

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Celebrating the wonderful recognition of JCA!

Our children & staff celebrated our brilliant Ofsted report this week. I am sure you will agree that the report truly reflects everything that is important to us. This quote truly epitomises our drive:

“There is zero complacency for what children can achieve in this remarkable school. Despite its outstanding status, the school has continued to improve since the last inspection. Leaders are relentless in their continuous pursuit of excellence.”

JCA doesn't do what it does for Ofsted but for the very best for our children. It is great to have validation; however, our drive continues so that we are enabled to accomplish great things.

We are pleased that Ofsted recognised our passion for developing Junior Leaders. This area of work is so important to us. Developing children personally should be just as important as academically. We are so proud of our Junior Leaders in school.

A huge thank you goes to our staff, trustees and all of you for supporting us in everything we do. This makes a huge difference to our team and everything we can achieve.

This report recognises our emphasis on the magic of childhood. Children are at the absolute heart of everything we do. They are seen as capable of so much and we passionately believe that their unique personalities should be developed to achieve anything that they aspire to. We have been recognised for doing it our way. A way that values a holistic education.

Ofsted
Outstanding
2023



We're going on a bear hunt!

Our whole school enjoyed celebrating Rai-Leyah's passion for story telling and her favourite story this week by going on a bear hunt. Thank you for all your kind donations of bears, which will now be passed onto Wakefield Hospice. The children absolutely loved the special bears along the journey, all representing Rai-Leyah's passions – Gymnastics Bear, Swimming Bear, Ice Skating Bear, Art Bear and Dancing Bear. We finished the hunt by entering the cave of the biggest bear ever! A lovely kind bear of course!

Rai-Leyah- this Bear Hunt was for you. Your memory and legacy will live on forever. Always in our hearts.



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 17th November 2023

RECEPTION	Vinnie
YEAR 1	Ella
YEAR 2	Evan
YEAR 3	Affan
YEAR 4	Ella
YEAR 5	Zach
YEAR 6	Morgan

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	97.33%	96.53%
YEAR 1	94.84%	96.49%
YEAR 2	96.67%	96.50%
YEAR 3	98.67%	97.62%
YEAR 4	93.33%	96.36%
YEAR 5	100.00%	96.78%
YEAR 6	96.00%	98.47%

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
96.96%	ACTUAL

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring your child attends school every day. As a result, our attendance remains in the target zone. However, I am receiving quite a few ad-hoc requests for days off and holidays in term time. Please can we ask that this is avoided. Days off disrupt learning more than you can believe. We are still facing the challenge of building back after the COVID pandemic and need your support to ensure every child has good attendance.

RECEPTION

Into the Woods

Little Red Riding Hood

Our new starting point for learning in Autumn 2 is 'Into the Woods'.

Last week, we read the traditional tale 'Little Red Riding Hood' emphasising the key vocabulary and phrases within the story such as 'What big eyes you have! All the better to see you with; What big ears you have! All the better to hear you with and What big teeth you have! All the better to eat you with'.

The children have been learning how to re tell the story using small world characters, sequencing cards and costumes. We are impressed at their acting skills! The children have learnt how to create a list so that they can write a shopping list for Grandma.

In addition to this, we have been playing 'huff and puff' mathematical games using a giant clock face and created observational artwork of leaves with watercolour paints. On Friday, we enjoyed jumping over the mound of leaves in our outdoor area and collecting them in baskets so that we could create 'leaf kebabs'.



RECEPTION



The 3 Little Pigs

This week, we read the 3 Little Pigs traditional tale learning the key refrains such as 'I'll huff and puff and blow your house down' and 'not on the hairs of my chinny chin chin, I will not let you in' to re-tell the story to our friends. The children particularly enjoyed re-enacting the story using props and building the story set using real straw, sticks and bricks. Throughout the week, we have created huff and puff paintings (blowing paint across the picture with a straw), huff and puff mazes and drawn story maps adding key vocabulary next to the pictures. The children were delighted to discover a tuff tray filled with shaving foam and wooden blocks so that they could build and design a strong house for the 3 little pigs. On Thursday, we created tracks with our feet inspired by the bear hunt memory walk activity.

Maths

In Maths, we are learning about direction so that we can describe the route to Grandma's house. The children particularly enjoyed programming their partner to move in different directions and creating chalk paths showing Little Red Riding Hood which way to go. We have also learnt how to instruct the 'bee bots' to travel in different directions. This certainly helped us navigate directions in our bear hunt. This week, we have learnt all about the number 6 including different ways to represent it!

Diwali and Remembrance Day

The children have been learning about the festival 'Diwali'. They enjoyed creating rangoli patterns using colourful small beads, buttons and tea lights as well as copying complex designs using numicon pieces. What fabulous ideas and creativity! We have also discussed the significance of remembrance and watched an animated video clip. Here is the link should you wish to continue discussions at home https://youtu.be/pv_ub7Be7oA

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

Action Words

This week, we have introduced Action Words to the children. These are 'red' words that the children should recognise on sight. We have sent home a pink Action Word book in a plastic reading folder for home learning. Please read the additional information contained within these books to support your child to read these words. We have included an additional sheet for you to cut up and play the fun games listed. The reading folder should be returned every day in your child's book bag. I have also included a blue reading diary in your child's reading folder and a blending book suitable for their assessed reading level. Please write a comment and sign to indicate when your child has completed their reading at home aiming for 5 times a week to build fluency. Books will be changed once a week, as appropriate, usually on Thursdays.

Home Learning

We would like the children to learn the 1.1 Action Words by playing the games listed in the pink Action Word book. Please refer to the additional information contained on the Action Word sheet provided. We would also like the children to read the 'sound blending book' aiming for 5 times a week.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1



We have had a busy couple of weeks in Year 1 settling back into the school routine. As I mentioned at Library time on Wednesday, we are really impressed by the children's efforts to be 1% better already this half term and how well they have immersed themselves in learning since the break!

