

# Accomplishing great things at JCA



## 1% better every day!

**We have been continuing to work so hard at JCA recently! Presentation is still looking really strong across the school and I have been really pleased that our attendance in school has continued to stay so strong!**

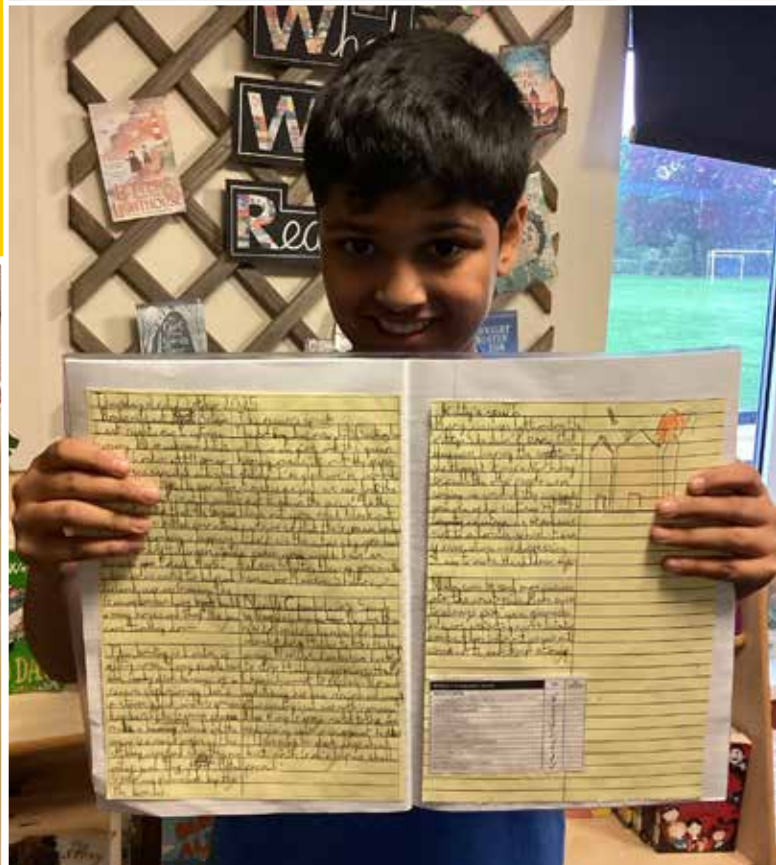
We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter this week and finding out about our learning!

A few key diary dates before the end of the half term:

**Tuesday 21st October – PTA AGM (Online)**

**Wednesday 22nd October – Harvest Festival Assembly (Children only – donations welcome on that day)**

**Thursday 23rd October – PTA Disco**



You will have seen if you follow us on X the fantastic news that Mrs Johnson has welcomed her son into the world! We are so happy for her and can't wait to meet Baby Johnson soon!



# 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	<b>99.40%</b>	98.40%
YEAR 1	<b>96.70%</b>	98.40%
YEAR 2	<b>99.30%</b>	98.40%
YEAR 3	<b>95.70%</b>	97.10%
YEAR 4	<b>96.70%</b>	98.00%
YEAR 5	<b>98.00%</b>	98.40%
YEAR 6	<b>99.70%</b>	98.40%

<b>97.40%</b>	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
<b>98.20%</b>	ACTUAL

**97% +**  
AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET

**BELOW 95%**  
CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS

**90% & BELOW**  
PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

# RECEPTION

Can you believe it is week 4 already? Our children have settled beautifully into Reception and are now familiar and confident with our daily routine. Friendships are continuing to blossom and magical memories are being shared every day!

