

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Striving high to achieve the best!

You will find out another great two weeks for each class within our newsletter today! It has been lovely to see children really immersed within the themes they are learning about throughout the last 2 weeks!

It was also fantastic to take our Year 4 and 5 children to Silcoates last week where both classes enjoyed a sports taster session! This is something that we look forward to continuing in the future!

Finally, I have been incredibly proud of the Year 6 children who have begun their journey as a Junior Leadership Team this year. I have been so impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment to their roles already – it is going to be a great year!



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 | 99.35% | 97.70% |
| YEAR 1 | 99.00% | 98.51% |
| YEAR 2 | 97.33% | 98.25% |
| YEAR 3 | 97.33% | 97.11% |
| YEAR 4 | 99.33% | 98.33% |
| YEAR 5 | 100.00% | 98.77% |
| YEAR 6 | 95.26% | 98.19% |

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 97.40% | WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET |
| 98.33% | 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 has been a busy hive of activity, both inside and out. We are so proud of the children's growing confidence to explore the different areas and the way they are becoming Jerry Clay Learners!

Last week we enjoyed the story of **Elmer**. We used this text to help us discuss our similarities and differences, and think about ourselves and our families. We enjoyed exploring key vocabulary from the text as well as applying this across of different provision areas; this week we are retelling this story in our small world area and reading it with friends!

Last Wednesday, we also had our very first **yoga** lesson in the hall! We were able to sit on the mats to focus on the teacher, as well as follow lots of different yoga moves such as the palm tree, the cobra and frog poses! We also finished the session with some meditation time and said Namaste.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



Our real-life **piano** is a focal part of our classroom and we are now started to follow the coloured dots to help us play simple tunes! As a class, we love singing and it is wonderful to hear the confidence in so many of the children as we practise together, some of us recognising songs from nursery as well as learning new songs such as "Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?" to help learn everyone's names!

This week we have read "**The Proudest Blue**" which has encouraged us to think carefully about the world around us, consider similarities and differences further, as well as think about people and things that are special to us. In the story, one of the characters has a blue hijab which is so special to her. Blue has been our colour of the week and we have been very creative, making blue sparkly crowns and bracelets that are

special items for us to wear too. Our challenge in the artist studio has been to mix different blues and think about special blue places to paint such as the sea or the sky.

We got changed into our **PE kits** for our lesson this week, for the first time! We all discovered our colour teams and we explored this in our lesson by playing some team games and getting to know each other!

To develop our fine motor skills, we are enjoying weaving with different threads and beads, and this week we've created a class hijab scarf through the trellis. We have spent time exploring the play dough and manipulating it in different ways as well as using loose parts to create the different letter sounds we have learned.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

Literacy

The children are now in full swing of their Read Write Inc. Phonics sessions and starting to establish the key routines involved. So far, we have taught all the pictures and the sounds 'm,a,s,d,t,p,i,n, g, o '. Please use the green pocket book of sounds in your child's book bag to review these sounds at home. We will continue to teach children to read and write one sound per day alongside additional 'Fred Talk' games. We love to watch Elly and Fred, who are helping us to blend – please watch the parentmail videos that are sent home to reinforce this!

Throughout the week, we have also been concentrating on recognising and writing our name. This is part of our daily routines, when registering and when moving our names up our striving chart.

Maths

We are learning about matching and sorting, as well as comparing. To support with this, we have been playing games such as snap and dominoes, and we have been working on our tidy classroom environment, matching things to their spot when we tidy them up! We have also been building tall towers and comparing them with friends, thinking about how many cubes we have used and using comparative language of "taller, shorter, longer"

Outdoor learning

The children have adored spending time in the outside areas, and we have been incredibly lucky with the weather this week! We have been building and traversing obstacle courses to develop our balance and lower body strength, counting our steps and challenging our agility!

The sand pit is a very popular area and the addition of blue food colouring has added to the appeal of the water area, where we have been exploring movement of water and transferring between containers.

Tapestry

Thank you for activating your relative tapestry accounts. Observations of your child will be completed throughout the year and uploaded accordingly. Please do add observations to the journal for your child's 'wow' moments at home – these are always lovely to see!

Reminders

Please do ensure your child comes to school every day with a coat as your child will be outside whatever the weather, as well as a named water bottle and a book bag. Please also ensure all other items of clothing are named including shoes so they are easily identified. Ensure that only water is in the children's bottles. The children have milk and morning snack (fruit) during the school day; if you would like to provide a separate fruit snack for your child for their morning snack, you are very welcome to.

If you have any queries or concerns, then please let me know and we can discuss it at a convenient time.

