



Jerry Clay Academy Newsletter

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents

'Striving to be the best we can be'

This week, it has been wonderful to see the children right across school so engaged in their learning and showing such excellent learning behaviours. In our first Special Mentions assembly of the year, teachers praised their classes for their listening, their motivation and determination as well as for brilliant team work. Well done everybody!



Learner Trait Sheds

It is a joy to see some areas of school life starting to be a bit more normal. Children can now play together with children from other classes at playtimes. Our Learner Trait Sheds are open allowing the children opportunities to develop their team work, inquirer skills, perseverance, communication, thinking skills, risk-taking and caring.



Already this term, After School Clubs have resumed and it was fantastic to welcome the talented staff of Wakefield Music Services who captivated and inspired us with their brilliant music. Instrumental lessons begin again next week and we will be in touch with children in KS2 to notify them where there are spaces available to learn an instrument in school.



Attendance

This year is such an important year for all the children to ensure that they make the progress needed for their futures. We are keeping our fingers crossed for much less disruption for schooling this year. Every day in school is packed with essential learning in phonics, reading, writing, maths and across the curriculum. We have supported each other as a brilliant

community throughout the pandemic and we need to continue to do this by ensuring that the children attend every day they are well. Thankyou.

So, the start of a busy and exciting term is well under way! We are proud of the great starts all the children have made in including our new children in Reception. Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs C Elliott

Headteacher

headteacher@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk

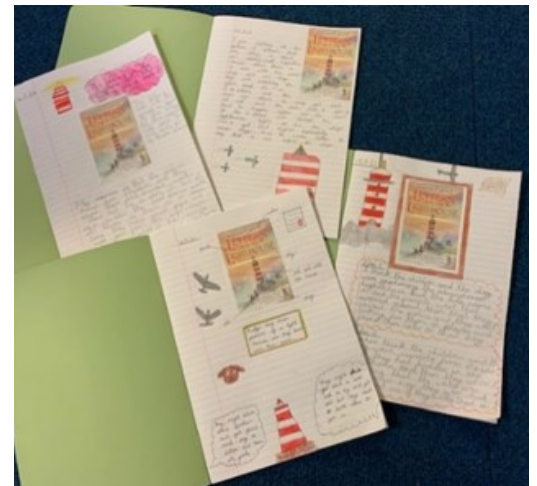
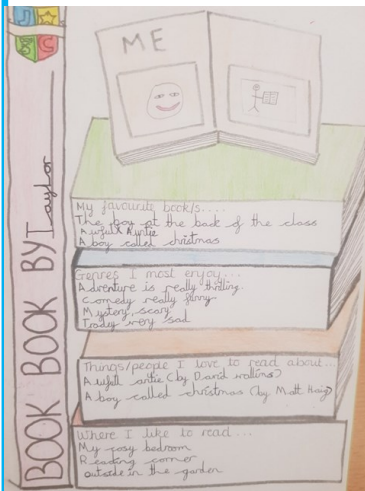
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Reading for Pleasure

There has been a buzz around reading throughout the academy since the start of term and the children have been exploring their reader identities; the types of books, authors and genres that they most enjoy. Studies consistently show that engaging children with reading is one of the most important ways to make a difference to their life chances. Being immersed in reading, enjoying a story and speaking about books allows the children to be transported anywhere, to develop their vocabulary and helps them to become fluent and skilled readers. Please support your child to read at home everyday and develop a love of reading. I have included some top tips on supporting reading at home.



Supporting Readers at Home



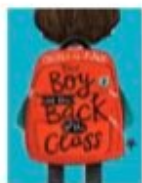
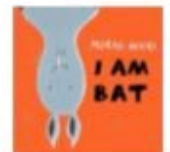
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.



Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.



Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.



Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!



I wonder if...why... what...who...



For more ideas see the OU website: <https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org>



Special mentions of the week

Teachers are so proud of the amazing effort of the children in their class and would like to celebrate the effort they are making. They have chosen their Special Mention; someone who has really stood out during the week for demonstrating excellent learner traits, fantastic attitudes to their learning and consistently being the 'best that they can be' every day. Well done!

Week beginning: 13th September 2021

Year 1– Oliver Shield

Year 2– Amrita Mann

Year 3– Esme Knowles

Year 4– Emily Shaw

Year 5– Rory Marritt

Year 6– All of Year 6

Attendance winners

As you know as a school we continue to focus on excellent attendance (where appropriate). As a whole school we have set a target for the year of **97.4%**.

Please note that children who are self isolating due to COVID are not included in these figures.

