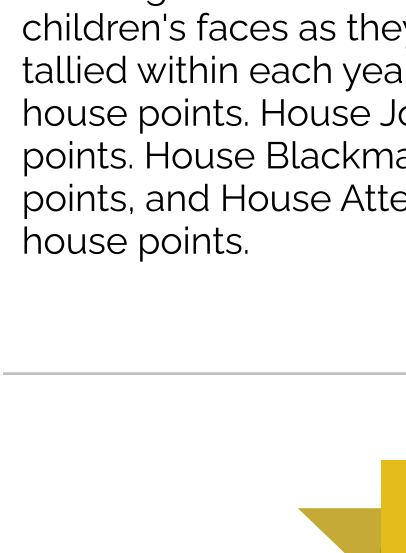


Years 1-3

In Year 1 the children have been working really hard at matching numbers to their written form. They have also used manipulatives (cubes and counters) to represent numbers, and compared numbers using the greater than, less than and equal to symbols.

Year 2 have explored nature through art, creating beautiful designs and collages using natural materials and discovering different art mediums (oil pastels and water colours), textures and patterns. All inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.

Meanwhile, the Year 3 children travelled to Sutcliffe Park Clip n' Climb to demonstrate their determination and resilience. It was a wonderful day for all who attended and the team were amazed by the climbing skills on display!



Years 4-6

In Science this term, Year 4 carried out an exciting (but slightly stinky!) investigation into the human digestive system. The children modelled the series of processes that food goes through as it is being digested! Using a plastic bag to model the stomach, orange juice as stomach acid, a pair of tights as the small intestine, and a towel as the large intestine, this helped them visualise and understand what goes on inside their bodies.

Year 5 learned about Maps and Typography, modelling landscapes in DT. Year 6 baked a traditional Caribbean cake as part of their learning about the impact of the Windrush Generation on Britain.

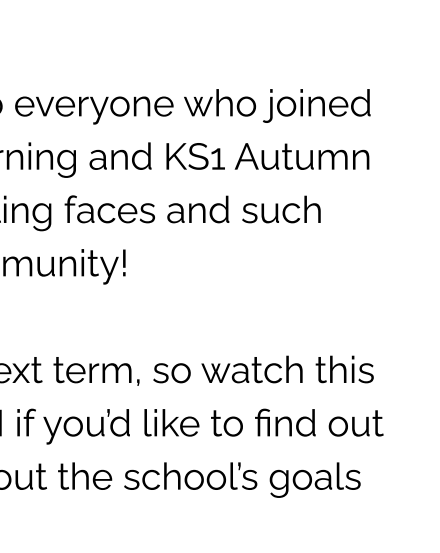
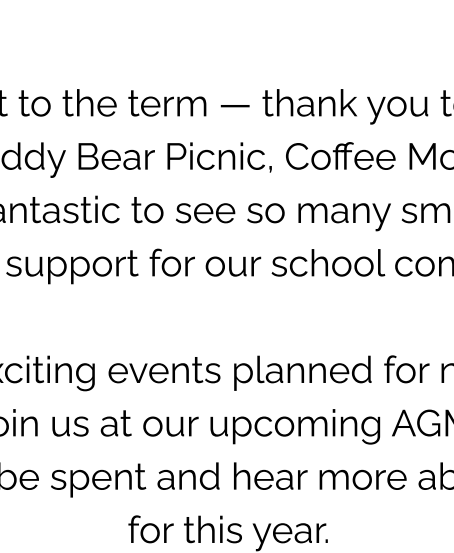
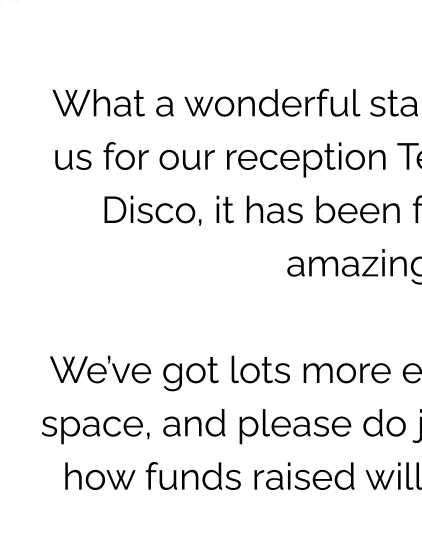


Nurture

Nurture Nest have been buzzing with excitement, hard work, and discovery! Inspired by the book Ada Twist, Scientist, the Year 2 children wrote fantastic book reviews. Then to celebrate, they created vibrant 'chemical reaction' backgrounds by blowing paint bubbles with straws onto A4 safety-goggle designs.

