

# Accomplishing great things at JCA



## New Year, Same Striving!

Since we returned from the Christmas holidays, I have been delighted with the attitudes of our children! This has shown across a number of areas in the school including improved attendance which we have spoken about as a real quest for this term! This week, our newsletter showcases the fantastic learning from across the school as well as these fantastic attitudes on display!

It has been brilliant to see so many of our children attend extra-curricular clubs this week and we look forward to seeing their progress in these clubs across the term – I know the DT club were very excited on Monday!

Finally, a huge congratulations go to Miss Karlsson who is expecting her 2nd child in May! Miss Karlsson will begin her maternity leave at Easter. Consistency is absolutely paramount for our Year 6 children, particularly with SATs and transition, so Mrs Longley and Mr Palin will be teaching the class through the summer term.



# 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>96.20%</b>	95.40%
YEAR 1	<b>99.30%</b>	95.10%
YEAR 2	<b>96.30%</b>	95.30%
YEAR 3	<b>95.20%</b>	95.70%
YEAR 4	<b>99.60%</b>	97.20%
YEAR 5	<b>97.00%</b>	96.00%
YEAR 6	<b>96.70%</b>	95.10%

<b>97.40%</b>	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
<b>95.70%</b>	ACTUAL

<b>97% +</b> AT OR ABOVE SCHOOL TARGET
<b>BELOW 95%</b> CAUSING CONCERN & LESS CHANCE OF PROGRESS
<b>90% &amp; BELOW</b> PERSISTENT ABSENCE - SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN



# RECEPTION

After a restful Christmas break, Reception have come back to school with an abundance of enthusiasm and positivity towards their learning. We have swiftly settled back into routines, and we are so happy to see all our friends again. We continue to have P.E on a Tuesday for our whole class P.E sessions and every other Wednesday for our Yoga sessions. Please can reading folders in bags every day with blue reading diaries and reading books.

## Frozen planet

This half term, our theme for learning is 'frozen planet'. Last Monday, we had a special arrival of snow from the 'Snow Bears' and we were immersed in snow and ice as we began our adventure to the Arctic! As we explored the North Pole, we discovered a keen interest in Arctic animals but also learnt that there were no penguins as they lived in the South Pole. This week, we read our new book 'The Great Explorer' and we began our expedition as Arctic explorers. We explored the Aurora Borealis, built rescue shelters and created animals.





## Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

# RECEPTION

### Reading

All our children are flying in their reading journey. We are now striving to know all our set 1 initial sounds and oral blending. Throughout the day, we are repeatedly using Fred talk as part of our communication with the children, encouraging them to speak in sounds and blend the words. E.g p-l-ay, play. All our children are on reading books, either sound blending books, ditty sheets or red books. Please write in reading diaries daily to share progress of children's reading at home.

### Maths

In Maths, our focus is on measuring. Throughout our Maths lessons and provision, we have explored measuring length and height while using comparative language of longer, shorter, longest, shortest or equal. The children have taken an interest in comparing their height and we have created a measuring chart in the classroom to record our findings.

### P.E

For our P.E lesson this week, we travelled to the South Pole to become penguins! After becoming penguins we discovered tiny, precious eggs and transported them around the Antarctic using our flippers, balancing not to slip on the ice! We also had our yoga session on Wednesday, where we practiced our mindfulness breathings and stretches.





# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 1



What an exciting start to 2025 - the postman delivered a parcel last week – it was Paddington in a suitcase! There was a letter inside the suitcase from Aunt Lucy too.

In **English**, we are now working towards writing a letter to our families to tell them all about Paddington! We have enjoyed reading the story of Paddington, retelling it orally using the key vocabulary, through role play and on story maps!

In **Geography**, we are learning about continents and oceans; we have enjoyed learning different songs to extend and consolidate this understanding. We know that Peru is in South America!

Outside we now have our own Year 1 Post office, where we are striving to use our speaking frames to help us buy and send items at the post office. We've been practicing wrapping parcels at the wrapping station and being cashiers at the till.

