

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Making the most of the last half term!

It has been a great start back after half term – it has been lovely to see the children so refreshed after such lovely half-term weather!

This week, we have been busy preparing for our Creative Arts Gallery which we can't wait to share with you next Wednesday from 5:30pm. We also can't wait for the first ever Accomplish Games which takes place next Thursday – please look out for updates on X about this!

The Summer 2 half term is always a term to reflect and celebrate achievements throughout the year – the newsletter will give a glimpse of how this has started and we are so excited to share more over the coming weeks!



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 | 98.20% | 96.20% |
| YEAR 1 | 99.30% | 96.80% |
| YEAR 2 | 94.80% | 97.30% |
| YEAR 3 | 96.70% | 96.30% |
| YEAR 4 | 95.90% | 96.10% |
| YEAR 5 | 95.70% | 95.20% |
| YEAR 6 | 94.10% | 96.40% |

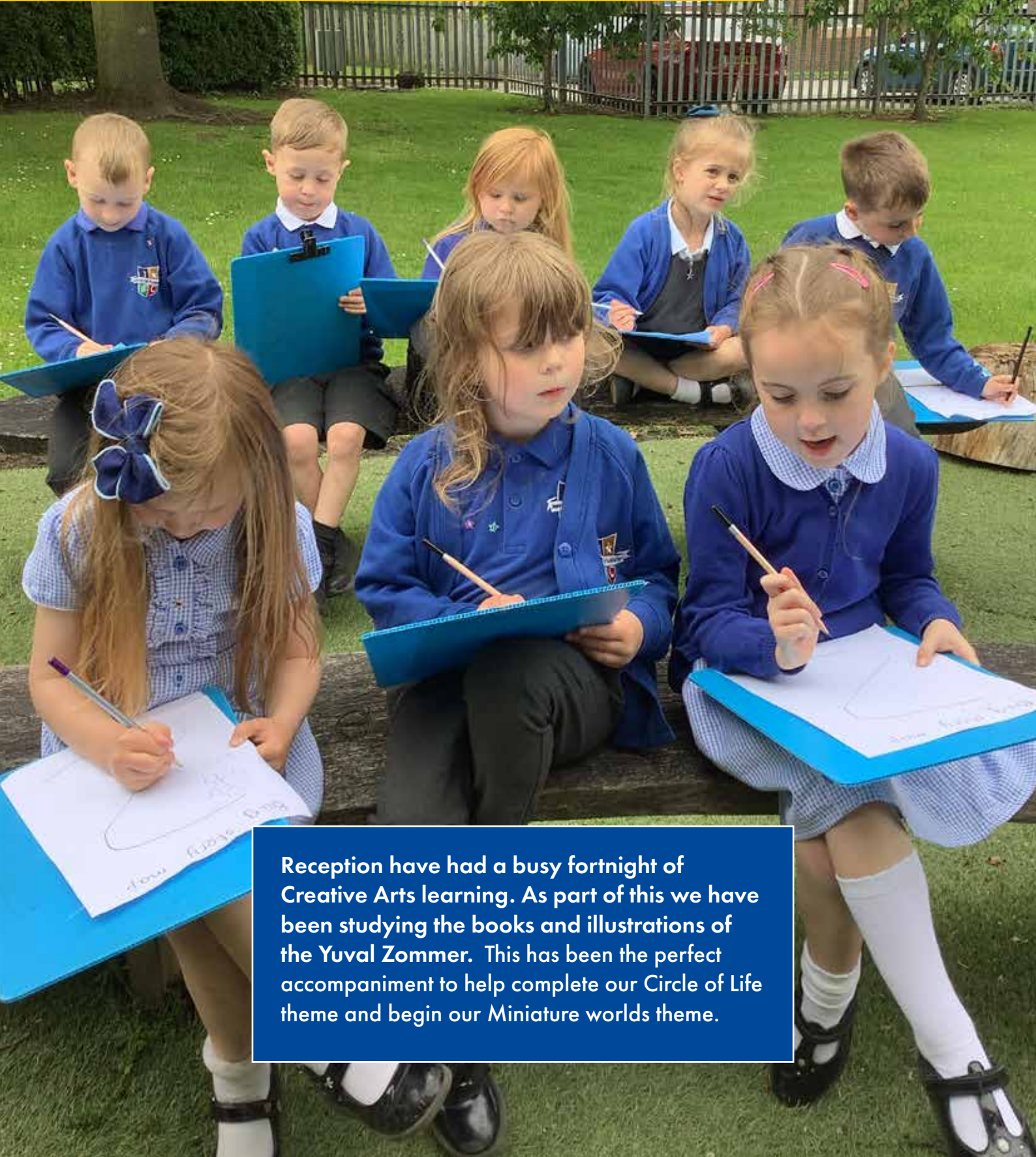
| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 97.40% | WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET |
| 96.30% | ACTUAL |

| |
|---|
| 97% + AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET |
| BELOW 95% CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS |
| 90% & BELOW PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN |



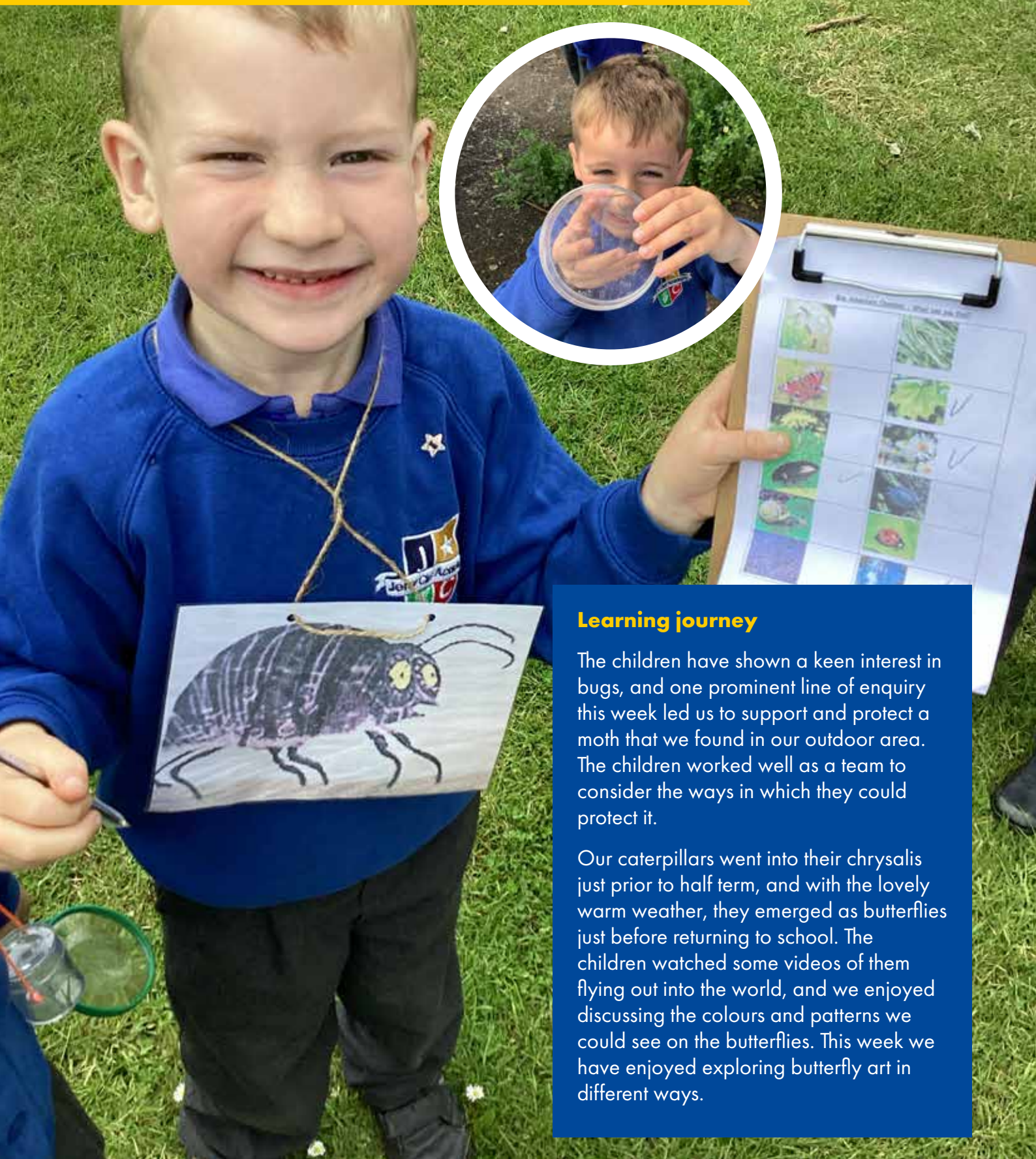
Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



Reception have had a busy fortnight of Creative Arts learning. As part of this we have been studying the books and illustrations of the Yuval Zommer. This has been the perfect accompaniment to help complete our Circle of Life theme and begin our Miniature worlds theme.

