



Newsletter 5 – Summer 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

We have reached the end of another half-term and this week school has been full of carnival fever ahead of the [Whitley Bay Carnival](#) tomorrow. It has been a great opportunity for the whole school to be *shining brightly together* on a shared curriculum project based on the *Elves and Shoemaker*. On Monday, our Reading Ambassadors shared the original story off in assembly, and all through the week each class have worked on a different poem linked to shoes and produced shoe-inspired art work too. In today's assembly each class performed their poem as a collective. I have seen some amazing art work - some of which was inspired by our Shoe Exhibition curated by Mrs Duggan. Thank you to all the families, staff and Premier League football managers who contributed to this! It was wonderful to have so many families in school on Monday to make costumes for tomorrow's carnival parade with Lindsay Ford, Courtney from the Whitley Bay Carnival, and Mrs Tooke. We finished our week and half-term with a mini carnival around the yard with our Cowboy Boot float wearing our favourite shoes! If you are joining us tomorrow, please make sure you are in costume and we are meeting at 10.45am by Whitley Bay Metro Station. We are really grateful for the Carnival for providing costumes, workshops and these brilliant experiences for our children. As with all these events, help with funding is needed. If you can donate in any way, the Carnival would really appreciate it: [Carnival Crowdfunding](#)

The staff also created a Shoe Who quiz to see if the children could identify whose favourite shoes from the clues! Can you? Here's a selection...



"These are my favourite boots and they are blue. Who can believe they are not black?"



"These are my favourite shoes because I used to bop around Melton Mowbray as a kid thinking I was the bees knees."



"These are my favourite shoes because they are the most comfortable shoes I've ever had. I walk for miles in them and they were really cheap in the sale."



"These are my favourite shoes because I wore them on my wedding day and they are great for dancing in."



"These are my favourite shoes because I love anything that sparkles and they make me smile."



"These are my favourite shoes because I have climbed many mountains in them and I've had many a good day in the countryside plodding about."

Headteacher: Tom Jones

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What's been happening in class....



Nursery have enjoyed exploring Michael Rosen's poem 'Jelly Boots, Smelly Boots'. The children have had a go at making up their own silly rhymes, made jelly and created large scale art using super charged powder paint welly boots!



As part of carnival week, **Starfish** class have taken part in a range of activities. They started the week by learning a poem called *The Lost Shoes* and then innovated it to make their own poem, ready to perform to the school. The children have also had a chance to design their own shoes. They visited the shoe exhibition, where the children got to view a collection of wonderful types of shoes, ranging from famous footballers' boots to traditional wooden clogs.

This week **Seahorses** have been using shoes to explore patterns, grouping and matching. The children enjoyed designing their own shoe patterns and talking about the different ways they could sort and organise shoes. We learnt the poem *New Shoes* and had lots of fun innovating it to create our very own class poem called *Old Shoes*!



Lapwings have been in the full elf spirit this week, looking at and learning about shoes and how to make them. They have seen how they are made, using bossy verbs to help write instructions for the poor shoemaker. As well as learning the poem *Cobbler, Cobbler, Mend My Shoe*, they innovated the poem with our own ideas. In Art, they drew their own shoes and also used William Morris to create a shoe collage.

This week **Puffins** have been consolidating learning about 'Digital Art' by choosing programmes to paint our own shoes. Some of the children were inspired by the artwork of Claude Monet using the Impressionism tool on Purple Mash to create realistic pieces of art.





This week, **Sandpipers** used their creative superpower to create shoe-themed newspaper collages. The children were all involved in their learning and carefully considered the colours and shapes they needed to create their final pieces. We were so impressed with their creativity, focus and determination, and each collage turned out beautifully unique. Riley said, "This was so much fun! I love my pink shoes, and I even added some cute animals to them." Miss Thompson visited class and said, "Those shoes are great, I'd definitely wear a pair of those!"

Beacon class have been showing great creativity across art, design and poetry. The children became inventive shoe designers, dreaming up and describing their own incredible gadget shoes before bringing their ideas to life as 3D models. Inspired by Vincent van Gogh's famous paintings of shoes, they also produced beautifully detailed charcoal drawings of their own footwear. In English, the class enjoyed learning and performing Michael Rosen's poem "5, 6, 7 Shoes" before writing their own imaginative and entertaining poems all about shoes.



This week, **Priory** have been using the learning superpower of creativity during Carnival Week! The children have enjoyed designing colourful headbands for their mini carnival, creating their own gadget shoes complete with exciting sales pitches and writing thoughtful poems. They also designed a unique shoe all about themselves, showcasing their individuality and imagination. It has been wonderful to see such creativity and confidence shine through in all their work!

