

Accomplishing great things at JCA



A look ahead to 2025/26!

As we move through the Summer 2 half-term, we still have so many in-school events to look forward to! We also all start to look forward to the start of a new academic year! We know that many children have already started to think about moving into their next class and I am delighted to confirm staffing for next year.

From next year, I will take on the role of substantive Headteacher of Jerry Clay Academy. This will mean that Mrs Swinburne will no longer be Executive Headteacher of the school; however, of course will continue as CEO of Accomplish MAT with a keen oversight of ensuring JCA continues to be the best it can be for the whole community.

Following on from the fantastic news about Mrs Johnson, we are pleased to have appointed a very experienced Assistant Headteacher in **Mrs Dyson** for 2025/26 to cover for Mrs Johnson's maternity leave. Mrs Dyson comes to Jerry Clay Academy with a wealth of leadership experience and is already a Deputy Headteacher in a local school. Mrs Dyson will teach in Year 4 from September.



We are also pleased to welcome back **Mrs Burrows** back from her secondment. Mrs Burrows will teach in Year 1 at Jerry Clay from September!

To complete the class changes for next year, Miss Farrer will be teaching in Year 6 and Miss Harling will be moving from Year 1 into Reception.

Finally, Miss Taverner will be taking on the SENCo role from myself from September. I know that many families already know Miss Taverner very well and she is looking forward to continuing to build on these positive relationships. I will, of course, be working alongside Miss Taverner to ensure a smooth handover of this very important role.

Children will have the opportunity to meet with their class teacher for next year on the afternoon of **Thursday 3rd July**.

We look forward to seeing you in school for our summer events!

Confirmed teachers
for 2025-26

Reception: Miss Harling

Year 1: Mrs Burrows

Year 2: Miss Morley

Year 3: Miss Taverner

Year 4: Mrs Dyson

Year 5: Miss Hazell

Year 6: Miss Farrer

**We are currently
recruiting for a
1:1 Teaching Assistant.**

More information on the role can be found using the following link:

<https://jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk/useful-info/employment-opportunities/>

**Employment Opportunities –
Jerry Clay Academy**

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	96.10%	93.70%
YEAR 1	95.60%	88.50%
YEAR 2	95.90%	98.90%
YEAR 3	95.10%	97.00%
YEAR 4	97.10%	98.90%
YEAR 5	96.40%	98.90%
YEAR 6	95.40%	95.90%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
95.90%	ACTUAL

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

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



The weeks are flying by in Reception and our children are striving higher and higher as they prepare for their transition to Year One! This week, we had our first visit to Year One and enjoyed our story time in our new classroom, while also exploring the new environment!

Earlier in the week, Reception had an exciting delivery of caterpillar eggs! To our surprise when we opened the box, the eggs had already hatched. We have spent the week carefully observing our 5 little caterpillars and watching the incredible growth they have already made. We have explored lots of writing opportunities with our caterpillars, from creating rules to help protect them to caterpillar diaries to record their progress and change.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION

In **Maths**, we have been busy creating Maths stories for our minibeasts but this time we used our new symbol to subtract. Using the minibeasts around us, we have explored taking away using 'first there were...', 'now there are...' 'how many were taken?'. We have even strived to write our own number sentences.

On Friday, we will be taking part in our first Jerry Clay **Sports Day!** Reception have loved practicing the different activities that they will all take part in. We even partnered up with Year One to practice in our colour teams ahead of Sports Day. We worked brilliantly as a team and cheered each other on!

We have an incredibly exciting start to next week, as we have our visit to **Wigfield farm!** It is forecast to be a sunny day, please ensure your child has a water bottle, suncream applied, sun hat and suitable footwear.



KEY DATES

Visit to Wigfield Farm
Tuesday 24th June

Class swap afternoon
Thursday 4th July

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

Year 1 had a week to shine and celebrate last week! They were phenomenal with their phonics reading, and were also delighted to share their Arts week work with you all at the Art gallery.

As well as this, we had an incredibly **scientific outdoor learning day**, where we investigated leaves to help us identify the different trees in our school grounds! We also enjoyed creating leaf jewellery and leaf prints into clay!

In **English** we have been busy editing and publishing our stories; they are almost ready to read to our families now at Library time!

We have also been thinking carefully about the illustrations and in **Art**, we've been developing our printing and rubbing skills to create a front cover for our story as well!

We have completed our learning on multiplication and division in **Maths**, and this has been the catalyst for our growing enthusiasm for Diamond dash! So many of us are practising and working towards the next level on our times tables journey! This week we have started learning about fractions, starting with understanding halves.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2



We started our two weeks with **Outdoor Learning Day**.

