

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Small Steps, Big Accomplishments!

Small steps, big accomplishments has been the theme in school across the last couple of weeks!

It's been a real theme as the teachers have spoken about how the children have responded to feedback to better themselves within their learning! This is also the title of our up-coming Theme Week in school and we can't wait to share more information with you!

The last couple of weeks in school have been brilliant with numerous trips and parent workshops across the school. We know that these experiences and opportunities are vital for our children and look forward to sharing more of this over the coming weeks.

Please note that Parents' Evening appointments will be available to book next week, through ParentMail – please keep an eye out for this!



World Book Day

World Book Day was fantastic! We all thoroughly enjoyed the parade and were amazed at the number of families that attended to watch – thank you for your support!



Cross Country

We are incredibly proud to share that this year, 23 of our pupils successfully qualified for the West Yorkshire Cross Country Final, representing Wakefield with pride and determination. When we arrived at Temple Newsam, we were greeted by beautiful sunshine—perfect conditions for a fantastic day of racing.

Our Year 3/4 pupils took on a challenging 1.1km course, while Year 5/6 ran an impressive 1.3km. Every single child showed outstanding perseverance and resilience throughout their race. We were especially impressed by their excellent sportsmanship and the way they enthusiastically cheered on all participants. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school!

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	96.42%	95.86%
YEAR 1	98.52%	97.13%
YEAR 2	99.26%	97.56%
YEAR 3	98.89%	96.38%
YEAR 4	96.67%	96.55%
YEAR 5	98.57%	94.88%
YEAR 6	98.89%	96.45%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
96.39%	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



Reception have shown incredible enthusiasm for our new theme: Under the Sea! We have been discussing seas and oceans, as well as all of the beautiful creatures which live within them. Learning inside and outside the classroom, the children have worked together to create seascapes, submarines and pirate ships, and much more!

Learning journey

Using the core text of **"The Rainbow Fish"** we enjoyed learning about the different parts of a fish, such as the scales and the fin. We enjoyed creating beautiful rainbow fish collages and paintings, as well as decorating toy fish with shimmering gems as scales. This week, we have started to explore colour mixing further, creating a giant sea painting as a class, as well as mixing paints in the water tray.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



Phonics

The children are continuing to work extremely hard in our Phonics lessons! Now, we have all introduced "alien" nonsense words into our lessons, which helps us to assess the children daily. We are all working on ditty stories or storybooks now, which we are bringing home in our reading folders. Please check these regularly so that we can read these to you at home.

Literacy

We are starting to learn to put words together to write simple phrases. The children are starting to use finger spaces to help them separate their words. They have been able to apply some action words in their writing too!

Maths

Reception have been using concrete resources and practical activities to explore pairs and doubles. They have become experts at spotting pairs in and around the classroom, for example our wellies in the shed. The children enjoyed playing doubling games to recognize and explore doubles of numbers this week.

KEY DATES

**Visit from the Aquarium
Wednesday 25th March**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

What a fantastic start to Spring 2 in Year 1! We have been working hard in all aspects of our learning, striving to even be 1% better than last half term!

Our new core text focus is '**The Robot and the Bluebird**', and we have enjoyed finding out more about the characters and setting of this story. We relished in using a range of drama techniques to explore the characters and feelings. Our favourites include freeze frames, movement games and hot seating. This week the children discovered a scrap heap of metal loose parts. They have been studying the scrap heap carefully using magnifying glasses and using specific adjectives carefully. This story is also full of helpfulness and good friendship which has encouraged us to think more closely about our friendship and relationship focus in PSHE.

In **Maths**, we have been working incredibly hard at using our existing knowledge to grow our mathematical knowledge, this week we have been using our number bonds to 10 to help us to speedily create number bonds to 20 using a "magic ten". The children also worked with others to create number bonds using concrete resources such as building crates and cubes.

Our **History** learning has centred around Rosa Parks and how she felt she didn't belong in society. We learnt about how her actions helped the government to change the segregation law!! The children expressed their understanding through discussion, drawings and have been so articulate in their views. We compared Rosa Parks to another significant person 'Florence Nightingale' in society.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

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 **English**, we have written, critiqued and edited our final versions of our African stories inspired by 'Pretty Salma'. We have also published and cannot wait to see these on our African display.

