



# Jerry Clay Academy Newsletter

Friday 22nd October 2021

Dear Parents

It has been a challenging but rewarding half term in school with some incredible learning in all year groups. Firstly, could I say a massive thank you to the amazing Jerry Clay staff who have been simply brilliant once again working so incredibly hard to give the children the best learning and opportunities. As you can imagine, we continue to experience significant disruption to staffing but our whole team continues to pull together to keep our children safe, learning and happy.

This week, we also say goodbye and good luck to Mr Morris, our teaching assistant in Year 4, who is moving on to new ventures in his early retirement. He has been a valued member of our team and we will miss him although he has kindly offered to volunteer in the academy for a short while after the holidays.



## Attendance

Unfortunately, I must draw attention to the fact that attendance in the academy has not been at all good recently due to some families taking children out of school during term time for holidays. As you will appreciate, our staff are working incredibly hard to ensure that all our children have the absolute best opportunity to learn everything they need for their futures. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have worked closely with families to support the children with their learning and their wellbeing. Regular attendance during term time is a legal duty and due to the disruption of the lockdowns, it is more important than ever that children attend school every day they are well. Every day the children learn and practice new concepts, knowledge and skills in the core subjects of reading,

writing and maths and across the curriculum. It is extremely disruptive when children are absent and inevitably more gaps do appear in their learning. Whilst I appreciate that we have all experienced challenges during the Covid pandemic, I would please that you avoid taking holidays during term time. I am attaching a letter outlining our attendance policy. Any request should be made to myself at least six weeks in advance.

## Halloween Disco

Wishing everyone a happy half term and a happy Halloween. Thank you to our PTA for organising our first Halloween Disco in quite some time. The children absolutely loved it! A big thank you also to our incredible staff team for helping on the night. Just a reminder that our PTA's AGM is on November 4th at 6.30pm in the school hall and that we are looking for new members to take over so that these fun events can continue.

Have a good holiday. We welcome back the children on Tuesday 2nd November after our INSET day on the Monday 1st.

Best wishes Mrs C Elliott Headteacher

headteacher@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk





## Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

I am attaching a letter from Public Health Wakefield warning of the rising cases of Covid-19 in our area in school age children and how this is leading to transmission to family members and more vulnerable people. As a result, we have reviewed our risk assessment and, in addition to enhanced cleaning, hygiene and ventilation, we will be asking pupils to self-isolate if someone in the household has a positive test. We will be requesting a negative PCR test before returning to school.

In line with other local primary schools, we will not be re-introducing bubbles at this time and will continue to have assemblies in key stages rather than whole school. We have very much benefitted from being able to bring our school back to together and to reintroduce school trips and playtimes together. We still hope to be able to invite parents into the academy at key times in a safe way and will, as always continue to review the situation and to communicate fully with you.

The children's wellbeing and education is very much our priority and I know that you will support us so that we can minimise disruption to the children's learning.

## Harvest Festival

Thankyou for all of the generous donations sent in to our Harvest Festival on Tuesday. CAP and the Wrenthorpe Foodbank have asked to pass on their thanks to our community. Father Jonathan from St Anne's Church led us in thinking about where our food comes from and how we should be thankful for what we have and share it with others.

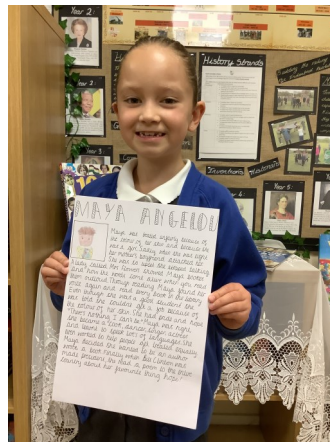
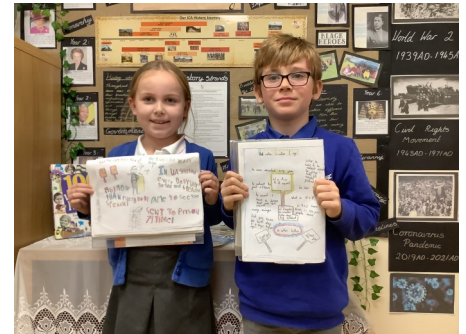
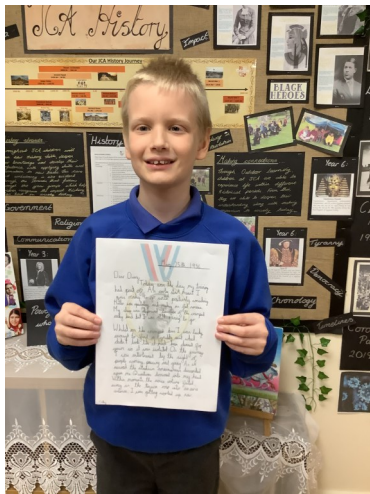
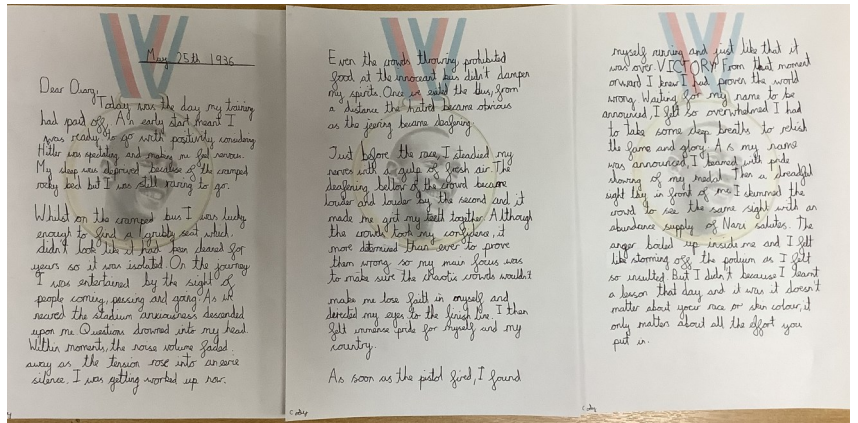
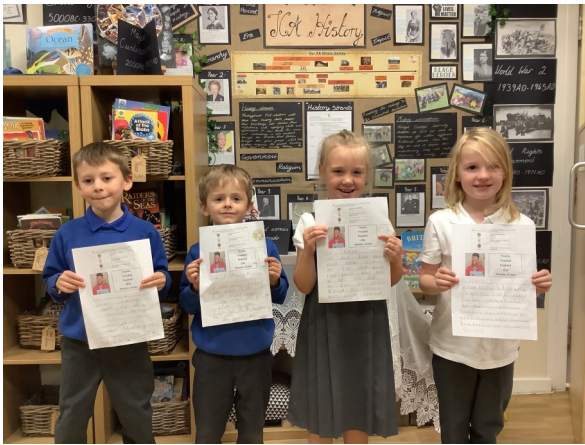






