

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Our children make us so proud!

What a magical start to Spring 2! Our children have all started this very busy 5-week term with sparkle. We had a wonderful event on Tuesday, hosting to over 60 educators across the country. They were able to see our children in action and learn about our bespoke curriculum. We felt so proud of the wonderful comments we received about our children. A big thank you to all our Junior Leaders too who prepared so well for the event – creating welcome bags and some presenting so confidently to a very large audience. Experiences like this are so great for developing their confidence and belief that the sky really is the limit. Something which is so important to their life journey.

Lateness

Please can we encourage everyone to get to school before the gates close at 9am. We are seeing more and more children arriving after this time. This means that your child may be losing out on vital early morning tasks and even arriving late to our assemblies or lessons. Please can I ask you all to work together to ensure this is not happening.

Wrap-around service

Here at Jerry Clay Academy, we pride ourselves in offering a safe and nurturing, high-quality wrap-around care service to support our children and families, with a popular **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club**.

Bookings for Early and After School club are made using our booking service on Parentmail **at least 7 days in advance** to allow for appropriate staffing levels at the club. We are finding that we are getting lots of ad-hoc bookings. We simply cannot keep accommodating for these as it may mean that we don't have the appropriate staffing levels to accommodate this.

The contact email is [-schoolclub@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:schoolclub@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk) if you have any queries. I have attached a poster to remind you all of our prices.

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	97.04%	96.21%
YEAR 1	96.42%	96.44%
YEAR 2	97.78%	95.32%
YEAR 3	96.30%	97.13%
YEAR 4	98.52%	96.96%
YEAR 5	98.15%	96.37%
YEAR 6	98.52%	97.96%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
96.63%	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.

