Friday 12th December 2025

Accomplishing great things at JCA

Jerry Clay Academy

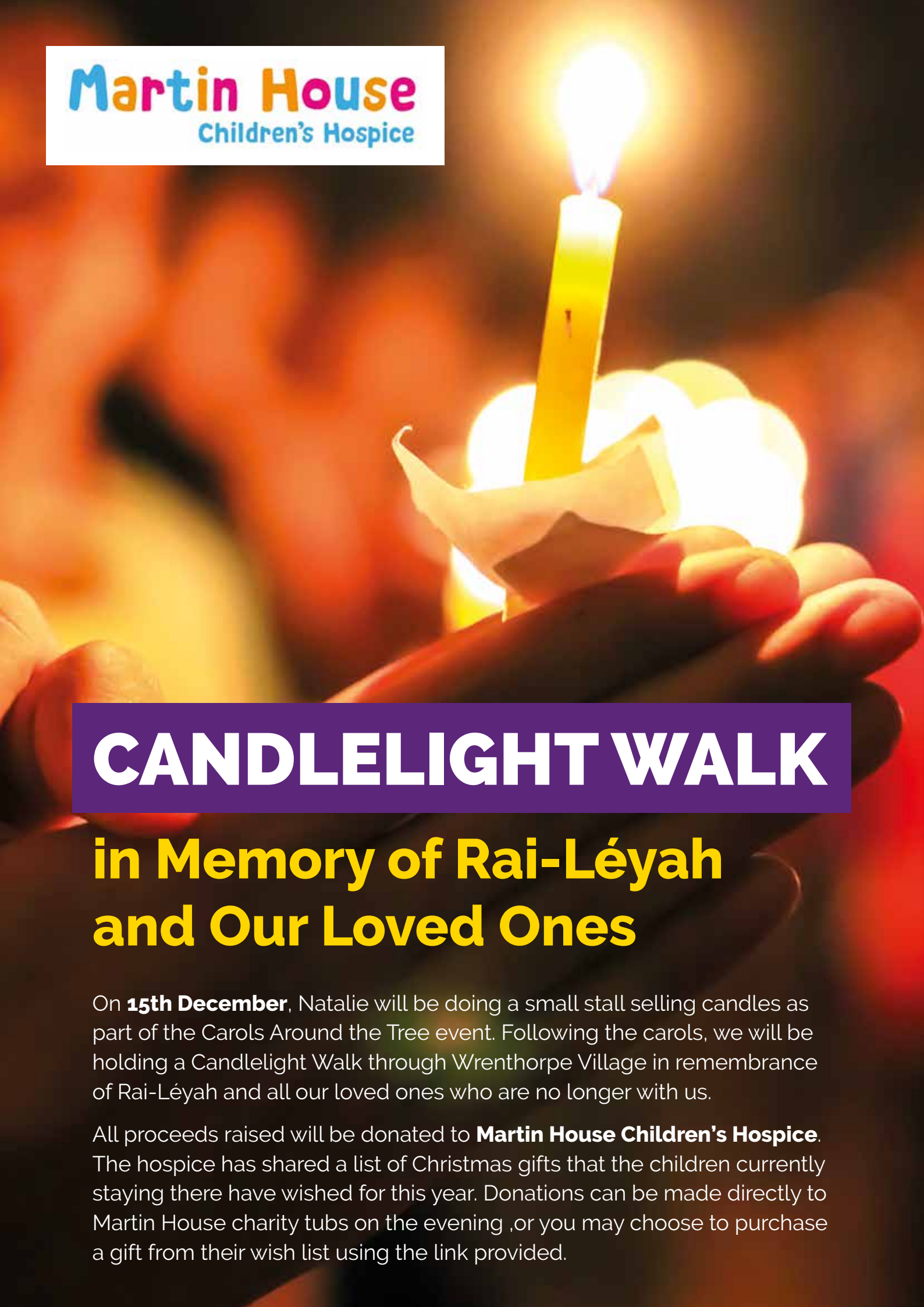
Embracing Christmas!

Time is flying towards the end of the term and we have been so busy with the Christmas festivities! Over the past 2 weeks, Reception have had their Christmas Activity Morning as well as their Nativity Performance – we have been so proud of them! Next week, we look forward to Carols Around the Tree on Monday, as well as Year 1 and 2's Nativity!

