Friday 16th January 2026

Accomplishing great things at JCA

Jerry Clay Academy

Starting the year with a bang!

A whirlwind couple of weeks have come to an end and I cannot believe how much learning each class has completed.

This term, each class has began it's new Theme and the children have been so immersed in learning across the curriculum!

Please see each class page to see a detailed overview of the last 2 weeks!

We would like to extend our very best wishes and heartfelt thanks to Mrs Hart as she approaches her retirement on Thursday 29th January. Over many years at JCA, Mrs Hart has made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the life of the school, working tirelessly to secure the very best outcomes for the children in her care. Most recently in Upper Key Stage 2, she has supported pupils with skill, compassion, and unwavering commitment.

Mrs Hart's dedication to our children, families, and colleagues has been truly outstanding, and her impact will be felt long after her retirement. She leaves JCA with our sincere gratitude and admiration, and we wish her every happiness in a thoroughly well-deserved retirement.

Children in Upper Key Stage 2 will continue to be supported by Mrs Wilkinson, who will ensure consistency and high-quality support throughout the Spring and Summer terms.

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	**96.80%**	95.50%
YEAR 1	**98.90%**	97.10%
YEAR 2	**98.50%**	97.40%
YEAR 3	**99.60%**	96.10%
YEAR 4	**96.30%**	96.40%
YEAR 5	**96.40%**	94.60%
YEAR 6	**99.20%**	96.10%

97.40%	**WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET**
96.20%	**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 started 2026 with so much enthusiasm for our new theme "Frozen Planet" and have also been inspired by the icy weather that has been outside!

We have been reading the story of "Snow Bears" for the last fortnight which has shaped much of our learning in class, developing our storytelling and language use through play and experimentation. We have loved construction and role play, including different Arctic creatures such as polar bears, walruses and seals. The children have been creating slides and shoots, track and igloos using various resources, alongside the natural ice.

Literacy

Using "Snow Bears" we used our team work skills to sequence different photographs from the story using the language of beginning, middle and end. We have started to learn some action words – more information will be shared at Friday library time.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

Phonics

We are continuing to review our set 1 single letter sounds and some groups have started to learn the set 1 "special friends" sounds now. We are working on our fred talk in words, and are enjoying the challenge of the blending book.

We have also started to use fred fingers to support us to spell CVC words e.g. dog, cat, log, pin.

Maths

Our number of the week has been 6 and we adored reading the story "Six Dinner Sid" to help us think about this number in more detail! This week we have been reading "Billy and the Beast" and we have used this story to think about a more suitable recipe for the Beast's soup, carefully thinking about how many of each item to include. The children have also been busy in the creative area printing, using big, middle-sized and small shapes to create a snowflake. Maths is definitely everywhere!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

Year 1 have returned to school in 2026 with such enthusiasm and inquisitiveness about our new theme for learning – What does it mean to belong?

The children were fascinated that the postman delivered a surprise parcel last week. **Paddington** arrived in a suitcase with a letter inside from Aunt Lucy! In English, we are now working towards writing a letter to our families to tell them all about Paddington. We enjoyed reading the story of Paddington, retelling it orally using the key vocabulary, through role play and creating our own detailed story maps!

In **Geography**, we are learning about continents and oceans; we have enjoyed learning different songs to extend and strengthen this understanding. We know that Peru is in South America and the Atlantic Ocean is between South America and England.

Outside in our provision, we have opened our own Year 1 **Post office**, where we are striving to use our speaking frames to help us buy and send items at the post office. We've been practicing wrapping parcels at the wrapping station, writing letters and posting them in the post box and being cashiers at the till.

In **Maths**, we have consolidated our learning on 2D and 3D shape and extended this through lots of provision-based activities testing their understanding and application of shape properties. This week, we have started to learn about 'teen' numbers representing these using concrete resources such as ten frames, cubes and dienes.

In **Science**, the children are learning to describe the weather associated with the four seasons. We enjoyed going for a refreshing winter walk around the school grounds using our senses to depict the weather.

