



Rockcliffe Newsletter 8 – Autumn Term

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

This week we have continued to focus on Collaborating and Co-operating as our Learning Superpower. It has also been a great opportunity to reflect on a very busy and successful first half term and what the children have achieved over the past eight weeks.

Parents' Evenings

It has been wonderful to welcome families into school this week to share how well the children have settled into their new classes and how much they have impressed their teachers. I know that the staff have enjoyed being able to showcase the progress the children have made already. I hope you have found our guides on how to support at home useful.



Diwali

This week marked the start of Diwali. In assembly this week, I shared my experiences and a story about the festival. Our Reception classes have been learning all about Diwali this week. They created Rangoli patterns using shapes and coloured rice, moulded clay Diya lamps, read stories and sang Diwali songs. One of our Rockcliffe families also came into class to share pictures from their own Diwali celebrations at home. Happy Diwali to all our families who celebrated this week.



Skiping Skills

Year 4 had their first session of Skiping this year in preparation for the Skiping Festival in the summer term. They started to learn the pretzel and infinity loop as well as building on the work from Year 2. Since joining Rockcliffe, I have been amazed by the enthusiasm and skills with skiping. At lunchtime, Eddie and Nixon had been so inspired that they wanted to start practising straight away!



Headteacher: Tom Jones

Rockcliffe First School ■ Grafton Road ■ Whitley Bay ■ NE26 2NR

☎ 0191 643 4100 ✉ office@rockcliffeschool.org.uk

🌐 www.rockcliffeschool.org.uk



Staffing Update

This week we said goodbye to Mrs Miller who has been teaching Lighthouse at the start of the week this half-term. We would like to thank her again for all her hard work and enthusiasm whilst working at Rockcliffe for the second time. We are sure she will be back covering classes in the future.



After half-term, we are welcoming Miss Thompson back from maternity leave. She is excited to be returning to take over the role as SENCo and teach Lighthouse on Mondays and Tuesdays. Joanna has already been in school and at some meetings in preparation for coming back. I'm sure you will all give her a big welcome.

Miss Grace Crozier, who has been part of the lunchtime and Kids' Club staff, also leaves us today as she pursues a career as Learning Support Assistant. We wish her the best of luck in her career. This half term we also said goodbye to Mr Matthew Kelly who has also left the Rockcliffe staff team.

Office Visits

Since September, I have been really impressed with the number of children who have visited me in my office to showcase the excellent work they have been doing and be awarded with a special sparkly sticker. Nursery excelled themselves this week by bringing me some apple crumble made from the apples they collected from the allotment last week. I would recommend getting the recipe from them – it got 5 stars from me!



Robin Hood

We ended the half-term with a visit from M&M Productions this afternoon and their production of Robin Hood. The children got thoroughly involved in the pantomime and it was lovely to see the smiles and laughs. Can we thank the Friends of Rockcliffe for making opportunities like this possible.

I hope all of our families have a lovely half-term break. I'm very excited as I'm getting to meet my new nephew for the first time. Just a reminder that it is Staff Training Day on Monday 3rd November, so we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 4th November for a very busy half-term.

Tom Jones



Dates for Your Diary

November	
Tue 4 th	Start of Autumn Term 2
Wed 5 th	Dolce: Fireworks and Bonfire Night themed lunch (please order via School Grid)
Wed 5 th	Lighthouse swimming sessions start
Fri 7 th	Beacon Beach School
Mon 10 th	Anti-bullying Week – please come to school in Odd Socks
Mon 10 th	Priory Beach School
Fri 14 th	Children in Need (Details to follow soon)
Fri 21 st	Lighthouse Beach School
Training Days 2025-6	- Monday 3rd November 2025 - Monday 5th January 2026