

Accomplishing great things at JCA



A Fantastic Start to 26/27!

It has been a super-quick first couple of weeks back for the new academic year! The children have come back so well and have established really strong routines; a special 'well done' to our new Reception children who have adapted to life at JCA so well!

This week was brilliant to welcome some of you to our 'Meet The Teacher' events – all PowerPoints from this will be sent on ParentMail.

Within this newsletter, you will see information about how each class has started the year – we hope you enjoy it!



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	97.80%	98.10%
YEAR 1	97.80%	98.50%
YEAR 2	99.20%	98.40%
YEAR 3	99.60%	99.70%
YEAR 4	99.30%	99.50%
YEAR 5	95.90%	95.60%
YEAR 6	96.40%	96.00%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
98.00%	ACTUAL

97% +
AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET

BELOW 95%
CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS

90% & BELOW
PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

RECEPTION

What a wonderful first few days of our school journey! It has been lovely to welcome new children and families into our Reception team. It is such a magical and momentous moment when your child starts their first day at school; we appreciate your time and support with making this as smooth and happy as possible. Thank you for your patience on the door as children are sent home. In the first few weeks, this will take us slightly longer as we become familiar with families and ensure your child is safely collected from school. We are so excited to start this learning journey with you and share the wonderful learning and memories your children are making in school.

Our Learning in Reception Class

Over the first week, we have been establishing friendships, routines and exploring our environment. Our theme this half term is 'Marvellous Me' and we started this week by introducing our story 'Owl Babies'. The children have enjoyed joining in with repeated phrases from the book, re-telling the story with the soft toys and considering their own feelings in relation to the story.

The children have loved using our indoor and outdoor provision to share all about themselves. They have been able to develop their team work and personal development skills by sharing resources and building houses and other things that interest them in their world.

The children have particularly enjoyed exploring in the sand and water areas as well as painting and creating imaginatively in the creative areas and artist studio. We have also enjoyed developing our physical skills, creating small obstacle courses with different large loose parts.



RECEPTION



Literacy

We have now started our Read Write Inc. Phonics sessions and establishing all of the key routines involved. So far, we have taught all the picture cards for the corresponding sounds. We have also started to play our Fred Games, using 'Fred talk', to begin oral blending. Fred talk is speaking in individual sounds 'm-a-t' to help children hear these sound in words. This is something we will be doing throughout the day in our talk with children. Please also support with this at home!

Throughout the week, we have also been concentrating on recognising and writing our name. Many of the children are becoming visibly more confident with this and again, this is something you can continue to practise at home.

Reminders

Please do ensure your child comes to school every day with a coat as we will be learning outside whatever the weather! Please do ensure that all items of clothing are named including shoes so they are easily identified, as these do get taken off during the day!

Thank you for sending in your child's PE kits in a separate bag. These will be kept in School and sent home for washing at the end of each half term. We have added an additional 'colour team t-shirt' into each bag. Yoga will be on Tuesdays and PE will be on Thursdays this half term.

In our classroom, we have a family tree displaying photos of our families. This is a lovely area where children can share their families and happy memories. If you haven't already, please can you send a family photograph either in print, or by email to:

jcainfo@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



Reception Baseline Assessment

Here is the link about the new baseline assessment in Reception Class

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with.

Friday Library

In a few weeks, we will resume Friday library time. More information about this will be sent via parentmail.

During these sessions, you will be able to choose a library book with your child as well as listen to weekly news and even sometimes watch performances! Please return Library books in your child's book bag every week.

Tapestry

We will shortly be sending you information about the online learning platform: Tapestry. We will use this to share some of your child's learning with you each week!

X/Twitter

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

Miss Harling, Mrs Johnson and the Reception Team.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

What a brilliant start to the new academic year! Year 1 have settled in so well to their new routines and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring both inside and outside the classroom. We are particularly impressed at their confidence, eagerness and resilience to embrace all the wonderful opportunities within our classroom environment and shine brightly every day.

The arrival of a special book 'Tell me a Dragon' and an abundance of dragon eggs has fuelled our work in **English**. We have been using adjectives of colours and shapes to describe the eggs carefully and we have been discussing the features of dragons, depicting our own ideas through drawing. In Art, the children have drawn and coloured the dragon which they believe is hidden inside our very special dragon egg. We can't wait for the dragon to hatch and continue our very exciting work on 'Dungeons and Dragons'.

