

# Accomplishing great things at JCA



## A spectacular Spring term!

**What a quick – but busy – Spring Term at Jerry Clay Academy! Our children have continued to strive to be the best that they can be, building on the fantastic work that they did in the Autumn Term!**

Throughout the term, each class has visited a different **place of worship** – part of our progressive plan set out in the JCA Pupil Passport. These meaningful visits have provided children the opportunity to be great inquirers and thinkers whilst, ultimately, growing their knowledge about the religion they are studying in class.

Building on from the INSET day at the start of term, our children have really benefitted from developing their **Oracy skills**. Classes have built upon the school's new Speaking and Listening rules and staff have experimented with a range of techniques to develop Oracy in the classroom.

Our children have also been able to participate in a number of Sports Tournaments with particular success in the Boys' /Girls' Football Tournaments as well as some children representing Wakefield in the **West Yorkshire Cross Country Competition**.

An important element of our Curriculum Model at JCA is **Parental Engagement**; Year 1 held a very successful 'Paddington Breakfast' as part of their Theme for the Spring Term. We look forward to inviting our community into school for more events throughout Summer.

Our Spring Term has ended with a '**Small Things Make A Big Difference**' Theme Week! Children were tasked with, as a class, making a small change to make a big difference. Throughout the week, children reflected on the reason for the change as well as the desired impact with the final presentations being shared across the school at the end of the week.

**Wishing you all a lovely Easter break.**



### STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENT

I am delighted to let you all know that from September Mr Palin will become Head of Jerry Clay Academy and I will be stepping away from the day-to-day running of JCA.

This is wonderful news for our community. As you all know Mr Palin has worked at JCA for many years and is passionate about the school being the best it can be. He will work closely alongside myself as CEO and Executive Headteacher as he takes up this key role in September.



# 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	<b>99.30%</b>	96.20%
YEAR 1	<b>98.10%</b>	96.50%
YEAR 2	<b>99.30%</b>	95.70%
YEAR 3	<b>94.10%</b>	97.00%
YEAR 4	<b>97.00%</b>	97.10%
YEAR 5	<b>95.60%</b>	96.50%
YEAR 6	<b>97.40%</b>	98.00%

<b>97.40%</b>	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
<b>96.70%</b>	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



## Theme week

On Monday, we set out on a challenge to create compost in a bid to help reduce the carbon footprint and help the environment – small things make a big difference! We added layers of soil and fruit peelings from our daily snack together with worms. The children can't wait to utilise the compost in future planting projects. The children have been constructing a video message about how to compost and the benefits of this.





Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

# RECEPTION



## Commotion in the Ocean

Last week, we read *Commotion in the Ocean* by Giles Andreae focussing on the descriptions of sea creatures and rhyming words. We played a game called 'what am I?' giving clues about the appearance and movement to our friends. The children also developed imaginative stories using shadow puppets and torches and created a silent movie complete with costumes and caption templates.

## Literacy

In Literacy, the children have been writing excellent sentences about compost and labelling their drawings in special tracing paper mini booklets.



## Maths

In Maths, we are learning about repeating patterns so that we can design and decorate an easter egg. The children have enjoyed using body actions and objects to develop A,B and AA,BB or AA,B patterns as well as using whiteboards to copy and extend patterns with shapes and lines. Last week, the children explored 3D shapes and their properties including flat and curved faces.



# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 1

Year 1 have enjoyed our theme week this week focussing on the **impact of recycling** and how we can make small changes to our habits and encourage others to do the same. We were shocked when we saw landfill sites and it encouraged us to want to make a difference! First we explored packaging to find clues that tell us whether it is recyclable or not. We have also been on a walk around the local area to find where we can recycle items, and finally we have started our proposal to Wakefield council to develop this facility in Wrenthorpe. Watch this space!

During the rest of our curriculum learning, we have been working hard in **Design and Technology** to develop our skills at the woodwork table using the screwdriver, hand drill and hammers. After designing our own robots, we have started to create these at the woodwork table outside using wood, nails and screws.

