



Newsletter 8 – Spring 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

It has been a really busy but interesting week in school. We have all been shining brightly together with lots of great opportunities to showcase this week's Rockcliffe Learning Superpower of being Involved in our Learning.

World Book Day

On Thursday we celebrated the World Book Day theme of '*discovering yourself as a reader*'. Each class took part in different activities to showcase our love of reading, including creating book reviews to display in their classroom reading areas. Each child also created a book review to be part of leaves on a Book Review Tree in the new library area. There was lots of head scratching with the book trail puzzle. We also took part in the BBC Live Lesson and some classes participated in the Authors Aloud Event, celebrating 10 years of the Little People, Big Dreams series. I was also really impressed with the creativity of the costumes across school! However, there were reports of a burglar in school. Please let us know if you spotted him.



Author Visit

On Monday, Key Stage 2 classes had a visit from children's author Steph Bellwood. Steph has written a series of historical fiction books, bringing the past to life with a huge array of (mostly female) characters. Steph worked with each class to share how she became an author and how to develop ideas in writing. The children loved the activities and Steph was really positive about their enthusiasm.

Headteacher: Tom Jones

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International Women's Day

Ahead of International Women's Day on Sunday, across school we took part in a live assembly from the Sanctuary Foundation, to celebrate women's achievements, challenge gender stereotypes and promote equality. We talked about the importance of historical and modern female role models, understanding the importance of fairness and advocating for a more equal world. We also enjoyed sharing a story about Amelia Bloomer; suffragist, editor, social activist and pioneer of trousers for women!



Linking Leaders

On Tuesday, we welcomed the Headteacher and Early Years Lead from Red Rose Primary in Chester-le-Street to support us with developing writing opportunities in early years. They met with Mrs Duggan and I, and spoke with the Nursery and Reception teams about our approach and to share best practise. This was part of our year-long Linking Leaders programme and we will be visiting them in a couple of weeks. Both schools found the visit very beneficial and it gave us lots to think about. We also had lovely feedback of the welcoming atmosphere of the staff and children – I was very proud.



Red Nose Day



On Friday 20th March, we will be getting involved in Comic Relief 2026 with a special "Funny for Money" day! We are inviting all children to join in the fun by coming to school ready to make us laugh while helping to raise money for this fantastic cause. We will be coming to school in normal Uniform but please bring along a joke ready to tell! The joke can be creatively attached to your school jumper, written on a piece of paper, or presented in any fun way you choose to

help spread cheer and laughter. Throughout the day, we will be sharing our jokes (for Key Stage 2 this will be on the bus to Vindolanda) and keeping an eye out for any budding comedians among us! We know this is close to the Junior ParkRun school fundraiser (see information via Schoolcomms today) so we are asking families to donate what they can directly to the Comic Relief website to support this wonderful cause. [Donate here!](#)



Friends of Rockcliffe Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who baked and supported our first class cake sale last Friday. There were so many delicious treats! We raised an incredible £295! Thank you to the Friends and parent volunteers for running the very popular stall. Lapwings class is up next on Wednesday 1st April to (almost) end the half-term. Lapwings, can you create something more delicious than Mr Royle?!



Today I have been at the *Eyes on the Horizon* North Tyneside Head Teacher Conference which was great opportunity to network with colleagues across the borough. With the new White Paper, the change in the Ofsted framework and the upcoming release of the Curriculum Review it is a very busy time in education. We feel we are in strong place to build on what we are doing well.

Next week I am away at Robinwood with Year 4 (I don't know who's more excited?!). It's looking a bit damp but I know we'll have a brilliant time. Miss Robinson, Miss Thompson and Mrs Duggan will be in school if you need anything.

Have a great weekend,

Tom Jones



Dates for Your Diary

March	
Thu 5 th	World Book Day (see information above)
Fri 6 th	Sandpipers Beach School – PM
Mon 9 th – Wed 11 th	Y4 Residential
Tue 10 th	Puffins Beach School – PM (rescheduled from 24 th February)
Tue 17 th	Y3 Dance Festival – 7pm
Wed 18 th	Parents' Evening
Fri 20 th	Red Nose Day KS2 Vindolanda and Roman Army Museum Educational Visit
Mon 23 rd	Lighthouse Beach School - PM
Mon 23 rd	Glee Club – Spring Sing
Thu 26 th	Yr4 Skipping Festival Parents' Evening
Fri 27 th	Beacon Beach School - PM
Sun 29 th	Rockcliffe First School Whitley Bay Junior ParkRun Takeover – 9am
Mon 30 th	Starfish Beach School - AM
Tue 31 st	Seahorses Beach School – PM Priory Beach School - PM
April	
Wed 1 st	Friends of Rockcliffe Bake Sale: Lapwings
Thu 2 nd	Easter Fashion Show End of Spring Term
Friday 3 rd – Sunday 19 th Easter Holidays	
Mon 20 th	Start of the Summer Term
Wed 22 nd	9am: Parent Coffee Morning - Connect & Parent Carer Forum will be delivering a Co-regulation session. They'll cover: What is co-regulation? The Stress Response and How to Support Co-regulation.

