

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Celebrating so many Accomplishments

It has been an incredible couple of weeks at Jerry Clay Academy! Last week was our Creative Arts Gallery which was absolutely brilliant; the standard of work that our children produced was something to be incredibly proud of! Equally, it was fantastic to welcome so many of you into JCA on the evening – thank you all for attending!

We also celebrated a triumph in the inaugural Accomplish Games last Thursday! How special the day was is simply impossible to put into words, however, I was so proud of the learner traits and talent on-show from all children who attended! There were so many team and individual accomplishments throughout the day!

This week has also been Year 6's Residential to Grinton Lodge in North Yorkshire. It was a pleasure to see the Year 6 children achieve so much on the trip – so much resilience throughout the week!

Enjoy our newsletter this week, looking at the accomplishments of each class!



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	95.70%	96.10%
YEAR 1	99.60%	96.90%
YEAR 2	96.30%	97.40%
YEAR 3	97.00%	96.30%
YEAR 4	97.80%	96.20%
YEAR 5	98.60%	95.30%
YEAR 6	100%	96.60%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
96.40%	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 continued to explore their theme of Miniature Worlds! We are so engrossed in the world around us, especially in our outdoor garden. We have been making careful observations of minibeasts and creating beautiful bug habitats using our recycled materials.

RECEPTION



Learning journey

We have read the stories of "Spinderella" and "Norman the slug with the silly shell". These have supported us to further develop our maths skills. Linking to these stories, we have explored the composition of 10, making numbers the same or equal, and counting to 20, as well as patterns and spiral shapes.

Our line of enquiry of protecting bugs has developed: we now have a bug hospital and x-ray centre as part of our role play! The children have really demonstrated their caring, respectful natures, thinking about how to help and support toy bugs. Outside, we have continued this learning but mixing bug potions and medicines in our minibeast mud kitchen.

RECEPTION

Maths

In Maths, we have been exploring 2D shapes, including combining 2D shapes to make patterns and pictures, we have combined 2D shapes to make bugs. As well as this, we have used sticks outside to showcase the different shapes we know.

Literacy

The children have been working hard in handwriting to write beautiful letters, and the corresponding capital letters too. We have enjoyed writing on spider webs and snail shells, and some of us have been writing our own stories, following on from our Creative arts week Beetle boogie story!



KEY DATES

**Walk to St Anne's church in Wrenthorpe
25th June (morning visit)**

ACCOMPLISH GAMES

We were absolutely blown away by the talent on display at the Accomplish Games.

After qualifying through their school sports days, children from across the trust came together to compete in a range of challenging races.

Throughout the day, an abundance of determination, resilience and sportsmanship was showcased by all participants. It was wonderful to see the children take such pride in their personal, class and school achievements.

The day was particularly memorable for Jerry Clay Academy, with many of our children finishing on the podium in their year groups. Their outstanding performances helped secure the overall trophy for Jerry Clay Academy. We couldn't be prouder of everyone who took part!



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

A busy yet productive couple of weeks in Year 1! Last week we celebrated the children's phenomenal reading in **phonics**! They all shined brightly and oozed confidence in their reading assessment. In addition to this, we were also delighted to share the outstanding writing and artwork based on Sandra Dieckmann at the **creative arts gallery**. Thankyou for joining us and making this so special and magical for the children!

On Tuesday, we had a **scientific outdoor learning day** with Eden's Forest, where the children consolidated their understanding of animal classification. They thoroughly enjoyed creating animals using loose parts and tarpaulin as well as manipulating clay to design creatures. We finished the afternoon toasting marshmallows over the fire pit! The children demonstrated all our Jerry Clay learner traits especially 'teamwork' and were an absolute credit to the school.

In **English**, we have researched facts and wrote clues to create a 'What am I?' booklet' based on the physical characteristics and classification of the animals. This week, we also read a non-fiction book on baby animals and discussed the amazing facts and information contained within this! We wrote 'Did you know' questions to recall these facts.

We have nearly completed our learning on multiplication and division in **Maths**, and this has been the catalyst for our growing enthusiasm for Diamond dash! So many of us are practising and working towards the next level on our times tables journey! This week we have started learning about fractions, starting with halves.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2



What a busy two weeks in Year 2! We have completed so much exciting learning and had a range of brilliant opportunities to deepen our understanding.

We started our two weeks with **Outdoor Learning Day**. Throughout the morning, we used our outdoor learning to deepen and extend our learning on the Great Fire of London. We built our own houses from 1666 out of cardboard and then recreated a spark from the bakery on Pudding Lane. We were amazed as we watched the wind push the fire through the buildings!