## Our learning journey

### 'Whatever next!'

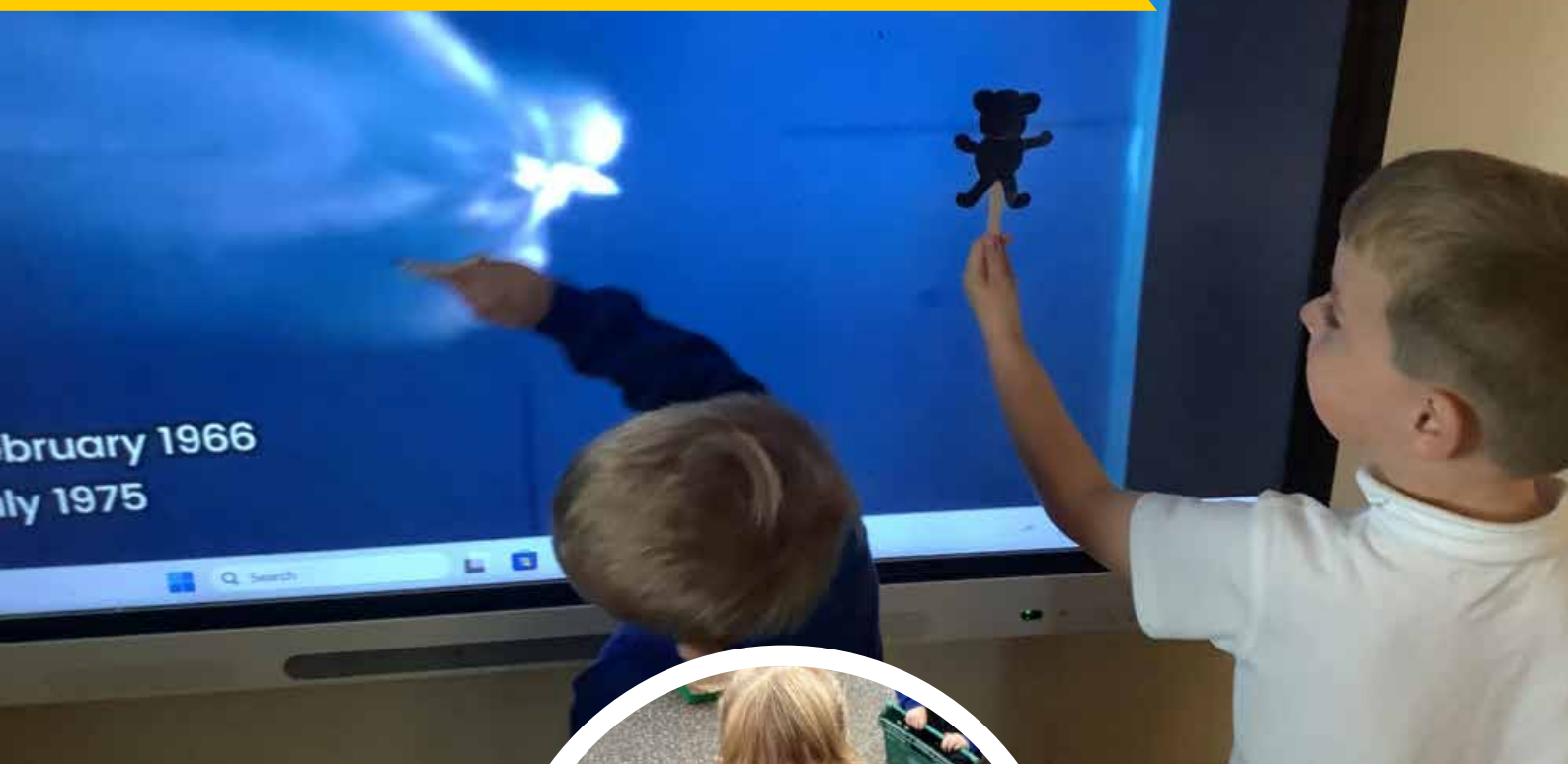
Last week, we read our new core text 'Whatever next!' by Jill Murphy. After sharing our new story, we were hooked by the exciting journey and practiced key phrases too.

We started the week inspired to construct our own rockets and begin our adventure to the moon. As a team, we created picnics, constructed vehicles and explored all around space. Following our interest in Space and Science, we followed our inquisitiveness with investigations and became scientists.

Throughout the week, we have predicted, investigated and explored colour combinations, while also creating different textures. After creating secondary colours, the children have loved using a variety of techniques and movements to drip, splatter and spray our paint.



# RECEPTION



## Literacy

The children are continuing to learn to read and write set 1 sounds. We have also introduced oral sound blending using Fed Talk and the children are getting really confident now. This will be modelled at Friday Library so that you can practise at home.

We also look forward to welcoming you to our RWI Coffee Morning on Wednesday to share our phonics learning journey with you. The children have been continuing to practise recognising and writing their name in morning challenge.

## Maths

In Maths, we are learning all about recognising and counting numbers to 10. Through songs, stories and a range of resources in our play, we have been counting forwards to 10 and beginning to recognise number formation too.



Our current favourite game is playing dominoes and counting and matching the spots.

## P.E

We were delighted to wear our new colour team t-shirts and start our P.E journey at JCA.