In **Maths** we have been learning to sort objects into groups and count accurately. The children relished in picking, sorting and counting all the fruit from our fruit trees. We can't wait to use the edible fruit we sorted to bake a delicious Autumn pudding. We have also used the outdoor provision area to practise counting, sorting and consolidating our knowledge about numbers from reception class as we begin our maths unit on place value.

We have been learning all about where we live in **Geography**. We have learned the village, city and country we live in. In Science, we have started our learning on Materials; we learned the names of different materials and thought of careful ways to describe them to a friend.



KEY DATES

Pontefract Castle trip

TBC

Wednesday Library commences

16th September at 3.10pm

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

What a brilliant start to the year we have had in Year Two! We have settled well into our new routines and have been striving high with our expectations. The children have enjoyed the introduction of our first theme '**Magnificent Miners**' and are excited to continue exploring this through the term.

This week we have shared our first repeated read '**Ravi's Roar**' and enjoyed exploring key phrases from the text and times when we have felt similar to Ravi.

In **English**, we have begun exploring our core text 'Town is by the sea' for our mining theme. We have used our reading skills to make predictions while creating story maps to help us explore the structure of the story.

In **Maths**, Year 2 have demonstrated fantastic place value skills. We have explored 2-digit numbers and partitioned them into tens and ones using partitioning, working both practically with concrete resources and writing number sentences.

We have also begun our **history** learning, exploring key dates in mining and using our knowledge on chronology to label these onto a timeline. We then had a very special delivery from the Coal Mining Museum, where we received a range of artefacts to investigate and explore!



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



Year 3 have started the new academic year incredibly well! Now as part of Key Stage Two, the children have settled brilliantly into routines and have been showcasing an incredible work ethic across subjects. They have enjoyed the introduction of our first theme '**The Lost World**' and are excited to continue strengthening their knowledge on this.

In **English**, we have introduced our core text of 'Fossil' by Bill Thomson where the children have been using their own imaginations, facial expressions and body language from the pictures to piece together the story. We have focussed on the build-up and climax of the story, making a plan of what we want to include in our writing. We have been striving to include exciting fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and past tense verbs as we start out writing this week.