In our **Maths** learning, we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills, and have started to investigate numbers up to 50 in more detail now.

Our **Geography** learning has been about coasts this half term, we have enjoyed locating coasts and investigating the features of a coastal town. Last week, we sorted the features into physical features and human features!



# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 2

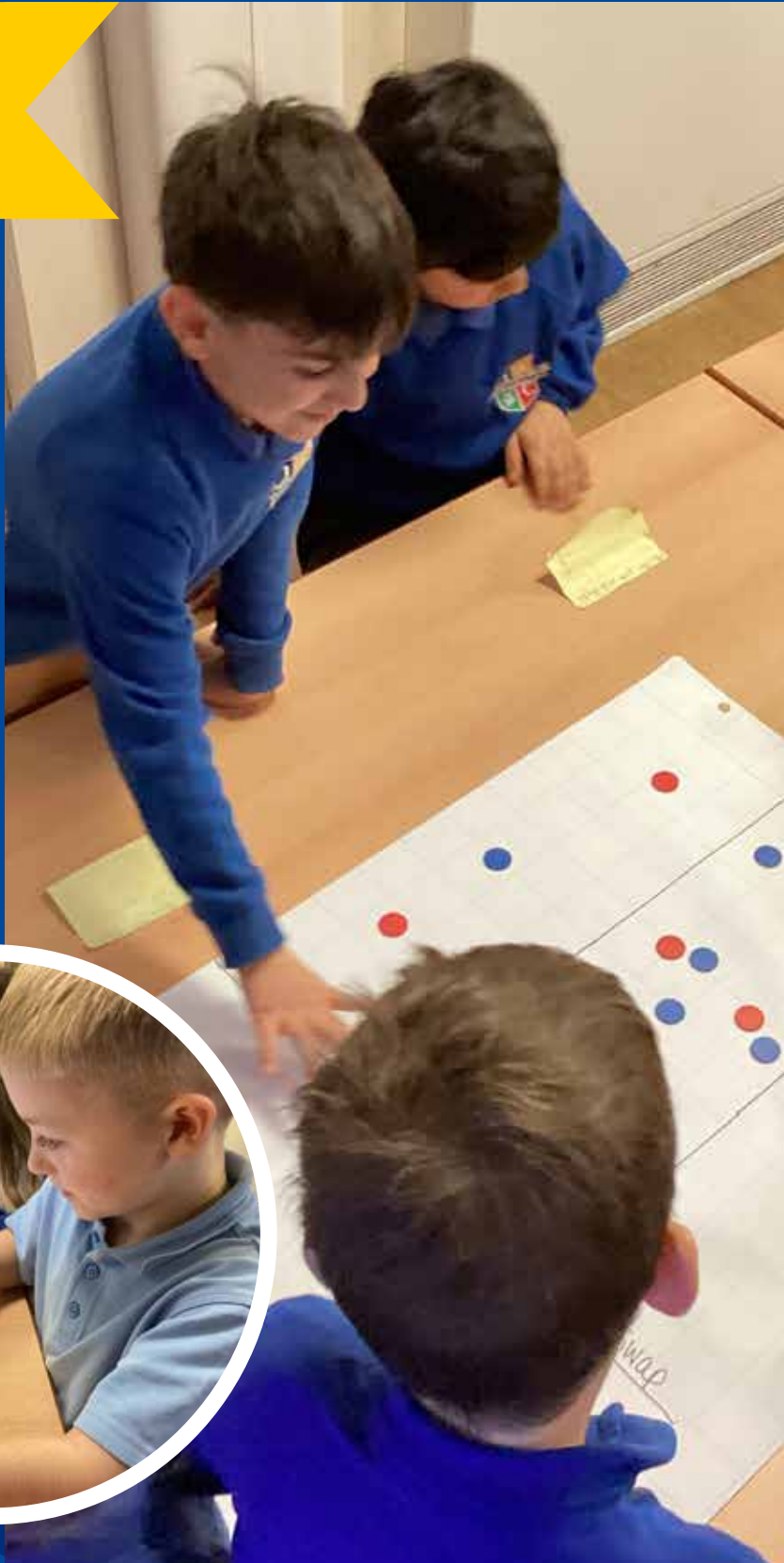
What a fantastic Spring term we have had in Year 2. The children have already been on a fantastic learning journey so far and are making such incredible progress. It was brilliant to share this with you all in person during parents evening.