It has also been lovely to see curriculum themes come towards an end over the last couple of weeks; the children's knowledge and retrieval of knowledge has been admirable!

Please read on to find out more about what has been happening across the curriculum in all year groups over the last 2 weeks.

ACCOMPLISH
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



Martin House
Children's Hospice

CANDLELIGHT WALK

in Memory of Rai-Léyah and Our Loved Ones

On **15th December**, Natalie will be doing a small stall selling candles as part of the Carols Around the Tree event. Following the carols, we will be holding a Candlelight Walk through Wrenthorpe Village in remembrance of Rai-Léyah and all our loved ones who are no longer with us.

All proceeds raised will be donated to **Martin House Children's Hospice**. The hospice has shared a list of Christmas gifts that the children currently staying there have wished for this year. Donations can be made directly to Martin House charity tubs on the evening ,or you may choose to purchase a gift from their wish list using the link provided.

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	**93.20%**	95.30%
YEAR 1	**95.90%**	97.00%
YEAR 2	**99.30%**	97.30%
YEAR 3	**98.90%**	96.00%
YEAR 4	**97.80%**	96.30%
YEAR 5	**93.90%**	94.20%
YEAR 6	**97.70%**	96.10%

97.40%	**WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET**
96.00%	**ACTUAL**

97% +
AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET

BELOW 95%
CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS

90% & BELOW
PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

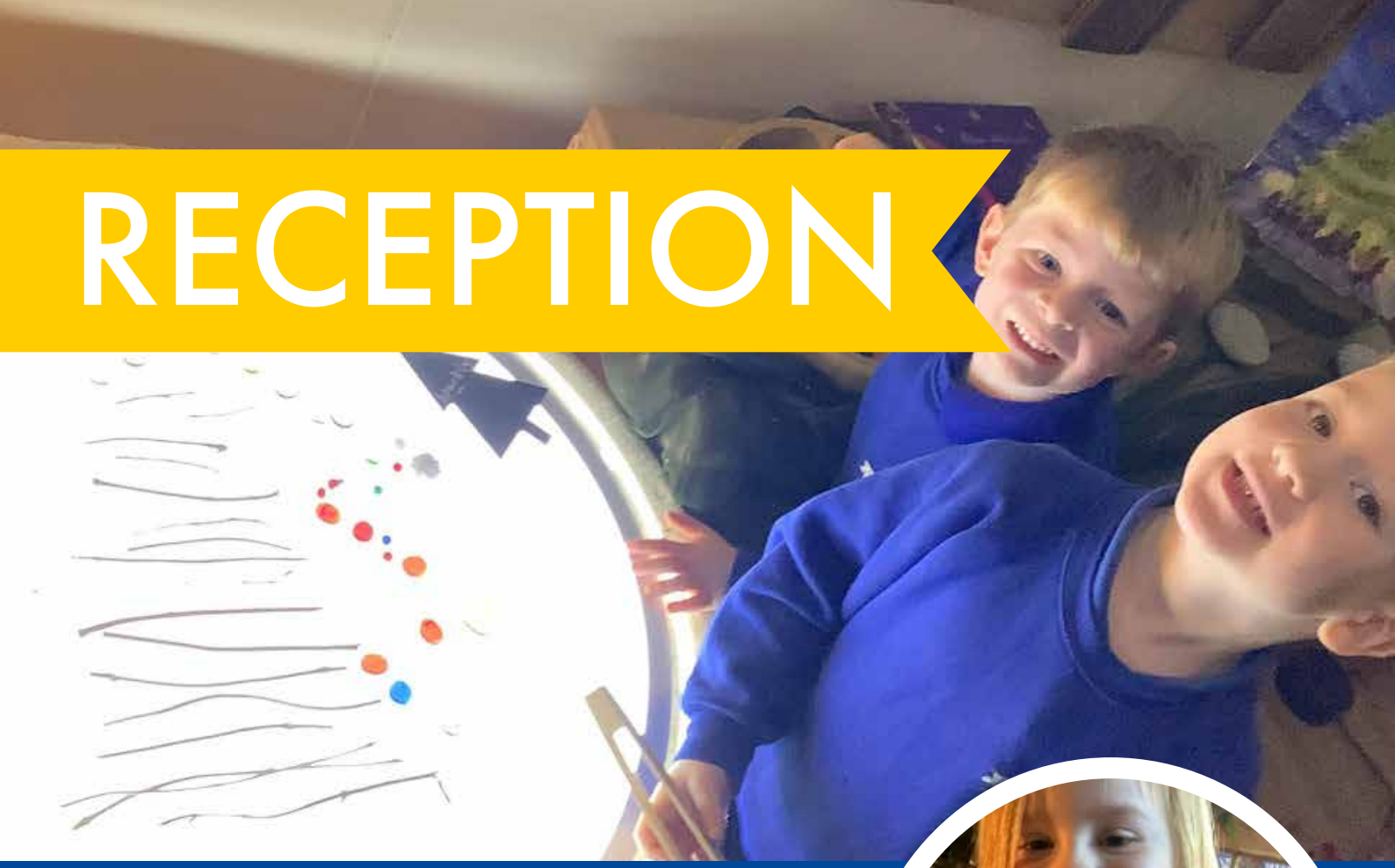
Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