In addition, what magical evening it was to be able to share our wonderful art projects with you at our **Art Gallery** on Wednesday last week. Year 2 loved celebrating their special places and expressing our illustrators through our artwork. We were inspired by two artists: Hundertwasser and Tracy Greer. We used their styles to create our own unique style.

As part of our theme, we ended our week with an excellent visit to the **National Emergency Services Museum**. It was an amazing opportunity to explore the journey of our emergency services and extend our understanding of the Great Fire of London. The NESM team were blown away by Year Two's knowledge and their enthusiasm. A huge thank you also to our volunteers for supporting us on our visit! We are so lucky to have a supportive community!

KEY DATES

Year 2 Celebration assembly
Tuesday 14th July

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3

Year 3 have been working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum over the past few weeks, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning.

In **English**, we have started our new class book, 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed diving into the story, making thoughtful predictions about what might happen next, and taking part in engaging hot seating activities to explore the thoughts and feelings of the main characters. Their creativity and confidence in sharing ideas have really shone.

In **Maths**, we have been continuing our work on angles, building a strong understanding through a variety of practical and visual activities. The children have explored parallel and perpendicular lines, identifying them around the classroom and even spotting them on different flags, which has made the learning both fun and meaningful.

Our wider curriculum learning has been just as exciting. In **History**, we have been learning about cloth and glass making, as well as exploring how local trade developed along the River Calder, helping the children to connect with the history of their local area. We used atlases to explore other rivers around us and developed our understanding of how rivers are formed in **Geography**. In **Science**, we have planted sunflower seeds and carried out an experiment to investigate what plants need to grow. It has truly been a busy and exciting few weeks of learning.

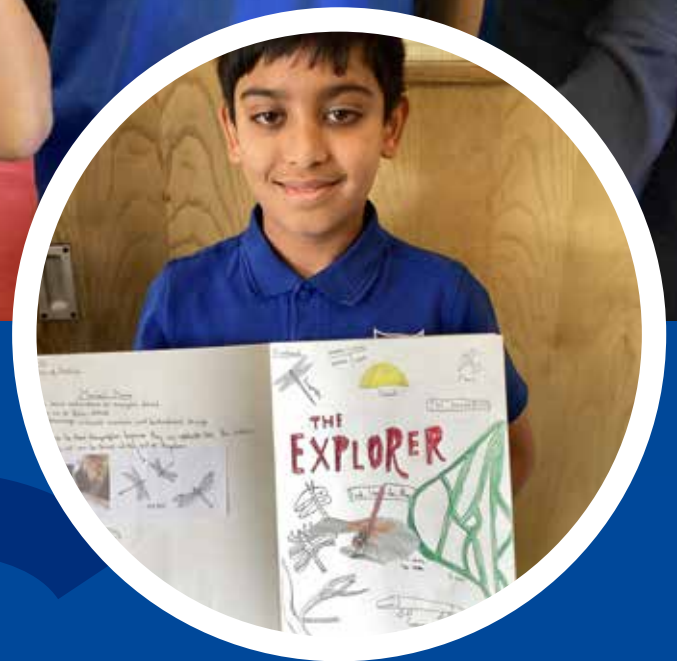


KEY DATES

The Great Yorkshire Show
Tuesday 14th July

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



Year 4 had a wonderful fortnight fully immersed in our learning and of course, preparing our final pieces for the **art gallery**. Thank you to all who contributed and attended our gallery, all our pieces were stunning, lots of visitors commented on the quality and care that went into every piece.

This week, we visited the **National Railway Museum** in York and were excited to finally see a replica of Stephenson's rocket in person. We remember lots of facts about the significance and importance of this moment in history. We also got to see a Japanese bullet train, we were shocked by how quickly it could travel, it would certainly get everyone to their destinations on time!

In **English**, we have been finishing our George Stephenson biographies and will be moving on to our Sherlock Holmes unit.

In **maths**, we have started our unit on shape and are looking at properties of shape and angles.