Captivated by Goldilocks and the Three Bears, the children crafted beautiful woodland collages. They practiced key fine motor skills by tearing, cutting, and layering textured papers to build a realistic forest.

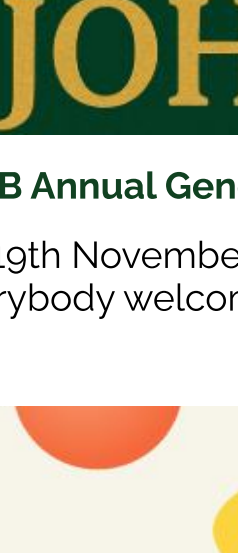
Creative Projects



Volcano Challenge

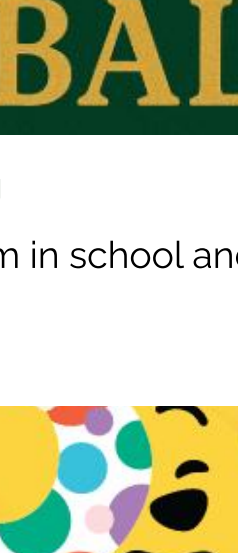
A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the volcano-making house competition. We had a record amount of entries (95 volcanoes) and it was amazing to see the creativity involved and the joy and excitement on the children's faces as they erupted their volcanoes. Entries from each house were tallied within each year group, and the results were used to award bonus house points. House Jones (Yellow) came first, receiving 450 bonus house points. House Blackman (Red) came second, receiving 325 bonus house points, and House Attenborough (Blue) came third, receiving 300 bonus house points.

House Points



House Attenborough

9,664 house points



House Jones

10,333 house points



House Blackman

9,808 house points

This is the current house point total.

Prize awarded to the house with the most points at the end of every full term.

Attendance



99.9% attendance

Congratulations to Team Bonnie which is the class with the top attendance so far this academic year. We give an 'attendance teddy bear' to the KS1 class with best attendance each week, and house points for older children with 100% attendance and no lates in a term.

Please remember that we are unable to authorise any absence during term times for holidays, even in cases where children have families overseas.

Personal Excellence

We are very proud of our newly-appointed Head Pupils, Sophie and Sonny, of our Prefects, House Captains and all of our Year 6s who have secured 'jobs' in school through our Pathway to Life programme. They have all shown maturity and discipline as they have taken on their roles so diligently.

Sophie has told us that "fun, friendships and food are the makings of our John Ball school life".