In **English**, we have been critiquing, redrafting and publishing our 'Pretty Salma' stories. We have loved creating these and adding our own twist to our stories.

In **Maths**, we have been busy completing so much learning. With Mrs Longley, we have finished our unit on money and we are beginning new learning on statistics. With Mrs Johnson, we have completed our unit on multiplication and division and we are starting our new unit on fractions. We have loved utilising technology across the curriculum too!

This week, we have loved our theme week on **'small things make a big difference'**.

We started the week by discussing inspirational people past and present, locally and internationally. From our discussions, we shared our own ideas what our project could be. We used democracy to vote for our favourite ideas and decided on enhancing our recycling in schools. To follow on, we researched recycling and opportunities to plan our actions we could implement in school.



### KEY DATES

**Thursday 11th April -  
Year 2 Outdoor learning day**

**Wednesday 24th April -  
Year 2 visit to Yorkshire Water**



# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 3



Year 3 have continued to make significant progress this Spring term on our theme of '**What is Community?**' There has been a variety of brilliant outcomes for each lesson that all children should be proud of!

In **English**, they have created some phenomenal adventure stories inspired by 'How to Train Your Dragon.' Every child has taken such pride and care with their work and been eager to share the next part of their story with myself and their peers. They have really challenged themselves to use ambitious vocabulary and a range of sentence structure to have a desired effect on the reader. We cannot wait to share these with you!

For **Maths**, the children have been using their prior learning on number lines to help them read different scales. They have also used their knowledge of  $1\text{ kg} = 1000\text{g}$  to find equivalent masses, compare masses and be able to accurately add and subtract these.

In **Geography**, the children learnt about place names and where these first originated from and which settlers may have been responsible for these. They used atlases to locate different towns and cities that fit into these rules as well as observing any patterns.

Theme week of '**Small things make a big difference**' has been a brilliant way end to our Spring term! We decided that our mission would be to encourage children to walk more frequently to school in order to reduce the congestion on Jerry Clay Lane. We completed questionnaires collect data on how children travel to school and researched some of the benefits of walking to school. We have planned and recorded our video ready to share our impact to the rest of the school.



# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a lovely couple weeks with their learning; they have shown a brilliant attitude towards all their learning and kindness towards each other.

In **Maths**, the children are working relentlessly within their unit of Fractions. They have been converting mixed number fractions to improper fractions, which has been a challenge that they have rose too brilliantly.

In **English**, they have impressed me so much with their fantastic publishing of their own Explorer stories inspired by our core text. The children have included amazing adjectives, similes and brilliant fronted adverbials to create a suspenseful and entertaining story.

In **RE**, the children have enjoyed using the iPads to help retrieve their learning all about Sikhism religion. They focused on different vocabulary and then used their knowledge to progress their learning further whilst learning about the 5K's.