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.

In **RE**, we have been retelling, through role play, the parable of 'Jesus feeds the 5000.' We planned out each scene and thought carefully about our tier 2 vocabulary.

What a fantastic way to finish the week celebrating **World Book Day!** We had such a special day celebrating the magic of reading, our favourite stories and characters. During the day, we explored our own reading journeys and represented these in our own unique ways.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



Year 3 have had a brilliant couple of weeks filled with wonderful opportunities for their imagination to flourish. One of the highlights was their visit to the **magical library**, where they chose new books and enjoyed reading with friends. The joy, laughter and love of reading shared was delightful. The children took part in an exciting scavenger hunt, searching for different characters' hats before completing a quiz to match each hat to the correct character.

They also celebrated a fantastic **World Book Day**, creating impressive "book in a box" scenes inspired by their favourite stories. This DT project allowed them to design and build imaginative story settings inside a box, showcasing creativity and attention to detail.

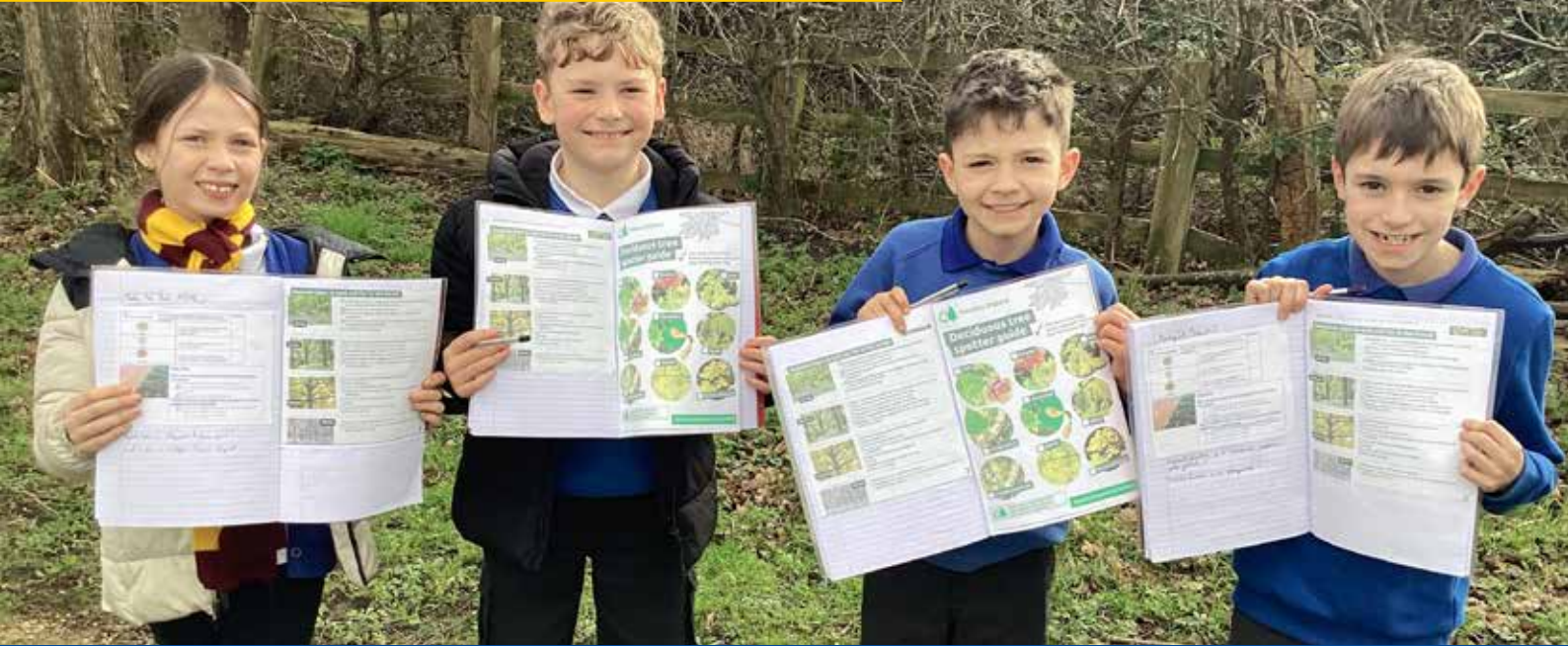
In **English**, the class have also enjoyed reading *How to Train Your Dragon* and have written detailed character descriptions of Hiccup, ready to inspire their own Viking stories next.