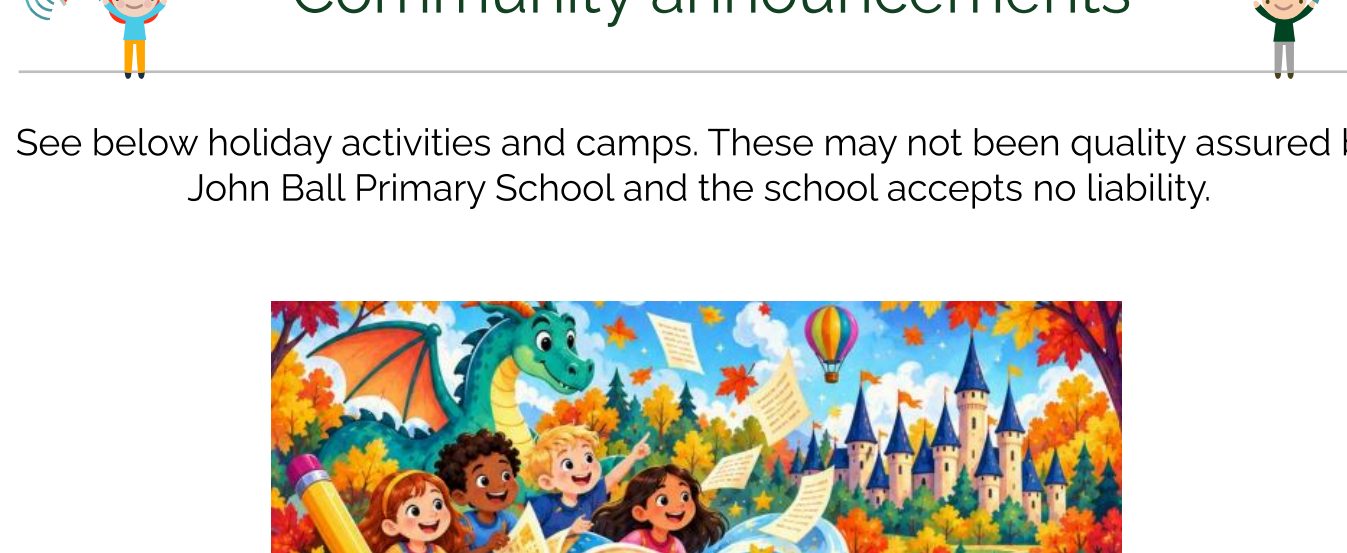
Friends of John Ball update

What a wonderful start to the term — thank you to everyone who joined us for our reception Teddy Bear Picnic, Coffee Morning and KS1 Autumn Disco, it has been fantastic to see so many smiling faces and such amazing support for our school community!

We've got lots more exciting events planned for next term, so watch this space, and please do join us at our upcoming AGM if you'd like to find out how funds raised will be spent and hear more about the school's goals for this year.



Coming up next half term



Autumn 2 Begins

Back to school on Monday 2nd November 2026.



FOJB Annual General Meeting

On 19th November from 7:30pm in school and online. Everybody welcome.



Raising money for Children in Need

Once again we are helping to raise funds for Children in Need. On 13th November children are invited to wear bright colours. Nobody should buy anything new for the day. If you wish to make a donation please do so directly at the Children in Need website: <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk>

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be visiting our school from 12th to 19th November. For every book bought at the fair, the school receives a small donation to our own reading materials.

Friends of John Ball Winter Fair

Everybody is welcome to come along. Details will be shared nearer the time.

Medications

Please remember that all medications, no matter how minor, must be given to the office with a signed consent form. No medications, including throat sprays and ointments, may be kept in children's bags.

House T-shirts

T-shirts in three house colours are available to purchase in the Arbor shop for £7. These are completely optional.

Dates for your Diary

November

Monday 2nd	Back to School	All School
	1K trip to Horniman Museum	Y1
Wednesday 4th	Y4 Thames Explorer Workshop in sch	Y4
Thursday 5th	Y5 Thames Explorer Workshop in sch	Y5
Friday 6th	Y5 Boys football tournament	Y5
Tuesday 10th	Y2 Cinema trip	Y2
	Reception parents coffee morning	R
Wednesday 11th	4C trip to Thames Barrier	Y4
12th-19th	Scholastic Book Fair	All School
Friday 13th	Children in Need - wear bright colours	All School
	Y1 Church Visit	Y1
	3D trip to Science Museum	Y3
	Y5 Mixed Netball Skills Festival	Y5
Tuesday 17th	3B trip to Science Museum	Y3
	Anti-Bullying workshops	R Y5 Y6
Wednesday 18th	Anti-Bullying workshops	Y4 Y5 Y6
Thursday 19th	3A trip to Science Museum	Y3
	Anti-Bullying workshops	Y4 Y5 Y6
	Friends of John Ball AGM 7:30pm	All School
Friday 20th	Y5 Mixed Netball Skills Festival - session 2	Y5
Monday 23rd	Y2 trip to Fashion and Textile Museum	Y2
Tuesday 24th	1M and 1RB trip to Horniman Museum	Y1
Wednesday 25th	4O trip to Thames Barrier	Y4
Thursday 26th	Reception and Y6 Height & Weight	R Y6
	Open Classroom, 4.30-5.30pm	All School
Friday 27th	Reception Parent Writing Workshop, gam	R
w/c 30th	Last week of clubs	All School

December

Tuesday 1st	Y1 trip to Unicorn Theatre	Y1
Wednesday 2nd	4W trip to Thames Barrier	Y4
4th-5th	Christmas tree collection - Friends of JB	All School
Sunday 6th	Friends of JB Winter Fair	All School
Friday 11th	Reception and Nursery Littlest Elf Panto	N R
Wednesday 16th	Y4-6 Christmas Concert at Blackheath Halls	Y4 Y5 Y6
Friday 18th	Last day of term, finish at 145pm	All School

Dates of more Christmas performances and activities will be shared after half term. Trips & events are subject to change and can be found on the school website diary page.

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

This year school meals are offered free of charge to all families in London. At John Ball, meals are cooked on the premises using locally sourced ingredients to create a varied and exciting menu. The Autumn menu is available to view on our website.

To sign your child up for school meals, use Arbor or contact Sharon Windham in the school office.

In addition, children up to Year 1 get a piece of fruit or veg as a morning snack. Children from Year 2 upwards are allowed to bring

Community announcements

See below holiday activities and camps. These may not be quality assured by John Ball Primary School and the school accepts no liability.