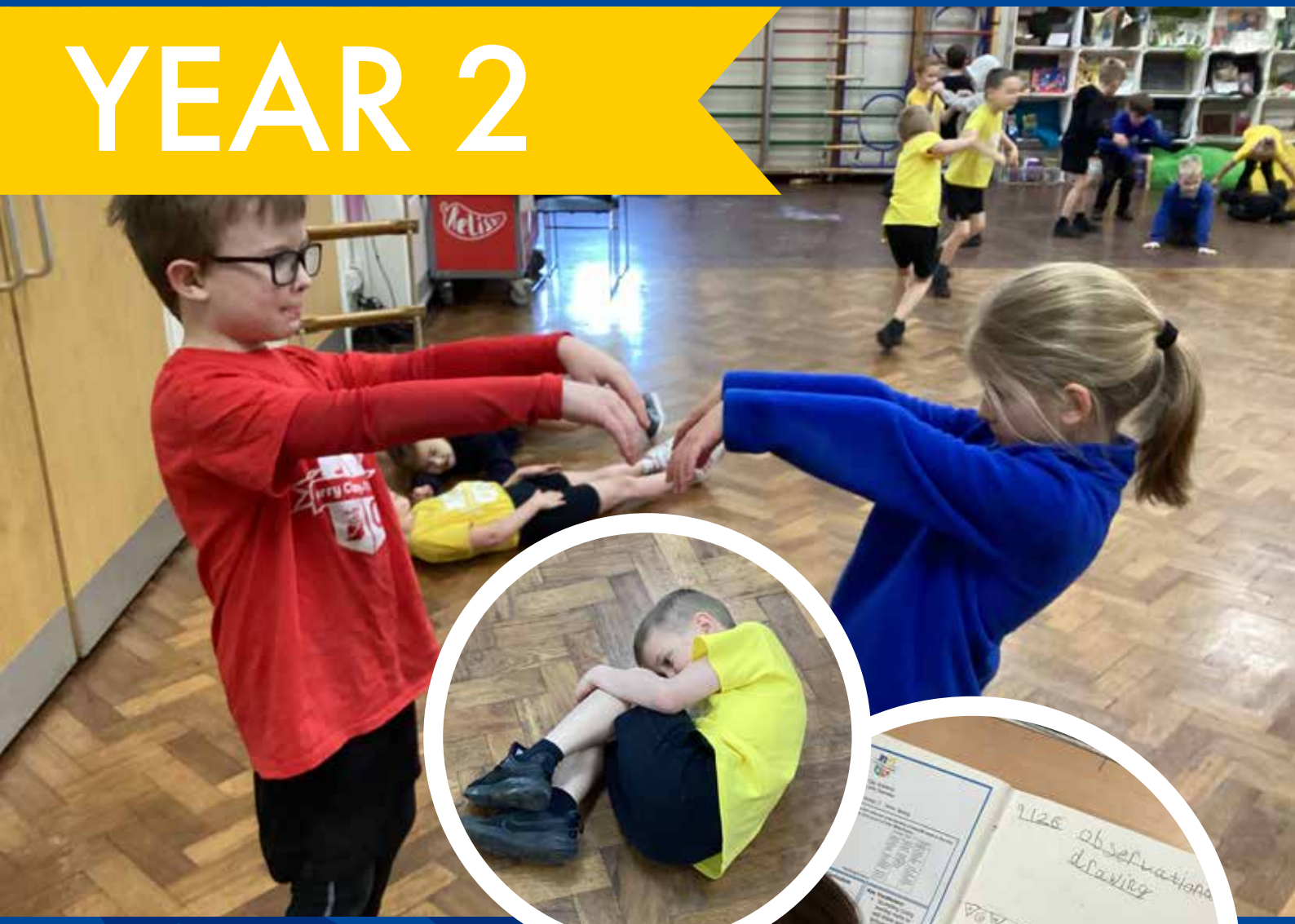
KEY DATES

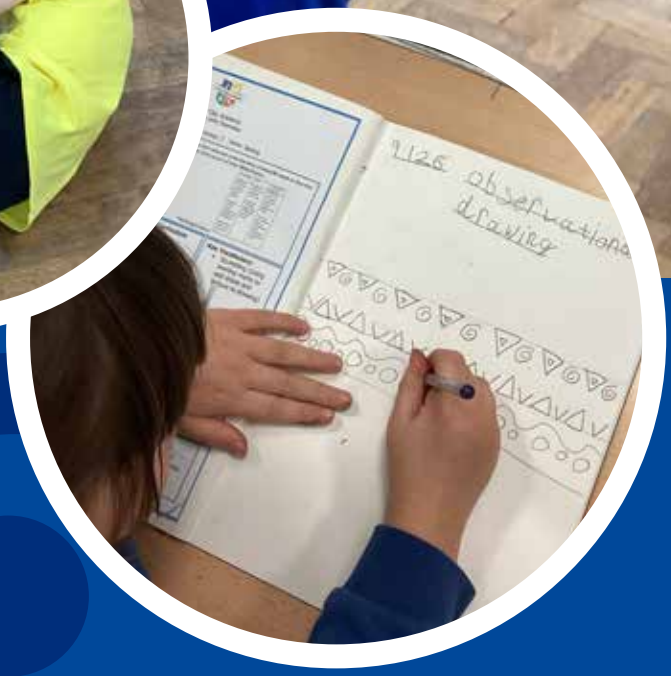
Paddington workshop morning.

Thursday 12th February (TBC)

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2





What a fantastic start Year 2 have had to 2026! They have returned from the Christmas holidays all refreshed and striving ready for the new term.

This term, we have started our new theme ***'Do we always appreciate what we've got?'*** with a focus on Africa.

In **English**, we have immersed ourselves into our new core text 'Pretty Salma'. Using our