# History Week

This week has been exciting and busy and we have had a focus across the school on Black History with opportunities in each class to learn about a significant individual and to start to explore the issues of discrimination and equality. In reception class, the children learned about Rosa Parks and what it would be like to not be allowed to sit on a bus just because of what they were wearing or the colour of their hair. Year 1 found out about the experiences of Floella Benjamin as a child in her book 'Coming to England' and wrote heartfelt letters to her. Year 2 discovered that Raven Wilkinson was the first Afro-American Ballerina and about her brave fight to be accepted as a performer. Year 3 found out about Civil Rights Protester Dr Martin Luther King Jr and who led the civil rights campaign in the 1960's in America. Year 5 wrote moving diary entries in role as Jesse Owen who won 4 Gold medals in the 1936 Olympic games overcoming prejudice from some spectators at the games including Adolf Hitler. Year 6 have learned about NASA scientist Katherine Johnson whose achievements contributed to early Space Missions. All the children have been so reflective and passionate about living in a society where every one is treated with respect.







## Poet visit from Matt Goodfellow/ Wakefield Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

We enjoyed our visit from poet Matt Goodfellow who shared some poems with KS2 and told us all about how writing poems is 'Rebel Writing' and that we can use our own voice to tell our own story. Matt told us that poems can be many things, including funny, thoughtful and beautiful. 'Special Badger' is still one of our favourites" We are looking forward to Matt's visit to KS1 in a few weeks.

Wakefield Library also joined us for the day and presented us with an incredible selection of books about the Environment as our prize for winning the Summer Reading Challenge. We can't wait to use these in our learning. Thank you so much.





# 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: 4th October 2021

Year 1– Buddy Wainwright

Year 2– Cole Mercer

Year 3– Drew Peters

Year 4– Millie Bagshaw

Year 5– Theo Elliott-Cook

Year 6– Saleem Carter

## 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%**.

**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	91.61 %	96.48 %
Year 1	97.33 %	96.95 %
Year 2	97.00 %	95.86 %
Year 3	85.33 %	94.85 %
Year 4	90.00 %	96.14 %
Year 5	98.00 %	97.37 %
Year 6	89.45 %	93.88 %

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

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

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

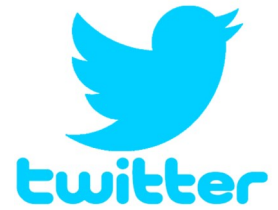
**WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET – 97%**

**ACTUAL – 95.88%**





# Highlights of the Week from Twitter



You Retweeted



**Jerry Clay Academy Geography** @JCA\_Geography · Oct 21  
Today, our new JLT Head of Outdoors launched her idea- to provide maps and compasses in our playground sheds to use at playtimes. More ideas would definitely be appreciated 😊 #JCAgeography



1 retweet 7 likes



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · Oct 19  
Year 1 are learning about @FloellaBenjamin in History week using her story 'Coming to England'. We have enjoyed listening to her story, finding out about Trinidad and considering her feelings on her journey. #JCAHistory #JCAReading



1 retweet 11 likes



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · Oct 18  
A great start to Bikeability for Group 2! We have also been learning about the history and geography of some significant people and events that we have learnt about during Black History Month. #JCAHistory #JCAgeography



1 retweet 5 likes



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · Oct 18  
Reception Class are learning all about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. They have enjoyed using the puppets and microphones to express their opinions and re tell important events in black history #EYFS #EYTalking #JCACurriculum #black-history #language #literacy



1 retweet 17 likes



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · Oct 19  
A great day with @edensforestcic learning more about WW2. Year 5 reflected on what life might have been like during The War and discussed the impact on communities. #JCAHistory #JCACurriculum



10 likes

**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · Oct 21  
We were delighted to receive our #Summerreadingchallenge prizes from the @WFLibraries yesterday - we will share the contents with the whole school soon!! #JCAReading



1 retweet 8 likes





## Dates for Your Diary

### INSET DAYS

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Monday 25th July 2022

Tuesday 26th July 2022

12/10/21—9:10am Reception RWI Phonics Coffee Morning

### 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!**

