Friday 23th October 2026

Accomplishing great things at JCA

A brilliant first half-term!

What an amazing first half term we have had at JCA! It really has flown by! It has been great to see our children settle into their new classes so well and some of the work we have seen produced has been incredible! We can't wait to see children back in Autumn 2 for the push towards the Christmas Holidays!

This week in particular, we have seen a real drive in Diamond Dash – it has been great to see children's faces as they have come to collect their badges!

After half-term, we look forward to welcoming **Miss Roberts** as Year 4 teacher! Miss Roberts may be a familiar face to some of you as she completed her teaching practise in Year 5 at Jerry Clay last year. As you know, we are incredibly passionate about developing our staff and giving opportunities and we can't wait to work with Miss Roberts.

Miss Roberts will be working alongside Miss Hazell for 2 weeks to allow for a comprehensive and smooth handover before Miss Hazell starts her maternity leave. This does mean that Parents' Evening for Year 4 only will now take place early on **Monday 9th November and Wednesday 11th November between 2pm and 5pm.** Information on booking slots will be sent via ParentMail straight after half-term.

Please read on to find out more about the learning across school over the last 2 weeks!







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%**	98.20%
YEAR 1	**96.80%**	98.00%
YEAR 2	**98.10%**	99.20%
YEAR 3	**99.50%**	99.20%
YEAR 4	**99.00%**	99.00%
YEAR 5	**98.60%**	97.20%
YEAR 6	**97.20%**	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

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

It has been simply incredible to watch Reception settle into JCA and grow in confidence in their daily routines – they are superstar learners and will be ready for their half term break. Thank you for all of the support this half term – we are so proud of the positive start!

Phonics

We have now learned all of our set 1 sounds! The children are showing lots of confidence with these which is impressive.
We are now working on our "Fred talk", oral blending and blending using magnet boards and green words. Please keep practising in the green book and using the portal videos which are sent home weekly.

Literacy

Over the past couple of weeks, our learning in Literacy has centred around two books "All Different" and "Pumpkin soup". We have been striving to creating a silly soup potion, using our set 1 sounds to write the initial sounds of the ingredients.

Maths

We have been learning more about the numbers 1,2 and 3. This has included finding items to match a given number, speedy subitising and representing these numbers in different ways.



We have been practising the language of one more and one less, including singing 3 little speckled frogs.

Learning journey

Last week, we explored our Mr Men – carefully considering our own personalities to create a Mr Man or Little Miss picture that was just like us! The children particularly enjoyed exploring Mr Tickle and his extraordinarily long tickly arms! This week, we've had a magical time creating pumpkin soup, particularly in the water area where we have mixed, stirred, transferred and carried the pumpkin soup into different containers – including our giant cauldron!

We have been exploring what is good friend is as part of our One Life learning. This linked carefully with the characters Duck, Squirrel and Cat in the story "Pumpkin soup" and we have discussed their friendship. Our role-play area has transformed into a cabin and we have enjoyed recreating the story in there as well.

Wishing you a lovely half term break,

Miss Harling and Mrs Johnson

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1



Year 1 have flourished in their learning this week, shining brightly and demonstrating their wonderful enthusiasm and resilience in their learning. We are proud of the children for persevering in accomplishing great things and developing their teamwork and responsibility learner traits. What an incredible Autumn 1 term!

The children are fully immersed in their **history** learning, retrieving facts and impressing us with their incredible knowledge about castles! We are really looking forward to visiting Pontefract castle after half term to fuel our interest in castles. We have enjoyed creating a song about the features of the castle, building castles in provision out of a variety of loose parts as well as learning about castle ruins!

In **English**, we have finished writing our dragon passport descriptions and are publishing this writing ready to display in our classroom. The children have worked hard to use their 'fred fingers' to spell adventurous vocabulary to describe their dragon and use a simile to compare colours.

In **Maths**, we have been creating giant number lines and consolidating our knowledge to culminate our unit on 'place value'. We have been practicing all of these concepts through provision-based activities with a Halloween theme! They particularly enjoyed comparing groups of cauldrons and spiders using greater than, less than and equal signs and playing dominoes.

In **Art,** we have created beautiful dragon wings using different water colour techniques inspired by Jackie Morris – the author and illustrator of 'Tell me a Dragon' book. The children used thin paint brushes to add further detail and patterns to the wing. What talented artists!

In **Science**, we are learning about the properties of materials. The children enjoyed going on a material hunt around the classroom and classifying objects by their properties such as metal, plastic, wooden and transparent.