Throughout the day we used our outdoor learning to deepen and extend our learning on the Great Fire of London. We built our own houses from 1666 out of cardboard and wood and then recreated a spark from the bakery on Pudding Lane. We were in amazement as we watched the wind push the fire through the buildings and it even jumped our fire break! We ended our morning with fire lighting and clay.

In addition, what magical evening it was to be able to share our wonderful art projects with you at our **Art Gallery** on Wednesday last week. Year 2 loved celebrating their special places and expressing 'The World Through My Eyes' through their landscapes. We were inspired by two artists: Hundertwasser and Tracy Greer. We used their styles to create our own unique style.



In **English**, we have been busy publishing! We were so excited to share our Creative Art poems with you but we have also been refining and publishing our Great Fire of London poetry. We have worked hard to follow a clear poetry structure as well as up level our vocabulary.

It has also been brilliant to see Year Two's perseverance in **Maths**. We are continuing our learning on time and we are now focusing on 5-minute intervals. As we become experts of 5-minute intervals past the hour, we will also begin 5-minute intervals towards the hour.

KEY DATES

Year 2 Celebration assembly
Tuesday 15th July @9:15

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



Year 3 have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum over the past few weeks. A particular highlight was our visit to Wakefield Cathedral for the **Big Strum**. It was a beautiful experience to hear the music echoing through the Cathedral. A huge thank you to the parents who came along to support us! The children were superb, full of enthusiasm, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was a day to remember!

In **English**, we have started our new book, *Fantastic Mr Fox*. The children have loved diving into the story, making predictions about what might happen next, and taking part in hot seating activities to explore the thoughts and feelings of the main characters. In Maths, we have been continuing our work on time, learning how to read digital clocks, understand am and pm, and use calendars confidently. The children have worked really hard and are growing in confidence every day.

In **DT**, we've begun our journey toward making our very own Farmers Crumble! We carried out market research, discussing which fruits work well in a crumble and what ingredients might complement them best.

In **History**, we've been learning about cloth and glass making and exploring how local trade developed along the River Calder.

In **R.E**, we have been looking at special ceremonies and comparing how marriage is celebrated in different religions. It's been a busy and exciting few weeks of learning!

KEY DATES

Great Yorkshire Show
Tuesday 8th July

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



What a fantastic couple of weeks' Year 4 have had! We have been so proud of all their efforts in every subject regardless of how warm and tired they have been. They have shone in our wider curriculum showing lots of inquisitiveness and creativity.

In **English**, we have started to create our own Sherlock Holmes stories, the children have planned these and are eager to write these next week, where they will focus on creating suspense for the reader.

In **Maths**, the children have been working hard on their time. They have read analogue clocks, 12 hour clocks and even converted these to 24-hour time. They have persevered with different reasoning and problem solving questions focused all around duration of time.

In **Art**, we have been printing our own William Morris inspired cushion. The children have designed and engraved polystyrene tiles to create their own natural and floral prints.

In **Science**, we have been focusing on different circuits and what makes a closed circuit. The children enjoyed making their own circuit and testing to see what would make a circuit work or break.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5



The Year 5s have been shining bright these past couple weeks!

We all had an absolute blast in **London!** The class absolutely loved experiencing the London Eye, a City Cruise along the Thames, 'Back to the Future' theatre production and the Science Museum. The class were beaming throughout the trip. On three separate occasions, members of the public complimented their impeccable behaviour and delightful presence. So many of the children displayed impeccable manners and expressed their appreciation to the teachers.

Once we got back from London, we put all of our knowledge and enthusiasm into creating a fantastic piece of work. We researched facts about the London Eye, Tower Bridge and the West End. The class then created a 2-page spread to display their brilliant learning.

We have also loved diving deeper into our topic, 'A life through a lens'. In **English**, we are writing about the Moon landings, in **Science** we are learning about Galileo's inventions/discoveries, and in **History**, we are learning about how NASA positively affected segregation during the 1950s. The children are loving learning about all things Space related!

