



## Newsletter 2 – Spring 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

With the snow melted, we returned to a “normal” week at Rockcliffe – if you can ever have a normal week in a First School (but that’s what makes it such a great place to be)! This week we had a visit from our School Development Partner, Richard Kielty, who works with us to support and challenge us to achieve our goals and evaluate impact. We visited each class across school and it was wonderful to see how engaged and enthusiastic our children were and the brilliant teaching in each classroom. The children were really demonstrating our 3Rs – Ready, Responsible and Respectful – and applying their Rockcliffe Learning Superpowers. He was very impressed with the improvements in school and how embedded our new systems are becoming. It was great to see all of our Rockcliffe family *shining brightly together*.

### Great Journeys

Key Stage 1 were visited by Kirsty from George Stephenson Railway Museum on Thursday. As part of their Great Journeys humanities work, the children learnt about how George and his son Robert developed their first steam engines and eventually created the Rocket. They made their amazing own locomotives and learnt how a steam engine works. We even had our own George Stephenson to drive our train!



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### Reception Pirates

This week in PE, Seahorses danced to 'He's a Pirate', by Klaus Badelt. There was high levels of focus and creativity demonstrated with pirate dance moves!



### Friends of Rockcliffe

Here's a message from Bex and Flora, who will be leading fundraising activities throughout the year as part of Friends of Rockcliffe. Flora Davoll has children in Year 4 and Reception, and Bex Rankin has children in Year 3 and Year 1. Between them, they bring experience in running fundraising events, workshops, community arts projects and working with children. With lots of creativity and enthusiasm, they're keen to raise as much money as possible for Rockcliffe so all the children can benefit.

*Hi everyone, we're excited to share that we're launching a brand-new calendar of fundraising events for Rockcliffe! This year, we'll be running smaller activities throughout the year to help keep our funds topped up. All the money raised will go towards school essentials, as well as trips and special treats for the children.*

*We're kicking things off with monthly class bake sales, held on the last Friday of each month. Each class will be allocated a month, and you'll have plenty of notice (promise!). First up for February is Priory Class - details of how you can help will follow.*

*We've got lots more fun ideas up our sleeves and hope you'll enjoy getting involved and supporting the Rockcliffe family. Keep your eyes peeled for more updates coming soon!*

### Reception 2026-7

The deadline for Reception applications for September 2026 has been extended up until 9.00am on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January due to the Education Review in Whitley Bay. If you haven't returned your application yet, or know anyone interested in joining our school, please submit your application by then.

Have a lovely weekend,

*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 24 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Residential Information Meeting – 5pm
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of Rockcliffe: Priory Bake Sale
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 29 <sup>th</sup>	Rockcliffe First School Whitley Bay Junior ParkRun Takeover
April	
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Spring Term