In **Maths**, Year 3 have been learning about equivalent fractions. Using fraction walls and plenty of practical resources, they have shown fantastic understanding and enthusiasm as they explored how fractions can represent the same value. It has been a busy and fun filled few weeks!

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4



We have had another busy fortnight in Year 4 including our trip to the **Royal Armouries** in Leeds. We took part in two exciting workshops. One was about the importance of storytelling in history; we remembered lots of key details about the story of Beowulf and all of the museum staff remarked on how well the children knew the importance of the story in history! In our second workshop, we became real archaeologists and had to piece together pieces of evidence to complete the story of the Pioneer's Helmet. We discovered many relics in our dig and learnt how to organise our finds and what they meant for our warrior (Special mention to Alfie who played the part of our warrior very well!)

In **maths**, we have started our fractions topic and have been striving to understand the importance of fractions in our everyday lives. The children have worked confidently and applied their times table facts to mixed numbers and proper fractions. We enjoy pattern spotting in year 4 and problem solving, especially if it involves fractions of a cake or pizza!

In **geography**, we have been exploring our own Jerry Clay Academy biome, we have found signs of spring and winter as the seasons change. We analysed the types of leaves and twigs around the edge of the trail. Then, we used this information to identify the types of trees we mostly have on our grounds: oak, beech and sycamore! Finally, we compared these to the leaves we have been studying from the Amazon rainforest.

In **English**, we have published our descriptive writing and have designed the title for our new classroom display. The effort and care that has gone into each piece is remarkable. Well, done, Year 4, just like spring, you are blossoming into confident young writers. At the beginning of the term, some of us worried about forgetting key features, but your progress shows just how hard you have worked. Your pride in meeting deadlines means no work has been left overdue, and the results speak for themselves. Can you find our key spellings from the last fortnight in this paragraph?

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the new half term, returning to school full of joy, enthusiasm and a real eagerness to learn.

We began the week with a special visit to our **outdoor library**. In the morning sunshine, the children enjoyed playing "pass the blurb", sharing and exploring different book summaries before selecting a text to dive into.

In **English**, we are preparing to write our own traditional tales inspired by a chapter from our core text, *The Lime Tree's Curse*. The children have carefully annotated model examples, explored rich and ambitious vocabulary, and strengthened their understanding of how to use direct speech effectively. Over the coming weeks, they will apply these skills to craft their own imaginative stories.

In **Maths**, our focus is decimals. We have been finding equivalent fractions and decimals using tenths, hundredths and thousandths, and are currently learning how to round decimals to one decimal place. Next week, we will move on to converting decimals into percentages.

In **Art**, the children thoughtfully reflected on their final pieces, evaluating the techniques they used, the moods they conveyed and identifying how they might improve their work in the future.



KEY DATES

Visting Silcoates School to watch a Matilda production 16.03.26

**Hindu Temple Trip
18.03.26**

YEAR 6



Year 6 have had a lovely couple of weeks of learning. The children have stepped up with their commitment to their learning and maturity which has been a delight to see.

In **Maths**, we have been working hard on our unit on algebra. The children initially saw this as a challenge but have nearly mastered the equations and we have all been so proud of this achievement.

In **English**, we have finished our 'vlogs' based on our core text Wonder. The children acted as Auggie to explain how he felt about the first day of school. We are now moving on to letter writing where we will step into character as one of Auggie's friends persuading him to stay in school.

In **PE**, we have begun our unit on Tennis and have loved recapping skills and getting into games. We have focused on ball control and using a forehand swing.



We loved **World Book Day**; we truly showed our love for reading and all things books on this day and showed our very best characters. Some children chose to write songs, make games or write poems all about their favourite book.

The children also enjoyed our trip to the Community of Resurrection where they showed great respect for the community there.

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 17m

We followed the parade with an assembly where our teachers spoke about their favourite books! #WorldBookDay2026



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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 15m

A brilliant #WorldBookDay2026 Parade this morning. What an amazing effort by everyone with such a range of costumes on show - our Junior Leaders spoke brilliantly. Thank you all for your support!