KEY DATES

Triathlon

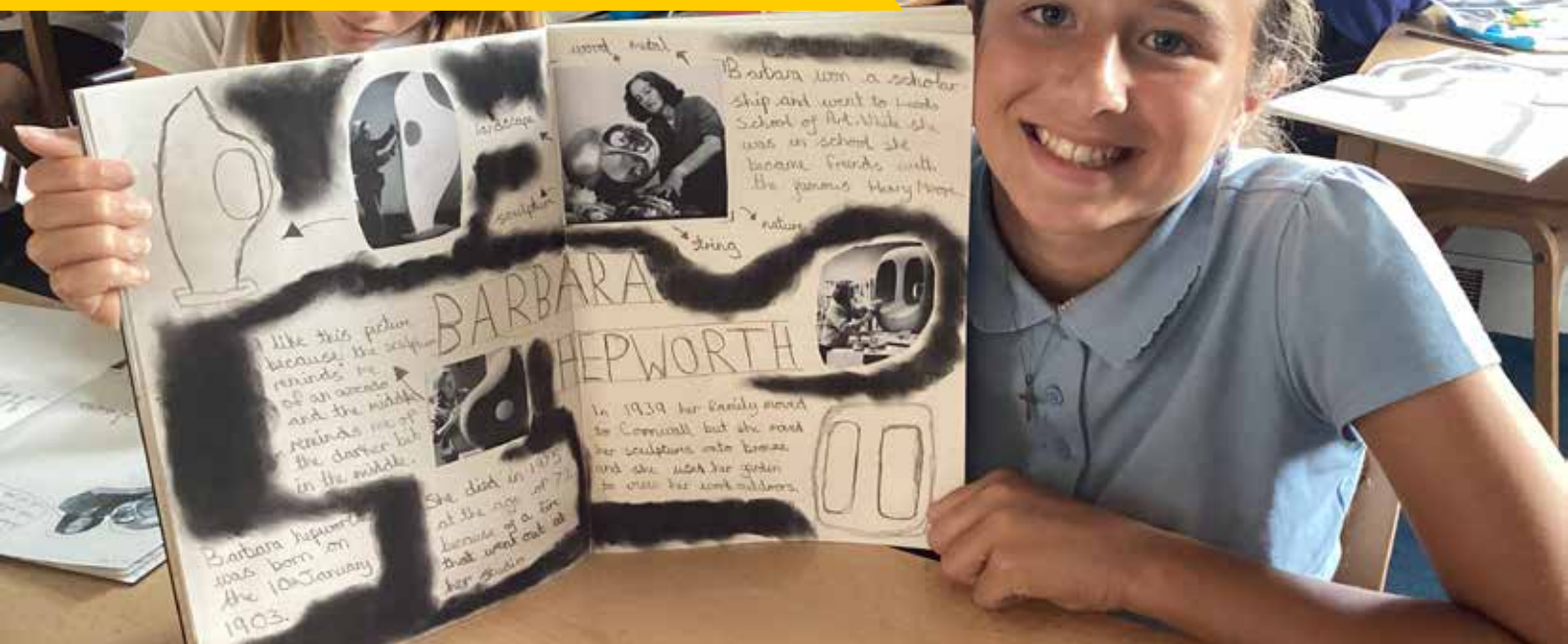
Wednesday 25th June

Parent Workshop

Tuesday 1st July

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 6



A very busy few weeks in Year 6 which seem to have flown by for us. We have been making the most of the sunny weather and where possible taking our learning outdoors.

In **English**, we have continued to read 'The Tempest.' We have been looking at different sentence types and how we can 'show but don't tell' the reader when describing various characters from the story. Once we had written our descriptions, we read them out in class and had to try and guess which character we thought they were. Some fantastic use of figurative language also included from our previous learning.

In **Maths**, we have continued our holiday tours project. We have been using our calculating skills to look at the cost of flights, cost of transport to different airports and whether we would need to pay for parking before we went on holiday. Some very interesting holiday destinations have been chosen! Next, we will look at the cost of accommodation, food options and how to calculate discounts on our chosen destinations.

Our **History** unit on the Tudors has come to an end and the children have well and truly showcased

their love of learning and their exceptional knowledge on all of the areas that we covered. The end of unit essays that were produced were absolutely superb and they really do show 100% effort from everyone. We worked so hard on them that we shared them with our partners as part of our peer assessment.

Finally, we have started our new learning in **Art**, all focused on the work of Barbara Hepworth. We have researched her life and studies, as an artist and sculptor, and created a mood board inspired by her love of nature and the natural form. We explored her inspiration behind different pieces of her work and how she moved from using wood as a sculpting material through to using stone and metal.

KEY DATES

Castleton Residential
Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th June

Year 6 Celebration day
Wednesday 16th July

Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 18th July, 9.00am

Highlights of the Week from X



Dates for Your Diary 2024-25

INSET DAYS	Monday 2nd September 2024
	Friday 29th November 2024
	Monday 6th January 2025
	Monday 21st July 2025
	Monday 22nd July 2025
Parents Evenings	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
Reports	Friday 28th November – Interim Reports
	Friday 28th March 2025 – Interim Reports
	Friday 11th July 2025 – End of Year Reports
Performances	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
Sports Day	20/6/25 (4/7/25 Reserve Sports Day)
Summer Fair	5/7/25

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



Mr T Palin

Safeguarding Lead

Tony.palin@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk



Aimie Johnson

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

aimie.johnson@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk



Helen Jones

Designated Safeguarding Governor

helen.jones@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk

