



Jerry Clay Academy Newsletter

Issue 17: Friday 24th March 2017

We have an amazing community!

Dear Parents,

The last couple of weeks have really affirmed to me what an amazing community we really do have at JCA. Thank you so much to all of you for completing a Parent View prior to our recent Ofsted inspection. Your support for the academy really is fantastic! Thank you for working in partnership with us for the best of our children. We are all awaiting the Ofsted inspection report and as soon as this is published we will be sending you all a copy.

Last Sunday I attended the annual Wrenthorpe Music Festival. We were so proud of our musicians who confidently performed in front of a large audience. The improvements witnessed were truly excellent. Well done to all our pupils involved.

Progress checks & Parents evenings

Thank you for all of your feedback on our new progress checks. To clarify on the letter sent out to you all; you will be now sent a progress check in **December and March**. This will be followed by a formal, comprehensive report that will be sent out in **July**. The progress check, is as its name suggests, a snapshot of your child's learning across the curriculum, illustrating if they are on track and indicating their progress. We then follow these up directly with a parents evening, so that you have the opportunity to ask question in relation to the check. This allows Teachers to expand on the areas within the check and help to explain your child's next steps.

We look forward to welcoming you all in to parents' evening next week. Please ensure that you have sent back an appointment request. Appointments should all be in your child's book bag this evening.

Happy Mother's Day

We hope you enjoy your Mother's Day Secret Room gifts. The children absolutely love this annual event. Thank you to our PTA for organizing this special event.

Safety on Jerry Clay Lane

Please can I remind you all about the safety of parking on our school lane. Cars should not be driving along the path at all as this causes obvious safety issues for our whole community.

Dog park

Please can I ask that you do secure your dog in the designated dog park (on the grassed area at the head of the carpark) when dropping off your child. This is to ensure safety for all on our academy site.

Kind regards,

Mrs T Swinburne

Learning across the school this week

Year 1

Year 1 have had a busy 2 weeks starting our new topic 'Starry Night'. We are really engaged in Vincent van Gogh so much that lots of us have been doing our own research and learning at home. We have started to explore mixing colours to create darker and lighter shades and using them to create swirly patterns in the style of van Gogh. We have also been researching different facts about Van Gogh to create fact files. We have also loved spending lots of time in our artist studio in our focus room to recreate van Gogh's art work using lots of different materials and tools.



In Literacy, we have started a new book called 'Laura's star' and have



been working on story maps, storyboards and acting out the story so that we can write our own retelling of the story. We have been striving by checking our sentences to make sure we use our Fred fingers and action words for spelling, ensuring our sentences make sense and have full stops and capital letters. We have been striving even higher by challenging ourselves to use adjectives to describe extra detail!

In Maths, we have continued with counting and grouping in our 2's, 5's and 10's but we have been persevering to use arrays to help us multiply and work out our times tables. We are proud of ourselves for our perseverance with using arrays and excited to start fractions next week!

Year 2

We are enjoying our topic, 'Starry Night' and are intrigued by the art work of Vincent van Gogh! So far, we have looked at the 'Starry Night' painting and compared it to some of van Gogh's other artwork. We have created some fantastic descriptive writing based on the work and have learnt part of the Starry Night song that tells us about Van Gogh's life.

In Literacy, we have read the book 'Laura's Star' and are looking at re-telling this story.



In Maths, we have persevered in our fractions work; we have learnt about fractions of shape, quantities and numbers, as well as equivalent fractions! We have now started to re-look at addition and subtraction.



'Striving to be the best we can be'

Ancient Olympics

in Year 3

Year 3 are continuing to enjoy our topic- 'What happens inside us?' We have produced some excellent and varied work look-



ing at different foods from around the world and the reasons why world records are broken more regularly in modern day sport. On Monday, we had an excellent day of Outdoor learning, culminating in a brilliant piece of writing from the perspective of an Ancient Greek athlete the night before they competed in the Olympic Games. We then actually competed in different running events aiming to win medals for our teams and top the medal table. The winning team was named after the Greek

city-state of Knossos and made up of Lloyd, Seb, Lucy and Lilly, well done!

In Maths, we have been working hard on different forms of multiplication, including smile multiplication and using place value counters. In Literacy, we are working on Biographies



and have focussed particularly on Usain Bolt. Next week the children will choose a sportsperson of their choice and write a biography about them.

'Striving to be the best we can be'

Year 4

Year 4 have been working hard our topic 'What happens inside us?', learning all about the skeleton, joints and muscles and carrying out an investigation into which muscles we use for different movements. We are now learning about the journey of food through our body when we eat it and how the body digests it. In Literacy, we have produced some excellent and interesting information texts about our favourite sport and are now writing biographies about inspirational athletes.



In Maths, we have been deepening our understanding of decimals, including understanding and learning the fraction and decimal equivalents of common fractions, including $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{5}$ etc, rounding decimals to the nearest whole number and comparing and dividing numbers by 10 and 100. We are also working to perfect our songs and lines for our joint production of **'The Peace Child' at Alverthorpe St Paul's church on 4th April and 6pm.** We are sounding pretty good now and, having researched African Tribal designs, we spent a very enjoyable morning printing our 'Wannakeekee' tribe T shirts to wear at the performance.



Wakefield District Down Syndrome Support Group Raffle

Emma Wadsworth (Kieron's Mum) would just like to thank everyone for buying raffle tickets to raise money for Wakefield and District Downs Syndrome Support Group. She raised £95 which Barclays have very kindly said they would match. The draw took place on 21st March, World Down Syndrome Day, and all winners have been notified. Thank you once again.

'Striving to be the best we can be'

Life cycles of animals

Year 5

We have been investigating the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages in Maths and trying to work out our school attendance percentages using our knowledge. In Literacy, we are continuing to develop our report-writing skills so that we can produce a magazine for Mrs Swinburne's office area. Our new topic has started and we are investigating the story behind 'The Lady of Shalott' - a cursed, magical lady. Last week, we produced some fantastic descriptions, trying to make the reader feel a particular way about her.



On Tuesday, we had a fabulous day of Science learning outside – where we were investigating life cycles of animals with Adam and Jerome from Eden's Forest. The team work skills showcased by all of the class were phenomenal, work ethic was high and the sun even shone on us for most of the day!

To finish off our day, we had a fire and some sweet treats!



'Striving to be the best we can be'

Year 6

Year 6 have been very busy over the last few weeks working hard in preparation for the SATs in May. We have been continuing to work on our reading skills and the answering of comprehension style questions. In Maths, we have been revising and developing our subject knowledge when looking at fractions, decimals and percentages.

Our subject focus in Science has been Electricity this term and we have already completed some fantastic safety videos for this. Last week we focussed on conducting our own investigation with



the title of 'Do sweets conduct electricity?'

We have been looking at drawing tortoises in Art this term and we enjoyed a visit from Shelly the Tortoise last week. Thank you Fiona for sharing your fantastic tortoise facts.

Community News

'KEEP YOUR VILLAGE TIDY' LITTER PICK SATURDAY 25TH MARCH

Wrenthorpe Environmental Society have organised a village litter pick.

10 am start from either Wrenthorpe Park or Toll Bar Lane. All equipment is provided.

Stay as long or short a time as you want. Help keep your village clean and tidy.

All help is very welcome