In **geography**, we have reviewed several landmarks including the Angel of the North in Newcastle. We produced a study on this landmark and the statue of George Stephenson outside the Railway Station in Newcastle to further our understanding of this topic. Well done year 4 for a fantastic trip and another great fortnight of learning! I am looking forward to reflecting on the next one.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

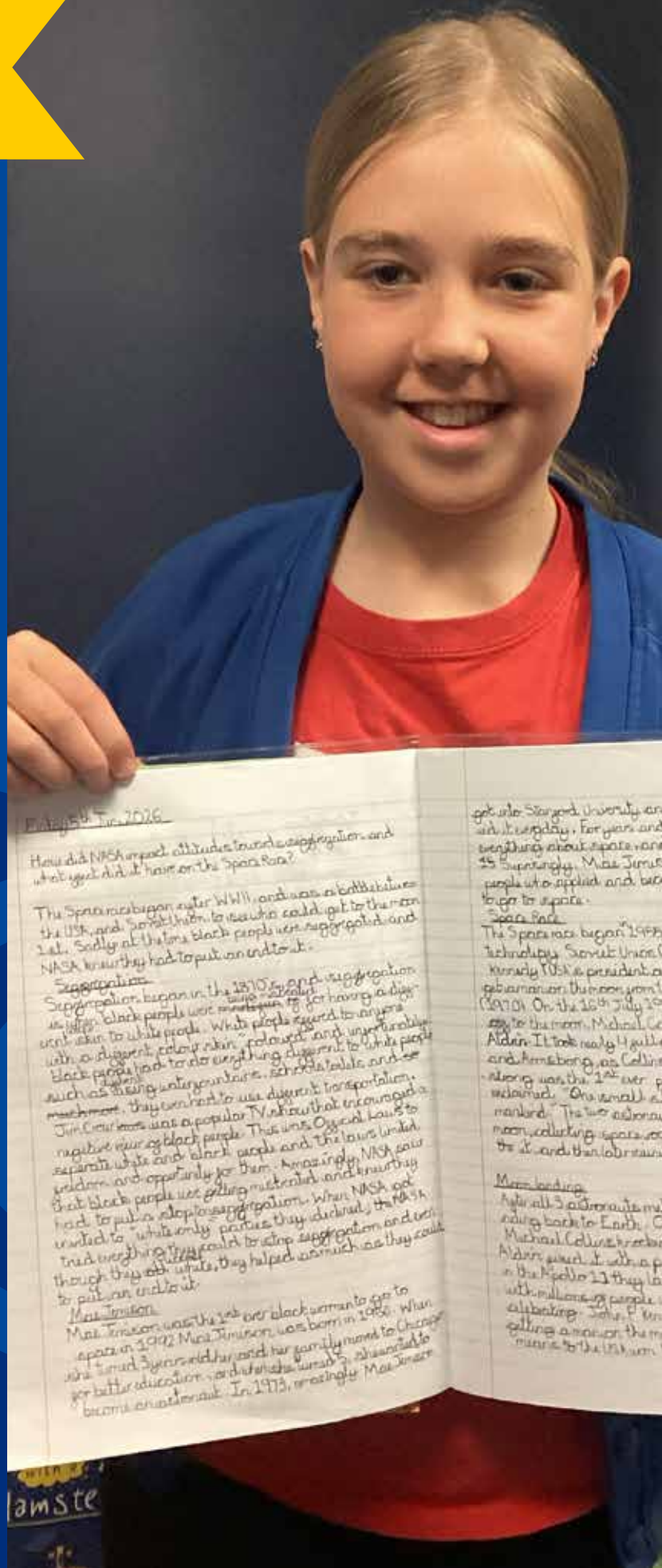
YEAR 5

It has been a busy fortnight for Year 5, but the children have continued to work hard and strive for success in all areas of their learning. As we approach the end of the academic year, pupils have been reflecting on their achievements and setting personal goals that they would like to accomplish before moving on to Year 6. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitudes and determination.

In **Maths**, Year 5 demonstrated a fantastic understanding of our Position and Direction unit. The children confidently used coordinates, described movements and applied their knowledge to a range of problem-solving activities. We have now started our next topic, decimals, and the class is feeling confident. So far, pupils have successfully used number facts to add and subtract decimals within one and have shown a secure understanding of place value. Next week, we will be adding and subtracting numbers with different numbers of decimal places.

In **English**, we have begun our learning of biographies. The children have analysed a high-quality example text and identified the key features that make a biography informative and engaging. We have explored the vocabulary used and carefully considered the ambitious language we would like to include in our own writing. Using our knowledge of Neil Armstrong, we will be writing biographies about his remarkable life and achievements.

Year 5 have also impressed us in **History** by writing thoughtful essays explaining the impact NASA had on society's attitudes towards segregation during the 1960s. Their historical understanding has been outstanding.



Friday 5th Jan 2026

How did NASA impact attitudes towards segregation and what effect did it have on the Space Race?

