Friday 28th November 2025

Accomplishing great things at JCA

Striving through Autumn 2!

This half term is absolutely flying and we are quickly moving towards the festive season!

The children have continued to work so hard throughout the last couple of weeks and have so much to share with you within the newsletter!

It has been great to see learning come alive through school trips and in-school workshops recently; this is absolutely pivotal to our curriculum!

We look forward to welcoming you all into school next week for Parents' Evening!

Staffing Update

Huge congratulations go to Mrs Ward who has been internally promoted and will now take up the role of Admin Officer/Trust Finance Administrator. Mrs Ward will now be working between Stanley Grove and Jerry Clay.

We are excited to welcome Mrs Mountain to the Reception team as EYFS Teaching Assistant from Monday – I know she is looking forward to meeting everyone next week!

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	**85.50%**	95.70%
YEAR 1	**96.70%**	98.00%
YEAR 2	**100.00%**	97.30%
YEAR 3	**92.90%**	95.90%
YEAR 4	**92.90%**	96.40%
YEAR 5	**96.80%**	94.20%
YEAR 6	**94.80%**	96.80%

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

What a wonderful fortnight of learning in Reception – we have immersed ourselves in our core learning about "Goldilocks and the three bears" and alongside this we have also been very excited to start to practise our Nativity songs!

Phonics

We have been continuing to work daily in our Phonics lessons, especially learning to blend using our Fred talk. We are becoming more confident day by day! Please keep helping your child by using the green book to practise sounds, using fred talk around the house, and reading the purple blending book.

Literacy

Goldilocks and the three bears has been our main focus. We have enjoyed creating maps of the forest that Golidlocks walked through! We have even added the bears' cottage and some trees and toadstools! Some children have even strived to add some CVC words to their maps, such as "map" "dad" "mum" "grrrrrr"

Maths

We have been learning about the numbers 4 and 5, and subitising speedily to recognise these in different ways. We've been busy exploring positional language inside and outside the classroom and using this vocabulary across all provision. We have practised using new words such as "between" , "through" and "beside" to describe our own movements as well as linking these to our story.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

Physical development

Our physical movement time has linked to traditional tales in the hall. It was fun to transform our bodies into the forest and the characters in our story and move in unusual ways. This week we also had our fortnightly yoga session! In Write Dance, we have been drawing circles with different parts of our bodies-building our core strength!

Learning journey

As part of our journey, we have enjoyed continuing to explore the art work of Yayoi Kusama and her toadstools and mushrooms. We have been busy mixing and tasting porridge for the three bears. In the construction areas, we have created different sized beds and chairs, as well as obstacle courses. As part of our fine motor development, we have loved exploring the play dough and this has progressed into a clay paw print project!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

Year 1 are thoroughly enjoying their learning at the moment demonstrating excellent care, teamwork and enquiry skills!

We have been very excited by our new core text: **The Dragon Machine**. This book has given us so many inspiring ideas to help us with the designing and making of our own dragon machines in Design and Technology; we have enjoyed learning about machines and have started developing our skills to attach a wing to a box with a tab and learn new attachment techniques such as flange, slot, hang and wrap.

In **English**, we have been striving with describing dragons using prepositions and verbs vocabulary. We enjoyed going on a dragon hunt and then we took our own dragon on an adventure noting down the prepositions each time. Next, we are striving to create our own maps in Geography to further inspire our writing.

During our **Maths** lessons, we have been learning about fact families and number sentences. Yesterday, we worked systematically to create number bonds to 10 using ten frames and double-sided counters.

We have been learning about the Monarchy in our **History** lessons. Last week, we designed and created a crown for King Charles III.

During provision time, the children have been busy building, creating and drawing significant landmarks in London including Buckingham Palace as part of their **Geography** learning.

We are now in full swing of practicing our **Christmas Nativity** and we can't wait to perform this to you very soon.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

Wow! The weeks really are passing by so quickly as we excitedly approach December! This week, we will begin practicing for our Christmas Nativity, we can't wait to share it with you!

In **English**, we have continued to draft our character description on a mysterious miner. We have used our partners to help us critique our sentences.

In **Maths**, we have worked so incredibly hard with our exchanging skills for the column method! Particularly when subtracting with exchanging, we have utilised the steps to success on the working wall to become even more accurate with our working.

In **RE**, we have completed our end of unit assessment looking at the importance of belonging. We created leaflets to explain how different religions showcase belonging in a variety of ways. We focussed on using tier 3 vocabulary to explain our understanding.

For **PE**, we have loved using the benches and mats to explore different ways of travelling. We compared the two pieces of equipment and evaluated which ways of travelling would be easier on them.

KEY DATES

Key Stage 1 Nativity
Tuesday 16th December @ 2pm
Wednesday 17th December @ 9:30am

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3

Year 3 are continuing to shine and work incredibly hard through the autumn term - really focussing on themselves and how they can continue to get better every day.

In **Maths**, we have started to explore multiplication and division. In particular, we have been mastering our three times tables, spotting patterns and using the inverse to find missing numbers. We have really enjoyed taking part in a range of activities to help us remember our 3's and applying our knowledge to worded problems.

In **English**, we have also sequenced key events from our class book 'The Stone Age Boy' and written our own captions to these to help us begin to use ambitious and powerful vocabulary. Then we used role play to demonstrate the key events of the story.

