

Accomplishing great things at JCA



A magical Christmas at JCA

As we reach the end of a great first term of the academic year, I would like to give my thanks to all of the staff, children, trustees and you for your support in ensuring the very best for our children.

We have achieved so much this term and I am particularly proud of:

- the excellent progress made in every subject and every key stage
- gaining a consecutive Ofsted Outstanding in October 2023
- achieving Arts Mark Platinum for our commitment and excellence in the Arts
- seeing more children than ever gain Diamond Dash awards for their work on timetables
- achieving more reading tickets than ever for commitment to reading at home
- seeing that our fundraising has contributed to creating 4 family rooms at the LGI in loving memory of Rai-Leyah

Next term, we look forward to a 10 week term. Please see a reminder of some of our dates for the Spring term in the newsletter.

Please celebrate the wonderful learning that has been happening across the academy over the past two weeks within our newsletter.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024.

See you all on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

With warm wishes,

Mrs. T Swinburne



A magical Christmas at JCA



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	97.85%	96.42%
YEAR 1	94.57%	96.29%
YEAR 2	87.23%	95.03%
YEAR 3	92.81%	97.22%
YEAR 4	97.20%	96.98%
YEAR 5	94.93%	96.30%
YEAR 6	97.08%	98.25%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
96.64%	ACTUAL

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

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.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



The Nativity

A magical week full of celebrations and festivities! The children took to the stage last week to perform 'The Nativity' oozing with confidence and enthusiasm. What an exceptional performance showcasing lots of talent! We are incredibly proud of how the children projected their voice and sang all of the songs with exaggerated actions. Our favourites were 'knock, knock, knock' and '3 Kings were riding'.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



Christmas

During the week, we have been building Santa's sleigh using outdoor construction equipment, creating Christmas cards, calendars, tree decorations and Christmas lists as well as wrapping parcels for Santa's sack in the sleigh and crafting Christmas stars in our Elf workshop. The children have also been busy re-telling the Christmas story with finger puppets!

Maths

In Maths, we are learning about repeating patterns so that we can create Christmas patterns with peg boards, coloured cubes, collage materials and natural objects. We also applied our mathematical knowledge of pattern and size to create a Christmas tree themed calendar.



Literacy

In Literacy, we have been writing Christmas lists, showing off our phonic knowledge and beautiful letter formation. We have learnt 'The 12 days of Christmas' song and read an abundance of Christmas stories throughout the week.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1



Year 1 have had an amazing term completely immersing themselves in our Dungeons and Dragons theme! We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them, their confidence is just shining now and we can't wait to see how this continues in 2024!

We have been so busy both inside and outside of school, learning in the classroom, outside and we have even been on 2 school visits to Pontefract Castle and St Anne's church. It has certainly been a term to remember. The children have enjoyed developing their **Art and DT** skills, working creatively in their sketchbooks in order to produce high quality outcomes in both subjects. Their work is sparkling on display in our classroom and we are so proud!

We have worked so hard on developing our Reading and Phonics, with lots of practice in school and at home too! Additionally to this, we have continually been spending time **Reading for Pleasure**; last week we were invited to their Magical Outdoor library. We were delighted when Mrs Pickersgill said we could take back all of the special Christmas books to share in class. We have been reading these all week!

This is Bethlehem Nativity: what a wonderful way to end our first term in Year 1. The children spoke and sang so clearly on stage with everybody taking part and shining as part of our KS1 team! We have had a magical time celebrating Christmas in school, and are excited for the new year ahead!



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2



What an incredible term Year 2 have had. The progress they have made has been amazing and they have much to be proud of. Our theme this term has been 'Magnificent Mines'. After our visit to the National Coal Mining Museum back in September, we were hooked into our learning about coal mining. From History and comparing the Victorian Era to Modern day, to locating coal mines in Geography and creating mining portraits in Art, the children have become experts about coal mining!

Our final Art pieces – The children have persevered to develop new skills of mixing and creating tones to create detailed backgrounds and foregrounds. After being inspired by Valerie Ganz, the children applied their skills to create their own mining portrait. It took a lot of patience and perseverance to develop each step and they were so proud of their final outcome.

Published writing – After our visit to the mining museum, we discovered one of the miners had gone missing! We created detailed missing posters and developed our vocabulary and adjectives to create detailed descriptions using expanded noun phrases. The children then created, redrafted and published their own stories of 'Town is by the sea'.

Nativity – What a magical way to finish the term! The children sparkled on stage and it was incredibly special to share this memory with you!

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 and inquisitiveness for the children and it has been wonderful to watch this blossom. The children have also really enjoyed reflecting on their successes from this term and looking ahead to our Spring term.

Some of the things we have really enjoyed and are proud of from this term are:

Our final Art and DT products - the children have worked exceptionally hard on their Art and DT pieces, building on and adapting their skills from previous year groups. 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.

Prehistoric Britain Trip - in November 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 they have continued to increase their depth of knowledge surrounding Prehistoric Britain since our trip.

Ukulele - What a pleasure it has been to see the progress the children have made in their ukulele sessions with Mrs Garside! 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**' and beginning to explore the human and physical characteristics of our local area. We will look at what it means to be part of a community and also compare this to community within the time period of the Vikings.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



We have had a brilliant term in Year 4, the progress the children have made since September has been amazing and I can see how year 4 ready they are now. Their enthusiasm towards our learning has been fantastic especially through our theme of 'A Hero's Journey' where we focused on the Ancient Greeks and the Anglo Saxons.