Last week, we had our first yoga session with our specialist yoga teacher, Charlie. After learning our new yoga poses, we also learnt to use shell breathing to regulate and calm ourselves. This week in P.E,

## KEY DATES

**RWI coffee morning for parents  
Wednesday 2nd October**

# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 1



**Year 1** have continued to flourish and immerse themselves into their learning.

This week we have finished writing our dragon descriptions using carefully planned sentences with adjectives and similes. We have also been using a new text 'The Night Dragon' as a stimulus for our English and History learning. We have used drama to recreate some of the action and created wonderful story maps to retell the events. The children were delighted to meet the characters 'Maud' and 'Mouse' which has captured their imaginations.

In **Maths**, we have been comparing numbers using greater than, less than and equal to and using the symbols  $<$   $>$  and  $=$  to record this. We are also striving high to correctly form numerals and count accurately forwards and backwards from 0-10.

We have loved learning about **Sandal Castle** this week, comparing it from 1000 years ago to now and talking about how it has changed and why.



We sang 'The Grand old Duke of York' song as he lived at the castle.

In **Geography** we are learning about the 4 countries of the United Kingdom and their respective capital cities. The children have thoroughly enjoyed singing the 4 countries song and devising games using elastic to retrieve these facts.

In **Art**, the children have created a mood board based on Jackie Morris, the illustrator of 'Tell me a Dragon'. They have been learning about watercolour painting and practising wet on wet and wet on dry techniques using the images as inspiration.



### KEY DATES

**Pontefract castle trip**  
**20th October**

# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 2

Year 2 are continuing to explore our coal mining theme and have really worked on their presentation across books these last two weeks.

In **English**, we are completing our hot write retells of 'Town is by the sea' and are excited to publish! We have really strived to think about the impact of our writing on the reader to help us reflect on our choice of vocabulary and literacy devices used.

In **Maths**, we have now completed our unit on place value. We particularly enjoyed our outdoor learning lesson of counting in 3s. This week we have moved onto addition and subtraction where we have been using number bonds to support our understanding of fact families.

In **Art**, we have applied our colour mixing skills to create tints and tones for our Art work background. We strived to produce gradual dark tones to create an illusion of a tunnel.

In **Geography**, we have explored where coal mines are on a map within the UK. We created our own keys to show past and present coal mines as well as looking at atlases to locate main areas. We were surprised to find out that Wakefield is within an area with a high density of coal mines.



### KEY DATES

**Coal Mining Museum trip**  
**24th October**

# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 3



What a magnificent few weeks we have had in Year 3 as we get closer to the end of our half term! It has been inspiring to see the children's enthusiasm for learning, not only in school but at home too! Our foundation subjects have really been shining and we have been so impressed with the children's retrieval of knowledge and application of skills!

In **PSHE**, we have been discussing World Mental Health Day and how we can look after our mental health. We discussed activities we can do and people we can talk to when we are feeling worried.

During our **music** sessions, we have been learning to play the chords C, A minor and F on the ukulele. We have been practising shifting between different chords quickly. It has been fun to play along to well known songs like "Roar" by Katy Perry.



In **Science**, we have been learning more about palaeontologist, Mary Anning, it has been really impressive to see so many children researching her at home too. We have used these facts in our **English** lessons, where we have created detailed biographies about her life. Then, we moulded dinosaur figures into modelling clay to create our very own fossils!

### KEY DATES

**Trip to Barnsley Museum**  
**Tuesday 2nd December**

# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 4

Year 4 have had another excellent fortnight. They have thoroughly enjoyed deepening their knowledge in history by learning about the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece.

In **maths**, we have completed our place value unit and are starting our addition and subtraction unit. In the last week, we have started to bring all our knowledge together including using number lines to support our understanding of rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.

In **English**, we have started drafting our final myths. We are focusing on Theseus and the Minotaur and it is clear that many children have enjoyed this unit. I can tell they have been reading and listening to the stories at home! Lots of children have written a fantastic re-telling of this classic myth and we will be displaying our beautiful work in class.

In **Spanish**, we have played 'Guess Who!' to support our understanding of naming parts of the face and body.

In **PSHCE**, we have discussed ways we can keep ourselves safe in the community. It is exciting to be part of such a great team, well done year 4!



### KEY DATES

**Year 4 Reading Group  
Meet every Thursday**

**Trip to the Gurdwara  
26.11.25**

**Trip to The Royal Armouries  
Museum  
26.2.26**

# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 5



Year 5 have continued to show their passion for learning through our "Great Divide" theme. They enjoyed a fantastic Outdoor Learning afternoon, deepening their understanding of World War II. Pupils 'dug for victory', built sturdy Anderson shelters, and created clay models inspired by wartime life.

