

## Newsletter 6 – Spring 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

We are at the end of another great half-term at Rockcliffe. This week, our Learning Superpower focus has been Collaborate and Co-operate and we have had lots of opportunities to do this. It was lovely to end the term in our Superhero Assembly to hear how this superpower had been applied across the different events through the week.

### Children's Mental Health Week



The theme for this year's week was *This Is My Place*. In my assemblies on Monday, I reflected on the many events, memories and connections that has made Rockcliffe my place over the past year. On a personal level, it was great to take that time to look back at these. The children have also asked me lots of questions about it afterwards too. Throughout the week, the children took part in a range of thoughtful and engaging activities, exploring what belonging means to them and identifying the places where they feel most at home. They reflected on how being part of a group — whether it's their class, a team, their family, or the wider school community — can positively impact their emotions and wellbeing. We also discussed simple but meaningful ways we can help others feel included, valued, and supported. It has been a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our sense of community and remind everyone that we all have a special place where we belong. Our Year 4 Wellbeing Gurus also spoke to the children about what makes Rockcliffe feel special and we will display this around school.



**Headteacher: Tom Jones**

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

☎ 0191 643 4100 ✉ [office@rockcliffeschool.org.uk](mailto:office@rockcliffeschool.org.uk)

🌐 [www.rockcliffeschool.org.uk](http://www.rockcliffeschool.org.uk)



## Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday we also had a focus on being safe online by taking part in Safer Internet Day across the school. Mr Singh and our Year 4 Digital Leaders led assemblies introducing this year's theme, *"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI"*. Throughout the day, each key stage completed age-appropriate activities focused on artificial intelligence, with a particular emphasis on voice assistants. The children explored both the benefits and potential risks of this technology and were reminded of the key messages around staying safe when using devices connected to the internet. Pupils demonstrated our 3Rs brilliantly and showed genuine interest and excitement as they developed their understanding of this technology. We sent parents information to help support this at home via Schoolcomms on Tuesday. It is a really useful guide to help you navigate the ever-changing digital world. After half-term, as a staff team, we are having training on how AI can benefit us in schools too.



Zahra said, "I loved learning about how I can use my Alexa to find out information."

Poppy said, "I really liked the assembly by Mr Singh and the Digital Leaders – it was interesting finding out how the technology worked."

Anamaya said, "I really liked learning about AI voice assistants and how they can do things like turn lights on and off and how they can tell you about the weather in real-time."

Riley said, "I liked learning about how all the technology worked!"

## Grafton Gallery

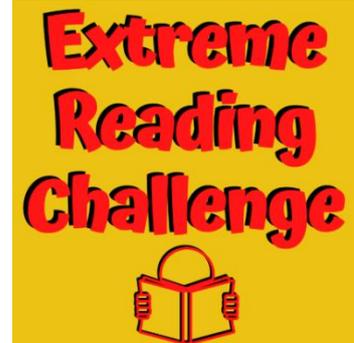


The Grafton Gallery is now exhibiting Starfish's beautiful mixed media-ceramic hearts to celebrate love in February. This is part of a three month collaboration with our Early Years children; and artist Flora Davoll. Seahorses and Sandcastles can't wait to get involved! The Grafton Gallery can be found as you turn right out of the Early Years gates, only a few footsteps from school. The Gallery celebrates "community, art and connection". This first exhibition with Rockcliffe is a perfect representation of this. If you have a moment, please do stop by to take a look and celebrate Starfish class' wonderful artwork.



### Extreme Reading

World Bok Day will be fast approaching after half-term. Miss Robinson sent out information this week via Schoolcomms. Over half-term we'd love it for all of our children to take part in our extreme reading challenge. We'd like each child to have a (safely taken!) picture of them reading in an unusual or unexpected place. Please email them to your child's class teacher. We will be using the pictures as part of a display in an area of school that we want to redevelop as a library and intervention space. We will also be showcasing some staff photos too!



### Staff CPD

This week we were joined by Clare Byatt, the Humanities lead from West Jesmond Primary School. She shared with us a toolkit to help develop children's knowledge application and thinking skills through the tasks we set them after our teaching. This followed on from our session last week and has given us lots of great ideas to implement next half-term.

### Wellie Donations

Nursery is collecting unwanted children's wellingtons for a strawberry planting activity and to brighten up outdoor space. Any donations are welcome. Please drop them off at the School Office.



### School Phone Number

Over half-term our phone system is being upgraded and we will have new phone numbers. Once the work is complete, we will send out the new numbers via SchoolGateway App so you can update your contact details.

From all of the Rockcliffe staff team, we hope you have a restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for the start of a very busy half-term. Hopefully we'll see less rain and wind and some brighter mornings in March!

*Tom Jones*



## Dates for Your Diary

February	
<b>Half Term: 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lapwings Beach School – PM (rescheduled from 10 <sup>th</sup> March)
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
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sandpipers Beach School – PM
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Residential
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Puffins Beach School – PM (rescheduled from 24 <sup>th</sup> February)
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>	Lighthouse Beach School - PM
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Glee Club – Spring Sing
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Beacon Beach School - PM
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Rockcliffe First School Whitley Bay Junior ParkRun Takeover
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	Starfish Beach School - AM
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup>	Seahorses Beach School – PM Priory Beach School - PM
April	
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Spring Term

# BAKE SALE

Hosted BY: **Priory Class**  
 Date: **Friday 27th February**  
 Time: **3.45 pm**  
 Location: **School Playground**  
 Proceeds: **Rockcliffe Fun Days Fund**

**We want your wellies!**



School nursery is collecting unwanted kids' wellies for a strawberry planting activity.

Donations gratefully received - please drop off at the School Office