Have a lovely relaxing half-term break.

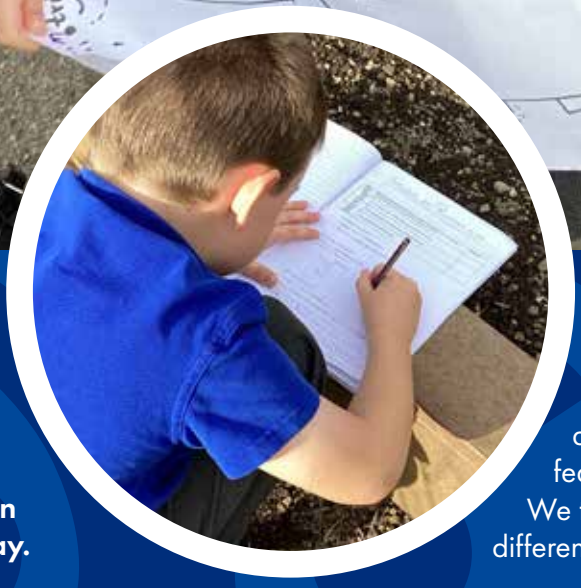
KEY DATES

Pontefract Castle trip
9th November 2026

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2





A great end to the half term with Year 2! We have made so much progress in 8 weeks and we cannot wait to continue and deepen our learning on coal mining after the holiday.

In **Maths**, we have continued our unit on addition and subtraction. We have been using a range of concrete resources to support our learning on related facts as well as adding and subtracting tens. We have also looked at the importance of using number lines to check calculations.

In **English**, we have been working really hard to complete our hot writes on 'Town is by the Sea'. These are our first full drafts of the story, and we will be editing these and getting ready to publish our final pieces after the holiday.

In **Science**, we have been exploring Microhabitats around our school. We are able to define a microhabitat and explain what features each microhabitat has. We then strived to compare two different microhabitats.

In **Geography**, we practiced our map skills outside. Despite the windy weather, we were able to find a series of hidden letters on our map of the school and make these into words. These skills helped us to create our own detailed maps of the National Coal Mining Museum. We included a key to show what different symbols represented.

KEY DATES

Coal Mining Museum trip
4th November

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



Year 3 have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm for our Stone Age topic. It has been wonderful to hear the children sharing fascinating facts they have discovered at home and bringing their own interests into our learning. I am incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience and positive attitudes they are showing every day.

In **Science**, we have been learning about fossils and how they are formed over millions of years. The children enjoyed creating their own fossil imprints using playdough and investigating the different layers of soil, developing their understanding of how evidence from the past can be preserved.

In **P.E**, we have been working on our rugby skills, focusing on defending, teamwork and passing backwards. The children have shown great determination and cooperation during games and activities.

We have been writing biographies in **English** about the famous fossil hunter Mary Anning. We have learnt many fascinating facts about her life and achievements and are looking forward to editing and publishing our finished pieces after half term.



Finally, in **Maths** the children have demonstrated a strong understanding of column addition and subtraction. They have challenged themselves further by creating their own maths stories, empty-box problems and error-spotting questions, showing excellent reasoning and problem-solving skills. Well done, Year 3!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

Year 4 have wowed us this half term with their hard work, enthusiasm and fantastic achievements! The children have demonstrated real determination and dedication as they strive to complete their Diamond Dashes. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made with their times tables and the confidence they are developing. Another highlight has been seeing improvements in their presentation and handwriting. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 4!

In English, we have been exploring the exciting world of Greek mythology. The children have planned, drafted, edited and published their very own Greek myths, and they should be extremely proud of their finished stories. They have worked hard to include a range of writing techniques, such as fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and descriptive language, to bring their characters and adventures to life. We have loved seeing their creativity shine through!

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of column addition and subtraction. The children have been practising how to set out their calculations accurately and apply these methods to solve word problems. They have shown great perseverance when tackling challenges and explaining their mathematical thinking.

In Art, we have designed our own Greek masks, inspired by our learning of Ancient Greece. We have carefully considered how different textures can be used to create particular effects and bring our designs to life. We can't wait to see the finished masterpieces!

Well done, Year 4, for another brilliant half term. We are so proud of all you have achieved!



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

Year 5 have worked incredibly hard this term on their theme, 'The Great Divide', exploring the fascinating history of World War II. Throughout the term, the children have shown great curiosity and empathy as they have discovered what life was like during wartime, making thoughtful connections through their reading, writing and creative projects.