oracy skills, we discussed the structure of the story and compare the similarities and differences to known stories too.

In **PE**, we have loved our new unit on dance where we have explored strong and light gestures! We have created routines in pairs that focussed on the synchronisation and coordination with transitions.

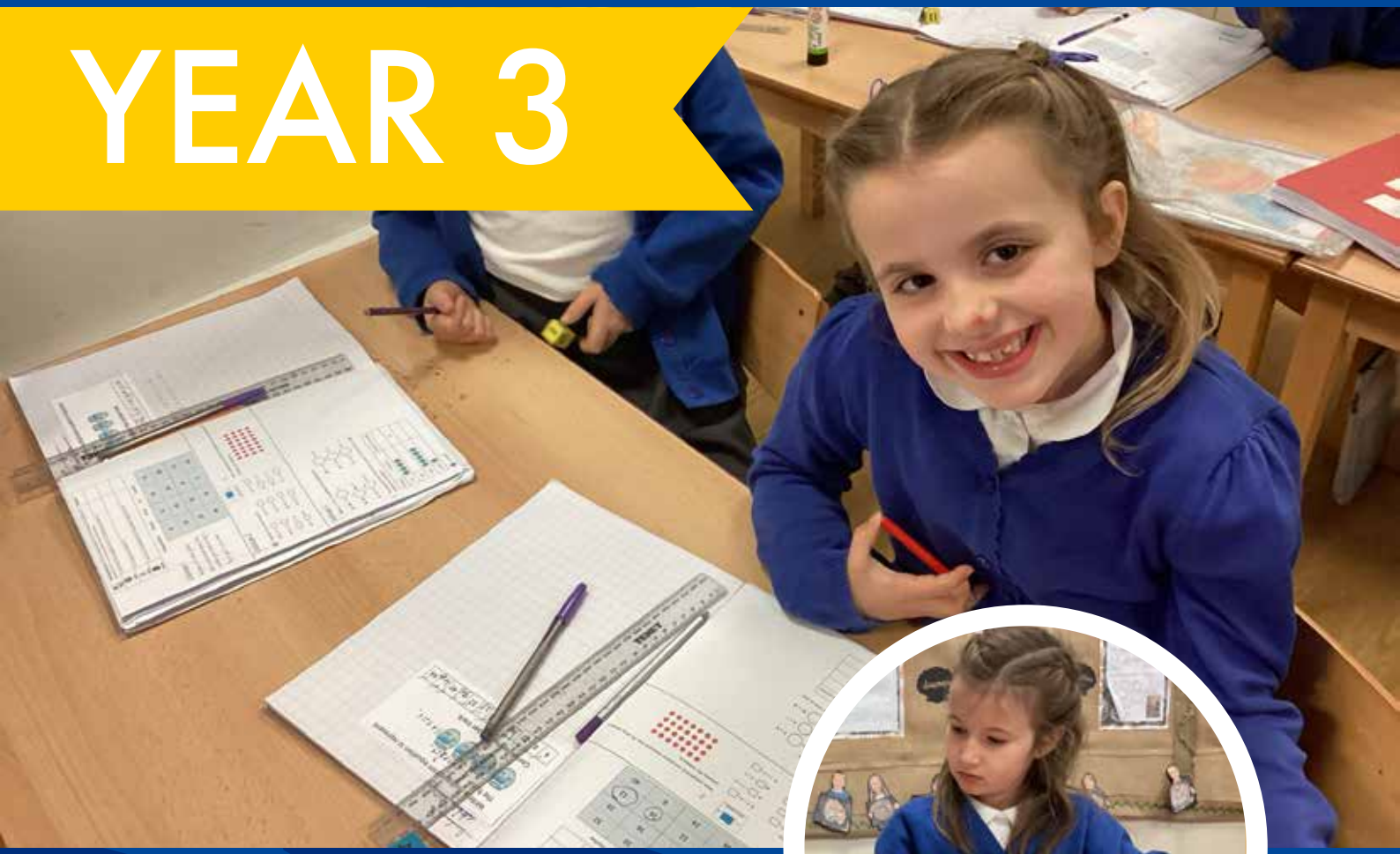
For **Art**, we have fully immersed ourselves into sketching techniques and observational drawing of African patterns. This is the start of our art process leading to our final outcome of African masks.