In **Maths**, Year 5 have been strengthening their understanding of addition and subtraction. They have confidently mastered the column method and are now focusing on developing efficient mental strategies to solve problems. The children continue to take great pride in the presentation of their work, ensuring it is clear, accurate, and of the highest standard.

In **English**, we have been diligently creating a newspaper report about WW2. The class has focused on incorporating key features, creative headlines, including direct and reported speech, and organising their writing into clear paragraphs.



In '**Book Book Time**', Year 5 have been writing detailed character descriptions inspired by their core text, *Letters from the Lighthouse*. They have explored the personalities, emotions, and motivations of the main characters, using rich vocabulary and descriptive techniques to bring them to life. The children have worked hard to include powerful adjectives and varied sentence structures to capture the reader's imagination.

### KEY DATES

**Eden Camp**

**Wednesday 22nd October**

# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 6



What a brilliant two weeks we have had in Year 6! We have discussed the learning pit and how we enter and work hard to climb out of it and the children have showed this resilience in abundance.

In **Maths**, we have been challenged with long division. The children have worked and strived so high to master this important skill in Maths. It has also been so lovely to see other children mentoring and helping the children with the steps to success.

In **English**, we have worked hard on the lead up to our action stories. We have looked at using exciting verbs in the 'power of three' and also how to use speech effectively to move the story on. We cannot wait to hot write our stories next week.

We enjoyed our **Outdoor Learning Day** focused all around the ancient Egyptians. We worked as a team to create our own pyramids, sorted out events into chronological order and created gods and goddesses out of clay.



To celebrate **National Poetry Day** and the start of **Black History Month**, we looked at poems written by black poets and used our active reading skills to rehearse and perform them to our class.

### KEY DATES

**Trip to Leeds Museum**  
**11th November**

# Highlights of the Week from X

**Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 1m**  
Our core text: "Whatever Next" has really inspired Reception this week! This week's supermoon and the blood moon last month, as well as all of the planets, are particularly fascinating us! @JCAEYFS #understandingtheworld #creatingwithmaterials



5

**Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 22h**  
We are so pleased more children in our class are moving up the levels in Diamond Dash. We enjoyed celebrating together. 💎



13 365

**Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Oct 7**  
Year 6 had a brilliant morning with @edensforestcic exploring ancient Egyptians. We worked in teams to create our own pyramids, created a timeline of events and looked at Egyptian gods and goddesses @HistoryJca



19 441

**Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Oct 7**  
Year 4 used their research skills to find out more about the gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece. We used the same search terms and websites to evaluate the sources of evidence that could help us. Lots of excited conversations and prior knowledge shared.



11 300

**Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Oct 7**  
Year 5 have had a fantastic Outdoor Learning afternoon as they deepened their knowledge of WWII. They 'dug for victory', built sturdy Anderson shelters and created clay models inspired by the war.



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# Dates for Your Diary 2025-26

<b>INSET DAYS</b>	Monday 1st September 2025
	Monday 24th November 2025
	Friday 30th January 2026
	Friday 22nd May 2026
	Monday 20th July 2026
<b>Parents Evenings</b>	Monday 1st December and Wednesday 3rd December 2025
	Monday 23rd March and Wednesday 25th March 2026
<b>Coffee Mornings</b>	Monday 1st December and Wednesday 3rd December 2025
<b>Reports</b>	Friday 28th November 2025 – Interim Reports
	Friday 20th March 2026 – Interim Reports
	Friday 10th July 2026 – End of Year Reports
<b>Theme Days/ Weeks</b>	Thursday 5th March 2026- World Book Day
	wc 23rd March 2026 – Theme Week – TBC
	wc -18th May 2026 Creative Arts week
<b>Performances</b>	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
<b>Sports Day</b>	Friday 12th June 2026
	Friday 26th June Reserve Sports Day
<b>Summer Fair</b>	(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](mailto:Tracy.swinburne@amat.org.uk)



## **Mr T Palin**

Safeguarding Lead

[anthony.palin@jca.amat.org.uk](mailto:anthony.palin@jca.amat.org.uk)



## **Holly Dyson**

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

[holly.dyson@jca.amat.org.uk](mailto:holly.dyson@jca.amat.org.uk)



## **Helen Jones**

Designated Safeguarding Governor

[helen.jones@jca.amat.org.uk](mailto:helen.jones@jca.amat.org.uk)