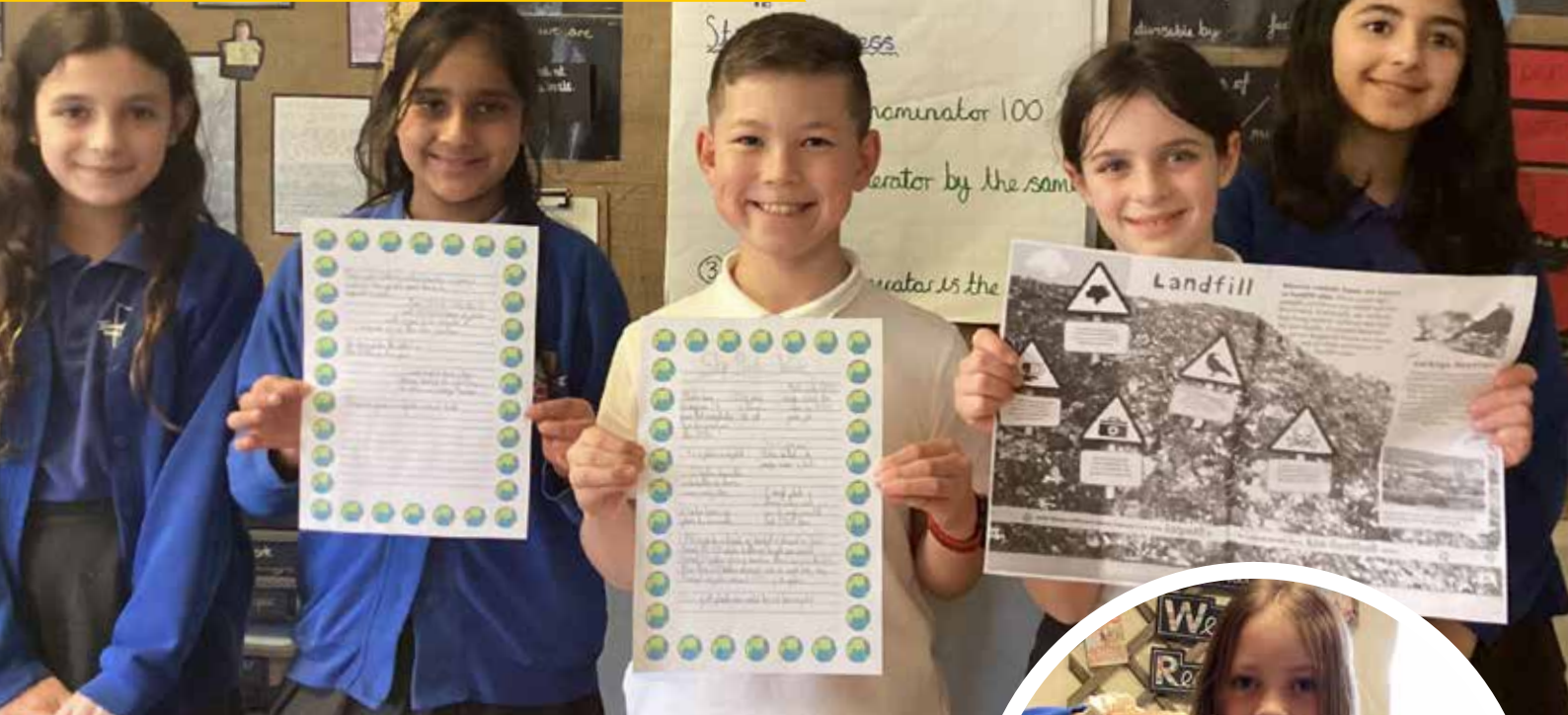
The Children have thoroughly enjoyed our theme week **'Small things make a big difference'**. We have worked very hard to plant our own trees in the school grounds and create a song to tell everyone about deforestation. It has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm with the project.





## Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

# YEAR 5

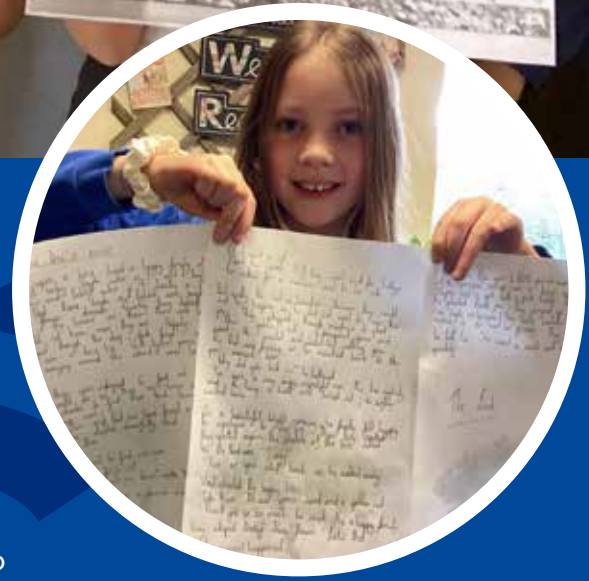


Year 5 have had a brilliant couple of weeks completing the Spring term.