What a magical first term in Reception as we have been getting to know our new school teachers and friends! In the build up to Christmas, we have enjoyed decorating our tree together, and sharing our Christmas activity morning, as well as our **Nativity** performances of "The Sleepy Shepherd" with you! We performed this 3 times in 3 days to big audiences. We are all so proud of the children's resilience and hard work, with some excellent singing and dancing thrown in too!

In class, we have been learning about the traditional tale of **"Hansel and Gretel"** which inspired us to draw, describe and design an alternative gingerbread house! We also loved sequencing the story with our friends and reenacting the events in our JCA gingerbread house! In the creative area, we have been busy using collage to design and make sweets and sticking them on to make the gingerbread house very magical.

RECEPTION

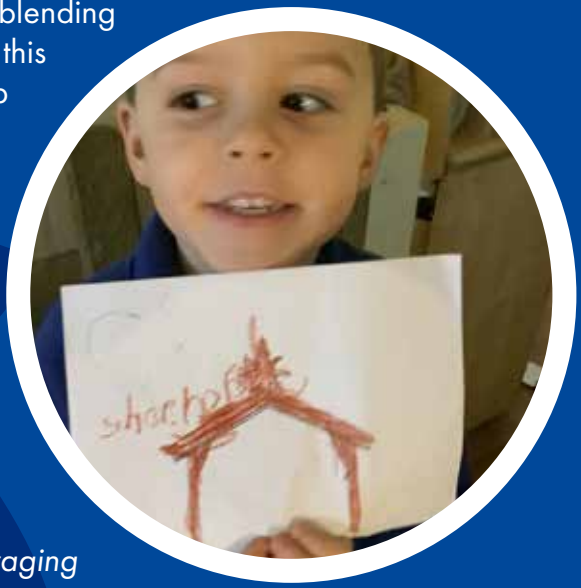


Literacy

This week we have started to read a new story "The Nativity Play" by Nick Inkpen, which has coincided with our performances of the nativity at school. The children have been engrossed in small world play using our traditional nativity set, as well as constructing a stable and a manger inside the construction area. Our writing challenge is to draw or write about our part in the nativity using our beautiful letters.

Phonics

We are continuing to work on our set 1 single letter sounds and our blending of set 1 sounds. We have been amazed by the progress in blending this half term and thank you all for your support at home! Please keep up the amazing oral blending as well as using the blending books at home and recording in your child's diary!



Maths

This week we have been learning about 1 more and 1 less, as well as the composition of 5. We have used popular stories and songs to support with this, and the children have continued this learning within their child-led provision time. We have been practicing the different ways to show 5 using our fingers, as well as with counters and through drawings.

Thank you all for your support over the Autumn term, and for encouraging the children to continue and further their school learning at home. We are looking forward to seeing what 2026 will bring and how far our learning journey will flourish!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

Year 1 are buzzing with anticipation and excitement, as they continue to rehearse for our Christmas Nativity and join in with the onset of our Christmas festivities by creating natural Christmas tree decorations. The children have been diligent in learning traditional and contemporary songs with actions, alongside learning specific lines. The children are very excited to perform this to you early next week!

In **English**, we have been working on using our striving vocabulary and compass directions in order to describe where dragons are located on our own devised wilderness maps. This has combined our Geography and English learning and has captured their imagination as they begin to write a detailed warning poster about the whereabouts of the dragons.