For **PE**, we have really been enjoying our focus on balancing, travelling and jumps in gymnastics! Each week we have been building on our skills and using feedback from others to improve our routines. We have strived to include a range of point balances and discussed the best way to transition between these.

In **Geography**, we looked at the Jurassic and Yorkshire coast and used different colours of card to represent the layers of rock that make up these coast lines.

KEY DATES

Trip to Barnsley Museum
Tuesday 2nd December

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

Year 4 have had another great two weeks of learning, including their first school trip of the year.

We visited the **Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Gurdwara** in Leeds. The children said they enjoyed meeting Gurmurkh Deagon and listening to the history of Sikhism and the gurus. We shared a lot of our learning with them as well. Did you know that 'guru' means teacher? We also learned that Waheguru means 'King of Kings' or 'Almighty'.

In **maths**, we are continuing our times tables checks and working on applying times tables through problem solving. Everyone has risen to the challenge and we have seen real improvement in the children's results each week. This is because of their resilience and the support they get at home. Thank you again from the Year 4 team.

In **English**, we have published our informal letters and will start our unit on Beowulf, which will also be a key text for reading.

In **computing**, we have finished our programming unit and will start using Garageband to become musicians.

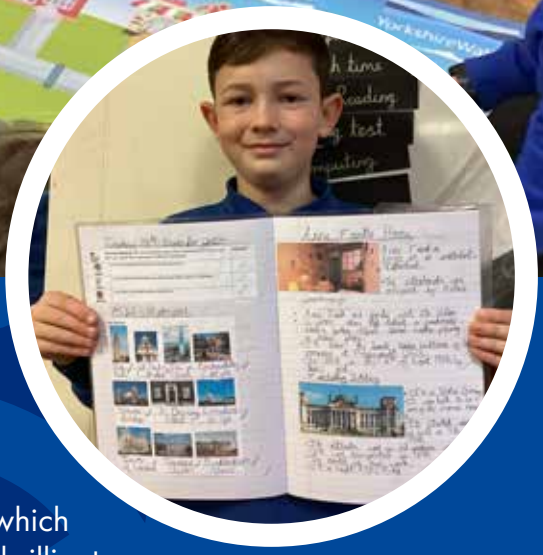
In **PSHE**, we have been learning about balanced diets and have looked at our own school menu and what we eat. Our caring classmate activity is still a highlight of our week.
This shows how the children work together as a team and support each other. Well done Year 4!

KEY DATES

Trip to The Royal Armouries Museum
26.2.26

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5



Year 5 has had a super busy and exciting couple of weeks!

We were very fortunate to welcome visitors from **Yorkshire Water Safety**, who delivered fantastic hands-on workshops. The children especially enjoyed using Lego to design and build their own robots, which they then programmed to unblock sewers on detailed maps. It was a brilliant opportunity to combine creativity, problem-solving and real-world learning.

In **English**, the class has been working hard on crafting engaging stories set during World War II. After carefully planning and drafting their narratives, the children are now preparing to edit and improve their work next week before publishing their final pieces. Their enthusiasm and imagination have brought this historical period to life.

Our **History** lessons have linked closely with this, as we have begun writing our WWII essays using the laptops. The children have produced thoughtful and well-explained paragraphs on key themes such as rationing, evacuation, Dunkirk, propaganda and D-Day. Their growing confidence in using technology to enhance their writing has been wonderful to see.

In **Geography**, Year 5 has been developing important map-reading and research skills. They have learned to locate famous landmarks in Germany, gathering key facts and noting interesting information about each place.

Well done, Year 5, for your fantastic effort and enthusiasm across all subjects!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant two weeks where their maturity has shone and shown how hard they can work.

We are so proud of their efforts during the **open morning**. It was a fantastic morning, and we were beaming with pride watching how enthusiastic and happy they were touring round prospective parents.

In **Maths**, we have been finishing our fractions unit. The children have worked so hard on their fraction knowledge, and it has been so nice to see the hard work pay off as they answered so many questions correctly throughout all the unit.

In **English**, we are combining our History and English knowledge to create a non-chronological report about inventions throughout history. The children have researched their own inventions and shown brilliant grammatical features such as relative clauses, parenthesis and strived to include semi colons in their work.

In **Geography**, we have enjoyed learning all about various parts of a river. The children used this knowledge to create their own river using sand to create the tributaries and meanders and then testing their creations with water.

We also enjoyed **Yorkshire Water** visiting us and explaining how they treat water before it gets to us. This was highly informative, and the children enjoyed doing the investigations with them.

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 1h

What a relaxing afternoon of yoga for Reception class after our busy morning! @JcaPhysicalEdu

3 34

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 2h

Year 4 had a brilliant trip to the Gurdwara. We participated in a workshop with music, artefacts and history. We shared langar and demonstrated all our learner traits. We are so proud of them!

2 32

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Nov 25

Year 4 have enjoyed completing their quiet reading in our outdoor space. We will read anywhere!

1 11 273

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Nov 25

Year 3 has been learning to use the running stitch and whip stitch in DT. They are learning these new stitches in preparation for their final DT piece, creating their own Christmas bauble! @JCA_DT

2 191

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)

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