KEY DATES

Trip to Wakefield Cathedral
Monday 9th February

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



Year 3 have had a brilliant start to our Spring term and shown incredible inquisitiveness towards our new topic of 'What is Community?'

In **English**, the children have loved exploring our new core text of 'The Boy who Harnessed the Wind.' We used clues to hook the children's learning and infer where they thought the story might be set and predict what the text might be about. The children have also loved delving even deeper into our text with drama, focussing on using freeze frames to express the life of our main character at the start of the book.

In **Maths**, we are learning about measurement, including mass and capacity. We have been exploring different scales and how these connect to our times tables. We have also been working on multiplication and division, focusing on the relationships between the 3, 4, and 8 times tables.

We had a great start to our new **Geography** topic, we introduced our learning on community by recapping on European countries.

The children used atlases to locate different countries and label these on their map. Then, we used geographical vocabulary to describe where countries were in relation to one another.

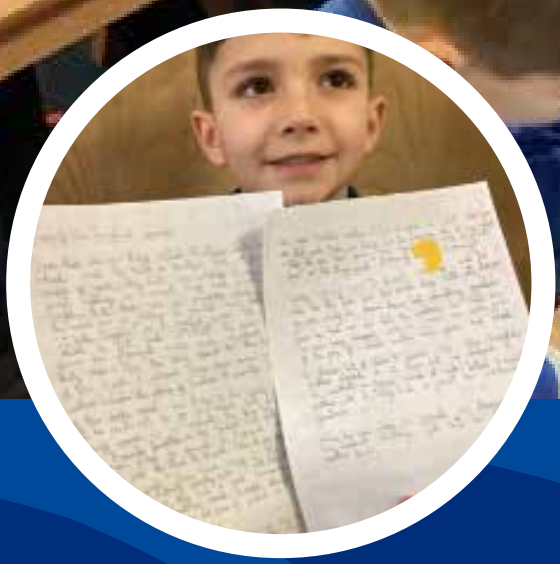
Finally, the children have loved practicing their sketching techniques in **Art** to create rotating and repeated patterns inspired by Celtic art. They identified our artist of Michael Carroll and observed his work closely to begin creating some patterns of their own.

KEY DATES

Trip to Wat Buddharam Temple
Tuesday 27th January

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



Year 4 have had a fantastic return to school and have been striving to be the best they can be at every possible opportunity.

We have made the most of the ice and frosty days by exploring outside and, of course, bringing along our favourite books to read. Inside, the moment we step through the classroom door, it feels as though we've wandered straight into the depths of the Amazon rainforest.