Subtracting has been our focus in **Maths**; we have developed our understanding using lots of different strategies to help, including counting backwards, crossing out, taking away objects and counting back along a number line. The children enjoyed using chalk number tracks outside to practice jumping backwards and creating imaginative Maths stories to consolidate their knowledge further.

In **DT,** we have been developing our technical skills of attaching paper and cardboard together such as flange, wrap, hinge, fold and tab and exploring how machines operate using previous examples so that we can create a spectacular dragon machine. We are amid creating these dragon machines and the children can't wait to bring these home once they are completed.

KEY DATES

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

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

The weeks are flying by in Year 2 and we cherishing the magical memories we are able to make together during this festive period.

We have been rehearsing our **nativity** on the stage and we are looking forward to share this with you next week. We also designed and created our own baubles to decorate our magical JCA Christmas tree!

In **Maths**, we have started our new unit on shape. We started by identifying 2D and 3D shapes to then help us count the sides and vertices on the 2D shapes. We have also explored and drawn vertical lines of symmetry.

As part of our **DT** project, we have followed a series of instructions to create pastry for our 'tin miner pasties'. It was vital that we followed each step accurately and enjoyed brining our designs to life.

In **Computing**, we have loved our unit on 'games testers!' We have been using the laptops to test a range of games and dig deeper into how they work. We have looked inside each game at the algorithms that make them work.

We have been incredible **historians** for our mining topic this week! We investigated and made inferences surrounding a range of sources regarding the Lofthouse Colliery Disaster.

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

What a brilliant and magical end it has been to our Autumn term! Our topic of 'The Lost World' has been a great source of enthusiasm for the children and it has been wonderful to watch this blossom.

Last week the children showed off their knowledge of the Stone Age- Iron Age on our trip to Experience Barnsley. It was an immersive trip where they made cave paintings, foraged for food and dug in the sand to uncover relics- like real archaeologists.

Year 3 have flourished this Autumn term and have shown such a thirst for knowledge. Some of the things we have really enjoyed and are proud of from this term are:

Prehistoric Britain Trip - Our trip to Barnsley Museum was fantastic, it really brought all of knowledge and enthusiasm to life. The children showed brilliant enthusiasm throughout the day and their learning has been apparent in their depth of knowledge surrounding Prehistoric Britain.

Our final Art and DT products - the children have worked exceptionally hard on their Art and DT pieces. They thoroughly loved exploring textures and collaging to create their Ammonites as well as tackling the challenge of sewing to make their own special Christmas baubles.

Ukulele - What a pleasure it has been to see the progress the children have made in their ukulele sessions with Mr Pitchforth! They have learnt a range of chords, how to strum and a whole range of technical songs.

For the Spring term we will be focussing on our new theme of **'What is Community?'**. We will look at what it means to be part of a community and compare this to community within the time period of the Vikings.

KEY DATES

Trip to Sinai Synagogue
Tuesday 27th January

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

What a term we are having together in Year 4! We have been striving in our wider roles in school these past two weeks. Our Tidy Classroom Ambassadors have been busy awarding tokens to the tidiest classrooms in school. We also have our Wellbeing Warriors and children attending the First Aid Club. We are so proud of the way Year 4 supports the children across school.

In **maths**, we have continued our multiplication and division unit, and our times tables have helped us to answer a wide range of reasoning questions. In English, we have recounted the epic poem Beowulf. We have looked at the original poem and discussed how English has looked different over time. We were very surprised by the look of Old English but noticed some words that felt familiar.

In **history**, we learnt about the way the Anglo-Saxons structured society and compared this to what life might have been like right here in West Yorkshire.

In **computing**, we have started our GarageBand unit and have created layered beats using percussion tools.

As we reach the end of this busy term, we want to take a moment to celebrate the diversity and unity within our classroom. This season is special for many different reasons: for some it is Christmas, for others it may be Hanukkah, Bodhi Day, or simply a time of rest and reflection. Whatever traditions you follow, we hope this break brings peace, joy and time with loved ones.

KEY DATES

Trip to The Royal Armouries Museum
26.2.26

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a wonderful term, always striving to be their best. They have fully immersed themselves in our topic, The Great Divide, showing great curiosity about World War II.

