



Autumn Newsletter

East SILC Jack Clark School

December 2025

MESSAGES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Message from the Executive Principal

As we come to the close of the autumn term, I want to thank you for your continued support and to celebrate what your children—and our staff—have achieved together.

Our wider community work has continued to flourish. Learners have taken part in the Asda Futures Programme, building creativity and confidence while exploring issues that matter locally and globally, and they performed at the YAMSEN Christmas Concert in Pudsey Civic Hall before an audience that included the Leeds Mayor. We also extend heartfelt thanks to the British Library for generously donating themed books (this term's "Dragons" collection was a hit) and for partnering with us on accessible workshops and story sessions for children with additional needs across Leeds.

Your generosity this term has been remarkable. Together we raised over £100.00 for Children in Need—our best total yet—and £34.00 for Jeans for Genes. Our festive fair was a joyful community moment and raised £380.00 for school enrichment; special thanks, too, to staff members Amy Rushton and Sarah Diprose, whose Tough Mudder effort raised £200.00, funding a cosy rocking chair that learners already love using in the library.

Learner voice and inclusion remain front and centre. Our new School Council met for the first time and is already shaping ideas for fundraising, playground equipment, trips, and even inviting animals back to school. We also marked Odd Socks Day to launch Anti-Bullying Week—celebrating individuality and what makes each of us unique.

Across classes, there has been tremendous progress—whether in communication, number and early literacy, independent skills in food technology, creative arts, or learning through sensory experiences. — well done to every learner and thank you to our dedicated staff.

Finally, a big thank you to our PTFA and partners for making our festivities so memorable—from welcoming Santa and Sparkles the Elf (with a ukulele sing-along and selection boxes) to Dr. Alistair Rothwell for the giant Christmas garland making our entry way so festive. These moments build community and create lasting memories for our learners.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do to support your children and our school. I wish you a peaceful festive season and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.

*With warm wishes,
Louise Quinn
Executive Principal*



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MESSAGES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Message from the Head of School

It is always good to take the time to reflect on what has been achieved over the last term in school and to celebrate the work that has taken place. Back in September we welcomed 25 new children to the school and we are thrilled to report that they have settled in beautifully and we are proud of how quickly they have adapted to their new routines.

The new classroom, BFG Class, is all set up as a learning space and the children have named the two break out spaces within the room as the Zen Den and the Calm Cloud; both spaces are being used to help the children with their sensory regulation needs. In addition to the new classroom we have further developed the play provision in school. The Cave has been converted into a dedicated play space to encourage imaginative play and social interaction amongst our learners. It has quickly become a favourite spot for many of our children, offering a safe and stimulating environment where they can explore, create, and play.

The generosity shown during our recent fundraising efforts has been incredible. We raised over £100.00 for Children in Need which is the largest amount we have ever raised for this charity event. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who joined us for the Christmas Fair and again for your generosity at this event. The funds raised from the Christmas Fair will be used to pay for end of term activities and to enrich play and learning opportunities in school.

Curriculum development has been a key priority this term with us working on a Pathway Model to ensure our learning environments, interventions and teaching styles have the maximum impact for the children.

Phonics and Maths for Life Groups are running across school, and the Preparation for Adulthood curriculum has continued with visits which have included Aldi, Thorner Park and Tropical World.

In terms of the wider community some of our children have been involved in offsite opportunities and events. The Asda Futures Programme is a project designed to develop creativity and confidence and to help children learn about issues that we face as a community and as a planet. It is lovely that this is cross site initiative with children at other East SILC sites. The second community project has been the YAMSEN Christmas Concert at Pudsey Civic Hall with a performance in front of an audience which included the Leeds Mayor. We are always pleased when our children can join events outside of school and continue to look for opportunities to do this.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support with the school. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next school events in the spring term and would like to wish you all a joyful and peaceful festive season.