Speaking of **reading**, there is a real buzz around our new story 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. Year 4 have already impressed us with their recall of key characters and their dreams in the opening chapters. We have been exploring the themes of friendship and teamwork, asking ourselves whether the children in the story need one or both of these qualities to escape the Amazon once and for all.

In **maths**, we have continued our multiplication and division learning by creating place value concertinas. These have helped us understand how a number's value increases or decreases when it is multiplied or divided by 10, 100 or 1000.

In **art,** we have begun our new topic by studying the work of Andy Dyer and Henri Rousseau. We have compared their rainforest colour palettes and brought them to life using watercolours.

In **geography**, we have located the world's rainforests and biomes. We have mapped the Amazon River and identified the features that make this biome so unique. We cannot wait to see what the next two weeks of learning holds for us, especially as we explore this rainforest further!

KEY DATES

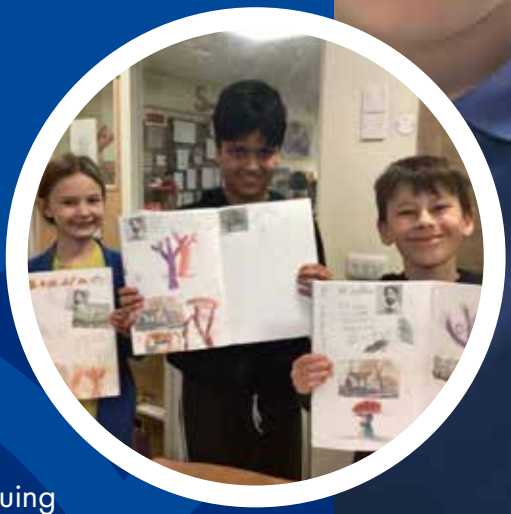
Trip to The Royal Armouries Museum
26.2.26

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

Year 5 have made an excellent start to the term and have thoroughly impressed us with their return to school. They have shown a fantastic attitude, and their enthusiasm for learning has truly shone.

We enjoyed a fantastic launch to our new topic, ***What's the difference between living and surviving?***. The children worked together to hunt for missing pieces of a puzzle, which revealed a map linked to our new class text, The Girl Who Speaks Bear. This created excitement and curiosity about the learning ahead.



This week, Year 5 also had a wonderful opportunity to take part in a **space-themed day** at Outwood Grange Academy. From launching rockets to touring the solar system, the children were completely mesmerised and thoroughly engaged throughout the experience.