The Space race began after WWII and was a competition between the USA and Soviet Union to see who could get to the moon first. Sadly at the time black people were segregated and NASA knew they had to put an end to it.

Segregation

Segregation began in the 1870s and segregation is when black people were ~~separated~~ ^{kept apart} for having a different skin to white people. White people ^{thought} that anyone with a different colour skin, colour and ^{religion} and ^{language} were different to white people. Black people had to do everything different to white people such as being in separate schools, toilets and ^{restaurants}. They even had to use different transportation. ^{At the time} there was a popular TV show that encouraged a negative view of black people. This was ^{called} ^{Ozzie and Harriet} and the laws which separated white and black people and the laws which ^{gave} ^{white people} ^{more} ^{rights} and opportunity for them. Amazingly, NASA said that black people were ^{valued} ^{and} ^{needed} ^{for} ^{the} ^{space} ^{programme} and that they had to put an end to segregation. When NASA got invited to white only parties they declined, though they ^{did} ^{try} ^{to} ^{get} ^{invited} ^{to} ^{parties} ^{and} ^{they} ^{tried} ^{everything} ^{they} ^{could} ^{to} ^{bring} ^{segregation} ^{and} ^{put} ^{an} ^{end} ^{to} ^{it}.

Maia Johnson

Maia Johnson was the first ever black woman to go to space in 1992. Maia Johnson was born in 1956. When she turned 3 years old her and her family moved to Chicago for better education and where she was ^{able} ^{to} ^{attend} ^{school} ^{and} ^{she} ^{was} ^{able} ^{to} ^{become} ^a ^{teacher}. In 1973, amazingly, Maia Johnson

got into Stanford University and did it everyday. For years and everything about space and 25 something. Maia Johnson people who applied and had to go to space.

Space Race

The Space race began 1957 technology Soviet Union Kennedy USA a president a politician on the moon first (NASA) On the 16th July 1969 to the moon, Michael Collins and Armstrong as Collins along with the 1st ever proclaimed. One small step for a man but a giant leap for mankind. The first astronaut moon, collecting space rocks to it and then returning.

Moon landing

After all 3 astronauts had landed back to Earth. Collins and Michael Collins had to land. He had to land it with a parachute. In the Apollo 11 they landed with millions of people celebrating. John F. Kennedy calling a man on the moon means to the USA.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their residential to **Grinton Lodge** and showed what great risk takers and team players they are. We saw some great personal achievements throughout the week, where the children really persevered with the activities that took place and developed and built on their confidence day by day. Firm favourites by all from the week included: abseiling, rock climbing, kayaking and archery.

In **English**, we have begun writing using a video as a stimulus. The story follows a man waiting for a ride, but the journey is mysterious and we are unsure what is going to happen. The children are focussing on creating an action story that builds suspense.

In **Science**, we have continued our learning about light. The children used glasses of water to look at refraction and how that can distort the images created.

Finally, we have enjoyed plenty of time outside in the sunshine starting to think about our time at JCA and are starting to piece together our memories ready for our celebration assembly. We have thought of many songs that can be included as well as many funny stories from residential to add in.



Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 4h

Year 1 used giant cardboard gingerbread men and hoops to create equal groups consolidating their understanding of multiplication this week
[#outdoor](#) [#mathematics](#) [#physical](#)

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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 23h

Thank you for spending the day with us today & sharing (& joining in) with some of our learning in the EYFS. We always challenge ourselves to reflect & learn following our discussions with you all [#TogetherWeCan](#)

Tracy Swinburne OBE @tracyswinburne1 · 23h

Great to work with Cohort 3 today on Early Years Leadership, reflecting on practice, using evidence to shape next steps & exploring meaningful transitions to support every child's development.

Huge thanks to JCA for hosting....



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Jun 16

Some real perseverance and determination on show this morning - well done Year 6!

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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Jun 17

Year 4 enjoying their trip to the National Railways Museum in York. We got to see Stephenson's rocket in person and share our history learning. We also sat on a real Japanese bullet train!



You reposted

JCAEYFS @jcaeyfs · Jun 17

The children loved exploring their first JCA art gallery with each other on Thursday morning! [@JCA_Art](#) [@JCAWakefield](#)

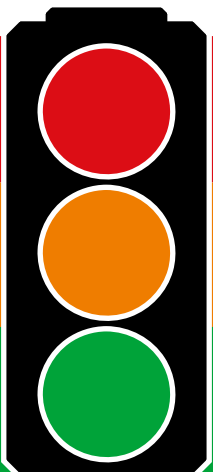
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Dates for Your Diary 2025-26

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