In **RE**, we are learning about the Muslim faith this half term and have enjoyed starting to learn about the Mosque and the special objects and rituals in this place of worship.



### KEY DATES

**Paddington workshop morning -  
Thursday 13th February**



# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 2



What a fantastic start Year 2 have had to 2025! They have returned from the Christmas holidays all refreshed and striving ready for the new term. We have really noticed the children taking that extra care with their handwriting to strive towards a pen license as well as blossoming in their independence.

This term, we have started our new theme 'Do we always appreciate what we've got?' with a focus on Africa. In **English**, we have immersed ourselves into our new core text 'Pretty Salma'. Using our oracy skills, we discussed the structure of the story and compare the similarities and differences to known stories too.

In **PE**, we have loved our new unit on dance where we have explored music from brass bands! We have created routines in small groups that have focussed on the synchronisation and coordination of marching with arm movements and transitions.

For **Art**, we have fully immersed ourselves into sketching techniques and observational drawing of African patterns. This is the start of our art process leading to our final outcome of African masks.





# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 3



**Year 3** have had a brilliant start to our Spring term and shown incredible inquisitiveness towards our new topic of 'What is Community?'

In **English**, the children have loved exploring our new core text of 'The Boy who Harnessed the Wind.' We used clues to hook the children's learning and infer where they thought the story might be set and predict what the text might be about. The children have also loved delving even deeper into our text with drama, focussing on using freeze frames to express the life of our main character at the start of the book.

In **Maths**, we have completed the final section of our topic on multiplication and division. We focused on finding remainders when dividing, scaling and using a range of strategies to find a range of possibilities. For our next topic, we will be moving onto length and perimeter.

We had a great start to our new **Geography** topic, we introduced our learning on community by recapping on European countries. The children used atlases to locate different countries and label these on their map. Then, we used geographical vocabulary to describe where countries were in relation to one another.

Finally, the children have loved practicing their sketching techniques in **Art** to create rotating and repeated patterns inspired by Celtic art. They identified our artist of Michael Carroll and observed his work closely to begin creating some patterns of their own.

### KEY DATES

**Parent Workshop -  
Tuesday 11th March**

# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 4

What a fantastic start to 2025 we have had in Year 4! The children have come back with a determined and positive attitude and it is showing in all their work. We have just begun our new theme of 'How can small actions eventually change the world?' and it has been great to see the children be so inquisitive about what we will be learning about.

In **English**, we had to explore the school, using clues, to find our new text 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. The children were so intrigued to find out what are new text was about and have enjoyed reading it at the end of the day. We are currently writing a non-chronological report all about Rainforest animals and the children have been eagerly researching different animals to write about.

In **Maths**, we have been focusing on multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1 digit. This has been a challenge for some children but all have persevered to master this skill. We are excited to start short division next week where we will be introducing the Bus stop method.

In **Art**, the children have loved learning about our new focus artists John Dyer and Henry Rousseau. We have evaluated their work and then selected colours from their colour palette and compared the two.





# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

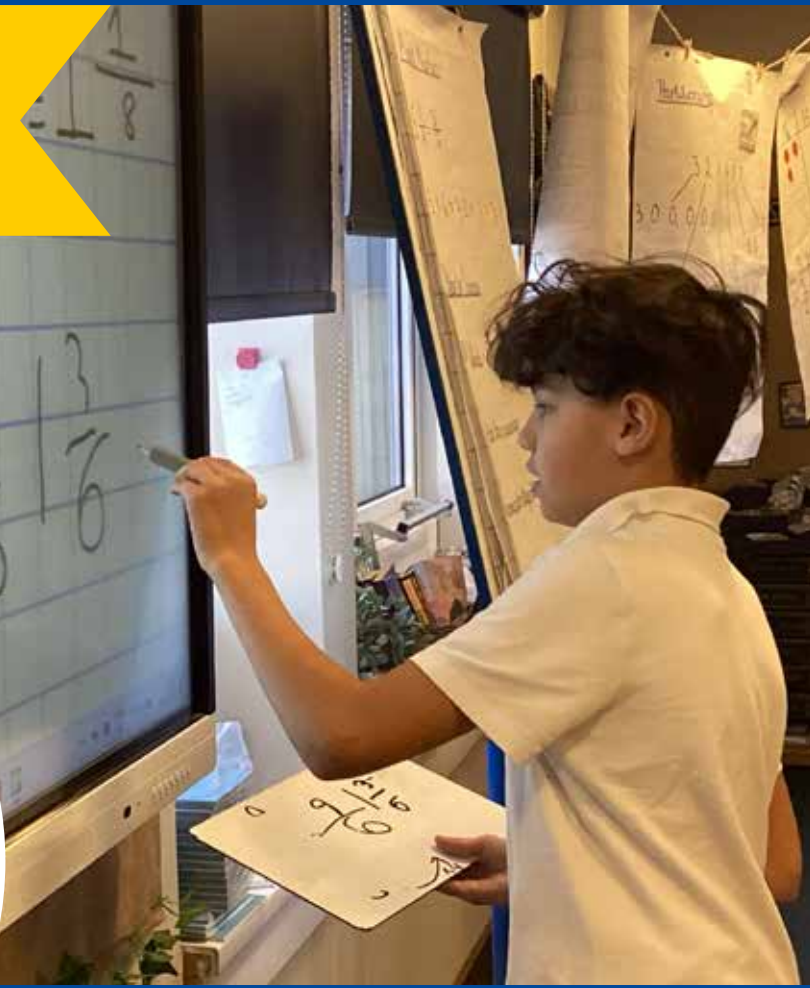
## YEAR 5



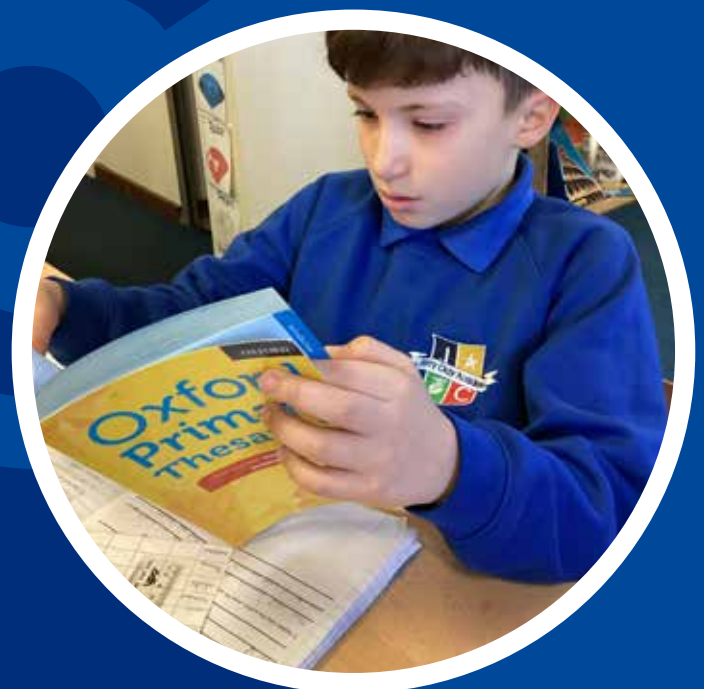
Year 5 have thoroughly impressed us with their return to school. They have demonstrated a fantastic attitude, and their enthusiasm for learning has shone.

We had a fantastic launch for our new topic, 'What's the difference between living and surviving?'. We hunted to find the missing pieces of a puzzle, which created a map from our new text, 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear'.

In **English**, we have critiqued non-chronological reports about animals and used dictionaries and thesauruses to upgrade their vocabulary. We will be researching facts about polar bears so that we can use in-depth information to write our own non-chronological reports.



In **Maths**, we have continued our learning of fractions. We can add and subtract fractions with different denominators and have mastered finding equivalent fractions. Year 5 have been working hard on their presentation in their Maths books.



# Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

## YEAR 6



Year 6 have had an exceptional start to the term and are continuing to strive in their learning.

In **PSHE**, we have discussed the importance of resilience and determination – we have reflected on our achievements so far in Year 6 and created goals for this term.

In **Maths**, Year 6 have continued to consolidate their arithmetic methods and link together fractions, decimals and percentages. They should continue to use their revision guides to revise these. Next week, we will be starting to learn about algebra. In Writing, we have been learning about colons, semi-colons and dashes and have been using these to create emotive sentences linked to our flashbacks of 'The Piano'.

In **Computing**, we have been programming micro: bits to create a pedometer. In **DT**, we will be placing these micro: bits inside a fabric toy and programming them to play tunes.

In **Geography**, we have started to learn about plate tectonics and will be focusing on earthquakes.



### KEY DATES

**Outdoor Learning Day -  
Wednesday 5th March**

**Mirfield Community of  
Resurrection trip -  
Tuesday 11th March**





# Dates for Your Diary 2024-25

<b>INSET DAYS</b>	Monday 2nd September 2024
	Friday 29th November 2024
	Monday 6th January 2025
	Monday 21st July 2025
	Monday 22nd July 2025
<b>Parents Evenings</b>	Wednesday 4th September 2024 – Meet the teacher 3:35 – 3:55 and 4:00 – 4:20
	Monday 2nd December and Wednesday 4th December 2024– Parents’ evenings
	Monday 31st March 2025 and Wednesday 2nd April 2025 – Parents’ evenings
<b>Reports</b>	Friday 28th November – Interim Reports
	Friday 28th March 2025 – Interim Reports
	Friday 11th July 2025 – End of Year Reports
<b>Performances</b>	6/12/24 – Reception Activity Morning
	10/12/24 (9.30am) and 11/12/24 9.30am – Reception nativity
	16/12/24 – Christmas carols around the tree
	17/12/24 (2pm) and 18/12/24 (9.30 am) – Year 1 and 2 Nativity
	11/06/25- Art gallery evening
	w/c 14/7/25 – Celebration week
<b>Sports Day</b>	20/6/25 (4/7/25 Reserve Sports Day)



# You might be eligible to Pupil Premium. What is the Pupil Premium (PP)?



The Pupil Premium is extra government money which is paid to schools to support children's learning and development. We can support you in finding out if your child could receive the extra money. We can choose how to best spend the Pupil Premium money and will work with you to make sure your child benefits from the extra funding.

## Who could benefit from this money?

Children from the reception year to year 6 may be eligible if they:

- are registered for Free School Meals (FSM)
- have been registered for FSM at any point in the last 6 years
- are or have been in care
- have parents in the armed forces \*If your child could claim for FSM but takes a packed lunch to school, it's still important you tell us. This will let us know if your child is able to receive the Pupil Premium.

Your child could benefit from:

- exciting new learning activities and experiences
- one to one or small group sessions
- extra tools, materials and equipment to help with learning in school or at home
- before/after school clubs or activities

## Why should I register my child for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Children who are registered for Free School Meals (FSM) are entitled to the Pupil Premium. Your child isn't automatically registered for FSM, even though all infant children are entitled to receive a free school meal.

## How do I register my child for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Follow the link below to the Wakefield online portal for parents:

<https://parentportal.wakefield.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

***If you need any support with this, please don't hesitate to ask the school office or myself personally on the gate.***

# Child Protection & Safeguarding

The designated Child Protection Officers for this academy are:

## **Mrs T Swinburne**

Trust Safeguarding Lead.

[Tracy.swinburne@amat.org.uk](mailto:Tracy.swinburne@amat.org.uk)



## **Mr T Palin**

Safeguarding Lead

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



## **Aimie Johnson**

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

[aimie.johnson@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:aimie.johnson@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk)



## **Helen Jones**

Designated Safeguarding Governor

[helen.jones@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:helen.jones@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk)

