

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Friday 22nd September 2023

Accomplishing great things at the start of a new year!

**JCA has started the year brilliantly!
We are certainly hitting the ground
running and we couldn't be happier!**

Thank you to all our Reception parents who joined us for our Phonics coffee morning this week. As you all will know, Reading at JCA, really is at the heart of our curriculum. Supporting you to best support your child at home is crucial, so thank you for coming along.

Our Year 2 children have also started the year with a trip to the National Coal Mining Museum. They absolutely loved this trip. See more inside our newsletter.

This week's newsletter is all about celebrating the learning which has been happening across the academy over the past two weeks, so please do have a look at the rich learning opportunities taking place.



Special Mentions

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!

Special Mentions for the week ending 22nd September 2023

YEAR 1	Oscar
YEAR 2	Albie
YEAR 3	Alice
YEAR 4	Louis
YEAR 5	Hisham
YEAR 6	Daisy

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	98.67%	98.77%
YEAR 1	98.39%	98.39%
YEAR 2	94.67%	96.19%
YEAR 3	97.33%	96.90%
YEAR 4	97.33%	97.74%
YEAR 5	97.79%	96.68%
YEAR 6	99.00%	99.05%

97% +	AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET
BELOW 95%	CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS
90% & BELOW	PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
97.46%	ACTUAL

RECEPTION



On Monday, we read '**What Ever Next**' by Jill Murphy and discussed how baby bear imagined flying to the moon. The children have enjoyed re telling the story in the small world area and developing narratives about space and the solar system using the space themed resources. This sparked lots of interesting discussions and questions about astronauts and rocket launches.

During the week, we have learnt to sing new songs and rhymes including '**Zoom, Zoom, Zoom we're going to the moon, Tommy thumb and 2 Little Blackbirds**'. We have also played a variety of circle games.



**Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're going to the Moon,
Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're going to the Moon,
If you want to take a trip, Climb aboard my rocket ship,
Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're going to the Moon.**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



In **PE**, we practised 'walking on the moon' and played an astronaut game using chiffon scarves. The children scrunched them up and threw them in the air then caught the floating scarf. We also balanced bean bags on different body parts including our head, back and shoulders. The children are really striving to get dressed/undressed independently and fold their clothes including mastering buttons and zips. Please support your child by practising these skills at home.

Throughout the rest of the week, the children have been developing play projects in our indoor and outdoor provision. They have particularly enjoyed building in the sand and construction areas, constructing waterways and painting. The role-play and playdough areas still remain popular choices.

On Wednesday, our specialist yoga teacher joined us for 30 minutes to lead a super mindful and relaxing **yoga session**. The children practised a variety of breathing techniques and enjoyed balancing a pet friend on their head. Our favourite technique is the dragon breath. On Friday, the children enjoyed developing their gross motor skills and building core strength on the outdoor physical apparatus. We were so impressed at their perseverance and risk-taking skills!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

What a lovely start to the new year! Year 1 have enjoyed lots of learning both inside and outside the classroom as part of our first theme: **Dungeons and Dragons**.

Dragon eggs have stimulated our work in **English**, we have been concentrating on using adjectives of colours and shapes to describe them carefully. As well as this, in our creative work we have practised sketching the eggs and started to investigate watercolour paints to showcase all of the different beautiful colours.

In **Maths** we have been looking at different ways we can represent a number including on ten frames and on a number line, as well as practising writing the words.

We have been learning all about the four countries of the United Kingdom in **Geography**, we especially enjoyed finding the United Kingdom on Google Earth and playing a playground game with elastic.



KEY DATES

Tuesday 3rd October
Pontefract Castle visit

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

What a brilliant start to the year we have had in Year Two! We have settled well into our new routines and have been striving high with our expectations. This week we have shared our first repeated read 'Our class is a family' and enjoyed exploring our connections with each other.

In **English**, we have recapped our phonic skills and began exploring our core text 'Town is by the sea' for our mining theme. We have used our reading skills to make predictions while creating story maps to help us explore the structure of the story.

In **Maths**, Year 2 have demonstrated fantastic place value skills. We have explored 2-digit numbers and partitioned them into tens and ones using flexible partitioning, working both practically with concrete resources and moving towards writing number sentences. With Mrs Longley, Year 2 have explored 2d and 3d shapes and their properties.

On Wednesday, we visited the **National Coal Mining Museum!**

What fantastic day applying our knowledge so far, with excellent opportunities to further our learning and deepen our understanding too! The children demonstrated such inquisitiveness and an eagerness to learn!



YEAR 3



What a brilliant start it has been to Year Three! Now as part of Key Stage Two, the children have settled really brilliantly into routines and have been showcasing an incredible work ethic across subjects. They have enjoyed the introduction of our first theme 'The Lost World' and are excited to continue strengthening their knowledge on this.

In **English**, we have introduced our core text of 'Fossil' by Bill Thomson where the children have been using their own imaginations, facial expressions and body language from the pictures to piece together the story. We have focussed on the build-up and climax of the story, making a plan of what we want to include in our writing. We have been striving to include exciting fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and past tense verbs as we start out writing this week.