RECEPTION



Learning journey

The children have shown a keen interest in bugs, and one prominent line of enquiry this week led us to support and protect a moth that we found in our outdoor area. The children worked well as a team to consider the ways in which they could protect it.

Our caterpillars went into their chrysalis just prior to half term, and with the lovely warm weather, they emerged as butterflies just before returning to school. The children watched some videos of them flying out into the world, and we enjoyed discussing the colours and patterns we could see on the butterflies. This week we have enjoyed exploring butterfly art in different ways.

RECEPTION

Maths

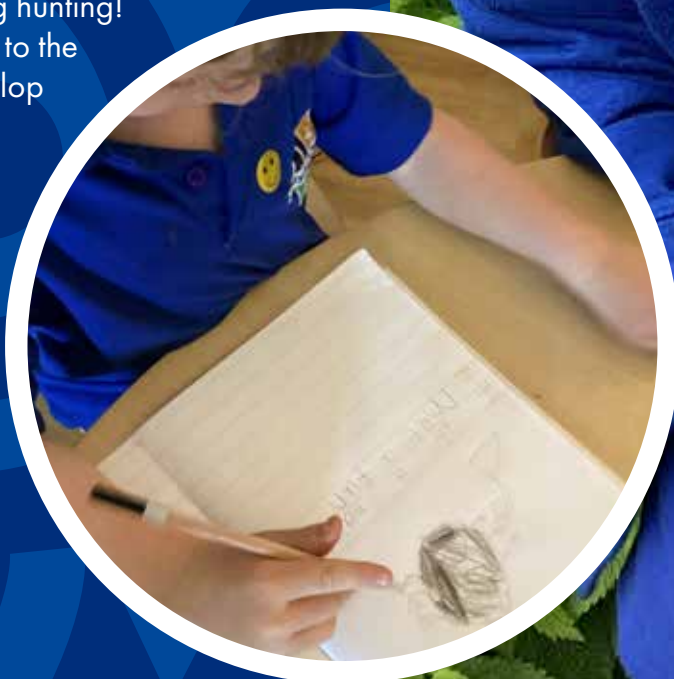
In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of adding and taking away. We have been creating number stories and counting on our fingers in order to add on to a number. We have introduced the concept of a number sentence using the symbols $+$ and $=$.

Literacy

The children have been working hard in handwriting to write beautiful letters, and the corresponding capital letters too. In our writing, we have been enjoying writing a bug story as part of our Creative Arts theme. Firstly, we voted for the main character, with the majority choosing a beetle for our main character.

Then we explored what might happen to our beetle, through dance, music and investigation – bug hunting!

After this, we went to the story chair to develop our story together orally, before creating beautiful story maps which we will share with the community at our art gallery.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

Year 1 have become authors and illustrators for **Creative Arts Week** exploring the theme 'The art of reading'. We enjoyed studying the work of the illustrator Sandra Dieckmann, using these ideas and techniques to create mood boards. This week, we have designed and created a giant book cover using mixed media such as drawing, collage and printing with natural objects in the same style.

In **English**, we worked as a whole class to write a story using our trip to the wildlife park and a leaf as inspiration. The children enjoyed using drama and movement to capture the essence of our narrative and then created story maps to re tell it. This week, the children have published their version of the story and created a front cover!

We are all flying with our **phonics** learning at the moment! We are striving with our word challenges and have been using our reading routine of "Special friends, fred talk, read the word" to effectively decode.

In **Maths**, we have consolidated our understanding of counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and started to learn about equal groups and arrays, linked to multiplication. We used objects such as shoes to count in pairs and played a game 'high 10 and low 10'.



KEY DATES

Phonics screening check – 8-12th June.

Outdoor learning afternoon – Tuesday 9th June.

Creative Arts gallery – Wednesday 10th June.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2



Wow! What an incredible start to the final Summer term! Year 2 have had an amazing week brimming with exciting learning and the children have been striving higher than ever!

In **Maths**, we have started our new unit of time! We have developed our understanding of the different hands on the clock to be able to read and draw the time at o'clock and half past. Our knowledge of fractions have also helped us with quarter past and quarter to.

In **English**, we have created our own stories linked to 'Grandad's Camper' for the Creative Arts Gallery. In our campervan stories, we have visited the rainforest, beach and the countryside. These are now being published and we cannot wait to share our writing with you!

Before the half term, we had an incredibly busy **Creative Arts Week!** We have explored the illustrator Harry Woodgate and created our own moodboards to reflect his style.

We also practiced creating textures with different media to see how effective this could be in our own work. Finally, we planned our illustrations to match our campervan story and have used Harry Woodgate's style to add colour.

KEY DATES

**Visit to Emergency Services Museum
Friday 12th June**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3

Year 3 have absolutely loved **Creative Arts Week!** We focused on the illustrator Namasri Niumim and were inspired by the incredible artwork in *The Secret World of Spider Webs*. The children explored colour, texture and detail, sparking their imaginations and helping them think like real artists.

In **English**, Year 3 wrote imaginative stories about a small but mighty spider called Webitha Moonweave, who spins secret messages into her silk webs. The stories were full of creative ideas, especially about the unusual dreams children have thanks to Webitha's magical messages. The children also designed beautiful watercolour front covers using either warm or cool colour palettes.

As part of our learning, the children researched different types of spider webs and drew designs in their sketchbooks, including cobwebs, lace webs and orb webs. This helped them understand patterns and structures found in nature.

In **DT**, our focus was on creating spider web dream catchers. The children showed fantastic teamwork skills, supporting one another as they carefully wove intricate patterns. It has been a wonderful week full of creativity, collaboration and imagination.



KEY DATES

The Great Yorkshire Show
Tuesday 14th July

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

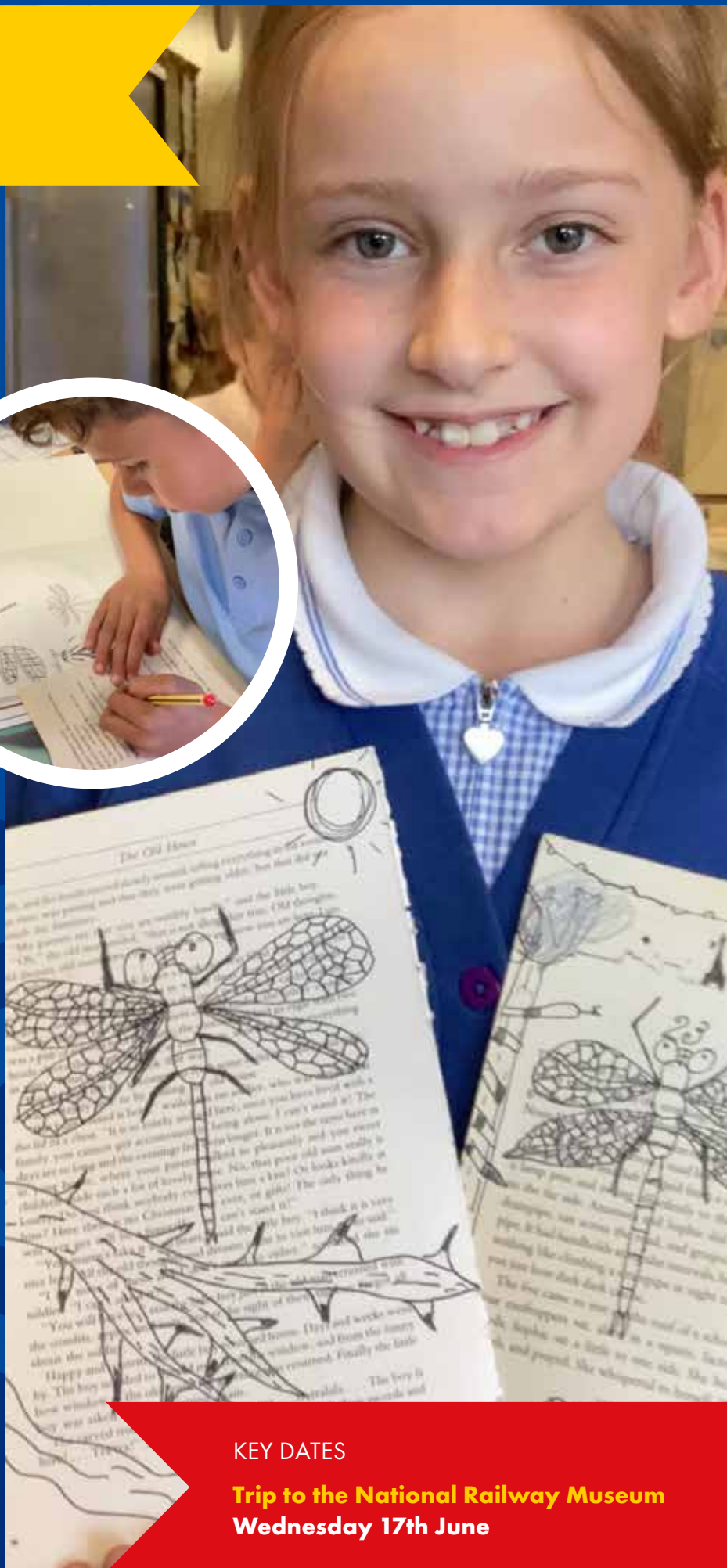
Year 4 have had a very productive return to summer and have been striving to improve their times table scores ahead of our multiplication timestable check next week.

We have started our new **writing** lessons and have been retrieving key knowledge about George Stephenson and the invention of the steam engine.

We have been impressed by the tenacity Year 4 demonstrated during our sports day rehearsals. They were striving to work as a team during the relay race and supporting one another wonderfully during the sprints. This has paved the way for them to experience success on sports day.

In **maths**, we have been consolidating our decimal learning by rounding decimals and converting them to fractions.

To prepare for our **creative arts gallery**, we have polished our final pieces including the front cover to our very own class story. We can't wait to welcome you all in to school to see our work and I'm sure you will share the sense of pride we all have for what the children have produced. It's a very busy final term for us but we are making memories as we go. Well done Year 4!



KEY DATES

**Trip to the National Railway Museum
Wednesday 17th June**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

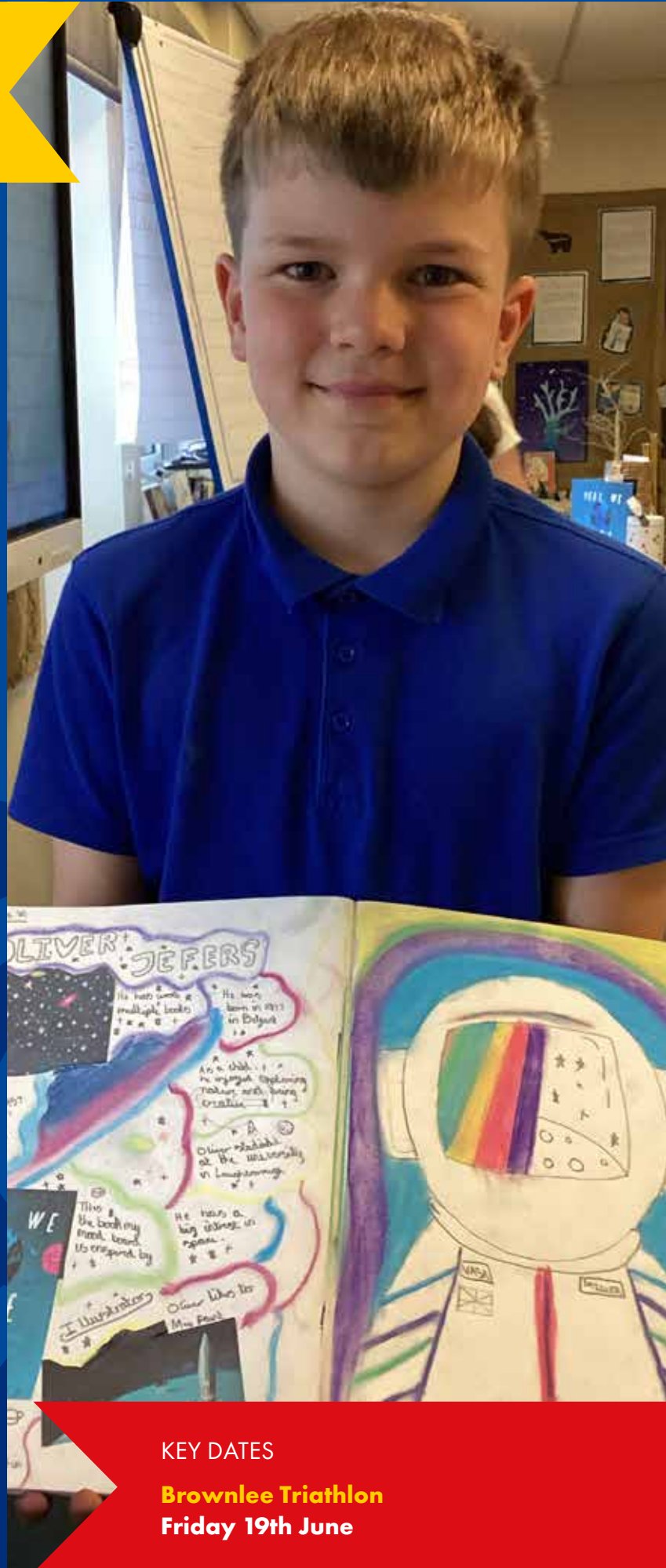
Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the new half term and have quickly settled back into school life. We have finalised our work for **Creative Arts Week** while continuing our exciting space-themed learning across the curriculum.