*With warm wishes,
Vicky Fisher
Head of School.*

British Library

Thank you to the British Library's for their generous donation of books for the children. The latest theme, "Dragons" has gone down well with lots of children at Jack Clark. We are very grateful for the continuous support. We are excited to continue our collaborative work with the British Library where we are working together to develop workshops and story sessions that are accessible and inclusive for children across Leeds with additional needs



A massive thank you to Amy Rushton and Sarah Diprose who completed the Tough Mudder back in July. They raised £200.00 for the school which we have used to buy this lovely rocking chair for our school library. The children are loving snuggling up in the rocking chair to read books. Thank you to all of the members of staff who supported them by making donations.



Children In Need

An enormous thank you for your kind donations for Children in Need.



It was lovely to see so many children and staff coming to school in Children in Need merchandise or in their pyjamas.

The grand total raised was £102.00. This is the most we have ever raised for Children in Need. Well done everyone!

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you for your support and generosity with our Jeans for Genes charity event that took place on Friday 19th September. Together we managed to raise an impressive £34.00 which will go a long way in supporting the vital work of the charity. It was wonderful to see so many of the children and staff wearing their jeans to school and showing their support for the charity in such a fun way.



Odd Socks

We wore odd socks to school on Monday 10th November to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun and is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. We wonder if you can guess who these socks belong to?



School Council

This term we welcomed our new members to the School Council. All the children were very excited about their new role and enjoyed our first School Council Meeting. They all contributed their opinions and came up with ideas of how to raise money for upcoming events. The children also said they would like to raise money for more playground equipment and trips out. They would also like the animals to come back to school for another visit! Well done to all our new members of School Council and we look forward to many more meetings and events this year.

Kipper

Kipper Class have had an amazing first term in school! We have all engaged so well with our learning activities and made some great progress in our number and literacy lessons. We have especially enjoyed our food technology sessions and have all done some amazing exploration of different fruit and vegetables and have shown great independence when making some healthy snacks, smoothies were definitely our favourite! This term Kipper Class also had a fantastic time



on their PFA trip to Thorner Park, everyone did some super listening and following of instructions to ensure we all had a safe and happy time! The class team are so proud of what superstars you all are and can't wait to see what the next term brings.



Elmer

Elmers Class have had a brilliant start to the school year, proving that learning is the best adventure! We began our "All about me" topic by getting to know ourselves, our families and each other, building friendships and relationships. In English, we have dived into wonderful stories such as Julia Donaldson's "Who lives here?" and "Elmer" by David McKee/using messy, sensory play to explore the stories and sequence events. In maths, we have



focused on counting and number formation making sure our puppets hadn't taken our toys and finding hidden numbers in a flour tray. In our shape topic we became brave monster feeders, feeding our monsters the correct shapes. We've had a wonderful journey exploring habitats, some of our penguins ended up in the desert-

but no fear, we used our new science knowledge and returned them to Antarctica. In RE we have discovered how to live a good life through the wisdom of Sikhism. Elmers have been very busy painting masterpieces and developing our motor skills in art, while music has filled our classroom with joy as we played our instruments, including the Ukulele.

Paddington

Paddington Class have been working very hard this term. We have enjoyed exploring our 'All About Me' and 'Wild Weather' topics and listened to lots of interesting stories. Our favourite was 'Elmer's Weather'.



We have been learning lots through sensory play and engaging in a variety of exciting activities in class. We have made good progress in our communication groups. We also visited our community on the school bus and enjoyed going to Thorner Park and the Arium.



Our favourite lesson is food technology where we have started to practice our cutting skills when tasting new fruits and vegetables and have enjoyed following a recipe to make smoothies and fruit salads.

Zog

It has been an exciting and enjoyable first term in Zog Class! The Zog team have loved getting to know all the children and it's been wonderful to see the children's confidence growing. Communication has been a significant focus in Zog Class, and all the children have shown great progress. They enjoy communicating using their communication boards, signing, and spoken language. This half term, we've been creative too, making beautiful poppies for Remembrance Day using a variety of art materials. We've enjoyed lots of turn-taking activities and explored the changing seasons in science. We have also been out in the minibus and loved bus bingo. What a great first term—well done, Zog Class!



BFG

We have had a busy time in BFG this term. At the start of the new year, we welcomed lots of new faces to our class and were given a new home to make into a classroom! We are so lucky in our space as we have made a Zen Den area and a Calming Cloud space. We also have our



own playground and some great playground games like giant Jenga and noughts and crosses. Autumn term sees lots of celebrations and we have celebrated each one through

singing and art. We also enjoyed our visits to Tropical World and Thorner Park; a fabulous start to the year!



