



# Autumn Newsletter

East SILC John Jamieson School

December 2025

## MESSAGES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

### *Message from the Executive Principal*

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding autumn term at John Jamieson School, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the many achievements and experiences that have made this term so special. Our school community has thrived, with fantastic learning happening across every class and pathway.

It has been wonderful to see every class engaging in meaningful and exciting learning, from exploring space and sensory stories to developing independence and communication skills.

Despite some illness in the community, we have ensured that our Christmas celebrations have gone ahead, with an amazing Christmas fair, performances, and the beautiful Christmas service at St Edmunds. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported these events—they truly showcased the talents and confidence of our learners.

Sadly one of our learners, Sam Evans, passed away this term. Sam was a popular and much loved member of the John Jamieson community. On behalf of the East SILC I am sure you will share in our condolences to Sam's family during this difficult time.

As always, I am grateful for the support of our families and the dedication of our staff.

Thank you for your continued partnership. I wish you all a restful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term.

With warm wishes,  
**Louise Quinn**  
Executive Principal

### *Message from the Head of School*

As ever, we have had a long busy Autumn term at John Jamieson School where lots of fantastic learning experiences have been happening all across the school.

We have seen lots of strongly developing relationships with external partners such as Mott Macdonald, who are bringing groups of staff regularly to help with our outdoor areas, to organisations like Jessie's Fund coming in to do fantastic music therapy sessions with our groups. As can be seen in this newsletter, each and every class have been busy with learning in a way that is meaningful and engaging and it is great to see the school thriving.

I am especially pleased to see all the learners accessing phonics sessions that are relevant to them, and to have reading skills prioritised as part of what we do. We have had a lot of illness recently, as is happening elsewhere across the country, but we have carefully managed to ensure our Christmas celebrations are not unnecessarily reduced because of this. A huge thank you to all the parents that have attended our incredible Christmas performances this week. I think it has been the highest turnout I have seen in ten years, and the performances were spectacular.

We wish you all a relaxing Winter's break and look forward to the community coming back together in early January.

**Jame Darby**  
Head of School

# Pathway 1

## Buttercups

In Buttercups the artists from Moonbeam demonstrated their skill and ability to engage with so many of our learners through the medium of dance and song. The learners engagement was high and the examples of exploration, initiation and persistence were vast and multiple.



## Bluebells

We have explored many elements to do with space, we have had our very own meteor shower in class using paint, foil balls and streamers. We made intergalactic slime and had many a light show within class and created our own planets using shaving foam, paint and glitter. It has also been a very musical term with the introduction of Jessie's fund, the class loved the interactions and responsiveness of the musicians. We also were involved with Joanna and Artforms which included Autumnal music using various instrument and objects. In food tech we have explored different kinds of Autumnal recipes including ginger cake and cheese swirls. We were in preparation for our Winter performance - again apologies to parent - where we made snow and enjoyed dancing round to our chosen song and playing the boomwhackers. An exhausting but fun-packed term!



## Snowdrops

This half term has been an adventure filled with imagination and creativity in Snowdrops! Our learners blasted off on imaginary journeys to outer space, explored the magic of autumn and winter through sensory stories, music, and crafting, and dived into sensory trays that brought the seasons to life. Learners have shown incredible progress in understanding their own bodies, using mirrors and action songs to build confidence and coordination. December brought an extra sprinkle of excitement thanks to our mischievous resident Elf! Each morning, curiosity filled the classroom as learners uncovered the Elf's latest surprises—from festive decorations to sharing new Christmas stories with friends.



## Sunflowers

Sunflowers have had an amazing Autumn term, learning, growing and building new friendships. Ayaan has mastered walking up and down the stairs with the help of Shellie and is started to show interest in spoon feeding with adult support. Elijah is walking around school holding an adults hand and feeding himself his snacks. Ivy is communicating through objects of reference and photos of reference. She's started copying words such as "Ivy", "Orange" and "Dinner". Aaliyah is following instructions from an adult, helping out in class and is developing independence skills. Desiree is using her voice to count, name sea animals and colours. She's also developed role play skills in the kitchen. Willow has loved dancing and singing with our Music Lady and is attending more hours. Ibrahim has become more confident. He walks to class independently and is using his voice to count and express his feelings.