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter [@JCAWakefield](#) and [@JCAEYFS](#). We regularly update our twitter feed with photos of children throughout the week.

We hope you have a lovely relaxing weekend!

Miss Harling and the Reception team

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

We have had a busy yet wonderful couple of weeks in Year 1 embedding key routines and delving into our curriculum subjects. We have introduced our Year 1 castle small world and have started to learn about the features that help defend a castle from an enemy attack during our History lessons. The children have enjoyed developing narratives in the castle during provision time and exploring the different features through drawing.

In **English**, we have created our own dragons and orally described them using adjectives following the hatching of 'Electric' from our sparkly glittering egg. We have even included some striving vocabulary from our core text 'Tell Me A Dragon'. The children have been planning to write their own dragon descriptions using adjectives and similes.

In **Maths**, we have been learning to count forwards and backwards to 10 and write numbers in digits and words. The children have been enjoying using ten frames and number tracks to find and show one more and one less. Yesterday, the children developed captivating 'first, now and next' stories to demonstrate their knowledge of one less.

In **PSHE**, we have been developing our understanding of different emotions. This week we have considered jealousy and different scenarios and experiences we have personally had.

During **Geography** we are learning about where we live. We have started this unit by learning about the countries in the United Kingdom. In Science, we are investigating the properties of materials.



KEY DATES

Pontefract castle trip
20th October

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2



Year 2 have continued to settle into new routines and expectations – we are working hard to become independent, striving learners!

In **Maths**, we have extended our learning on place value and applied our knowledge of tens and ones when labelling number lines and challenged ourselves to even estimate on a number line.

For **English**, the children have been using their story maps of 'Town is by the Sea' to retell the narrative. So far, we they have drafted their build up and climax and have focused on using exciting vocabulary and sentence openers to add interest for our reader.

In **Art**, we have explored our artist 'Valerie Ganz' and her use of colours and curved brush strokes. We started our mood boards using soft and oil pastels to represent her style.

In **Computing**, we have continued to explore Scratch Jnr adding multiple sprites to our animation and looking at the effect of different outputs. We discovered the outputs of text and sounds to make our rocket launch more realistic.

