



Newsletter 11 – Summer 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

Although it's been the penultimate week of this year, it has still been a week packed with opportunities at Rockcliffe. Today the sun shone brightly as all of the children took part in Funday Friday. As staff we had our first Wellbeing session from the Still Human Group this week. At the end of a very busy year, it was good to reflect on what we do and can do to keep ourselves fit and healthy and how little changes in our day can help contribute to this (along with the impending summer holiday!). Thank you to all the parents who responded so positively to our PSHE and RSE consultation. We will be implementing the new curriculum and policy from September.

Funday Friday

Seeing the children engaged and enjoying these events as I walked around school today brought a huge smile to my face. The smiles in Early Years on their Water Play Day was a real highlight. I don't think they managed to get Miss Towers with the hose though! Key Stage 1 were all ready for festival season at RockFest. I loved the t-shirt designs. Key Stage 2 had their creative minds at work at their Maker Fayre and I was wowed by their amazing creations. Thank you to the Friends of Rockcliffe for supporting the resources for today.



Reports

Thank you for all your positive comments on your report return forms. The teachers put a lot of work into the reports and it reflects how hard the children and staff have worked this year. I loved reading about all their achievements and their individual reflections. I'm glad you did too!

Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Sofia is Going to The Moon

Sofia in Year 4 is going to the moon in November! John Bell, a scientist who lives in LA, is a family friend and has been working on a device that collects moon dust, analyses it and sends data back to Earth. The device will go to the moon in November on a SpaceX rocket, includes some brass panels which are etched with a list of names. These include the names of the team who developed and produced the device as well as names of friends of the team - which includes Sofia! In November we can look at the moon and know a little bit of Rockcliffe will be up there too!



Library Grant



We are delighted to share the exciting news that Rockcliffe has been accepted onto the National Literacy Trust's Libraries for Primaries Scheme, which supports primary schools that do not currently have a library or dedicated reading space. Through this scheme, we will receive an incredible package of books, resources, training and ongoing support to help us establish a school library and further strengthen our culture of reading for pleasure. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Rockcliffe parent Melina (The Literacy Lass), who completed the application, with Miss Robinson and Mrs Ratcliffe, on Rockcliffe's behalf and is continuing to support us throughout this exciting project. We are extremely grateful for her expertise and enthusiasm in helping to create this wonderful opportunity for our children.

Grand Designs

Over the summer there is a lot of works planned to improve our classrooms, building and site. This is all due to be completed before September (fingers crossed!). Next week please can you make sure all bikes, scooters and belongings are taken home by the last Friday as areas of the school will need to be cleared. Please can all children bring in a bag on Monday to take their books and work home.

The Final Countdown...



Next week, we have a number of events to celebrate our wonderful Year 4's time at Rockcliffe. I really enjoyed their party last Friday (with my wrist band) and it was great to see them enjoying every minute – especially the dressing up box! For parents in other years, you will receive a Guide to 2026-7, an extra-curricular Club timetable and booking information and information about Kids' Club early next week.

On the next page is information from the Friends of Rockcliffe about their incredible year and a Welcome Back Summer Fair.

Tom Jones



Dear everyone,

We just wanted to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported the Friends of Rockcliffe (FOR) events since Flora and I took on the role in March.

A special thank you also goes to all of our amazing volunteers who have helped us along the way, along with everyone who has provided a bake, prize or anything else, we simply couldn't have done it without you.

Our aim was to introduce some new fundraising ideas alongside the school's usual events, and thanks to your incredible support, we've raised a fantastic **£3,550!**

We're absolutely thrilled with that total. Now, let's see if we can reach **£4,000** by supporting us one last time at our **Picnic in the Park** on **Friday 17th July**.

Alongside the funds held in the previous bank account, which was managed by Mrs Marr, Flora is currently (tirelessly and VERY patiently!) working through the process of opening a new bank account so we can combine all of the funds together.

The money raised by FOR has already gone towards supporting the school's end-of-year celebrations over the coming weeks, and we also plan to donate a significant amount towards revamping the school playground with a brand new trim trail and play area.

As of September, we are welcoming some new 'Friends' to the team along with new Trustees of the charity, and we can't wait to get started with a KO meeting in the new term.

Planning for the **2026/27 school year** is already underway, and we're excited to kick things off with a **Back to School Fair** on **Friday 18th September**. More details will be shared soon!

We'll also be bringing back our monthly bake sales from October, along with lots of other fun activities and fundraising events throughout the year.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We can't wait to see what we can achieve together next year, and we look forward to another fantastic year of fundraising from September.

We hope to see you all at the **Picnic in the Park on Friday 17th** for one final fundraiser this school year!

Thank you again,

Bex & Flora



Dates for Your Diary

July	
Tue 14 th	5pm: Y4 Leavers' Performance
Wed 15 th	Leavers' Feast: We will be catering for children in Year 4. If children in Reception to Year 3 would like a packed lunch from the kitchen that day please order one via SchoolGrid.
Fri 17 th	Friends of Rockcliffe Picnic in the Park
Term Dates & Training Days 2026-27	
<i>Term Dates are on our website here: Rockcliffe First School - Term Dates</i>	
<i>Our Teacher Training Days are:</i>	
<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	

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travelnortheast.uk/kids

kids go free!

M
METRO

Up to three kids aged 11 and under travel free, all day every day, on Metro and the Shields Ferry when accompanied by a fare paying adult.

North East Mayoral Strategic Authority | Kim McGuinness North East Mayor