Friday 14th November 2025

Accomplishing great things at JCA

Working hard to strive for the best!

Another week has flown by so quickly! This week, I have been particularly impressed with the writing shown by KS1 – I have seen almost every child at my office showing me their amazing work!

Our newsletter will show the fantastic learning from across the school over the past two weeks – you will see that each class has been so productive and there has been some brilliant examples of exemplary work!

Finally, it was a pleasure to attend the official opening of Auckley Academy last week; we look forward to working closely with them in Accomplish MAT!

Rai-Léyah – *Always in our hearts*

Today, we held a reflection assembly in memory of Rai-Léyah – an incredibly special girl. In the assembly, we read 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' and paused for a period of reflection, remembering the special memories that we hold.

Following the assembly, each class was given the opportunity to re-tell the story using lots of different story-telling props!

Attendance winners

As you know as a school we continue to focus on excellent attendance as this is essential for children to make the best progress. As a whole school we have set a target for the year of **97.4%**

Class	This week	Year to date from the start of September
RECEPTION	**97.40%**	97.40%
YEAR 1	**96.70%**	97.90%
YEAR 2	**98.70%**	97.80%
YEAR 3	**98.00%**	96.40%
YEAR 4	**94.00%**	96.80%
YEAR 5	**90.30%**	94.70%
YEAR 6	**94.10%**	97.30%

97.40%	**WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET**
96.90%	**ACTUAL**

97% +
AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET

BELOW 95%
CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS

90% & BELOW
PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

Reception have had a busy fortnight of learning. Alongside our core learning, the children have been taking in the key events of the last couple of weeks.

When learning about Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day, we have been impressed by the thoughtfulness and inquisitiveness shown!

Learning journey

The children have responded with thought and care when learning about Remembrance, starting with watching a video. This prompted lots of discussion and interest. Each child created a poppy to go in our poppy field and the children were mesmerised to see the field "grow" just like the video! The children have also explored poppies through manipulating loose parts and play dough.

Reception particularly showing interests in aeroplanes and volcanoes during child-led learning. We have enjoyed creating volcanoes in the sandpit and building airports for our planes to land, including very long runways outside!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

Phonics

We have been continuing to work daily in our Phonics lessons, especially learning to blend using our Fred talk. We are becoming more confident day by day! Please keep helping your child by using the green book to practise sounds, using fred talk around the house, and recording in your child's reading diary.

Literacy

Over the past couple of weeks, our learning in Literacy has centred the fairytale "Little Red Riding Hood". Our oracy skills have been flourishing as we have spent so much time role playing the different characters in "Grandma's cottage". Alongside this, we have been sequencing pictures from the story and drawing beautiful story maps to showcase our understanding.

Maths

We have started learning about circles and triangles. Hunting for circles was fun and we have also practised drawing circles by spinning on our bodyboards! Our key vocabulary words are sides, corners, straight and round – please use these at home to reinforce our learning!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

We are really impressed by the children's efforts to strive to be the best they can be and how well they have immersed themselves into their learning since the October half term.

In **English**, we have been publishing our story book 'The Castle Dragon'. We have invented and planned the characters, setting, problem and solution, inspired by our class visit to Pontefract castle. We are excited to share these with you soon.

We have been learning how to write accurate addition number sentences in **Maths**. We have been striving to complete fact families, by swapping around the parts and wholes. Also, we have been persevering to work systematically using ten frames and counters to create all the number bonds to a given number.

In **Geography**, we have been using different information sources so that we can find out more about our capital city: London. We have identified some of the main landmarks in London and we have enjoyed exploring London further in our construction, art, physical and DT areas outside.

In **Gymnastics**, the children have been exploring a variety of travelling movements such as sliding, stepping and rolling on the floor and apparatus. We also used chiffon scarves to replicate the fireworks in the sky.

In **Science**, we have been consolidating our knowledge and understanding of 'properties and materials' by playing a game called 'odd one out'. Such great collaboration and thoughtful explanations as they examined and discussed each object.

Following an exciting visit from Mrs Johnson and her baby, the children have been writing messages to explain what babies need to grow and change as we delve further into our growing topic in **PSHE**.