Class	This week	Year to date from the start of September
Reception	99.35 %	99.55 %
Year 1	98.00 %	97.50 %
Year 2	100 %	100 %
Year 3	99.33 %	99.58 %
Year 4	98.33 %	98.53 %
Year 5	99.33 %	97.08 %
Year 6	94.97 %	94.12 %

97% + AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET

BELOW 95%- CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS

90% & BELOW- PERSISTANT ABSENCE- SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET – 97.40%

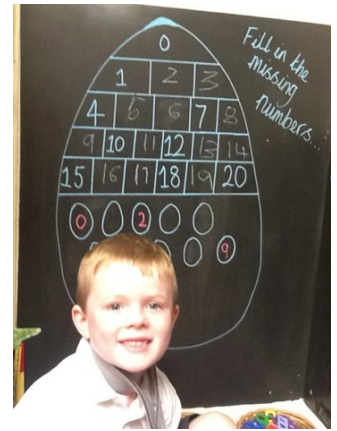
ACTUAL – 98.0% Keep it up, well done!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

Year 1

What an exciting start to Year 1 with lots of interesting learning going on! We have been impressed with the way in which the children have settled into new routines. Most importantly, we have seen lots of smiles!

Our Literacy learning started with our dragon egg delivery and a message. It wasn't quite ready to hatch but led us to our core text: Tell Me A dragon. In this text, there are so many different types of dragons and we used our imaginations to create our own using chalk on the playground. Our egg finally hatched yesterday, and we were amazed that it was a sparkly blue dragon!



In Maths we have been learning to sort objects into groups and count accurately, and we have started looking at different ways we can represent a number. The children have also been creating number lines.

We have started to experiment with watercolour paints in Art, and investigated materials in Science. The children have enjoyed exploring our indoor and outdoor provision,

where they have demonstrated their ability to meet challenges, be creative, construct and play imaginatively in the small world areas.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the year and are now settled into our new classroom and routines!

In Literacy, we had a magical time discovery our new focus text 'Town is by the sea'. We discovered and followed a trail of coal, which led to a dusty, wrapped gift. We were so exciting to read our story together!



In Maths, we have been developing our place value skills and recognising tens and ones. We have looked at a variety of ways to represent tens and ones to make numbers up to 100! Today, we challenged ourselves to use part whole models too!

Throughout the first two weeks, we have also enjoyed tag rugby and dance in P.E, exploring our new theme 'Magnificent Miners and creating mood boards in Art.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

Year 3

Year 3 have had a superb start to the year! As part of Key Stage 2 now, they have been enjoying their new responsibilities and have set excellent examples to other students.

In Literacy, we have begun exploring our first core text of 'Fossil' by Bill Thomson. We have used the pictures to discuss character's thoughts and feelings, as well as creating our own spectacular noun phrases to describe characters.

In Maths, we have been so impressed with the children's exceptional number knowledge! We have begun exploring and representing three-digit numbers and trying to partition these accurately. The children have also absolutely loved our outdoor maths session, where we needed to recognise hundreds, tens, and ones in different ways.

In Science, the children have shown astounding inquisitiveness when exploring our topic of rocks and soils, even bringing in fossils and rocks to share with the class. We have identified the three types of naturally occurring rock and investigated the durability, permeability, and density of different rocks.



Year 4

What a fantastic start back Year 4 has had! It has been amazing to see their positivity and love for learning really shining through.

Our first theme is called 'A Hero's Journey', this week the children have been really striving in Literacy to produce a detailed character description of 'The Iron Man', our core text.

In Maths, we have deepened our knowledge surrounding place value where the children are now confidently identifying and writing 3 and 4-digit numbers.

As our theme has been looking at superheroes, we have been looking at 'Pop art' and starting to design our own 'Pop art' piece. The children have really enjoyed using vibrant colours and bubble writing whilst learning how to make this look 3D in this piece of art work. Finally, in Science, we have started to look at the digestive system where the children have enjoyed learning all about what happens when we eat and how this is transported around the body.

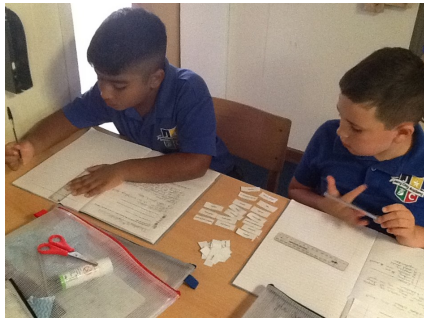
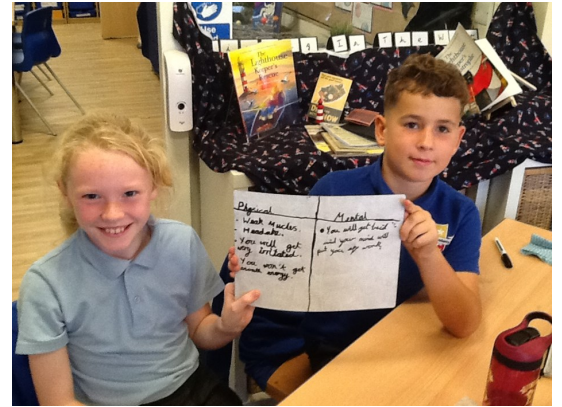


Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

Year 5

A fantastic start back from Year 5! It has been incredible to already see learning attitudes shine through.