RECEPTION

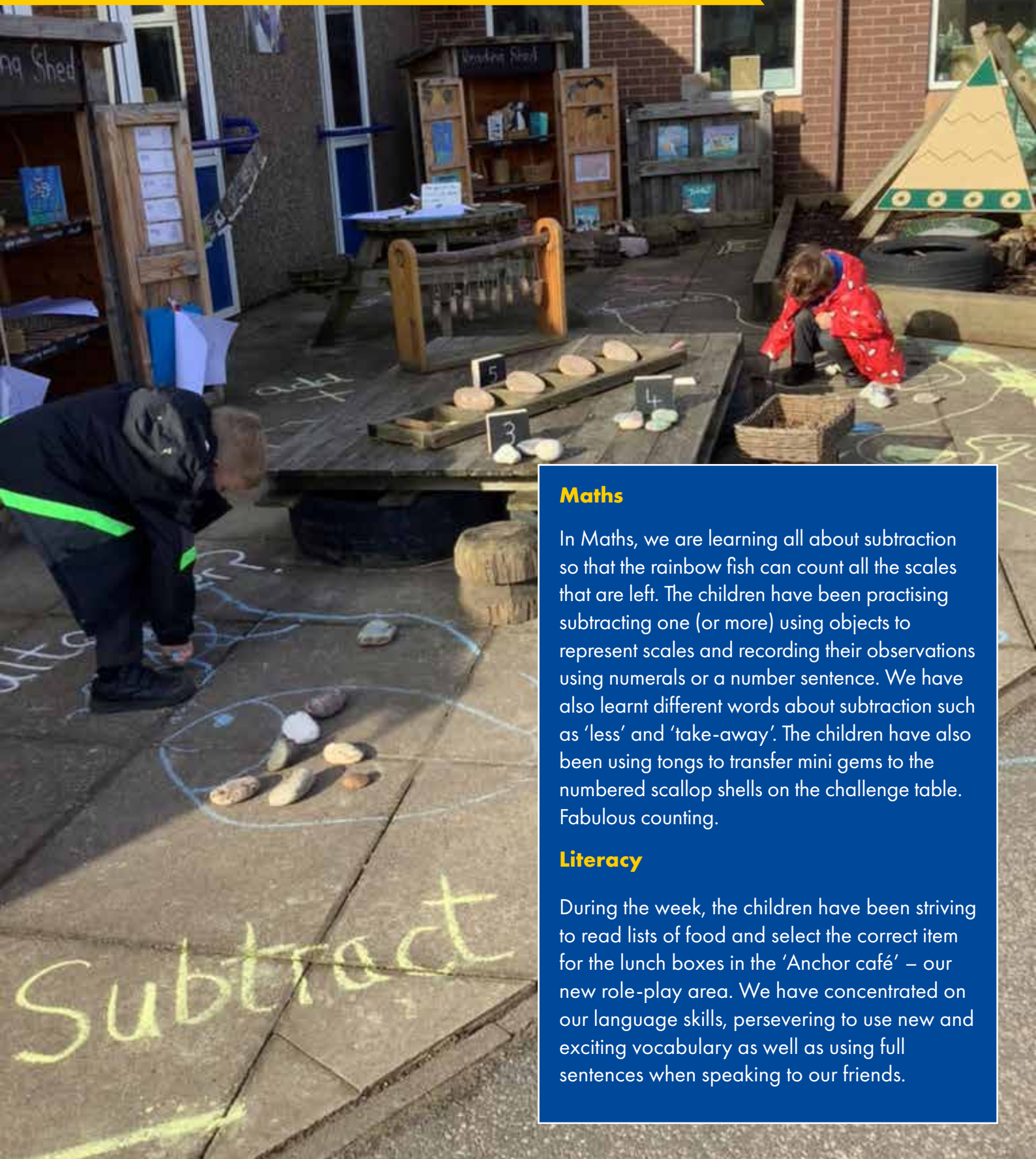
Under the Sea

Our new starting point for learning in Spring 2 is 'Under the Sea'. On Monday, we shared 'The Rainbow Fish' to begin our new theme and discussed how to be kind, caring and share with our friends. We have been learning to repeat key phrases from the story using different character voices and using thumbs up / thumbs down to indicate when the rainbow fish was kind or mean. The children have also been exploring actions or freeze frames to show feelings in the story such as 'shocked'. Our new vocabulary includes 'emerged', 'sparkling', 'shimmer' and 'dazzle'.

On Tuesday, the children were devastated to find that the 'sea creatures' were tangled in a polluted Ocean water tray! They thought that it would be a great idea to rescue them from danger, clean them and then release them in the fresh open water tray. Lots of wonderful language and discussions relating to pollution and saving our planet. The children have also been drawing, colouring and cutting out a variety of sea creatures for our whole class aquarium art project and mixing paints together to create the perfect Ocean blue! They have been busy creating beautiful rainbow fish inspired artwork, developing narratives in the small world and closely studying gemstones, fossils and shells.



RECEPTION



Maths

In Maths, we are learning all about subtraction so that the rainbow fish can count all the scales that are left. The children have been practising subtracting one (or more) using objects to represent scales and recording their observations using numerals or a number sentence. We have also learnt different words about subtraction such as 'less' and 'take-away'. The children have also been using tongs to transfer mini gems to the numbered scallop shells on the challenge table. Fabulous counting.

Literacy

During the week, the children have been striving to read lists of food and select the correct item for the lunch boxes in the 'Anchor café' – our new role-play area. We have concentrated on our language skills, persevering to use new and exciting vocabulary as well as using full sentences when speaking to our friends.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



Music/Singing

This week, the children have learnt to sing 'When I was one' - a catchy sea shanty song! We are looking forward to performing this to you at Friday Library. A video will also be available to view on Tapestry.