KEY DATES

Visit to St Anne's Church, Wrenthorpe (TBC)

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

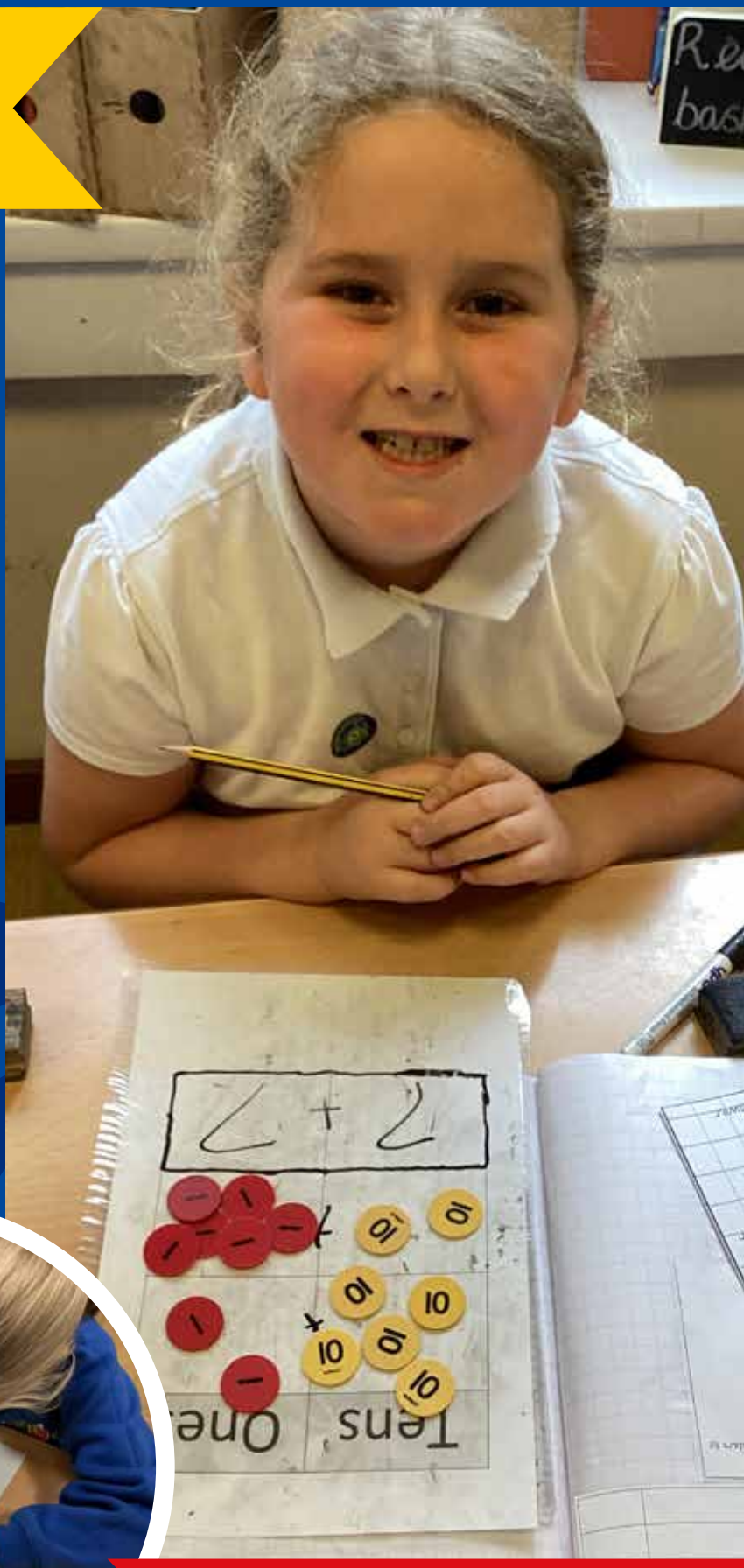
Wow! What a fantastic start to the second half term! Year 2 have returned to school with an abundance of effort to strive to be the best! It has been so impressive to see the effort and care they are demonstrating in their learning.

In **English**, this week, we have begun to create a character description of a miner. We created a bank of expanded noun phrases as well as learning about prepositional openers to uplevel to start of our sentences.

In **Maths**, we have been practicing our new method column addition and subtraction. We have worked through concrete, pictorial and abstract process to develop our understanding. To create clear methods, we have strived with our presentation and one digit in each box.

In **P.E,** our focus this half term is gymnastics. We have loves travelling at different levels and using our bodies to make different shapes.