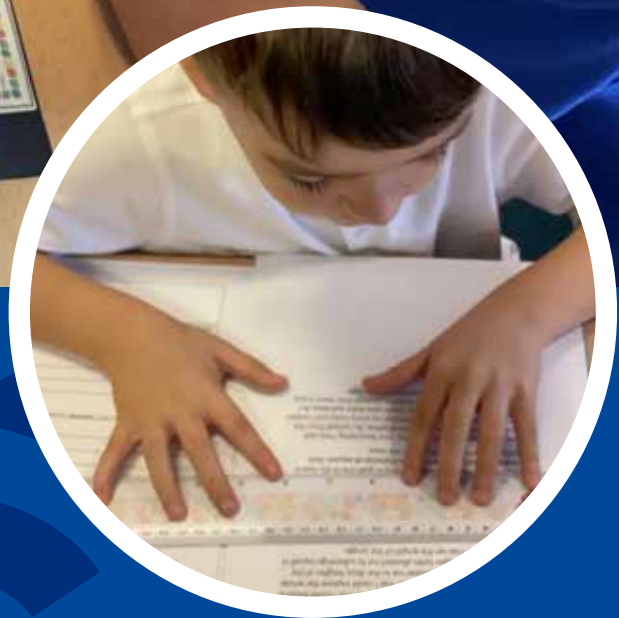
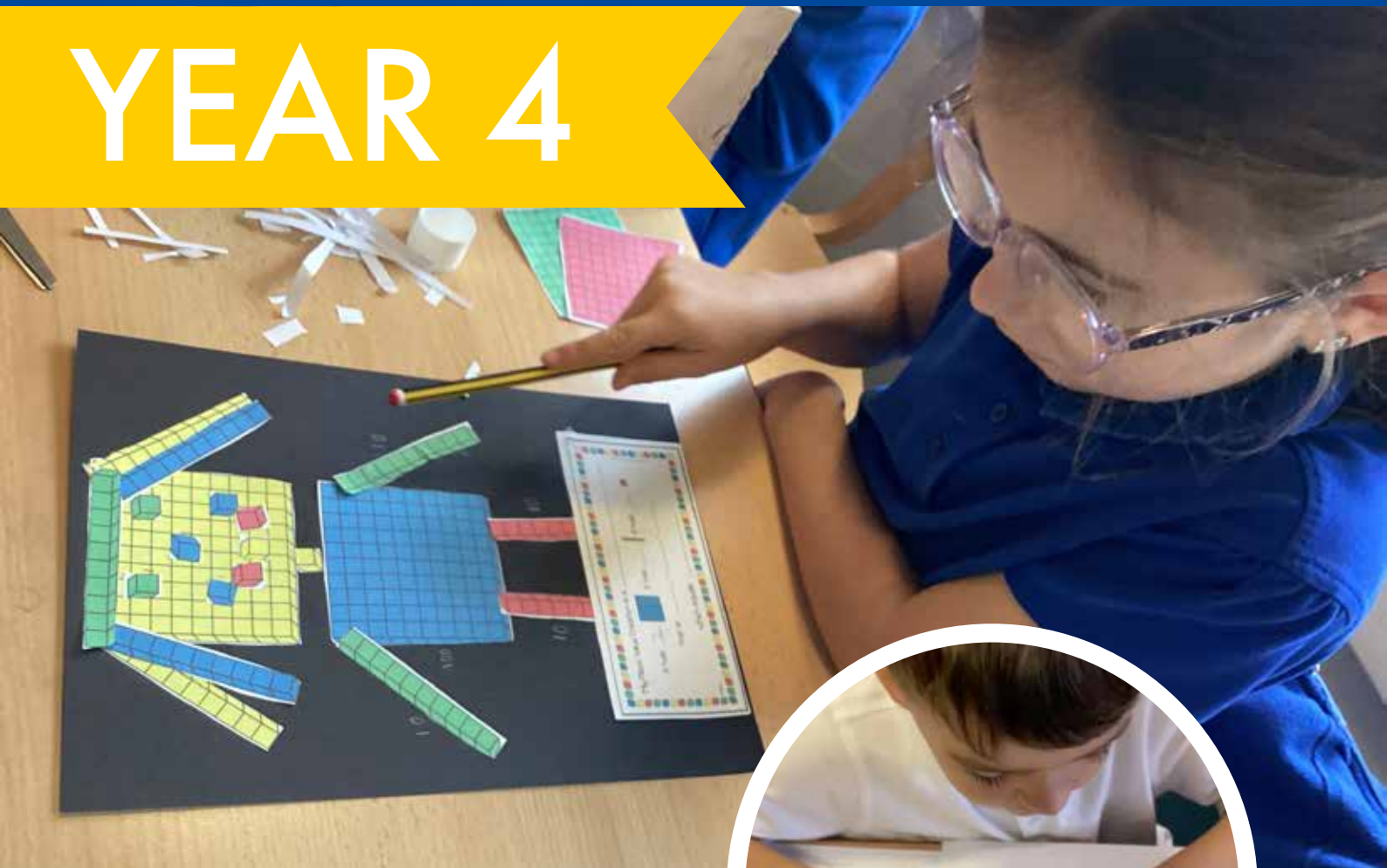
For **Maths**, we have been building on the children's place value knowledge from Year 2 and have introduced hundreds to make 3-digit numbers. The children have loved using a range of practical resources to represent 3-digit numbers as well as partitioning numbers flexibly.

In **History**, we introduced our topic of Prehistoric Britain by working as a team to make a huge class timeline! We identified key time periods that we will be focussing on throughout the year and discussed where we would place these onto our timeline and why.

To link in with our learning on fossils, we have created observational drawings of ammonites in **Art**. We are looking forward to exploring our new artist and creating our final 3D pieces linked to ammonites.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



What a fantastic start Year 4 have made! We are incredibly impressed with how well the children have settled into Year 4. They have arrived ready to learn, set themselves new goals and are already showing great effort and determination to achieve them. It has been wonderful to see their positive attitudes and enthusiasm each day.

In **English**, we have been focusing on creating descriptive settings in our writing. We have learnt how to use expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to add detail and help the reader imagine our scenes. In reading, we have been exploring the Greek myths 'In the Beginning' and 'Pandora's Box', discussing the characters, events and themes within these fascinating stories.

In **Maths**, we have been delving into our Place Value unit. We have explored different ways to represent numbers and have practised partitioning numbers in a variety of ways.

In **History**, we have been learning more about the Ancient Greeks. We have compared life during the Ancient Greek period with modern-day life, exploring differences in clothing, homes and food.

This half term, we will be developing our skills through invasion games in **PE**. This week, we focused on rugby, developing our passing and interception skills. We also enjoyed a relaxing yoga session to help us feel calm, relaxed and ready to learn.

We are very proud of the fantastic start Year 4 have made!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5



Year 5 have had a fantastic start to the new term and have started to settle into their new classroom and school year really well!