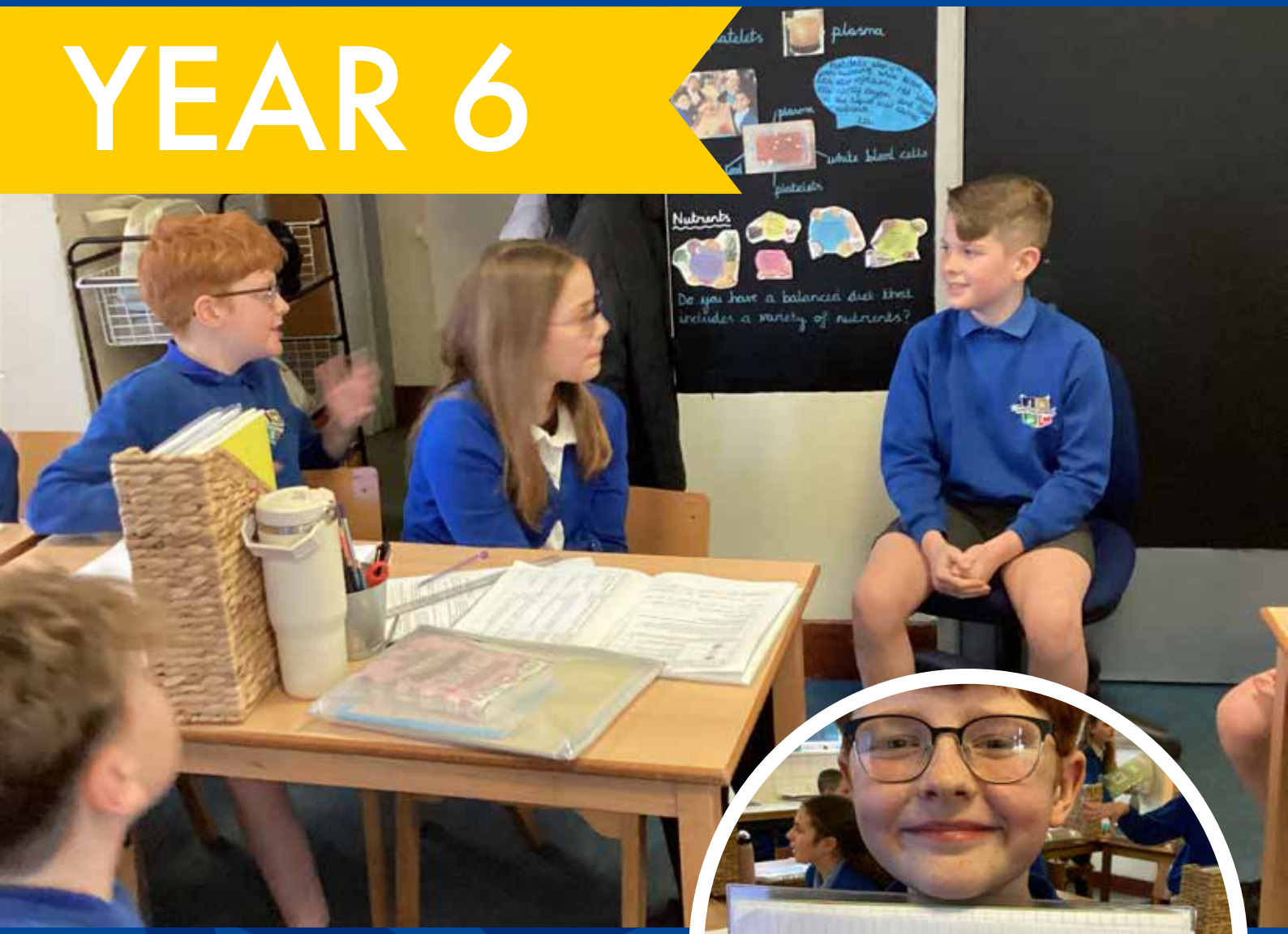
In **English**, we have been critiquing non-chronological reports about animals and using dictionaries and thesauruses to improve vocabulary choices. Next, we will be researching Arctic animals so that we can write our own detailed non-chronological reports.

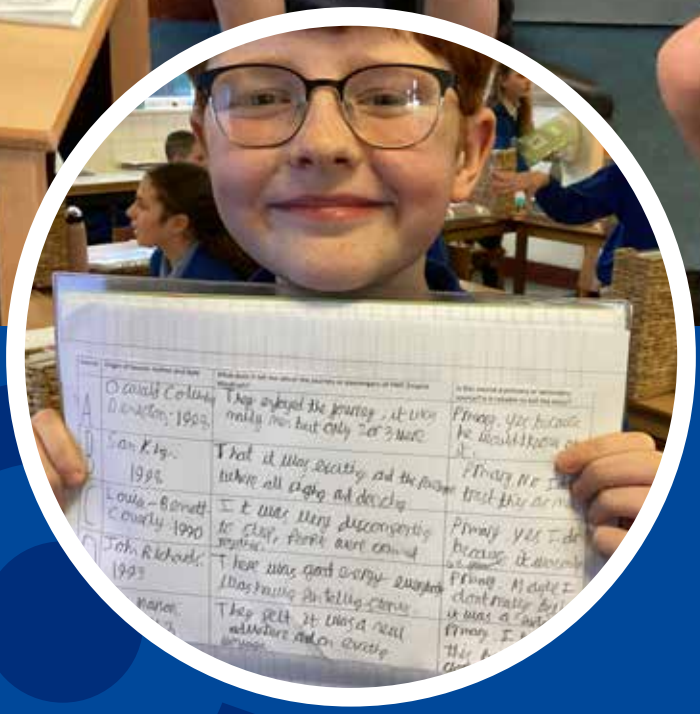
In **Maths**, we have continued developing our understanding of multiplication and division. The children have been learning long multiplication and short division with remainders, applying these skills to challenging reasoning problems. They have also been working hard to improve the presentation of their Maths work.