When I was One Song:

*When I was one, I played the drum,
The day I went to sea,
I jumped aboard the pirate ship and the captain
said to me
We're going this way, that way, forwards, backwards,
over the Irish Sea,
A bottle of rum, to fill my tum, and that's the life for me.
When I was two, I buckled my shoe
When I was three, I grazed my knee
When I was four, I knocked at the door
When I was five, I learnt to dive*

PSHE

On Thursday, West Yorkshire Fire Service visited us at School. What an exciting and memorable experience for the children! They learnt all about fire safety including equipment, clothing and the various roles of fire fighters. The children were able to climb inside the fire engine and listen to the sirens!

KEY DATES

**Thursday 7th March -
World Book Day**

**Monday 18th and Wednesday
20th March - Parents Evenings**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1



We have started the half term as we mean to go on, with determination and a love of learning. This has continued from the last week of last half term, when we enjoyed finishing publishing our letters, and envelopes, before we visited the post office to send them to our families! It has been magical listening to the children talking about when their letters arrived at home.

When we arrived at school on Monday, there was a scrapheap in our classroom, full of lots of different bits. We discussed if they were broken or building bits. This led us to a discovery of a bluebird, and then a robot to hook us in to our new core text: *The Robot and the Bluebird*. We have been working hard in **English** this week to understand the plot and the characters from this story in more detail, through role play.

In **Maths**, we have started our unit on addition and subtraction, using our skills to count on and recapping our number bonds to 10.

In **Geography** we enjoyed starting to learn about coasts. Using maps, we identified different coastal areas in the UK, and looked at the key to see if they were seaside towns, ports, cliffs or sandy beaches.

We visited a Mosque in East Moor yesterday as part of our ongoing **RE learning**; the children shone with their existing knowledge and inquisitiveness to find out more.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2



What a busy, first week back! Year 2 have come back striving even higher than before and motivated to be independent learners.

On Monday afternoon, we started our half term with a visit to the beautiful Wakefield Cathedral. While exploring the features of the Cathedral, we took part in a workshop to explore the Christian beliefs, signs and symbols to reflect on our Christianity unit in **RE**. The workshop leaders were really impressed by our knowledge of Christianity and our inquisitiveness to find out even more!

In **Maths**, we have continued our unit on division. After revisiting equal groups and division, we have explored using sharing as a method of division. We worked practically using counters before progressing to drawings for our pictorial representation.

In **Science** this week, we have started our new learning on materials. We investigated real life objects so that we could investigate the properties of material and their suitability.



In **Geography**, Year 2 have been so enthusiastic about our theme of 'Africa'. Using our knowledge of Wrenthorpe, we have compared the geographical features, similarities and differences between Wrenthorpe village and a village in Africa called Mvezo. In History, we have begun learning about Nelson Mandela, why he is a significant person and the impact he has on Africa and the world.

On Wednesday, we had our yoga session which is key for taking time to be mindful and develop our mental wellbeing. Each day, we have continued to take time to practice mindfulness activities to regulate ourselves and learn to be present, calm and in the moment

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3

A brilliant start back for Year 3 into the second half of our Spring term! The children have showcased incredible retrieval knowledge and have been determined to be 1% better every day!

In **English**, we have loved the beginning of our new core text of 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. We explored some of our main characters mentioned in chapter 1 and 2 and then used our inference skills to discuss what our first impressions were. We gave reasons for our first impressions using the text as our evidence. Additionally, we explored the journey of emotions of our main character Hiccup by creating an emotion graph in books.

For **Maths**, we have begun our new topic on Fractions and have retrieved some of our key vocabulary and sentence stems from Year 2 to support our understanding. We have focused on unit and non-unit fractions, representing these in bar models as well as comparing and ordering them.

We reached our final outcomes in **Art!** These were clay amulets inspired by Celtic artwork and the artist Michael Carroll. We completed our evaluations where we reflected on similarities and differences in our final pieces in comparison to our focus artist. We also discussed what we would change or improve if we were to create our piece again.

In **Science**, we experimented with different magnets to see which was the strongest. We planned our experiment first and then used paper clips as our magnetic object to test the strength of each magnet.