In **English**, the children have been developing their journalistic writing skills by writing newspaper reports about the outbreak of World War II and its impact on society. They have been learning how to write in a formal, journalistic style to report on these significant historical events.

In **Maths**, Year 5 have begun their unit on addition and subtraction, building confidence in using mental strategies to solve calculations and develop their mathematical fluency.

In **Art**, Year 5 have been busy developing their skills as they create their own clay tiles. Working alongside our Art specialist, Mrs Bairstow, the children have explored a range of techniques and learned new skills that they will apply to their final pieces. We look forward to seeing their finished creations!

Well done, Year 5, for such a fantastic term of hard work, creativity and enthusiasm for learning!

KEY DATES

Eden Camp
Tuesday 3rd November

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



It has been a fantastic couple of weeks in Year 6, with quiet confidence and perseverance in abundance! The children have continued to rise to challenges, show a positive attitude towards their learning and demonstrate how much they are growing in confidence and independence. We are incredibly proud of their efforts!

What a fantastic week completing **Bikeability!** The children represented our school brilliantly and approached the sessions with enthusiasm and determination. They enjoyed learning new skills, developing their cycling confidence and understanding how to stay safe on the roads.

In **English**, we have finished writing our Ancient Egyptian action stories. The children have worked hard to develop their storytelling skills, focusing particularly on how to create suspense and keep their readers hooked. It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine through in their finished pieces.

In **Maths**, we have been consolidating our learning of arithmetic methods.

The children have been practising key skills, revisiting different strategies and building their confidence in choosing the most efficient methods to solve calculations. This has been a great opportunity to strengthen their understanding and celebrate their progress.

Finally, in **Art,** we have created some beautiful final pieces inspired by Expressionism. The children have explored how artists use colour, shape and expressive techniques to communicate feelings and ideas. Their finished artwork showcases their creativity individuality and growing artistic confidence.

KEY DATES

Parents meeting for Residential & SATs
3rd November 5pm

Egyptian trip to Leeds City Museum
10th November

Parent Workshop
18th November 9:15am

Highlights of the Week from X

Pinned

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 15

We cannot wait to welcome prospective families to JCA on Saturday 14th November! #JCANewStarters @accomplish_mat



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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Oct 20

We are so passionate about getting the early years right for every child. Thoughtful lighting creates curiosity, wonder & meaningful opportunities for exploration & learning.

> **JCAEYFS** @jcaeyfs · Oct 20
>
> The thoughtful use of lighting is so powerful in Early Years. ✨
>
> Creating focal points that spark curiosity, invite exploration & inspire wonder.
>
> ...



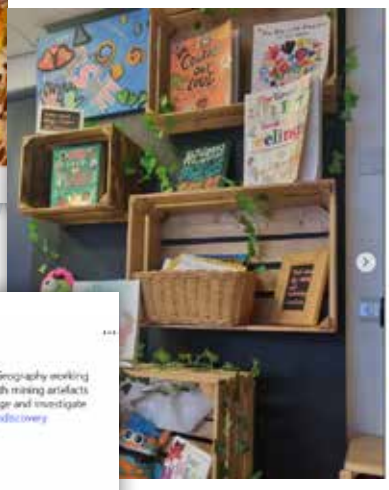
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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Oct 20

A brilliant, reflective Harvest Assembly led by Rev. Millie today. Thank you all so much for your generous donations to CAP! #JCACommunity



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jcawakefield

jcawakefield 🐚⏳ Year 3 are learning that every challenge is an opportunity to grow!

Our Personal Development and Book Displays encourage children to build resilience, develop confidence and embrace a growth mindset.

Through inspiring books and thoughtful discussions, our pupils are discovering that with determination and perseverance, they can achieve amazing things! 💫

#OneLife @onelifepd
#personaldevelopment

1d

View insights

Liked by jcenglishhub and 9 others



jcawakefield

jcawakefield A glimpse of our History and Geography working walls in Year 2! Featuring our crates filled with mining artefacts encouraging children to explore local heritage and investigate the past #Mining #History #learningthroughdiscovery

5d

View insights

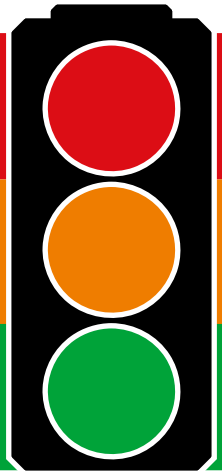
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5 days ago

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

Attendance Matters



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.

ACCOMPLISH
ATTENDANCE
ACTION

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