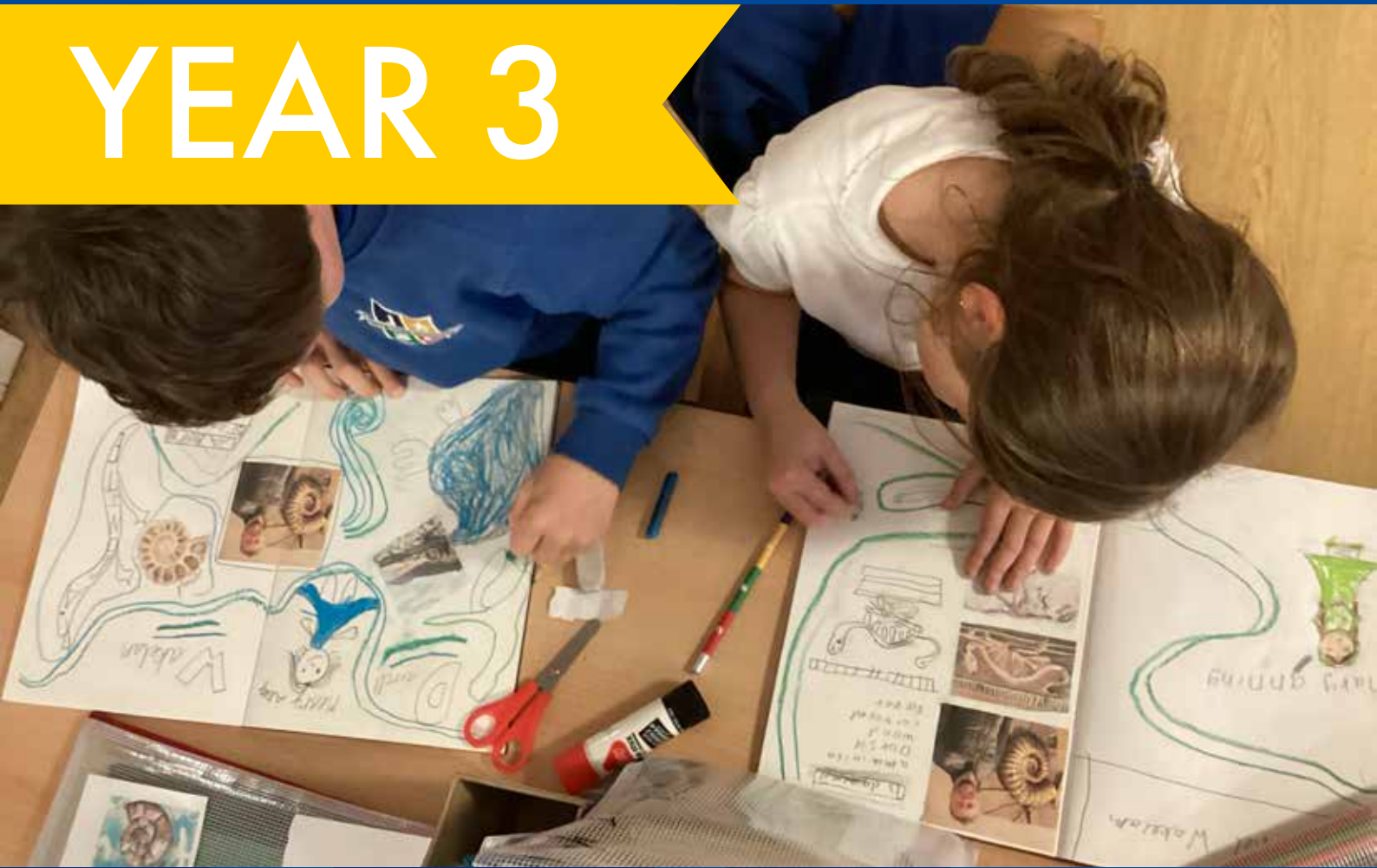


KEY DATES

Coal Mining Museum trip
24th October

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3

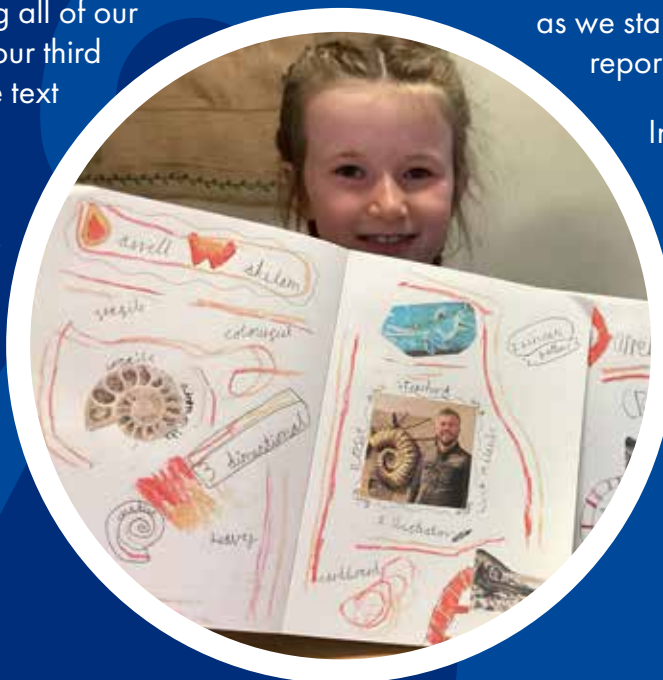


The weeks are flying by in Year 3 and the children are demonstrating a fantastic level of drive, enthusiasm and inquisitiveness with our current topic of 'The Lost World.'

In **English**, we have been compiling all of our learning and writing skills to create our third person narratives based on our core text 'Fossil' by Bill Thomson. We have taken such a care and pride when publishing our work and we cannot wait to see this on display in the coming weeks.

In **Maths**, we have shown a fantastic understanding of place value when working with 3-digit numbers in a range of contexts. We are excited to be moving on to addition and subtraction where we have already been showcasing our mental arithmetic skills as well as written methods.

As part of our **History** and **Science** learning on fossils, we have been learning about Mary Anning and the incredible fossils she discovered on the cliffs in Dorset! We are excited to find out more about her in English next week as we start our chronological report writing.



In **Art**, we created mood boards based on our key artist/sculptor Darrell Wakelam. The mood boards included key facts, colours, textures and sketches of different fossils.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

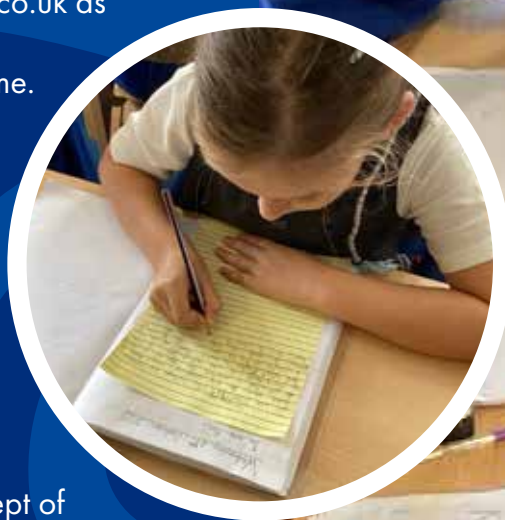
We have been very impressed with the grit and determination year 4 have demonstrated in the last few weeks. We have worked hard to be a team in all areas of learning. We have celebrated our wins with the best attendance, star class and a lot of nominations from the JLT team during special mentions last week. We know the importance of being role models to the children across school.