In **Art,** I was so impressed with how hard Year 2 worked on their portraits of their miners! We used Valerie Ganz's portrait and looked at her proportions to replicate on our own paper. We then used pastels to create the miner's vibrant overalls and his coal smudges.



KEY DATES

Coal Mining Museum trip
Thursday 8th January

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3

Year 3 have made a brilliant start to Autumn 2! The children are showing fantastic care and teamwork across the curriculum, and we are so proud of their efforts.

In **English**, we have introduced our new book, The Stone Age Boy. The children began by making thoughtful predictions about the story and have worked hard on character descriptions. These skills are helping them prepare to write an exciting diary entry from the character's perspective.

We have been consolidating our learning of **column addition and subtraction** through problem-solving and reasoning questions. Next, we will be moving on to multiplication and division, and the children have been practising their times tables during Diamond Dash sessions to help with quick recall.

In **gymnastics**, the children have been developing their travelling techniques and practicing balances. Their focus and creativity have really shone through in these sessions.

During **Spanish** lessons we focussed on emotions. The children learned a song about how we are feeling and confidently recited it. They also enjoyed having conversations in pairs, using their new vocabulary.

KEY DATES

Trip to Barnsley Museum
Tuesday 2nd December

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

We have had a wonderful start to the term with lots to celebrate in year 4.

Many children are beginning to qualify for their next Diamond Dash level. Thank you to Isobel for her kindness sharing 40 poppies with us for Remembrance day, all the staff and children in year 4 were in awe of this generosity and care.

In **maths**, we are starting our multiplication and division unit. As you already know, the times table check takes place in year 4 therefore this unit will be very important for improving their score. They have demonstrated our learner traits of perseverance as a class and have supported one another throughout every test. Well done, year 4, we always say we're a team and now we're living it!

In **English**, we have been writing informal letters and using our imagination to bring our school to life. We have had flying carpets, enchanted pens and invisible classrooms! We cannot wait to publish our pieces and share them with the children across school.

In **Spanish**, we have been learning about the noun genders for masculine and feminine and how this affects pronunciation. We have translated a passage in Spanish which we found tricky but powerful, we soon realised the importance of giving clear descriptions and using our dictionaries to translate.

We are really enjoying our class story, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone at the moment and have discussed how authors create magical worlds.

KEY DATES

Trip to the Gurdwara
26.11.25

Trip to The Royal Armouries Museum
26.2.26

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

Year 5 have settled into the new half term wonderfully, returning with their usual curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

As we continue exploring our theme of **The War**, the children have begun reading our new core text, **The Emergency Zoo**. They have really enjoyed diving into this engaging story, both in reading lessons and during storytime at the end of the day. It has been lovely to see their excitement and thoughtful discussions as they connect with the characters and themes.

In **Maths**, Year 5 have started their new unit on fractions and are developing a strong understanding of equivalent fractions. The children have been applying their knowledge to increasingly complex reasoning problems, showing great resilience and perseverance. Next, we will be learning how to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers.

In **English**, the children are learning how to write their own adventure stories. They have explored the key features of the genre and learnt how to build suspense to create an exciting build-up. We are now looking forward to planning and writing the climactic moments of our stories — we can't wait to share them with you!

In **History**, we have deepened our understanding of World War I and reflected on Remembrance Day. Using Caesar ciphers, the children decoded a special message about remembrance. Our Dig for Victory project is growing fast, and Year 5 are proud of their progress.

In **Geography**, we have been exploring some of London's most famous landmarks and discovering their fascinating histories. The children enjoyed researching each site and recording their findings with great curiosity and enthusiasm.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6

We have had a fantastic start back after half term continueing our learning and showing a real care and determination in our work.

In **Maths**, we have focused on fractions. This has been a challenge but the resilience has been fantastic to see and we are now able to add fractions with different denominators, multiply fractions by whole numbers and by other fractions and do lots of reasoning and problem solving to compliment this.

In **English**, we are combining our writing skills with our amazing history knowledge to create a brilliant non- chronological report on the inventions of different time periods whilst comparing them to each other. The children have worked hard on different sentence types and have enjoyed recapping their historical knowledge.

We loved going on our trip to **Leeds City Museum** to conclude our learning on the ancient Egyptians. The children represented to the school brilliantly and were even awarded a certificate for their fantastic listening skills, team work and eagerness to answer questions.