## Pathway 2

### Rabbits

This term, Rabbits class have had a wonderful time settling into a new routine and making relationships with new staff and other learners. They have explored the topics 'All about me' and 'Out of this world' through a range of sensory activities, art projects and play opportunities. The rabbits have been enjoying their new sensory integration equipment in the classroom to use throughout the day. Rabbits have also started to use work boxes for short activities which is working very well!



### Squirrels

Squirrels have had a great first term! We have really enjoyed exploring the topics 'All about me' and 'Out of this world.' We have enjoyed going swimming some weeks and have loved our music sessions each week. We have participated in lots of art and role playing activities and we are excited for our next topic 'Toys' after the Christmas holidays!



### Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers have enjoyed Jesse's Fund coming into class and singing with us and encouraging us to explore instruments. As a class we have enjoyed it so much we are weaving music in to every day.



### Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have had a busy and fun term.

Some of us have been on weekly trips to the park, swimming and soft play. All these experiences are helping to build our confidence and independence.

We have all particularly enjoyed weekly music lessons with Niamh, exploring the texture, colour and smell of a range of foods in food tech, building with big and small construction in maths this term and having stories read to us.

Since September we have been working hard to develop our independence and self-help skills as preparation for adulthood. Being able to sit to eat and put on our own coats and shoes will really help us in the future. I hope that you can support this at home too.



### Badgers & Owls

This term, Owls and Badgers have been exploring the topic 'All About Me'. Throughout the topic, learners explored books that reflected each of them within their classes through engaging and interactive activities. They have also worked on their individual targets and sharing information about themselves in PSED lessons. This has developed their communication skills as well as getting to know each other more. In Maths, the topics were number and shape. Learners enjoyed exploring the shapes that were introduced in lessons as well as concepts such as big and small and same and different. We finished the 'All About Me' topic with a trip to Eureka! Learners engaged with the interactive displays linked to their bodies. They enjoyed exploring the huge body parts such as mouth and nose as well as checking their heart rate using a new piece of equipment. They also enjoyed visiting the interactive light room and the role play areas on the ground floor. All of the staff that attended are really proud of how the learners did when accessing the community. Well done to both classes!



## Pathway 2

### Nightingales

We have had a brilliant Autumn term in Nightingales Class!

**All About Me:** At the start of the year our theme was *All About Me*. We talked about what we like and don't like, and we learned about 3D shapes. Our favourite shape was the sphere, which we used when we played bowling in P.E. We welcomed our new friend Azaan, and now we can't imagine our class without him.

**Out Of This World:** Later in the term our theme was *Out Of This World*. We explored space and met the planets in our Solar System. We kept playing bowling in teams, counting how many pins we knocked down and adding up the scores. In Maths we looked at big, medium and small things, and measured string with rulers to see if it was long or short.

**Remembrance:** For Remembrance, we learned about people and animals who helped in the Second World War. We listened to music from that time and made poppies to remember them.

**Autumn Fun:** In Food Technology we made galactic goo, fireworks and fruit rockets. For Halloween we carved pumpkins and explored our Autumn Sensory tray with twigs, leaves, stones, conkers and bark. We loved the sounds the sticks made when we tapped them together.

**Looking Ahead:** It has been a fantastic term of learning and fun. We are excited for what the Spring term will bring!



### Foxes

Foxes have had a great start to the school year so far. We have learnt and practiced lots of amazing skills like chopping and mixing in sensory cooking, practiced our social skills and using money with Hawks class during social cafe and taken part in lots of attention autism buckets and sensory stories. We have also had lots of fun outside of the classroom, during Physcap, sensory exploration sessions and even travelled to soft play on the bus. To end this term, we are having lots of Christmas fun such as filming our class production, decorating the classroom/door and taking part in the school fair.



### Hawks

This term Hawks have been working very hard on developing their cooking and baking skills, including choosing ingredients, chopping, mixing, grating and of course eating. Learners have made fantastic progress and are now beginning to use these skills independently. We have also been working on turn taking and sharing with our friends, we enjoy playing board games and doing jigsaws together. Well done Hawks.



## Pathway 3

### Ash

Ash class have had a fun and busy term. One of the highlights of this term for Ash class was food tech, this has given learners the chance to develop on their cooking and baking skills. We have enjoyed making different types of food, especially mince pies. We look forward to going out and buying our ingredients next term. Each week we have a football session with Foot Tech, it has been amazing to see everyone developing their teamwork skills and build friendships . Everyone loves a Thursday as this is our weekly music session with Niamh, everyone has enjoyed singing, dancing and practising for our Christmas production. Great work Ash Class!