KEY DATES

**Tuesday 27th February -
Outdoor Learning Day**

**Tuesday 12th March -
Trip to the Synagogue**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

We have had a fantastic start to Spring 2! The children have shown fantastic learning attitudes and I am so proud of their maturity as we enter the second half of Year 4!

The children have been thrilled to find out that the letters they wrote before the holidays persuading Mrs. Swinburne to plant more trees in school have worked and we are very lucky to be planting these trees ourselves very soon.

In **Maths**, we have begun our unit of fractions, this has been a challenging concept but with perseverance the children are overcoming this and showing great understanding.

In **English**, the children have blown me away with their enthusiasm towards our core text 'the Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. At the end of the unit we will be writing our own ending to the story so we have began looking at the setting of the story. The children have impressed me with their brilliant choice of vocabulary as well as understanding the different grammatical features which make a brilliant sentence.

In **Art**, we have finished our brilliant canvas rainforest pieces inspired by the artist John Dyer. The children used acrylic paint and oil pastels to create vibrant scenes and they are so proud of their end result.



KEY DATES

**28th February 2024 -
Trip to the Gurdwara**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the second half of the Spring term! Seeing such eager faces, ready to learn on Monday was a pleasure.

In **English**, we have begun our learning of 'traditional tales'. We have critiqued an example whilst identifying features we can use in our own writing. We look forward to continuing our core text, 'The Girl Who Speaks Bears' – Year 5 have suggested lots of great predictions about how they think the story will end.

In **Maths**, we have continued our learning of decimals. We can find equivalent fractions and decimals using tenths and hundredths. At the moment, we are learning to find equivalents using thousandths. We are striving to find equivalents between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Year 5 have evaluated their final outcomes in **art**, which they are very proud of. Inspired by the artist Sue Davis, the children have produced a fantastic piece of art. They have thought carefully about sketching, limited colour palettes and how to use paint effectively.



KEY DATES

**Wednesday 6th March -
Trip to the Hindu Temple**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



Year 6 have had a brilliant start to the half term.

In **Maths**, we have been learning about ratio and proportion and have strived to persevere breaking down 2 and 3 step worded problems.

In **History and Reading**, we have continued to read our class book 'Coming to England' and delve further into our topic of adversity and The Windrush.

In **Art**, we have continued our Cubist self – portraits by adding our chosen colour palettes and oil pastels to our drawings. We have also been talking about making safe choices online and in real- life scenarios in our PSHE lessons.

In **Geography**, we have learnt about how tsunamis happen and how they can be caused by earthquakes. We have created our own explanation texts and diagrams showing how these work.



KEY DATES

**Monday 4th March –
Trip to the Community of Resurrection**

A £2 donation would be greatly appreciated by Mirfield Community of Resurrection. Please bring this on the day in a named envelope.

Highlights of the Week from Twitter



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 2d ...

Year 2 had a brilliant visit to [@wakefieldcath](#). We had an excellent workshop led by [@WFCathedralEDU](#) exploring signs and symbols of Christianity! Thank you Gillian and our amazing volunteers who supported us! [@re_jca](#) [#REeducationalvisit](#) [#JCARE](#)



You reposted



JCAEYFS @jcaeyfs · 2d ...

Mathematical play in our indoor and outdoor provision areas. Can you add or subtract to find the total? [#EYFS](#) [#maths](#) [#physical](#)



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 2d ...

Year 4 have loved their art unit and finished their final pieces inspired by [@johndyergallery](#). They have used acrylic paint on canvas and then added detail with oil pastels to create a fantastic rainforest scene [@JCA_Art](#)



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 12h ...

Well done to our brilliant runners 🏃🏃 All of the children involved represented the school fantastically and we couldn't prouder! [#CrossCountry](#)



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 18h ...

Year1 have just returned from a very informative visit to the mosque in East Moor. [@re_jca](#)



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