PIC-COLLAGE

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · 21h

Reception are completely immersed in their new theme: Under the sea! @jcaeyfs



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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Mar 3

We have had a fantastic day representing Wakefield at the West Yorkshire Cross Country Finals. 🏃 Well done to all of the children involved!



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Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Mar 4

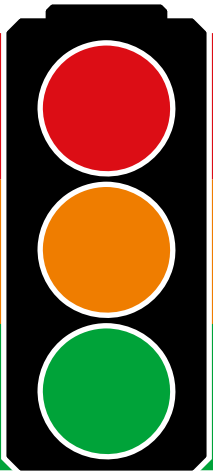
A magical treat this morning at the outdoor library for Year 2! We are getting inspired for World Book Day by reading in the sunshine ☀️ @JCA_Reading



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Dates for Your Diary 2025-26

INSET DAYS	Monday 1st September 2025
	Monday 24th November 2025
	Friday 30th January 2026
	Friday 22nd May 2026
	Monday 20th July 2026
Parents Evenings	Monday 1st December and Wednesday 3rd December 2025
	Monday 23rd March and Tuesday 24th March 2026
Coffee Mornings	Monday 1st December and Wednesday 3rd December 2025
Reports	Friday 28th November 2025 – Interim Reports
	Friday 20th March 2026 – Interim Reports
	Friday 10th July 2026 – End of Year Reports
Theme Days/ Weeks	Thursday 5th March 2026- World Book Day
	wc 23rd March 2026 – Theme Week – TBC
	wc -18th May 2026 Creative Arts week
Performances	Friday 5th December 2025 – Reception Christmas Activity Morning
	Tuesday 9th December 2025 (9.30am) and Wednesday 10th 9.30am – Reception nativity
	Monday 15th December 2025 – Christmas carols around the tree (ASC)
	Tuesday 16th December 2025 (2pm) and Wednesday 17th (9.30 am) – Year 1 and 2 Nativity
	Wednesday 10th June 2026 Art gallery evening
	w/c Monday 13th July 2026 – Celebration week
Sports Day	Friday 12th June 2026
	Friday 26th June Reserve Sports Day
Summer Fair	(TBC)



BELOW 90%
Serious concern
Persistent absence

90% - 95%
Cause for concern
Low attendance

AT LEAST 96%
Expected attendance

EVERY DAY COUNTS...

Learning is a progressive activity. Each lesson and each day builds on another. If your child is absent for lessons that include demonstrations, discussions, experiments and other participation activities as part of the daily learning activities, they are missing learning that cannot be made up.

BENEFITS OF GOOD ATTENDANCE

- Pupils with good attendance generally achieve higher grades.
- Pupils with good attendance generally enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Good school attendance helps to develop other responsible patterns of behaviour.

SOME RISKS OF POOR ATTENDANCE

- Pupils are likely to miss learning activities that their classmates have taken part in, which could mean they fall behind.
- They miss out on social interaction with friends/classmates - this can have a negative effect on the wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Low attendance is associated with anti-social behaviour and poor learning behaviours

THE LAW AND YOU

The Law states (Education Act 1996, Section 7) that all children of compulsory school age must receive an appropriate full-time education. As a parent/carer, you are legally responsible for making sure your child receives an effective education. Failure to ensure your child attends school regularly could lead to intervention from the Missing Education & Child Employment Service which has the power to implement:

Fixed Penalty Notices • Prosecutions • An Education Supervision Order

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

It is not a parental right to take their child on holiday during term time.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances and you have completed a holiday request form in advance.

If you choose to take your child out of school for an unauthorised holiday you could receive a penalty notice of £80, per parent, per child.

CAN I GET SUPPORT?

Absolutely! We appreciate the unavoidable events that affect our pupils and their families.

We believe that the most effective way to ensure your child remains on track is to work together to maximise support in their/your time of need.

Our caring and dedicated staff are committed to making sure your child is happy and getting the best out of their time at school. Talk to us.



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

anthony.palin@jca.amat.org.uk



Holly Dyson

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

holly.dyson@jca.amat.org.uk



Helen Jones

Designated Safeguarding Governor

helen.jones@jca.amat.org.uk