Our theme for the term is '**The Great Divide**' and in History, they have thoroughly enjoyed delving into our exciting new unit of work, World War II. Their curiosity has really shone through, and we cannot wait to see their skills continue to develop. They have learnt about what life was like as an evacuee and considered what we would take in our suitcases if we had been evacuees.

In **Maths**, we have started our work on place value, focusing on 4- and 5-digit numbers. We have recapped prior learning to connect our learning together and have been applying our understanding through pictorial and abstract problem-solving activities.

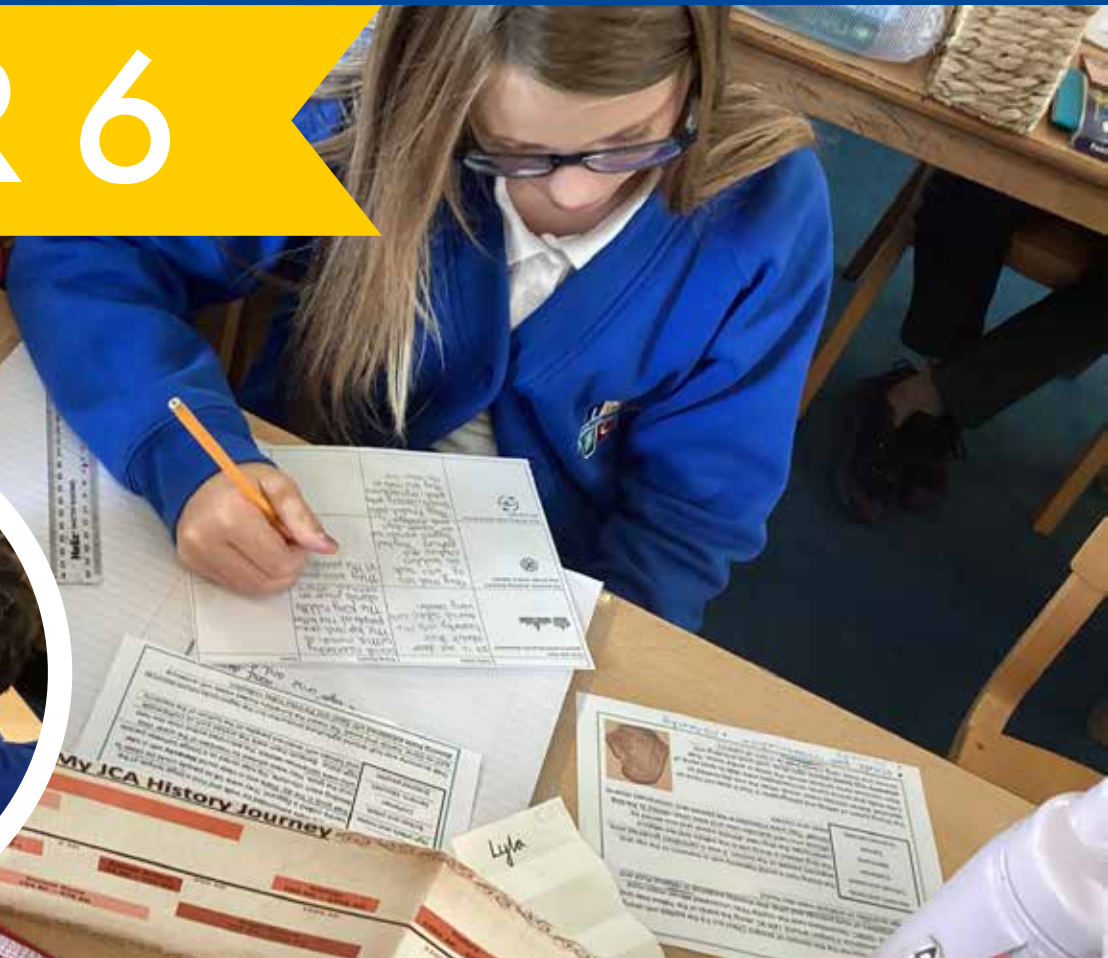
In **Writing**, we have begun exploring the key features of effective setting descriptions and are working hard to create vivid and engaging imagery in our own writing. We have focused on images from WWII and described the settings in great detail – there has been some excellent vocabulary and writing across the class!

In **PSHE**, we have been reminding ourselves of rules and expectation and have been discussing what we can do if we have any worries and who we can speak to.