In **English**, we have almost completed our first published story book 'The Castle Dragon' – for this we have invented and planned the characters, setting, problem and solution. We are extremely excited to share these with Reception class soon!

We have been learning all about parts and wholes in **Maths**, using this knowledge to create accurate addition number sentences. We have been finding out about how we can swap the parts around to create another number sentence too!



In **Geography** we have been using different information sources so that we can find out more about our capital city: London. We have identified some of the main landmarks in London and created a poster with these on.

We enjoyed a beautiful Autumn walk in **Science** last week to explore our understanding of Autumn as part of our Seasons unit. To relax, we have also been spending time reading for pleasure and having our mindful minutes listening to music.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2



Wow! What a brilliant start to the second half term! Year 2 have returned to school with an abundance of effort to strive to be the best! It has been so impressive to see the effort and care they are demonstrating in their learning.

In **English**, we have completed our own story inspired by our core text 'Town is by the sea'. We are so excited to publish these and share them with you. We have redrafted and up-levelled our writing to include our best vocabulary and reflect on the impact on the reader.

In **Maths**, we have started our new unit, Addition and Subtraction. We have applied our place value skills of tens and ones to help us to add multiples of ten.

In **Geography**, we have reviewed our map skills and identified if features of our maps were physical or human features. We challenged our thinking when discussing the National Coal Mining Museum as we realised it has both human and physical elements.

In **P.E.**, our focus this half term is gymnastics. We have loves travelling at different levels and using our bodies to make different shapes.

On Wednesday afternoon, we went on a magical memory bear hunt! Our repeated read 'Grandad's Camper' has helped us to reflect on what we can do when we miss someone.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



What a busy yet brilliant two weeks we have had to start our half term! Our highlight so far has definitely been our school trip to Experience Barnsley Museum to explore more about the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children were in awe of the range of artefacts on display and their enthusiasm and inquisitiveness shone throughout the whole of the day!

In **English**, we have taken great pride when editing and then publishing our biographies on the life of Mary Anning. We have now moved onto exploring our brand-new core text of 'Stone Age Boy' and over the coming weeks will be building up our knowledge of features for a diary entry.

In **Maths**, we have focussed on different strategies to help us check our calculations such as estimating and using inverse operations. This now means that we have completed our topic on addition and subtraction and will be moving onto multiplication and division.



For **RE**, we explored how Hindus pray both in the Mandir and at home. We identified some of the key symbols and objects used during their worship (known as Puja) and discussed some of the similarities and difference between Hindu prayer, Islamic prayer and Christian prayer.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a great couple of weeks starting the term eager to learn and ready for the challenge that the term brings. I have been very impressed with the mature attitudes and enthusiasm in our lessons.

In **PE**, the focus is on gymnastics. This week we focused on creating balances and how we can travel in between the balances. The children showed great team work during this session!

In **English**, we have just started our new core text 'Beowulf' this has inspired the children already and we are eager to learn how we are going to use this text this half term.

In **maths**, we have been exploring Area. The children have shown good understanding of the unit of learning and have learnt about it in a variety of ways. They have used post it notes to show different rectilinear shapes and also drawn their own shapes to compare area.

We also enjoyed the 'Bear Hunt' this week in memory of Rai-Leyah. The children were respectful and reflective when we got to each base to identify each style of bear and thoroughly enjoyed acting out the story of 'We are going on a bear hunt'.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5



We have had a fantastic couple of weeks in Year 5, all of the children returned from half term eager to continue their learning. Year 5 have impressed us across the curriculum, linking their learning to real-life experiences.

In **English**, we have written brilliant, captivating stories set during WW2. They thought carefully about the structure of their writing. They presented their stories clearly using an opening, build-up, dilemma, resolution and ending. The children shone with pride as they completed their stories. This week, we have finished reading our core text, 'Letters to the Lighthouse' and have begun the moving story of 'Emergency Zoo'.

In **Maths**, we have begun our learning of fractions – a unit of work which is challenging the children and enhancing their love of problem solving. We are able to add and subtract fractions with the same denominators, find equivalent fractions and convert improper fractions to mixed numbers. Next week, we will be applying this knowledge to reasoning questions.

This half term, in **Computing**, Year 5 will be learning about the importance of encrypted messages and will understand why they are used. This week we enjoyed learning the Semaphore alphabet and used this to crack the secret code.

In **Geography**, we have been focussing on the different capital cities around the world, and this week Year 5 demonstrated their progress with this learning. We have also researched the Allied and Axis powers in World War 2. We used an atlas to help us identify where each country belongs on the map and we created our own map to present our learning.

KEY DATES

Wednesday 13th December
Outdoor Learning Day

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



We are so proud of all of our Junior Leadership Team and how well they represented themselves and Jerry Clay Academy at our Open Morning. They spoke with passion for learning, were polite and courteous and were confident in their speaking and listening skills. We would also like to thank them for their superb job in leading classes during our We Are Going On a Bear Hunt adventure.

In **English**, Year 6 have been learning about writing newspaper articles and will write these to report on key events in Ancient Egypt. In Maths, Year 6 have worked hard to further their learning about fractions. They have simplified, converted and are now beginning to add and subtract a range of fractions.

In **Geography**, we have been learning about rivers and have started to learn the names for different parts and started to locate rivers across the UK. We have also been very mature when engaging in class discussions about screen time and sharing on social media, as part of our PSHE lessons which have linked to anti-bullying.

KEY DATES

Tuesday 28th November 9am – 10am
Y6 Parent Workshop

Thursday 30th November
Outdoor Day

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

