



## Newsletter 1 – Spring 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

Happy New Year to all of our children and families! I hope you all had a good festive season and 2026 has started well for you. This week marked a year since I started at Rockcliffe and in some ways that seems a lifetime ago and in others 5 minutes ago. I'm really excited to start my second year and we have lots planned already. I remember arriving to school one January morning last year, all wrapped up with my car covered in snow and barely a flake on the ground here. Quite a few of the staff told me "Oh, we never get snow here!". This week has certainly proved them wrong! The children had a great time on Tuesday being able to get out and play in the snow with their friends. It was a wonderful to start to the year. A big thanks to Mr Comer for clearing paths around the school site on Monday. Well done to everyone for navigating the slippery streets on the way to school in the middle of the week.



### Shining Brightly Together

In the Autumn term, with the introduction of our 3Rs (Ready, Responsible, Respectful), I also set the staff team a challenge of reviewing our school motto. They worked in teams to tie together our ethos, strengths and community along with the lighthouse on our school badge. After reviewing the many brilliant ideas we decided on *Shining Brightly Together* as our new motto. We will be introducing this to the children over this term and link it to our Rockcliffe Learning Superpowers and Superhero Assemblies.

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## New for 2026

For the start of the new year we have had a freshen up of school communications. We now have a shiny new website (I know a few eagle-eyed parents spotted this before the Christmas break). Thank you to Mrs Marr for the great photos. Hopefully you will find this one easier to navigate. Most of the information you need for reference will be in the “Our Families” section. You don’t need to check this regularly – all communication will continue to be via the School Gateway app or Schoolcomms emails. We are still updating some content on the website but it should be completed soon.



As well as the new website, we have had a refresh of the newsletter. Thank you to Miss Millen’s dad who has created us a new banner to include all our class name icons and updated the logo. In the next few weeks we will be launching our social media pages too.

## School Meals

Our catering team have politely asked to remind you to remember to order your child’s school meals on SchoolGrid. This really helps with service and also makes sure that all the children get the meal that they would prefer.

## Raffle Prize

We still have one raffle prize not collected from the Christmas Fair. It’s for S Webb. If you know him, please ask him to contact the office.

## Dates for Your Diary

On the next page are key dates for your diary for the Spring Term. More information and any sign-up information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Have a lovely weekend – keep warm and enjoy any more snow over the weekend (but cross your fingers it will be gone on Monday morning!).

*Tom Jones*



## Dates for Your Diary

January	
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	RSPB Birdwatch
February	
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	NSPCC Number Day
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Measurements
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day
Half Term: 14 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Residential Information Meeting – 5pm
March	
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Residential
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 Dance Festival
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Glee Club – Spring Sing
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rockcliffe First School Whitley Bay Junior ParkRun Takeover
April	
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Spring Term