The children have also reflected on this term and all the exciting things we have accomplished:

Art final pieces: the children worked exceptionally hard on their Ancient Greek 3D masks with relief made from cardboard and other materials. The children looked at the history of the masks and what emotion they might portray to create a brilliant final product.

History: The children have loved their history units this term but in particular, the practical activities we have done outside.

In Ancient Greeks we had our Olympic games where the children took part in Horse riding, javelin and other amazing activities to compare the games from then to now. The children also enjoyed turning into archaeologists in our Anglo-Saxon unit when we had to excavate the burial ground of Sutton Hoo and discover who the artefacts belonged to.

We have worked together this term in **PSHE** to build strong friendships and complement each other's learning.

For the Spring term we will be focusing on our new theme "**How can small actions eventually change the world?**" We will be using Geography as our driver for this term focusing on rainforests of the world and comparing climates to the UK.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5



Year 5 have had a great few weeks to complete their first term in Year 5!

Last week, we were fortunate to have an **Outdoor Learning Day**, which focused on WW2. The children amazed the leaders with their knowledge of the topic and their ability to retrieve facts, dates and key information. The day consisted of building shelters, creating a vast human map, thinking about how far countries had to travel to invade other countries, making smores on the fire and creating a WW2 object out of clay – which they could keep to remind them of the brilliant day they had.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5



This week, Year 5 enjoyed learning the essential skills needed to make their own loaves of bread. The demonstrated lots of our learner traits, particularly team work and communication. Throughout the term, we have evaluated existing products, created a research survey, designed our product, made it and then finally evaluated what they had each made. Collectively, we made an olive, cheese, plain, chocolate, and a sun-dried tomato loaf of bread. We aimed to make a war time treat.

We have had many other highlights this term including, our visit to Eden Camp, designing and creating our clay tiles and the brilliant published writing Year 5 have produced. The whole class have worked extremely well this term and we are super impressed with the attitude towards learning.

Next term, we will start our new topic, **'What's the difference between living and surviving?'** and our core reading book will be 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear'. In Maths, we will continue to learn and practice different methods for multiplying and dividing. In English, we will focus on an explanation text's features.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



Year 6 have had a fantastic term and many successes - from developing leadership skills to representing Jerry Clay in tournaments and trips. We continue to be so proud of all of them for their academic and personal achievements.

In **Maths**, we have continued to learn and consolidate all of our arithmetic methods and deepen our learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. We will be continuing to do this next half term. We have been so proud of their 'can do' attitudes in learning, particularly in Maths, and know that Year 6 will continue with this as we progress through the year. Our next steps will be to revise and consolidate all of our maths learning. Please do have a look over the arithmetic methods booklet and revision guides that were sent home last week – these will support with revision.

In **Reading**, Year 6 have been reading A Christmas Carol and identifying evidence to support characters' personalities. Throughout the term, they have continued to develop their understanding of vocabulary and confidence when reading longer texts. We will be continuing this next half term and appreciate your support in ensuring that your child continues to read every day!

In our **DT** lessons, we have continued to build and paint our Ancient Egyptian death masks and have created our final pieces. Yoga lessons have also been a big highlight this term and we look forward to these continuing in the new year!

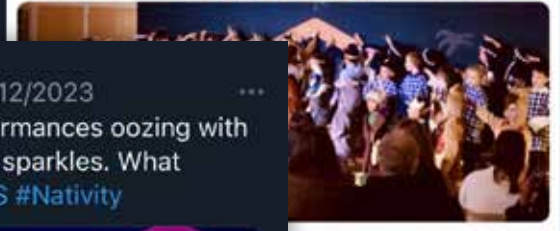
Highlights of the Week from Twitter



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 3d ...
 What a memorable morning spent with the Wrenthorpe Singers- a JCA tradition. We loved hearing them sing & singing to them. Our JLT enjoyed reminiscing on Christmas time over mince pies too #MakingMemories #ChristmasatJCA 🎄



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 2d ...
 Another magical Christmas celebration day at JCA with our Y1 & 2 performance! ✨ We look forward to their final sparkly performance tomorrow morning #TheMagicOfChristmas ✨



You reposted



JCAEYFS @jcaeyfs · 13/12/2023 ...
 Incredible Nativity performances oozing with confidence, energy and sparkles. What talented children! #EYFS #Nativity



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAW
 What a fabulous Christmas lunch today! Thank you to Zoe & her amazing kitchen team ❤️ Thank you to our fantastic lunchtime supervisors too for making it magical for our children ✨ Our JLT also did a superb job looking after our diners #TeamJCA 🎄🥧🥧



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 2d ...
 The most magical update from Rai-Leyah's Mum on her GoFund me page 💜💜💜 Thank you everyone for your support. In loving memory of Rai-Leyah 🌈

page, As you know, I started this fundraiser to raise awareness and hopefully name a suite in Lgi in loving memory of my beautiful daughter Rai-Leyah, to refurbish a room on ICU for the critical childrens unit, where family's stay whilst their children are in critical care, each and everyone of your contributions has helped reach a fantastic amount we have not only hit the target we have gone over the target ✨ I am please to say that today I have been updated from Leeds charity organisation that the application not only for 1 room in Lgi on ICU has been approved but amazingly 4 rooms in total have been approved for a full refurbishment including redecorating, new beds, new bedding and comfort items such as tea and coffee, a fridge and a kettle, toys, essential items, for each room, am absolutely overwhelmed with this update i will keep everyone posted on the progress in the new year, I would like to thank each and everyone of you from the whole of my heart.

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

