

Accomplishing great things at JCA



A brilliant first half term!

What a fantastic first half term we have had! I have been so impressed with the work that children have produced and their fantastic attitudes to learning!

I have also been really pleased with the whole school attendance since September – we will strive to keep this up!

This week has been fantastic with school trips, the Harvest Assembly and PTA Disco.

Enjoy reading through our newsletter and finding out more about the learning in school from the last 2 weeks!

Thank you for all of your support this half term – have a lovely half term break!



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%	98.20%
YEAR 1	96.30%	97.80%
YEAR 2	95.30%	98.10%
YEAR 3	91.00%	96.00%
YEAR 4	94.00%	96.90%
YEAR 5	90.30%	96.60%
YEAR 6	94.80%	97.90%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
97.30%	ACTUAL

97% +
AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET

BELOW 95%
CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS

90% & BELOW
PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

RECEPTION

Reception have had a fantastic finish to their first half term at Jerry Clay. It has been incredible to watch them grow in confidence in their routines, both in the day and individual lessons.

Learning journey

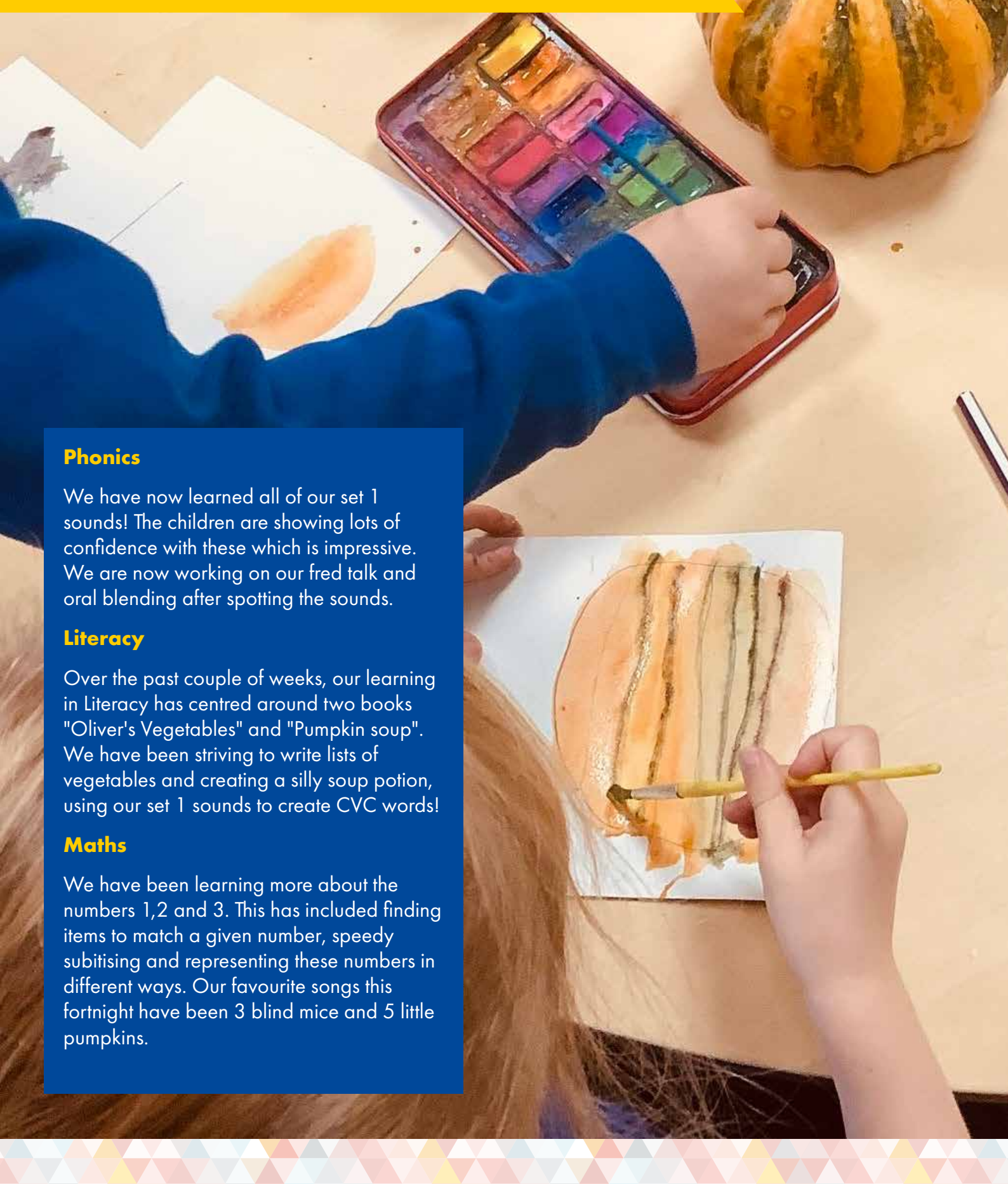
Last week, we had a wonderful visit from Miss Mercer, who talked to us all about her allotment and how she grows vegetables. The children were so inquisitive and asked lots of interesting questions!

Following this, we set up a mini allotment outside where we dug up potatoes and carrots, like Oliver in our story.

We also enjoyed using our observation skills to draw and paint pumpkins and gourds. This week we have been threading pumpkins, exploring inside pumpkins, as well as creating potions and soups by mixing in our many cauldrons!



RECEPTION



Phonics

We have now learned all of our set 1 sounds! The children are showing lots of confidence with these which is impressive. We are now working on our fred talk and oral blending after spotting the sounds.

Literacy

Over the past couple of weeks, our learning in Literacy has centred around two books "Oliver's Vegetables" and "Pumpkin soup". We have been striving to write lists of vegetables and creating a silly soup potion, using our set 1 sounds to create CVC words!

Maths

We have been learning more about the numbers 1,2 and 3. This has included finding items to match a given number, speedy subitising and representing these numbers in different ways. Our favourite songs this fortnight have been 3 blind mice and 5 little pumpkins.



YEAR 1



We started the week with a captivating visit to **Pontefract castle!** We all transformed into baby dragons within a fascinating narrative told by the storyteller, following Ilbert the dragon around the castle ruins. We explored different artefacts that would have been used in the castle and toured deep down into the dungeon! This visit has sparked lots of new discussions about the different job roles in the castle and historical figures.

In **English**, we have been inspired by our castle visit and our current core text to plan our own stories. We have decided on our main character, setting, problem and resolution and after half term, we will be writing this ready to share with you.

Our **Geography** learning has been focused around the United Kingdom; we have learned the countries and capital cities of the UK through a catchy song. We hope you enjoyed our performance at Wednesday library last week.

In **Maths**, we have been creating giant number lines and consolidating our knowledge to culminate our unit on 'place value'. This week, the children have created a spectacular maths counting book show casing their understanding of numbers 1-10.

In **computing**, we are learning to understand what algorithms are. The children are learning to develop and record sequences of instructions to program a robot.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

A great end to the half term with Year 2! We have made so much progress in 8 weeks and we cannot wait to continue and deepen our learning on coal mining after the holiday.

In **Maths**, we have continued our unit on addition and subtraction. We have been using a range of concrete resources to support our learning on related facts as well as adding and subtracting tens. We have also looked at the importance of using number lines to check calculations.

In **English**, we have been working really hard to edit our hot writes in purple pen using whole class feedback. We have then used our edited hot writes to publish our final pieces on 'Town is by the Sea.' We have persevered with our presentation and cannot wait to see these on display.

In **Science**, we have been exploring Microhabitats around our school. We are able to define a microhabitat and explain what features each microhabitat has. We then strived to compare two different microhabitats.

In **Geography**, the children have started to create detailed maps of the National Coal Mining Museum. They used the museum's interactive map to help us see what they would need to include on ours and even how they could improve it. They included a key to show what different symbols represented.



KEY DATES

Coal Mining Museum trip
Thursday 8th January

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



Year 3 have been showing so much enthusiasm for our Stone Age topic in **history** this week. It has been exciting to hear about facts children have learnt outside of school as well. Year 3 have shown determination when answering problem solving and reasoning questions involving addition and subtraction. I have been really impressed with hard work and resilience the children are showing!

In **Art**, we have made an amazing start to our 3D fossils. We used art straws and masking tape to create the spiral 3D effect. We then choose to use cool or warm tones for the segments within the fossil. We collaged each segment moving from darker to lighter colours. This week, we will finish the background and add highlights and shadows.

In **English**, we have published biographies on Mary Anning. We created a double page spread and were excited to show off our beautiful presentation. Year 3 have shown so much enthusiasm with their final pieces and have really enjoyed sharing the facts they have learnt.



During **maths** lessons, we have shown a strong understanding of column addition and subtraction. We have been deepening our understanding by creating our own maths stories, empty box problems and error spotter questions.

KEY DATES

Trip to Barnsley Museum
Tuesday 2nd December

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

What a half-term we have had in year 4. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to get to know these wonderful children. We have focused all our efforts towards our team work and demonstrating the Jerry Clay learner traits.

In **maths**, we have started our addition and subtraction unit. We have been striving with our exchanging and carrying to support our recall of key number facts. We have also used our knowledge of shape to calculate perimeter with Mrs Longley, something we know is valuable in real world maths!

In **English**, we have published our re-telling of Theseus and the Minotaur and displayed these in our classroom. We think you will agree that they are examples of beautiful work and they showcase the pride and time we put in to our stories.

In **PSHE**, we have started including a 'Caring Classmate' activity where every week we select a member of the class and everyone shares why they are a valued member of our class.

In **music**, we have been learning about the band ABBA and their most famous pieces of music. We have played the melody to 'Mamma Mia!' using glockenspiels and some children have been practicing this during their music lessons.



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 had a fantastic half term exploring their topic **"The Great Divide,"** delving into the fascinating history of World War II. They've shown great curiosity and empathy while learning about life during the war, making thoughtful connections through their reading, writing, and creative projects.

In **maths**, Year 5 have begun their multiplication and division unit, exploring common multiples and factors with great enthusiasm. They've also investigated prime, square, and cubed numbers, and will soon be applying their growing knowledge to tackle more challenging reasoning questions.

In **English**, Year 5 have been busy writing powerful poems inspired by World War II. They have skillfully used imagery, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and emotive language to bring their ideas to life and evoke strong feelings in the reader. The children have shown great creativity and sensitivity in capturing the emotions and experiences of the time through their poetry.



This week, Year 5 had a fantastic day out at **Eden Camp**, where their behaviour was exemplary throughout the trip. The children showed incredible enthusiasm and curiosity as they explored the exhibits and deepened their understanding of World War II. They demonstrated a real thirst for learning, asking thoughtful questions and engaging brilliantly with every activity.

Year 5 have been busy in **Art**, evaluating their clay tile creations and thinking about how their key artist, Henry Moore, inspired their designs. They reflected on their colour choices, explained the reasons behind them, and discussed how they could make their work even better next time. 56+-

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



Year 6 have had a brilliant end to the half term. They have shown so much progress in their learning and maturity and we are as proud of their efforts as they have stepped up into their role as a Junior Leader.

In **English**, we have just finished our adventure stories about finding treasure in an ancient Egyptian tomb. They have blown me away with their amazing vocabulary, use of speech and imaginative language.

In **Maths**, we have developed our arithmetic skills this week. We have worked in groups this week to work through questions and support each other to find strategies to calculate the answers.

In **Art**, the children have completed their final pieces focused on the art style of expressionism. They were inspired by Edvard Munch and his art 'The Scream' to create their own landscape and figure. The children chose their own media and focused on the swirling style.

The children have also love **Bikeability** this week. They have worked hard to complete level one on the playground and then ventured onto the roads to complete their next level. We are so proud of their determination as some had never ridden a bike before!

KEY DATES

Trip to Leeds Museum
11th November

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 3h
Thank you all so much for your generosity in donations for the Harvest Festival assembly this morning! #JCACommunity



51

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 19h
We have really enjoyed our singing assemblies this half-term. We shared our favourite songs today including "Mountain" by Sam Ryder. @SamRyderMusic 🎵🌟
Thank you @rachel_modest, we can't wait for next term! I wonder what we will sing next...
Clue: 🎄🇪🇸



2 16 670

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 21h
A great Maths lesson in Year 2 using place value counters to add and subtract tens @JCANumeracy @WhiteRoseEd



1 3 202

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Oct 20
What a wonderful day at Pontefract castle exploring the ruins, dungeon and learning about Ilbert the dragon through captivating story telling @HistoryJca



1 16 458

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Oct 21
Year 6 made a great start to @BikeabilityUK. They completed their level 1 on the playground and made us so proud with their perseverance and determination. Onto the road today!



7 208

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