For **Maths**, we have been building on the children's place value knowledge from Year 2 and have introduced hundreds to make 3-digit numbers. The children have loved using a range of practical resources to represent 3-digit numbers as well as partitioning numbers flexibly.

In **History**, we introduced our topic of Prehistoric Britain by working as a team to make a huge class timeline! We identified key time periods that we will be focussing on throughout the year and discussed where we would place these onto our timeline and why.

To link in with our learning on fossils, we have created observational drawings of ammonites in **Art**. We are looking forward to exploring our new artist and creating our final 3D pieces linked to ammonites.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



What a brilliant start to the term we have had in Year 4! The children have impressed us with their great attitude towards their learning and their eagerness to know more. They have worked very hard to start the term as a team and we have done lots of different activities to show our teamwork.

In **Maths**, we have been learning all about place value. The children have shown great knowledge in this area and have impressed me with their partitioning skills. We have shown great resilience with flexible partitioning and they worked well as a team to flexibly partition 4-digit numbers.

In **English**, we have been working on the Iron Man by Ted Hughes as part of our theme 'A Hero's Journey'. They have written a lovely descriptive piece all about the character of the Iron Man and what happens to him. They worked hard to include adjectives, adverbs and interesting vocabulary.

In **PE**, we have started our unit on invasion games. We have been focusing on rugby and they children have demonstrated brilliant throwing and catching the skills to show how they would intercept the ball from other players. We have also been very lucky to start our yoga lessons this half term which have been brilliant not only for our mindfulness time but also concentration in other lessons too.

We, have also started our learning in **History** all about the Ancient Greeks. The children were keen to learn so much and can already tell you so much about the society they lived in how they lived their lives.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

We have been thoroughly impressed with how quickly Year 5 have settled back into school and the drive and eagerness they have demonstrated. The children have particularly enjoyed playing 'Guess the Shelfie' in the outdoor library and practising mindfulness in Yoga. We have also enjoyed learning about WW2 in our theme, 'The Great Divide'. Year 5's curiosity about the theme has shone.

In **English**, we have been learning to write descriptive settings. Year 5 have included similes, metaphors, personification, alliteration and an abundance of adjectives in their writing.

In **Maths**, we have been developing our knowledge of place value. We can now compare and order numbers up to 1 million. We have practised writing 6-digit numbers as numerals and in words, as well as taking the time to read these numbers aloud.

In **computing**, we dived into our new unit, 'We Are Gamers'. We have been using Scratch to create our own game for others to play. Year 5 have thought carefully about the aim of the games and how they will engage the players.