In **maths**, we have continued our place value unit with reasoning questions and using the base 10 to understand the thousands digits. We have also partitioned numbers flexibly and reached the platinum challenge nearly every lesson. We are testing ourselves weekly in preparation for the multiplication times tables check. We are using timestables.co.uk as our main practice site and would encourage this to continue at home.

In **English**, we have started a new unit on myths and legends. We have considered the journey of Theseus and will use our knowledge of Ancient Greece to generate our own myths and legends.

We have continued our **history** learning and discussed the concept of democracy. We know that the idea of a democracy began in Ancient Greece and has changed over time. We learnt that only Greek men could take part in voting and decision making, we found this very unfair!

Year 4 have demonstrated so many of our learner traits already and we are incredibly proud of the resilience, curiosity and kindness they continue to show-what a brilliant start to the year!



KEY DATES

Year 4 Reading Group
Meet every Thursday

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 has had an incredible term, making fantastic progress! Their enthusiasm for learning has been especially evident in their study of World War 2. The children have been working diligently, diving deep into the historical events, and truly demonstrating a sharp understanding and keen interest in the subject. We are so proud of their hard work!

In **Maths**, we have been developing our understanding of place value. By understanding how numbers are composed, we've been able to confidently partition larger numbers. We are now focusing on rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. Year 5 has embraced this challenge with enthusiasm, demonstrating a growing understanding of this essential mathematical skill. Our outdoor learning activities have provided a fun and engaging way to reinforce these concepts.

In **English**, we are studying the features of a Newspaper Report. We are learning how to include direct and reported speech into our writing to enhance our reports.

Year 5 have been shining in **Art**. They have sketched fantastic lighthouses and applied different shading techniques. Then, we designed and created a tile of a lighthouse using clay. We used the skills of moulding, rolling and carving.

We had the opportunity to take part in a **hockey and rugby taster session at Silcoates School**. The children had a brilliant afternoon and are keen to dive further into these sports.



KEY DATES

Eden Camp

Wednesday 22nd October

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



We have had a fantastic couple of weeks in Year 6! The children are really stepping up and showing us how mature they can be and excelling in their new Junior Leadership roles.

In **Maths**, we are recapping and adding to our knowledge of the four operations. This has been a challenge to some but have exceeded expectations with their determination and resilience to answer every question. This has also been boosted by our intervention using the program Springboard which has been so successful in boosting the confidence in the children.

In **English**, we have worked hard to publish our instructions on How to Mummify an Egyptian body. The children worked hard to include descriptive vocabulary, subordinating conjunctions and parenthesis to ensure they had as much detail as possible.

In **Science**, the children explored the components of blood. They used different items such as red food colouring marshmallows, herbs, rice and cheerios



to represent the red blood cells, white blood cells and the platelets. They enjoyed creating their blood and explaining the role of each component.

In **Computing** we have started our unit of 'We are Toy Makers', it has been brilliant to see the children using micro bits to create a step counter. We will eventually use these to make our own toy.

KEY DATES

Outdoor Learning Morning
7th October

Trip to Leeds Museum
11th November

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 15h
Artists at work! Blue is the colour in Reception this week, as we explore our focus text: The Proudest Blue.

"The girl is wearing a blue hijab on her head" ❤️ @JCA_Reading @JCA_Art
#understandingtheworld #diversity



1 10 258

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 19
This week, Year 4 and 5 had the opportunity to take part in a hockey and rugby taster session at @silcoatesschool. They had a fantastic time and were beaming from start to finish.



11 316

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 20h
Fantastic double page spreads produced by Year 6 all about Egyptian Gods and Goddesses. They researched different gods and why they were important to the Egyptians. @HistoryJca #goldenthreads #doublepagespread #religion



1 1 6 263

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 19
Year 3 had so much much fun in our ukulele lesson this week. They practised A minor and C, picking up the new chords with ease! @WakefieldMusHub @music_jca #roar 🎸



1 13 373

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 19
In Year 6 we have started 'First Chapter Fridays'. This week we explored the first chapter of 'The Ice Children' and we discussed the story so far, the characters and we predicted what would happen next. We then voted whether to include this in our reading area 📖



2 15 512

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