In **Art**, Year 5 have been exploring the work of Piet Mondrian. Inspired by his style, the children created mood boards focusing on colour and nature, using Mondrian's influence to guide their designs.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6





We have had a brilliant start to the term learning our new theme *'Does Adversity make us stronger?'*. We are so proud of their resilience and striving attitude towards their learning, especially those that have begun boosters this week!

In **English**, we have been using the amazing short video 'The Piano' to create our own flashback story. We have worked on including emotive sentence starters to help convey emotion and are working on including semi colons, colons and dashes.

In **Maths**, we have been working on area, perimeter and volume. The children are working very hard to remember the different formulas and have impressed us with their knowledge and understanding.

In **History**, we have begun learning about the Windrush generation and their journey to Britain. They have been enthralled by the stories of different individuals and have even hot seated in role like the different passengers.

In **PE**, we have started our new unit of Dance. We are so excited to create our whole class dance focusing on unison, canon and dancing to the beat.

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 19h

In History, Year 6 enjoyed learning about the passengers that were on board the Empire Windrush. They analysed sources and explained how reliable the source was. We then hot seated in role as the passengers 🚢 @HistoryJca

1 9 244

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 19h

Year 5 have been exploring the life of Piet Mondrian. We have used his work to influence our mood boards focussing on colour and nature @JCA_Art

9 227

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Jan 13

Year 3 enjoyed their ukulele lesson. They now know 4 chords and can follow a variety of songs. They also plucked individual strings for the songs 'Pavan' and 'Old Town Road'. It is always a joyful start to the day. 🎶 @music_jca

1 7 229

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Jan 12

Year 1 enjoyed using atlases, globes and world maps to locate different countries and continents. We mapped Paddington's voyage across the Atlantic which sparked further discussions and inquiry skills #geography #Paddington

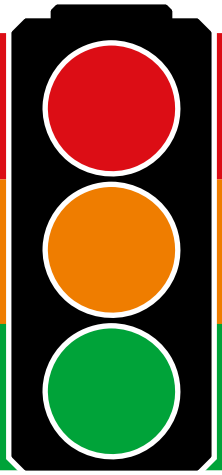
Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Jan 12

Year 4 mastered the use of a concertina to help deepen their understanding of multiplying and dividing by 100. We then got every question correct!

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 Tuesday 24th 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)

Attendance Matters



BELOW 90%
Serious concern
Persistent absence

90% - 95%
Cause for concern
Low attendance

AT LEAST 96%
Expected attendance

EVERY DAY COUNTS...

Learning is a progressive activity.
Each lesson and each day builds on another.
If your child is absent for lessons that include demonstrations, discussions, experiments and other participation activities as part of the daily learning activities, they are missing learning that cannot be made up.

BENEFITS OF GOOD ATTENDANCE

- Pupils with good attendance generally achieve higher grades.
- Pupils with good attendance generally enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Good school attendance helps to develop other responsible patterns of behaviour.

SOME RISKS OF POOR ATTENDANCE

- Pupils are likely to miss learning activities that their classmates have taken part in, which could mean they fall behind.
- They miss out on social interaction with friends/ classmates - this can have a negative effect on the wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Low attendance is associated with anti-social behaviour and poor learning behaviours

THE LAW AND YOU

The Law states (Education Act 1996, Section 7) that all children of compulsory school age must receive an appropriate full-time education. As a parent/carer, you are legally responsible for making sure your child receives an effective education. Failure to ensure your child attends school regularly could lead to intervention from the Missing Education & Child Employment Service which has the power to implement:

Fixed Penalty Notices • Prosecutions • An Education Supervision Order

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

It is not a parental right to take their child on holiday during term time.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances and you have completed a holiday request form in advance.

If you choose to take your child out of school for an unauthorised holiday you could receive a penalty notice of £80, per parent, per child.

CAN I GET SUPPORT?

Absolutely! We appreciate the unavoidable events that affect our pupils and their families.

We believe that the most effective way to ensure your child remains on track is to work together to maximise support in their/your time of need.

Our caring and dedicated staff are committed to making sure your child is happy and getting the best out of their time at school. Talk to us.

ACCOMPLISH
ATTENDANCE
ACTION

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