

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Kindness and resilience!



We have seen these traits in abundance over the last 2 weeks at Jerry Clay! Kindness and resilience have been the theme of our Special Mention winners and it has been fantastic to see children support each other through small acts of kindness!

It has also been lovely to see a surge in children reading at home since the start of the academic year – we know that children's ability and confidence in reading affects their attainment so please continue to support your child in this way at home.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter this week – each class has been doing some fantastic learning within the curriculum!



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	98.10%	98.00%
YEAR 1	97.10%	97.90%
YEAR 2	99.60%	99.30%
YEAR 3	98.10%	99.20%
YEAR 4	99.60%	99.50%
YEAR 5	97.30%	96.90%
YEAR 6	97.80%	96.00%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
98.10%	ACTUAL

97% +
AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET

BELOW 95%
CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS

90% & BELOW
PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

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!

We have been reading the story of Elmer. We used this text to help us discuss our own 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! Exploring colours and circles has also supported our early mark-making practise.

Last Tuesday, 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 and Charlie – our teacher – was really impressed with our concentration! We also finished the session with some meditation time and said Namaste.



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 for '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.

We have also been concentrating on recognising 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!

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! We have also created dino-worlds and adventures as well as dressing dolls and creating houses.

RECEPTION

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.

X

Please follow us on X @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 Mrs Johnson



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 the dragon 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 **art**, we have used two different watercolour techniques to paint beautiful dragon eggs. We carefully selected colours and blended these together. What amazing creativity!

In **PSHE**, we have been developing our understanding of ourselves and considering different emotions. This week we have introduced our new morning routine following the 'one life PSHE scheme' building children's emotional and physical qualities.

During **geography** we are learning about where we live. We have started this unit by learning about the countries in the United Kingdom using a song and a physical elastic skipping challenge! In science, we are investigating the properties of materials

KEY DATES

Pontefract Castle trip
9th November 2026

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 starting from different numbers. We then challenged ourselves to even estimate on a number line in groups on the playground.

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

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 explored Scratch Jnr adding backgrounds and sprites to our animation. We discovered the effects of different outputs and specifically focussed on movement.



KEY DATES

Coal Mining Museum trip
4th November

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.

KEY DATES

Barnsley Museum Trip
Wednesday 7th October

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



What a brilliant start to the term we have had in Year 4! The children have impressed us with their great attitude towards their learning and their eagerness to know more. They have worked very hard to start the term as a team and share knowledge with each other.

In **Maths**, we have been learning all about place value. The children have shown great knowledge in this area and are striving high in lessons when working on comparing and ordering numbers to 1000.

In **English**, we have been working on the Iron Man by Ted Hughes as part of our theme 'A Hero's Journey'. They have written a lovely descriptive piece all about the character of the Iron Man and what happens to him. They worked hard to include adjectives, adverbs and interesting vocabulary.

Last week, we had a brilliant opportunity to go to **Silcoates School** to play different sports. The children represented our school so well and shone in their games of hockey and rugby.



We have also started our learning in **History** all about the Ancient Greeks. The children were keen to learn so much and can already tell you so much about the society they lived in and how they lived their lives. We have also looked at the timeline of civilizations including the golden age and the dark ages.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic half term! We have been working hard to keep up with our routines, persevere with our learning and show a positive attitude in everything we do.

In **Maths**, we have continued to develop and consolidate our understanding of place value and numbers. We have been working hard to understand the value of each digit and apply this knowledge confidently to worded problems and problem solving.

In **Writing**, we have been planning and writing our own setting descriptions of an air raid, inspired by our class text Letters to the Lighthouse. We have been using show, not tell, as well as adverbs and adverbial phrases, to help our readers really understand how our characters are feeling and bring our descriptions to life.

We have continued our learning about **World War II**, focusing particularly on The Blitz and rationing. We have also had the wonderful opportunity to see some real-life history and artefacts from World War II, including photographs of Anderson shelters, war medals and letters. A huge thank you to everyone who kindly shared these special items with us — they have really helped to bring our learning to life!

In **PSHE**, we have been reminding ourselves about what it means to be a good friend. We have been thinking about kindness, supporting others and making sure that everyone feels included and valued. We are also starting our **One Life** sessions and enjoying our calm morning routine to get us ready for the day!

Well done, Year 5, for all your hard work this half term. Keep persevering, keep being kind and keep making us proud!



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



What a brilliant couple of weeks we have had! The children have had a fantastic couple of weeks and have settled into their new routines wonderfully. It has also been lovely to see them stepping confidently into their Junior Leadership roles. They have shown great responsibility, enthusiasm and maturity, and we are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced these opportunities.

In **Maths**, we have been focusing on the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have also been developing our reasoning skills and learning how to apply our knowledge of the four operations to a range of problem-solving and reasoning questions.

In **English** we have been learning about instructions and have published our own instructions on how to mummify an Ancient Egyptian! We have focused on using adverbs and adjectives to add detail to our writing, as well as parenthesis to provide additional information.



In **Art**, we have explored colour theory and experimented with mixing primary colours to create secondary and tertiary colours. We have used our colour mixing skills to inspire the backgrounds for our own artwork.

In **Science**, we have been learning about the different components of blood and their important functions. We had great fun practically creating our own model blood and were able to explain the role of each component.

KEY DATES

Bikeability
19th - 21st October

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 14h X

☀️ We are enjoying our new morning routine from the OneLife scheme! We are loving the soft start to the day, building our social fitness through meaningful conversations and journaling. 🌟 📖 @One_Life2024



1 11 644

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 16h X

Year 6 have had a brilliant art lesson learning all about colour theory. We have then used this to help us use tints and shades to work on our background of 'The Scream' @JCA_Art



1 10 280

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 1d X

Circles everywhere in Reception!! We are exploring different sizes of circles and using different materials in order to develop upon our early mark-making skills! @jcaeyfs



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 2d X

Reception are continuing to explore their new classroom alongside new friends. We have been discussing our similarities and differences using Elmer as a springboard for learning. @jcaeyfs



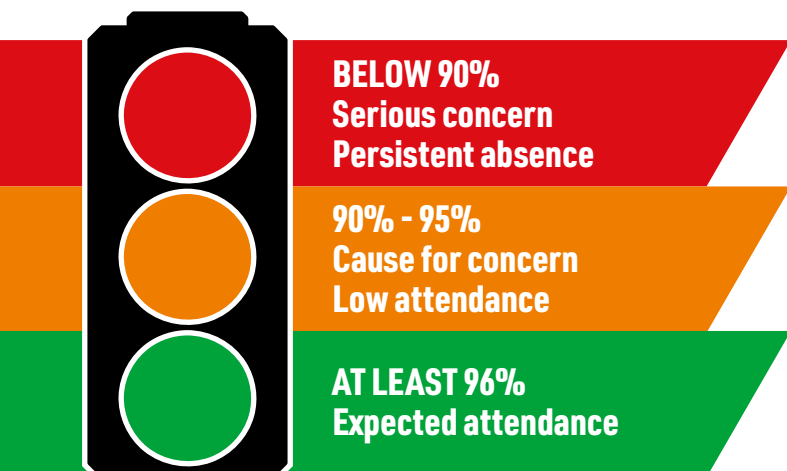
Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefie... · 5d X

Year 2 enjoyed a great Science lesson yesterday where we classified a range of things into alive, dead or never alive. We recorded these into our books with pictures and labels @JCA_Science #livingthings



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