In **English**, the pupils blew us away with their fantastic traditional tales. We were inspired by the chapter 'A Lime Tree's Curse' from our core text, 'The Girl who Speaks Bear.' The children thought carefully about how to use speech correctly to move the story forward. This week, we have moved on to poetry and have been learning how to use metaphors, similes, and personification to make our poems about plastic pollution effective.

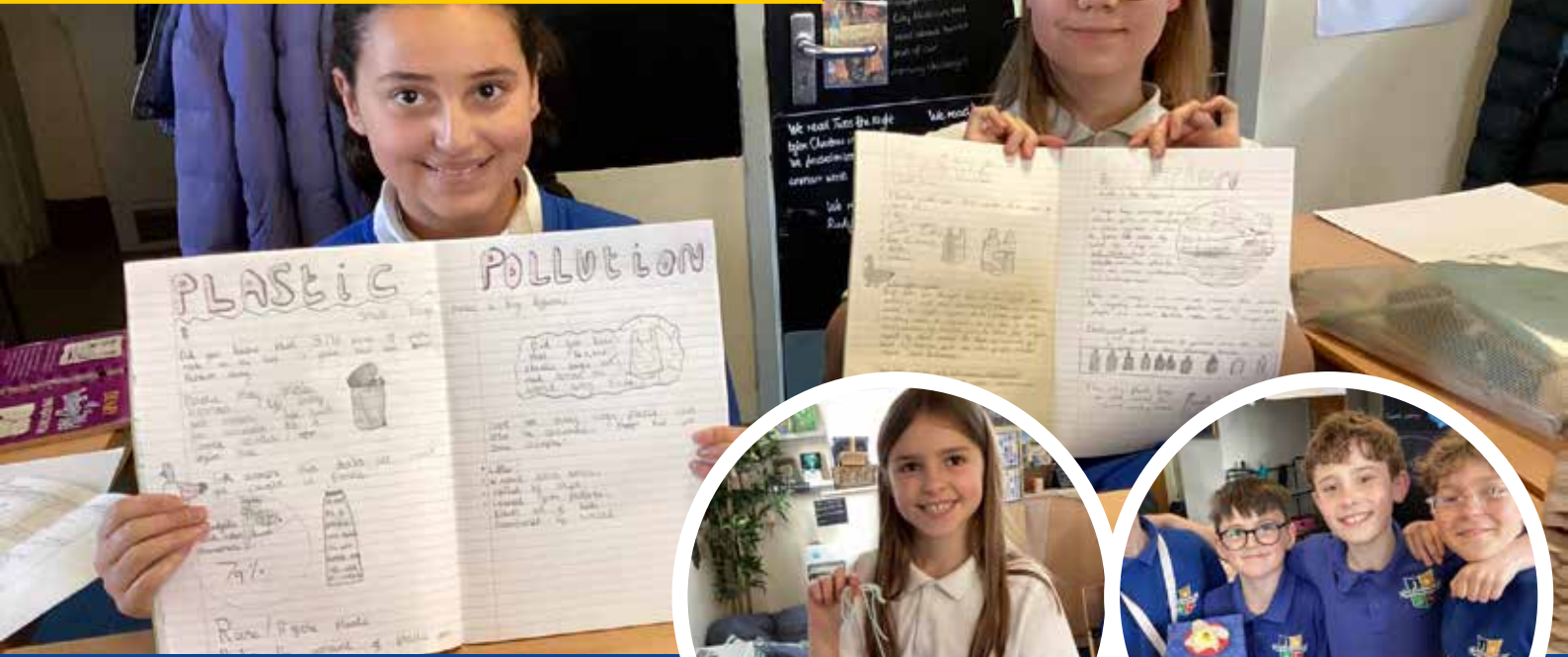
In **Maths**, we have mastered comparing, ordering and converting fractions, decimals and percentages. This week, we began our topic of perimeter and area, and this learning will continue next term.