Tiggers

What a brilliant first term in school Tigger Class have had! We have all engaged really well with our learning activities and have made great progress with our attention and communication skills! We have especially enjoyed our expressive arts sessions this term



and have loved engaging with the YAMSEN music workshops, exploring and playing different musical instruments. We have also loved getting messy in our art sessions and expressing ourselves through painting and mark making. This term Tigger Class

also did some brilliant following of instructions when we went on our PFA trip to Thorner Park, ensuring we all had the best time. The class team are so proud of all your hard work this term and we can't wait to continue to watch you grow next term!

Gruffalo

Gruffalo Class have had a busy term in school! We have all engaged well in our 'All About me' and 'Wild Weather' topics. As a class we have enjoyed exploring different weather types, through dressing up in clothes to match rainy, sunny and snowy weather, alongside using weather props such as water sprays and foam to replicate the weather in school! We have continued with shared attention sessions, focusing on our phonics sounds and making great progress with developing our



taking turns skills with peers. Gruffalo's have also enjoyed food technology. Gruffalo's have shown great independence skills when choosing their likes and dislikes with different foods, as well as practising our cutting skills with fruits and vegetables. The class team are so proud of Gruffalo's

and their amazing work this term, they are superstars!



Supertato

Supertato Class have had a brilliant first term. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about different types of weather in geography. We have loved exploring hot and cold temperatures through sensory experiences. In literacy, we have worked hard in developing creative sentences, using Colourful Semantics. Over the term, we have been enthusiastic in food



technology. We have particularly liked exploring different types of healthy foods. We enjoyed describing different foods and expressing our likes and dislikes. Supertato Class have all settled and are starting to gain more confidence in their learning.

They are all becoming more independent and making excellent progress. I am proud how far they have come since September.

Jack Clark Festive Fair

We had a fantastic afternoon in school with family and friends for our Jack Clark Festive Fair. We had games, construction kits and playdough to play with and sold our home made gifts. The adults were able to watch the classes singing and dancing on the



big screen while they had mince pies, tea and coffee. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a special day by donating gifts, buying raffle tickets and joining in with the singing. At the time of going to press we have raised



£380.00 for the school!

Special Visitors

We had two special visitors in school last week when Santa and Sparkles the Elf came to see all of the children.



Sparkles played her ukelele and Santa gave all of the children a selection box to take home. Thank you to the PTFA for contacting the North Pole to arrange this visit and thank you to the Copier Company for providing the selection boxes.



Christmas Jumper

It was lovely to see all the children in school wearing their Christmas jumpers and Santa hats. The festive colours and cheerful designs really brightened up the school - they all looked fantastic. Thank you for your kind donations that we have sent on to the Save the Children charity.



Imagination Gaming

This Christmas, Imagination Gaming have donated a small board game or fidget toys to every child in school.



Imagination Gaming continue to support the work that we do in school by developing social interaction, communication and cooperation skills with the children. The work that they do and the donations are truly appreciated.

Dunelm Gifts of Joy

Dunelm kindly provided every child in school with a bespoke gift as part of their "Delivering Joy" charity event. Thank you to Dunelm and their generous customers and to Ruby Scott.



All Star Prizes

A massive thank you to All Star Prizes for their generous donation of selection boxes to our learners. Your kindness and support have brought so much joy this festive season.





Important Dates

Please make sure you make a note of these important dates in your diary

Friday 19th December
Monday 5th January

Christmas Break
Return To School

Friday 13th February
Monday 23rd February

Break Up Half Term
Return To School

Thursday 2nd April
Monday 20th April

Easter Break
Return To School



NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION

We would like to ensure that you have the Inclusion Nursing Service Contact Details, should you need to contact a member of the team during the holiday.

Jacquie Beattie

East SILC Lead Nurse

0113 2492431 or

0795 129 0212

Lisa Grimes

0796 039 1238

If you cannot contact a member of the Inclusion Nursing Service, please contact Susan Carr Team Leader 0113 2738644 or the service Coordinator.

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