We have started our topic; 'The Great Divide' this week and the children have already shown fantastic inquisitive skills to work out exactly what it is that we will be learning about. They have started to find out what life was like during World War II and have imagined what it must have been like to be evacuated. In



Literacy, we have started to look at our core text; Letters From The Lighthouse and have been looking at description used within the story opening.

As well as this, in Maths, we have been learning about place value in numbers up to 100,000.

Year 6

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the year. Lots of them have been working hard in writing their Junior Leader Applications and we are very much looking forward to the interviews!

In Maths, Year 6 have been learning about Place Value, consolidating and strengthening their prior knowledge.

We have also started to learn about 'The Ancient Egyptians' in History. We have been learning about the process of mummification and why this was used. We have also been studying different sources and created our own mummified oranges. We wonder what they will look like in a few weeks' time?

We are thoroughly enjoying our story book which is 'Secrets of a Sun King' by Emma Carroll. We have started to record our predictions and thoughts about this in our new 'Book books'.



An excellent start to the year – we are looking forward to seeing this continue!

Important dates this half term:

4th October Wakefield Museum Workshop (held in school)

5th October : Outdoor Learning Day

18th October: Bikeability Week



Highlights of the Week from Twitter



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 15
Reception Class enjoyed investigating and dissecting sunflowers today #EY #reallifelearning #physicaldevelopment #JCACurriculum



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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 14
Year 2 were superstars in their first computing lesson today! 🌟 They used their skills to start to create fantastic illustrations of miners! 🖥️ #JCAComputing



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Jerry Clay Academy Retweeted
Jerry Clay Academy Reading @JCA_Reading · Sep 14
Amazing to see some flying starts to reading journals from Year 5, using the front cover of their new core text to make some predictions - well done! 📖 #JCALiteracy #coretext @emmac2603

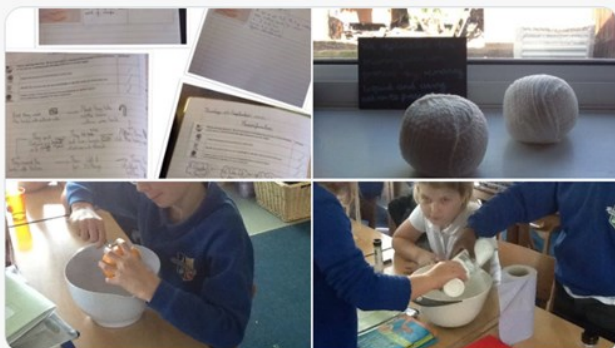


Such amazement in Year 1 today as our sparkling dragon egg hatched into a baby dragon - sprinkling glittery dragon dust all over us! #magicmoment #dragons #JCACurriculum



2 15

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 16
Year 6 have been learning about the process of ancient Egyptian mummification. We looked at different sources to investigate what they might be. We have also 'mummified' oranges. #JCAHistory



4

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Sep 13
Today, Year 3 have been creating their own mood boards inspired by our fossil artist Darrell Wakelam 🦕 @JCA_Art #artwork #3D



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Dates for Your Diary

INSET DAYS

1st November 2021

Monday 25th July 2022

Tuesday 26th July 2022

Parents Evenings

23/11/21 and 25/11/21 – Parents' evenings

22/3/22 and 24/3/22 – Parents' evenings

Reports

3/12/21- Progress check out to parents

20/3/20 – Progress check out to parents

15/7/22 – End of year reports to parents

Theme Days/Weeks

Wc 18/10/21 - History Week

3/03/22 - World Book Day

wc 4/4/22 – Theme week

wc23/05/22- Creative Arts week

Performances

3/12/21 – Reception Activity Morning

7/12/21 (am) and 9/12/21 9am) – Reception nativity

13/12/21 – Christmas carols around the tree

14/12/21 (pm) and 15/12/21 (am) – Year 1 and 2 Nativity

16/12/21 Christingle at Wrenthorpe Methodist Church

15/06/22- Art gallery evening

05/07/22 & 7/07/22– Creative Arts evenings

w/c 18/7/22 – Celebration week

Sports Day

24/6/22

8/7/22 Reserve Sports Day

Summer Fair

25/6/22 (TBC)

We will continue to assess how events take place throughout the year. We hope to invite parents and visitors into the academy to share and celebrate with us and will keep you posted!