### Willow

Willow class have enjoyed engaging in a range of different PE lessons this term. We have incorporated maths into some PE lessons by using big and small jumps and balls and moving fast and slow like different animals. We have also improved our ball skills through PE lessons with the foot-tech academy and we have even been lucky enough to get some PE lessons from some students at Leeds Beckett University which we have all really enjoyed.



### Pine

We have had a fantastic first term to the academic year. We have enjoyed a range of different activities and the topics "all about me" and "space". Some of our highlights this term have been going out to the coop weekly for our shop, cook, eat sessions and our Bollywood dancing sessions. We have worked really hard in our phonics groups and have made some great progress with sound knowledge and blending. Have a lovely Christmas and see you in the new year!



### Maple

Maple have had a wonderful autumn half term this year! This term has included regular trips to Oakwood library, where they have been expanding their reading horizons and developing their social skills in the community. Including trips to the local Co-Op as part of our new subject "shop cook eat" this has given our learners a chance to explore real life skills related to cooking and taking care of ourselves. We also had an excellent time just a couple of weeks ago celebrating our amazing work this year with a reward trip, where we went bowling and showed some excellent sportsmanship and even bowled some strikes! All of the learners in Maple class have been trying their very best and all of the class are incredibly proud of them and all they have achieved.



# Pathway 3

## Elm

Here are some of our Elm Class Post-16 students and staff that have been busy in the kitchen as part of our weekly Enterprise Project. They've taken on the challenge of running a pop-up style restaurant experience, preparing and serving a delicious menu that included:

Homemade soup with crunchy croutons

Jacket potatoes with tasty fillings

Freshly baked puddings

Classic scones - rolled and ready!

The project is all about developing independence, building confidence, and gaining practical skills in a real-world setting. Students have worked hard to follow recipes, maintain health, safety, and hygiene standards, and deliver a professional dining experience.

A big well done to Elm Class for their teamwork and dedication - the results were fantastic!



## Oak

This term Oak class have had the amazing opportunity to attend Bramhope Scout Camp to take part in various outdoor pursuits. All learners have been fantastic and have overcome their fears.



Some of our Post-16 learners also attended the SEND takeover event at the Civic Hall to discuss improvements they would like to see around Leeds. The learners from Oak and Elm class, pitched their idea of having a safer pedestrian crossing on the end of Hollin Hill drive. In the lead up to the event the learners created a short video, wrote newspaper reports and created a visual board to have on display. The learners received fantastic feedback about their presentations, we were really impressed with them!



## Jessie's Fund

JJ has welcomed musicians-in-residence from Jessie's Fund to deliver the most wonderful and inspiring musical workshops for a wide range of learners. Jessie's Fund helps children with additional and complex needs, or serious illness, to communicate through music. Music can provide a powerful and profound way for children to express themselves and connect with the world around them. The learners involved have been totally immersed in these sessions. These uplifting musical experiences have enriched their daily lives, giving them the opportunity to express themselves creatively through music. This has undoubtedly fostered a sense of pride and confidence among the learners involved.



## Winter Wonderland

John Jamieson put on a marvellous show of Winter Wonderland. Several classes from Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 performed their own unique and individual performances. From Jingle bells to Frosty the Snowman and there was even lots of snow falling all around. We also had a guest appearance by Shannon from Oak class who stunned us all with her glittery shiny outfit.

A massive thanks to all of those who attended. We hope you all had a magical Christmas experience!



## Celebration of Life Day

There was wonderful engagement across many classes for our first celebration of life day in November. Smiles a plenty, positive interactions and a castle worthy of any Disney Royalty was created. This was a lovely day to be part of and something to build on to remember passed learners and help develop our learners understanding and ability to deal with loss.



## Kitchen

Congratulations to Val and her team, they have achieved a 5 STAR FOOD HYGEINE Rating. This is a fantastic achievement and testament to their hard work and dedication!





# Important Dates

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

Friday 19th December  
Monday 5th January

Break Up Half Term  
Return To School

Friday 13th February  
Monday 23rd February

Break up Half Term  
Return To School

Thursday 2nd April  
Monday 20th April

Easter Holidays  
Return To School

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May  
Monday 1st June

Break Up Half Term  
Return To School

Friday 17th July

Summer Holidays

## 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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