Lighthouse have been really busy too. They created a 3D shoe by following instructions and created headbands for our carnival. In maths, they drew and interpreted charts about class shoe size. They learnt a poem from the book *The Armpit of Doom* by Kenn Nesbitt. They also sang Footloose as well as rewriting their version of the Elves and the Shoemaker.

And in non-Carnival news...

Reception Butterflies

Yesterday, Reception released their butterflies into the school grounds. They have been carefully looking after them all term. After seeing them develop from caterpillars it was time to say goodbye.





Year 3 and 4 at Jarrow Hall – a visit report from our Humanities Heroes

Last Friday, KS2 went to Jarrow Hall – an Anglo-Saxon Museum, replica village and working farm. We travelled part of the way by Metro, then walked the rest of the way through the Pedestrian Tunnel, underneath the River Tyne. During the visit, we did a workshop about crime and punishment, we looked around the farm and saw Highland cattle, curly-coated pigs and goats. We handled artefacts in the museum and had a fire in the Long Hall, and listened to the story of Beowulf.

Murphy: “I enjoyed seeing the animals the most.”

Kayden: “I liked re-enacting a battle with the swords and (pillows) shields!”

Martha: I enjoyed walking through the tunnel. It was really long and echoey!



Children’s Cancer Run

Thank you to all of our families who took part in the Children’s Cancer Run last Sunday, raising money for a great cause. We will let you know our fundraising total soon. There were lots of big smiles on (slightly red) faces as the runners finished with pride.



Vacancy

We are looking to recruit someone to our Lunchtime team. If you, or anyone you know is interested, you can find out more information here: [Lunchtime Supervisor](#)

Facebook

Please follow our new Facebook page – visit our school website and click the Facebook link at the bottom of the Home Page.

I hope you have a lovely half-term break. We are back on Monday 1st June for the final half-term of this academic year. The final half-term is always an extremely busy time in schools so please keep checking our Diary Dates. On the first Monday back, the Friends of Rockcliffe will be taking their Fun Class Photos – information about this was sent out via Schoolcomms on Thursday. Enjoy your week,

Tom Jones

Shoe Quiz Answers: Top Row – Mrs Marr, Mr Jones (who feels misquoted here), Mrs Appleby.
Bottom Row - Mrs Duggan, Mrs Blackburn, Mr Singh.



Dates for Your Diary

June	
Mon 1 st	Start of Summer 2 Friends of Rockcliffe Fun Class Photos PM: Priory Beach School
Tues 2 nd	AM: Reception Vision Screening
Thu 4 th	AM: Y4 Skipping Team Finals PM: Y2 Skipping Team Festival
Fri 5 th	PM: Lighthouse Beach School
Mon 8 th	PM: Sandpipers Beach School
Tue 9 th	PM: Seahorses Beach School
Thu 11 th	Dolce World Cup-themed Lunch
Fri 12 th	Nursery Messy Art Day
Tue 16 th	PM: Starfish Beach School
Fri 19 th	PM: Puffins Beach School
Mon 22 nd	2.15pm: Seahorses and Starfish Sports Day
Tue 23 rd	2.15pm: Lapwings, Puffins and Sandpipers Sports Day
Tue 23 rd	5pm: Reception Sept 2026 Information Evening
Wed 24 th	Eve: NTLT Musical Showcase (Glee Club)
Fri 26 th	AM: Beacon, Priory and Lighthouse Sports Day Beacon and Lighthouse Bake Sale
Tue 30 th	Whitley Bay Move Up Day 1
July	
Wed 1 st	Whitley Bay Move Up Day 2
Fri 3 rd	After School: Y4 Leavers' Party
Tue 14 th	5pm: Y4 Leavers' Performance
Term Dates & Training Days 2026-27	
<p><i>Term Dates are on our website here: Rockcliffe First School - Term Dates</i></p> <p><i>Our Teacher Training Days are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 1st September 2026 (Mon 31st August is a Bank Holiday) • Friday 23rd October 2026 • Monday 4th January 2027 • Thursday 6th May 2027 (Polling Day) • Monday 7th June 2027 	



BAKE SALE

Here are the upcoming dates and hosts of our next Bake Sales:

Fri 22nd May - Puffin & Sandpiper

Fri 26th June - Beacon & Lighthouse

* Please bring donations of baked goods to your class drop-off door the morning of your sale.