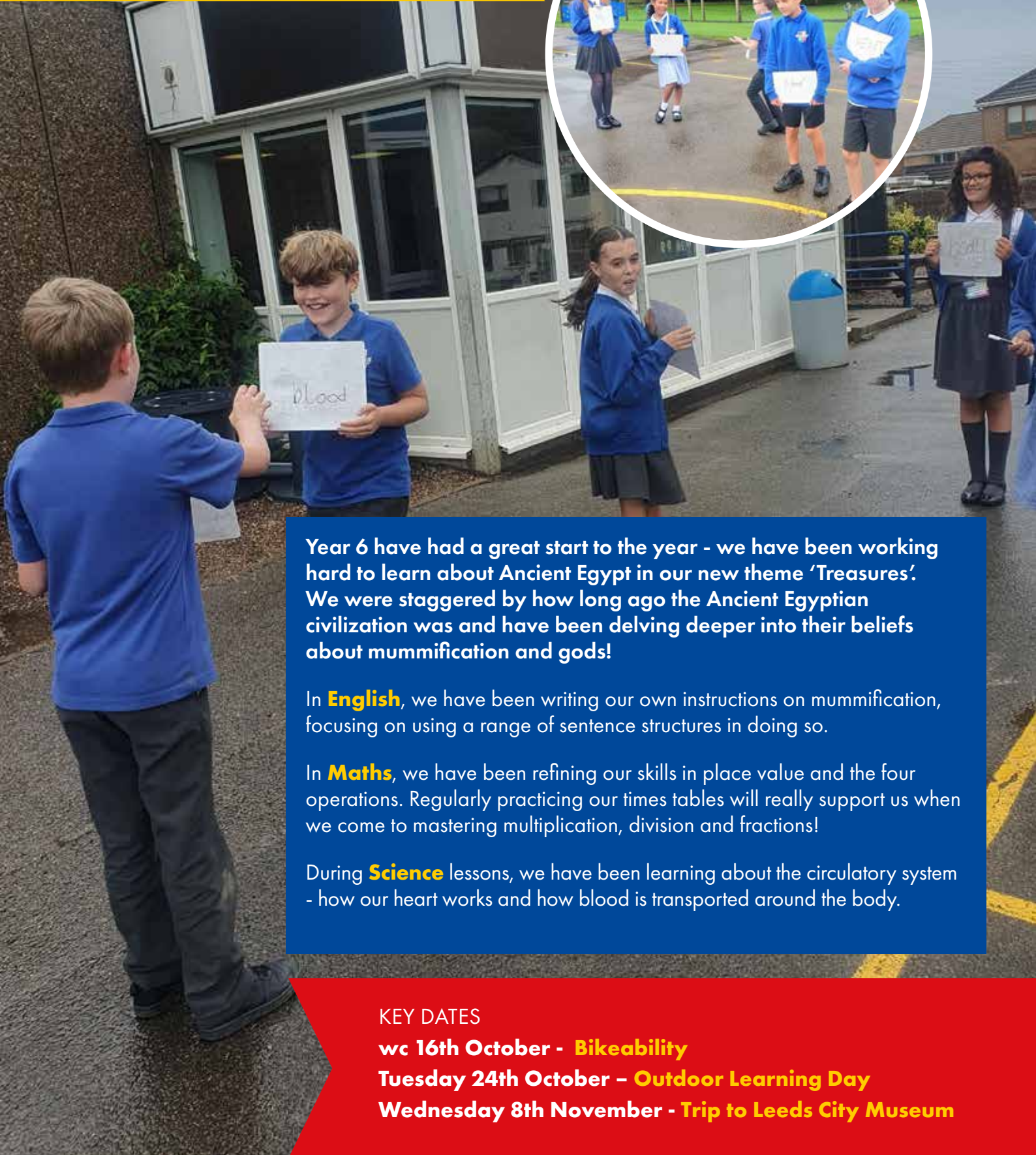
KEY DATES

14th November 2023

Outdoor Learning Day

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



Year 6 have had a great start to the year - we have been working hard to learn about Ancient Egypt in our new theme 'Treasures'. We were staggered by how long ago the Ancient Egyptian civilization was and have been delving deeper into their beliefs about mummification and gods!

In **English**, we have been writing our own instructions on mummification, focusing on using a range of sentence structures in doing so.

In **Maths**, we have been refining our skills in place value and the four operations. Regularly practicing our times tables will really support us when we come to mastering multiplication, division and fractions!

During **Science** lessons, we have been learning about the circulatory system - how our heart works and how blood is transported around the body.

KEY DATES

wc 16th October - Bikeability

Tuesday 24th October - Outdoor Learning Day

Wednesday 8th November - Trip to Leeds City Museum

Highlights of the Week from Twitter



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 1d ...
 A fantastic day at the @NCMME. Year 2 were excellent enquirers to extend their learning of the history of coal mining. We loved being able to experience the conditions of a real mine! 🛠️🏠
[@HistoryJca](#) #JCAHistory #JCACurriculum #MakingMemories



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 5d ...
 Our new Junior Reading Lead, Harper is off to a flying start! We asked her to start her interactive Reading board & this is what she came up with ❤️ A 3 word book review- 3 words about a book the children have recently read 🌟 Children of all ages have engaged with this #Reading



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 1d ...
 Year 1 are enjoying learning about the United Kingdom in lots of different ways, using games, the internet and books to help us.
[@JCA_Geography](#)



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 3d ...
 Year 1 have been representing numbers in lots of different ways in Maths; they have used 10 frames, number lines and practised writing the numbers as words! @WhiteRoseEd



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 3d ...
 Year 6 have worked hard in Science to explain how blood travels around the body. They worked in groups to replicate the blood's journey using scientific language. We will build upon this next week, delving further into how our lungs work. #JCAScience #outdoorlearning



JCAEYFS @jcaeyfs · 21 Sep ...
 Developing core strength, balance and agility in PE with beanbags and chiffon scarves #EYFS



Dates for Your Diary 2023-24

INSET DAYS	Monday 4 September 2023
	Friday 24 November 2023
	Monday 8 January 2024
	Monday 8 April 2024
	Monday 22 July 2024
Parents Evenings	Wednesday 6th September 2023 – Meet the teacher 3:45 – 4.05 and 4.10-4.30
	Monday 4th December and Wednesday 6th December 2023 – Parents' evenings
	Monday 18th & Wednesday 20th March – Parents' evenings
Reports	01/12/23- Progress check out to parents
	15/3/24 – Progress check out to parents
	12/7/24 – End of year reports to parents
Theme Days/ Weeks	Thursday 7th March 2024- World Book Day
	wc 18/3/24 – Theme Week – Speaking and listening – Ted Talks
	wc20/05/24- Creative Arts week
Performances	1/12/23 – Reception Activity Morning
	12/12/23 (9.30am) and 13/12/23 9.30am – Reception nativity
	18/12/23 – Christmas carols around the tree
	19/12/23 (2pm) and 20/12/23 (9.30 am) – Year 1 and 2 Nativity
	21/12/23 Christingle at St. Annes (AM) at 10am
	14/06/24- Art gallery evening
	Wc 8th July 2024 – Performance
	w/c 15/7/24 – Celebration week
Residential	London- TBC
Sports Day	14/6/24 (21//6/24 Reserve Sports Day)
Summer Fair	(TBC)

Child Protection & Safeguarding

The designated Child Protection Officers for this academy are:

Mrs T Swinburne

Designated Safeguarding Lead
and Executive Headteacher.

Tracy.swinburne@amat.org.uk



Mr T Palin

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Tony.palin@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk



Mr A Loftus

Designated Safeguarding Governor

Andrew.Loftus@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk