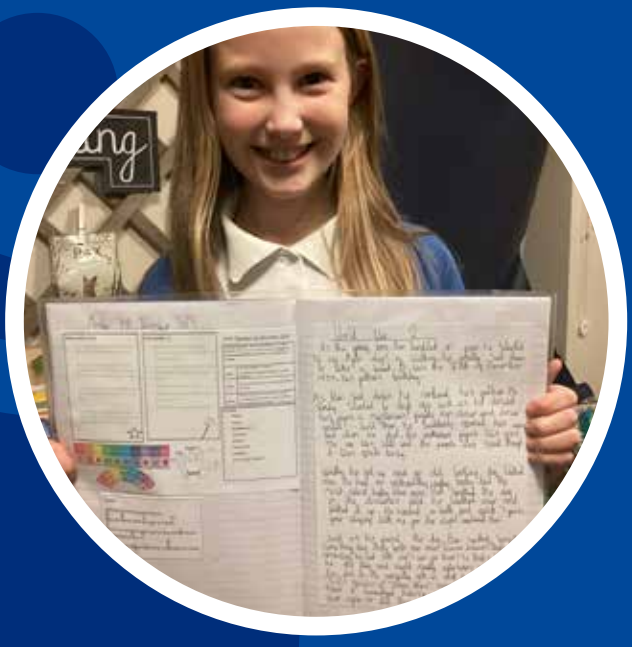
In **Maths**, we are focusing on fractions. The children have learnt to add and subtract fractions with different denominators and have shown real resilience. They have also begun converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa.

In **English**, we are learning how to write diary entries, with a focus on using emotive language and understanding its impact on the reader. Next week, we will publish our writing inspired by our core text, The Emergency Zoo.

In **History**, the children have brought together their understanding of World War II by writing excellent essays on the laptops. They included key events such as the Blitz, the evacuation of city children, rationing, Dunkirk, propaganda, and the changing roles of women.

The class have also been working hard on their **DT** project. Using protractors and compasses for accurate measurements, they have created successful Caesar Ciphers to encrypt and decrypt secret messages.

This term, each member of Year 5 has been paired with a Year 2 pupil as a **'reading buddy'**. They listen attentively and have shown what fantastic role models they are to the younger children.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6

What a brilliant couple of weeks we have had leading up to Christmas! The children have enjoyed many activities and their helpfulness around school has been greatly appreciated from so many classes!

In **Maths**, we have focused on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages for the past few weeks. The children have risen to the challenge and can confidently convert between the three.

In **English**, we have been engrossed in the story of The Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. We have worked on similes and metaphors to describe the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, and how his character changed in the story.

In **Geography**, the children have used atlases to locate different rivers in the UK. We then used this skill to locate rivers in Europe.

We have been fortunate enough to perform for a **community group** this week. It was lovely to spread so much Christmas cheer and the children performed amazingly.

Highlights of the Week from X

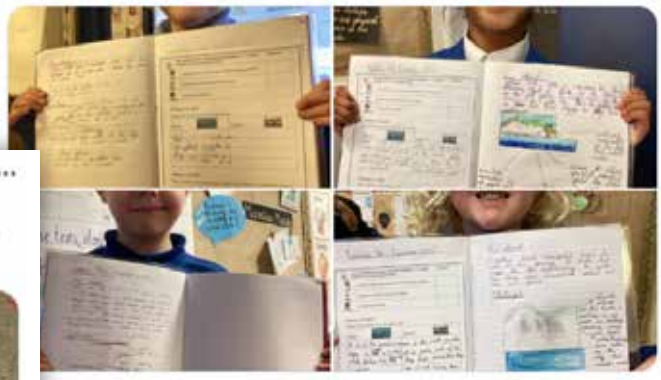
Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 4h

Year 5 have been working hard to complete their DT project. They have been using protractors and compasses to make their measurements accurate in order to create a successful Caesar Cipher. These products help to encrypt and decrypt secret messages.

1 38

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 22h

In Geography, Year 3 compared the features of coastlines between Dover and Serbia. They discussed human and natural causes of coastal erosion. @JCA_Geography



10 230

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 20h

Exploring composition to 5 in Reception, using the song "5 little speckled frogs" and representing this in different ways! Super maths this afternoon @JCANumeracy

6 129

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Dec 8

A touch of Christmas magic! Year 1 were excited to add their decorations to the school tree #Christmas #creative

6 314

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 22h

Year 2 enjoyed testing a two-player game on Scratch in computing. They tried hard with their coordination on the keyboard to pass the ball @ComputingJca

2 184

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