Keep up the excellent work, Year 5!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



What a fantastic couple of weeks we have had settling into Year 6! The children have been mature, enthusiastic and eager to learn, showing a fantastic attitude across all areas of the curriculum. It has been wonderful to see them settling into their learning and taking on new challenges with confidence.

In **Maths**, we have been working hard on our understanding of place value, developing our ability to read, write and represent numbers. We have also begun making and exploring numbers up to one million, building our confidence with larger numbers and understanding the value of each digit.

In **English**, we have been revisiting word classes, making sure we can confidently identify and use nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and other word types. We have also been recapping different phrases and clauses, helping us to develop our understanding of sentence structure and improve our writing.

We have begun our exciting new theme, '**Ancient Treasures**'. We have explored a range of ancient civilisations and have started to compare them using our Golden Strands. This has helped us identify similarities and differences between civilisations and develop our historical thinking skills.

We have started our new unit, 'Being Computational Thinkers' in **computing**. We have been thinking carefully about algorithms and efficiency by using maps to find the most efficient routes between different locations. We then checked our ideas using Google Maps and discussed why some routes were more efficient than others.

KEY DATES

Bikeability
19th- 21st October

Highlights of the Week from X



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 1d 

Year 4 have begun their maths learning by creating place value robots. They identified how many hundreds, tens and ones they used and the total value of their creation.



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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 1d 

Year 6 have enjoyed our new reading lesson book 'The lion above the door' by @OnjaliRauf. We have read the first chapter and predicted what might happen next! @JCA_Reading



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Jerry Clay Academy
@JCAWakefield

X.com

Year 6 have delved into our new history unit. We have started learning about ancient civilisations, comparing them to different civilisations through our golden strands and then taught our partner about the one we had learned @HistoryJca



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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 1d 

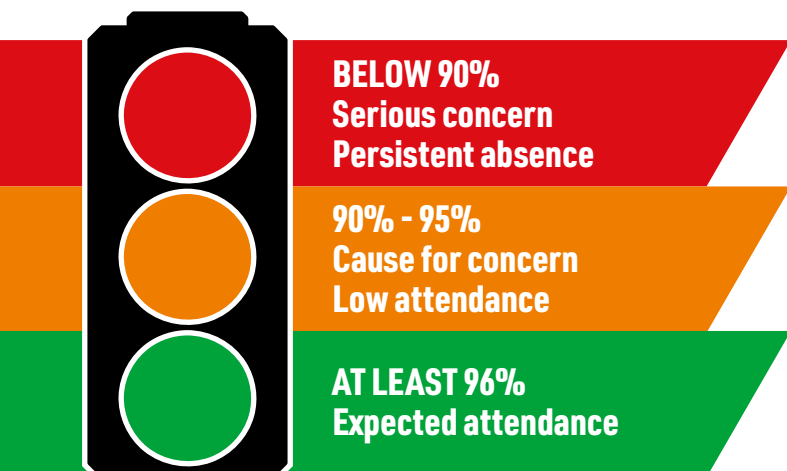
Year 3 uncovered an unusual rock to introduce their new book 'Fossil'. They dug up and excavated a dinosaur fossil, predicting what might happen in their new class story. They are very excited to find out more! 🦕🔍



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Dates for Your Diary 2026-27

INSET days	Tuesday 1st September 2026
	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
	Monday 23rd November 2026
	Friday 29th January 2027
	Friday 28th May 2027
Parents Evenings	Monday 30th November and Wednesday 2nd December 2026
	Monday 22nd March and Wednesday 24th March 2027
Theme Days/ Weeks	Thursday 4th March 2027- World Book Day
	wc 22nd March 2027– Theme Week – TBC
	wc -24th May 2027– Creative Arts week
Performances	Friday 4th December 2026 – Reception Christmas Activity Morning
	Tuesday 8th December 2026 (9.30am) and Thursday 10th December (9.30am) – Reception nativity
	Monday 14th December 2026 – Christmas carols around the tree (ASC)
	Tuesday 15th December 2026 (2pm) and Wednesday 16th (9.30 am) – Year 1 and 2 Nativity
	Thursday 17th December 2026 - Christingle at St. Annes (AM) at 10am TBC
	Wednesday 16th June 2027 Art gallery evening
	w/c Monday 12th July 2027- Wednesday 21st July 2027 – Celebration week
Sports Day	Tuesday 8th June 2027
	Friday 18th June- Reserve Sports Day



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



Aimie Johnson

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

aimie.johnson@jca.amat.org.uk



Helen Jones

Designated Safeguarding Governor

helen.jones@jca.amat.org.uk