The children also enjoyed showcasing their knowledge on the **ancient Egyptians** to parents and carers in our workshop. The children were so engaged in the activities and it was lovely to see the community together.

KEY DATES

Trip to Leeds Museum
11th November

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 21h

Year 5 have been reflecting on how we remember the brave soldiers who fought for our freedom. They asked thoughtful questions and showed a deep understanding of WWI. We then created Caesar Ciphers to decode a poignant message of remembrance. #LestWeForget #RemembranceDay

You reposted

Accomplish MAT @accomplish_mat · Nov 7

What a magical morning @AuckleySchool , launching the next chapter of their story — so full of joy and promise! ✨ Thank you APA for your brilliant assembly! 👏 #MakingMemories #NewChapter #AccomplishingGreatThingsTogether

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 23h

Year 6 have had a fantastic time at @LeedsCityMuseum immersing themselves in the ancient Egyptians. They saw a real mummy and even got to complete the ritual of mummification! We then explored the museum in the afternoon recapping learning from previous year groups @HistoryJca

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Nov 6

We have been striving in our outdoor learning today. Making the most of the season and improving our core strength. We are proud of the resilience and perseverance every child has shown. ✨

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Nov 11

'When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today'

A poignant assembly focussing on remembrance and those that fought. Thank you to school council who wrote their own poems to perform for the school @HistoryJca #RemembranceDay

Dates for Your Diary 2025-26

INSET DAYS	Monday 1st September 2025
	Monday 24th November 2025
	Friday 30th January 2026
	Friday 22nd May 2026
	Monday 20th July 2026
Parents Evenings	Monday 1st December and Wednesday 3rd December 2025
	Monday 23rd March and Wednesday 25th March 2026
Coffee Mornings	Monday 1st December and Wednesday 3rd December 2025
Reports	Friday 28th November 2025 – Interim Reports
	Friday 20th March 2026 – Interim Reports
	Friday 10th July 2026 – End of Year Reports
Theme Days/ Weeks	Thursday 5th March 2026- World Book Day
	wc 23rd March 2026 – Theme Week – TBC
	wc -18th May 2026 Creative Arts week
Performances	Friday 5th December 2025 – Reception Christmas Activity Morning
	Tuesday 9th December 2025 (9.30am) and Wednesday 10th 9.30am – Reception nativity
	Monday 15th December 2025 – Christmas carols around the tree (ASC)
	Tuesday 16th December 2025 (2pm) and Wednesday 17th (9.30 am) – Year 1 and 2 Nativity
	Wednesday 10th June 2026 Art gallery evening
	w/c Monday 13th July 2026 – Celebration week
Sports Day	Friday 12th June 2026
	Friday 26th June Reserve Sports Day
Summer Fair	(TBC)

You might be eligible to Pupil Premium.
What is the Pupil Premium (PP)?

The Pupil Premium is extra government money which is paid to schools to support children's learning and development. We can support you in finding out if your child could receive the extra money. We can choose how to best spend the Pupil Premium money and will work with you to make sure your child benefits from the extra funding.

Who could benefit from this money?

Children from the reception year to year 6 may be eligible if they:

- are registered for Free School Meals (FSM)
- have been registered for FSM at any point in the last 6 years
- are or have been in care
- have parents in the armed forces *If your child could claim for FSM but takes a packed lunch to school, it's still important you tell us. This will let us know if your child is able to receive the Pupil Premium.

Your child could benefit from:

- exciting new learning activities and experiences
- one to one or small group sessions
- extra tools, materials and equipment to help with learning in school or at home
- before/after school clubs or activities

Why should I register my child for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Children who are registered for Free School Meals (FSM) are entitled to the Pupil Premium. Your child isn't automatically registered for FSM, even though all infant children are entitled to receive a free school meal.

How do I register my child for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Follow the link below to the Wakefield online portal for parents:

https://parentportal.wakefield.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home

If you need any support with this, please don't hesitate to ask the school office or myself personally on the gate.

Child Protection & Safeguarding

The designated Child Protection Officers for this academy are:

Mrs T Swinburne

Trust Safeguarding Lead.

Tracy.swinburne@amat.org.uk

Mr T Palin

Safeguarding Lead

anthony.palin@jca.amat.org.uk

Holly Dyson

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

holly.dyson@jca.amat.org.uk

Helen Jones

Designated Safeguarding Governor

helen.jones@jca.amat.org.uk