This week, Year 5 have loved our Theme Week, '**Small Differences Can Make a Big Difference.**' We have created a project focusing on growing our own vegetables in order to reduce, plastic packaging, pollution from importation and food waste. The children have created a project overview, written poems to perform and inspire others, planted seeds and have spoken passionately about why this project is so important.



# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 6



Year 6 have had an excellent end to the Spring term. A highlight of this was seeing all of our class proudly exhibiting their achievements at Parents' Evening through their own personally created presentations!

In **Maths**, we have been learning about area and perimeter – working out areas of different compound shapes, parallelograms and triangles. We have also applied this skills in reasoning and problem solving.

In **History**, we have created diary entries in role from the perspective of passengers on the HMT Empire Windrush. These were full of emotion and captured the thoughts of people who were on board – using evidence from previous history lessons.

In **Science**, we have furthered our understanding of how shadows are formed and how they can change when the light source is closer or further away.

We also took part in a workshop, led by Leeds United Foundation, about **Rail Safety**. We learnt about how long it takes trains to stop, level crossings and responsibility around railway lines.



During our theme week '**Small things make a big difference**', we have carried out locational research and designed products using everyday materials to directly and positively impact nature. These included 'bug hotels', bird feeders, butterfly feeders and bird houses. We will be placing some of these in and around our pond area to support wildlife. We have also created lyrics to persuade people to do the same and look after our world (to the tune of some of our own favorite songs). All of the children displayed excellent teamwork either editing lyrics, directing, singing or dancing. We will be producing a video showcasing our outcomes of the week to be shared with the rest of the school.

### KEY DATES

**Monday 13th – Thursday 16th May**  
**SATs week**



# Highlights of the Week from Twitter

↳ You reposted



**JCAEYFS** @jcaeyfs · 1d

We have been creating compost in a bid to help reduce the carbon footprint; adding fruit peelings from our daily snack with layers of soil and worms on top [#EYFS](#)  
[#JCAsmallthingsmakeabigdifference](#)



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · 2d

Today Year 1 learned about what happens to our recycling. Then we surveyed the local area to see how many recycling bins there are and spoke to members of the public about their opinions on recycling. This has really helped us generate ideas for how to help the community!



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · 1d

What a brilliant afternoon Year 4 had planting trees yesterday. They were selecting different trees for different locations on the school play ground and worked as a team to plant them.  
[#JCASmallThingsMakeABigDifference](#)



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · 3d

Today, Year 5 carried out their project research to kick start our theme week, 'Small Things Make a Big Difference.' We found facts and statistics regarding household rubbish, landfill sites and the impact plastic pollution is having on our seas. [#ReducePlastic](#) [#SaveOurSeas](#)



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · 3d

A great Parents' evening tonight. Thank you to Future in Minds & Usbourne for joining us too. We are so lucky to have such an amazing community! 🌟



**Jerry Clay Academy** @JCAWakefield · 3d

Year 6 have made a great start with our theme week. We have carried out locational research and planned and designed our products to support nature.  
[#smallthingsmakeabigdifference](#)



# Dates for Your Diary 2023-24

<b>INSET DAYS</b>	Monday 4 September 2023
	Friday 24 November 2023
	Monday 8 January 2024
	Monday 8 April 2024
	Monday 22 July 2024
<b>Parents Evenings</b>	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
<b>Reports</b>	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
<b>Theme Days/ Weeks</b>	Thursday 7th March 2024- World Book Day
	wc 18/3/24 – Theme Week – Speaking and listening – Ted Talks
	wc20/05/24- Creative Arts week
<b>Performances</b>	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
<b>Residential</b>	London- TBC
<b>Sports Day</b>	14/6/24 (21//6/24 Reserve Sports Day)
<b>Summer Fair</b>	(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](mailto:Tracy.swinburne@amat.org.uk)



## **Mr T Palin**

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

[Tony.palin@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:Tony.palin@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk)



## **Mr A Loftus**

Designated Safeguarding Governor

[Andrew.Loftus@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:Andrew.Loftus@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk)

