

Accomplishing great things at JCA



Watching everything come together...

As we approach the end of the term, it has been lovely to see final pieces around the Themes in school come together. Children have taken such pride in the work that they have completed and have thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their work to each other! Our newsletter shows you the learning across Themes over the last 2 weeks!

Our attendance has been on the rise over the Spring term which is brilliant news, however, attendance has dropped slightly this week – let's keep striving for the best attendance in Wakefield!!

Finally, a huge thank you and good luck to Mrs Sawyer who has been working in Year 1. Mrs Sawyer has secured a permanent role in another school and we wish her all the best!



DARLING READS' BOOK FAIR

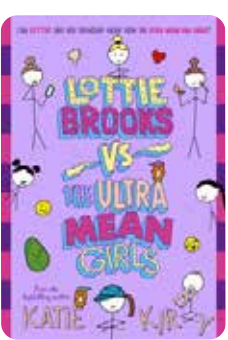
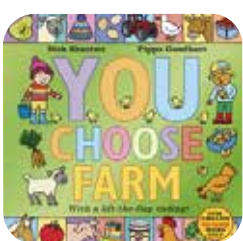


MON 23RD & TUES 24TH MARCH

4PM - 6:30PM

(DURING PARENTS' EVENING)

FIND US IN THE LITTLE KITCHEN
(OFF THE MAIN CORRIDOR)



WE WILL
HAVE THESE
TITLES AND
MANY
MORE...



WE ACCEPT CASH
AND CARD



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	95.90%	95.80%
YEAR 1	96.10%	97.10%
YEAR 2	97.60%	97.50%
YEAR 3	95.80%	96.40%
YEAR 4	95.80%	96.50%
YEAR 5	93.80%	94.80%
YEAR 6	95.50%	96.40%

97.40%	WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET
96.40%	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 children are continuing to show superb enthusiasm for our **Under the sea** theme! We have shown a huge interest in anglerfish which has led us down our line of enquiry into glowing creatures, questioning why they have lights and where they live!

Learning journey

We have explored the stories of "**Tiddler**", including repeating phrases from the story in our play. We are developing our understanding of rhyming words to make up new excuses for Tiddler when he arrives late to school. We have now moved onto the story of "**The Lighthouse Keeper's lunch**" - our outdoor area has lots of washing lines and baskets as we emulate the key events - lots of Reception children have been scavenging seagulls! In our creative learning, we have continued mixing colours to paint fish for our class ocean canvas.

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

RECEPTION



Phonics

We are becoming super speedy at all set 1 sounds and special friends! Please continue to practise these using the green book. You can also support your child by completing the action word activities that are inside the pink book. Use the ditty text, or red story book, in your child's reading bag, to read stories at a level that the children can independently read.

Literacy

We are starting to write dictated sentences, using finger spaces to separate the words! We are striving high with our letter formation and handwriting too.

Maths

We have been learning about the language of length, height and time. We have enjoyed exploring heights inside and outside, by creating buildings that are taller or shorter than us, and lengths of anglerfish's fishing rods. This week we have been discussing yesterday, today and tomorrow. Using time language, we have also been busy learning how to make a sandwich for Mr Grinling's lunch!

KEY DATES

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

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 1

Year 1 have immersed themselves in learning all about **robots**; designing, making, drawing, constructing and describing! We are working towards writing descriptions of our robots for a Year 1 robot magazine in **English!**

The children have enjoyed using adjectives and similes to compare features to create a perfect image.

In **Design and Technology**,

we have explored using some of the woodwork tools such as hammers and screwdrivers, which will help us to make a robot at the woodwork table.

We have also carefully designed the robots that we would like to construct. In provision, the children have been using loose parts to build robots and develop narratives. This week we have also created cardboard shape robots using split pins.

During **PE**, we have concentrated on developing our fundamental movement skills focussing on hand eye co-ordination, balance, agility, strength and control in both tennis and yoga. We have been lucky to have some young leaders from Outwood Grange Academy to lead these sessions.

Our **Geography** learning has been about coasts this half term, we have enjoyed locating coasts and investigating the features of a coastal town. We have sorted the features of Scarborough into physical features and human features! Yesterday, we created a post card including the features.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 2

We are continuing to drive our learning even further in Year 2, especially our presentation across each subject!

For our **Maths** learning, we have completed our learning on multiplication and division. We explored how to represent odd and even numbers through the concrete, pictorial and abstract process so that we could use mathematical vocabulary to explain odd and even numbers.

In **English** we will be making Pretty Salma's fruit salad and writing instructions to share with others. We have explored good examples of instructions and then went on an imperative verb hunt to gather a range of examples to use in our own set of instructions.

In **Science**, we have applied our knowledge of materials to conduct our own investigation. We considered all the factors that could affect the validity and how to keep it a fair test. Using our existing knowledge, we made scientific predictions on which material would make the strongest bridge.

We have also loved practicing our tennis skills in **PE**. Focussing on how we hold the racket and our accuracy when hitting the ball across the net.



Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 3



It has been a busy few weeks in Year 3, and the children have worked incredibly hard to put in an extra 1% every day.

In **maths**, we have shown great perseverance while adding and subtracting fractions. We have also been learning about measures and can confidently compare different capacities.

In **English**, we began our narrative writing inspired by How to Train Your Dragon. The children have been using speech to add interest and bring their stories to life, carefully thinking about how dialogue can move the action forward.

In **ukulele lessons**, the class has learnt a new chord and can now consistently play five chords across a range of songs. Our favourites so far are Sweet Caroline and Thunder.

In **P.E**, we have been focusing on possession skills in tennis, developing our understanding of forehand and backhand techniques as we work with a partner in relay-style activities.

We have explored light sources in **Science** and did an investigation to find out how light travels in straight lines through different materials.

KEY DATES

**Outdoor learning afternoon
Tuesday 21st April**

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 4

Year 4 have had another fantastic fortnight and have made the most of the glorious sunny weather by taking our learning outdoor at every opportunity. We have also improved our daily dash times significantly with many of us achieving level 9!

In **English**, we have been writing an explanation text about the Pioneer's Helmet following our trip to the Royal Armouries. We have learnt lots about the 'princely' burial given to this warrior and why the helmet, 1 of only 6 ever found from the Anglo-Saxon period, is so important. We can't wait to share our published work with everyone!

In **maths**, we have been focusing on fractions and have realised just how essential our timestables are for understanding fractions. Lots of children have been qualifying for their Diamond Dash during this time, we have lots of sparkling collars, well done to all those children achieving bronze, silver, gold and above this half-term. We are very proud of you all.

In **art**, we have started painting our final rainforest canvas inspired by the artist Andy Dyer. We will get to take our canvas piece home at the end of the year and will share them with all of you at our parent workshop next term. We hope everyone has a fantastic Easter and well-deserved break. Thank you for your continued support.



KEY DATES

Parent Workshop
Wednesday 15th April

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

YEAR 5



Year 5 have had a brilliant couple of weeks and have impressed us with their determination and positive attitudes throughout the school day.

We have also been incredibly fortunate to enjoy a fantastic opportunity to watch **Matilda the Musical** in production at Silcoates School, which was a memorable experience for all.

In **English**, pupils have been working hard in their reading lessons, delving deeper into the meaning behind texts and developing their comprehension skills. It has been wonderful to see the class so engaged with our core text, *The Girl Who Speaks Bear*.

In **Maths**, Year 5 have successfully mastered their unit on decimals, percentages and fractions. Next week, we will begin our new unit on perimeter and area, where pupils will learn to calculate the perimeter of rectangles and polygons, as well as the area of rectangles and compound shapes.

In **History**, we have been exploring the fascinating life of the Romans. Pupils have learned about the Roman invasions, Boudicca and her rebellion, and what life was like in Roman towns in the UK.

Year 5 are also shining in **RE**. This week, we visited a **Hindu temple** where the class asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated their excellent knowledge. We have used this knowledge to plan and begin writing our essays on Hinduism.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the London trip meeting—we appreciate your support.

KEY DATES

London Trip

Thursday 16th April – Friday 17th April

YEAR 6



Year six have had a brilliant term so far and have shown fantastic attitudes towards their learning and revision.

In **Maths**, we are now revising different concepts which we feel we need to master. The children have been fantastic at helping each other with this as well as challenging themselves to go further to answer SAT style questions.

In **English**, the children are very eager to step into character whilst writing our letters to Auggie from the book wonder. We are writing to persuade so held our own debate to voice our character's views and opinions as to why he should come back to school.

In **PE**, we have focused on coaching each other in our tennis lessons. This has been brilliant to see their teamwork and insightful comments on each other's performance.



We were so privileged to go to **Mrs. P's outdoor library** and enjoyed sharing stories and blurbs with each other. The children were able to get their new book to read and have been eager to discuss them with each other.

Highlights of the Week from X

Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Mar 16

Year 4 working hard on their fraction conversions using real life problems.



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Mar 16

Year 5 are super excited to watch the Matilda production at Silcoates School ✨



Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Mar 13

Another busy week of inquiring in @jcaeyfs - we are so interested in learning about sea creatures that glow! We have also been busy outside connecting and exploring lengths and heights!



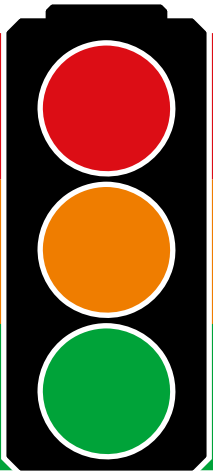
Jerry Clay Academy @JCAWakefield · Mar 11

Year 6 had a brilliant debate yesterday. They acted in character from our core text 'Wonder' to persuade Auggie to come to school. We used sentence stems and talking cubes to ensure our debate was fair and everyone was able to voice their characters view. #oracy #debate



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 5th 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