In **Maths**, we have begun our new topic on position and direction. The children have demonstrated a fantastic understanding of coordinates, confidently identifying and plotting points as well as finding missing coordinates. They have approached challenges with enthusiasm and have shown excellent problem-solving skills.

In **English**, we have been creating imaginative pieces of writing inspired by Creative Arts Week. The children have written fictional stories based on the real events of the Space Race and the Moon Landings. They have worked hard to make their writing engaging by carefully selecting descriptive language, including similes and metaphors, to bring their ideas to life and capture the excitement of space exploration.

Creative Arts Week has provided many opportunities for the children to showcase their creativity. Year 5 have designed and drawn their own astronauts using chalk and oil pastels, producing some truly impressive artwork. They have also created abstract pieces inspired by the solar system, experimenting with colour, texture and different artistic techniques.

We are incredibly proud of all the hard work and creativity shown by Year 5 and cannot wait to share their wonderful creations with you at the upcoming art gallery.



KEY DATES

Brownlee Triathlon
Friday 19th June

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



What an amazing start to the term we have had. The children have started our final half term with a mature and eager attitude.

In **Maths**, we have started our maths projects where we are looking at booking a holiday tour. The children must analyse graphs to see which countries have the best climate as well as budget money to figure out which is the best value for money. They must work in teams to then calculate their own holiday and see which the best holiday is to go on.

In **English**, we have written our own story based on an image of birds in a lake by Simon James.



They then wrote a story based on a bird losing its flock and having to find its own way in the world. The children worked hard to ensure the story was detailed and included lots of Year 6 vocabulary.

For **Creative Arts Week**, the theme of birds has been the focus in Year 6. They have created their own 3D birds and have done lots of sketching and shading to create feathers. They have also taken the theme of flying the nest relating to their transition to high school and have created a lovely backdrop linked to this idea. We are so excited to share this with you at the Creative Arts Gallery.

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Jun 1

Year 3 have started their 'angles' topic in maths. They followed instructions to show quarter, half, three-quarter and full turns. They showed super teamwork when finding the correct end point, turning both clockwise and anti-clockwise. @jcanumeracy



10 269

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Jun 1

Year 4 have been reading four figure grid references to identify the trees on our grounds. We also studied the branches and twigs closely to establish the type of woodland we have. #Geography




10 299

You reposted

JCAEYFS @jcaeyfs · 8h

Getting ready to showcase the beautiful artwork created by our Reception children at our Community Art Gallery! 🎨👏 We can't wait to share their creativity and talent with our community. #YoungArtists #EarlyYears #CommunityArtGallery



10 227

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 14h

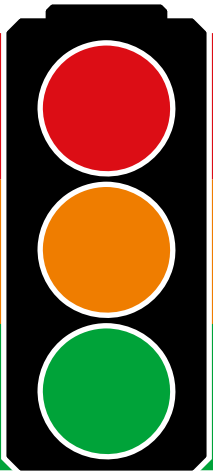
A huge well done to our Y3/Y4 cricket team who competed in the Wakefield Cricket Finals today! What a fantastic opportunity to reach this stage 🏏



10 227

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 5th June 2026 |
| | Friday 26th June Reserve Sports Day |
| Summer Fair | Saturday 4th July, 11 am-3pm. |



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.



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

