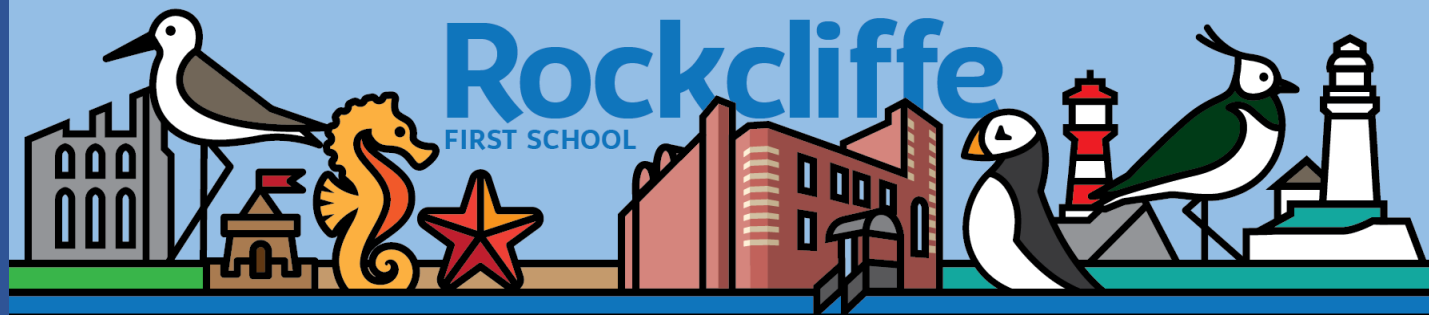




Newsletter 3 – Autumn 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,



As the sun sets on Week 3 (thanks to Mrs Marr for the amazing picture captured this morning), we're really looking forward to seeing lots of our families at the Fair this evening. A huge thanks to the Friends of Rockcliffe for organising this great school community event so early in the term. Also, a big thank you to all of our families who have donated prizes.

Peacemakers Project

On Monday, all of our Year 3 and Year 4 children have their first session of the Peacemakers project which will be running over the next term. We are the first school in the North East to be involved in this exciting initiative which has been hugely successful in the West Midlands. The programme is designed to help children develop emotional literacy and conflict-resolution skills through structured activities. It utilises approaches like circle time and peer mediation training to foster positive relationships in the classroom. Each class will be working with Jacqui, our facilitator, every Monday. You can find out more here:

[Peacemakers – Educating for Peace](#)



Superhero Assembly

Each Friday we end the day with our Superhero assembly to see who has been Shining Brightly Together that week. Every week we focus on one of our Rockcliffe Learning Superpowers which are the learning skills that underpin our curriculum and teaching approach. These have been carefully selected to help build a Growth Mindset. Superhero assembly is my favourite time of the week when I get to find out how the children have been showcasing their Learning Superpowers in so many different ways. You can find out more about our Learning Superpowers here: [Rockcliffe First School - Rockcliffe Learning Superpowers](#)



Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Staying Safe Online

Our revised PSHE curriculum, alongside our Computing curriculum, has a strong emphasis on teaching our children about being responsible Digital Citizens. In the newsletter, we will be including helpful guides to support parents keeping children safe online at home too. In school, to comply with regulations, we use a filtering and monitoring system called Smoothwall to help keep our children safe when using school devices. The system limits access to unsuitable online content. It also alerts Designated Safeguarding Leads if children search for, or input, certain terms that would be deemed inappropriate or concerning. When this occurs, we will speak to the child in an age appropriate way to educate them on why the item has been flagged and inform parents if we feel we need to.



Beach School



This year, Mrs Duggan will continue to be running Beach School sessions for all classes though each term. These were extremely popular and beneficial last year. We are very lucky to be located so close to our coastline and it has been great to supplement our curriculum and learning with these sessions. After timetabling around tide times, this term's dates are booked in and are on our Dates for Your Diary section. You will receive more information via Schoolcomms ahead of your child's session.

September 2027

If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a Nursery or Reception place for next September, we are holding school tours and an Open Morning over the next few months. You can sign up via our website: [Rockcliffe First School - Joining our Early Years](#). Please share this with anyone you know who would be interested. Thank you.

On Monday, you will receive information via Schoolcomms about signing up for our first Parents' Evening of the year. I hope everyone has a relaxing weekend.

Tom Jones

Start your Whitley Bay school journey at...

Rockcliffe First School

OPEN MORNING SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 10.30AM

Come and experience our Nursery and Reception ahead of applications for September 2027 and see how we Shine Brightly Together!



Dates for Your Diary

September	
Wed 23 rd	3.30pm Year 1 Welcome Meeting
Mon 28 th	Starfish Beach School PM
Tue 29 th	Year 1 and 2: Space Educational Visit
October	
Tue 6 th	Sandpipers Beach School AM
Mon 12 th	Tempest Photography - Individual Photos
Wed 14 th	Lapwings Beach School AM Parent Consultations 1
Mon 19 th	Puffins Beach School PM
Tue 20 th	Parent Consultations 2
Wed 21 st	9am: North Tyneside Inclusion Service Parent Workshop (see below)
Thu 22 nd	Lighthouse Cake Sale after school End of Term
November	
Mon 2 nd	Start of Term Nursery Beach School
Tue 10 th	Lighthouse Beach School AM
Wed 11 th	Beacon Beach School AM
Mon 16 th	Priory Beach School PM
Fri 13 th	Children In Need Day Flu Immunisations for Rec to Y4
Fri 20 th	Nursery Beach School
Fri 27 th	Beacon Cake Sale after school
December	
Mon 7 th	9.30am KS1 Christmas Performance for Y1 Parents
Tue 8 th	9.30am KS1 Christmas Performance for Y2 Parents
Wed 9 th	9.30am KS2 Christmas Performance for Y3 Parents
Thu 10 th	9.30am KS2 Christmas Performance for Y4 Parents
Fri 11 th	10.30am Nursery B Performance
Mon 14 th	9.30am Reception Performance 10.30am Nursery A Performance
Fri 18 th	End of Term
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> • Friday 23rd October 2026 • Monday 4th January 2027 • Thursday 6th May 2027 (Polling Day) • Monday 7th June 2027	
Facebook - Please follow our Facebook page – visit our school website and click the Facebook link at the bottom of the Home Page.	



Growing Brains, Guiding Behaviour

A free workshop primarily for families of children in the Early Years (0-5). However, it is also suitable for families of children of First School age,

We know that young children struggle to manage their emotions and behaviour, this often comes out in behaviours which we as adults find difficult to manage.

In these workshops we will explore the link between brain development and behaviour and offer practical tips for supporting children when they are dysregulated.

We will cover:

- Brain development in early childhood and how this can affect behaviour.
- Tools and 'top-tips' to support co-regulation.

Come along to our free workshop on Wed 21st October at 9am – 10.30am at Rockcliffe First School to find out more.



Delivered by
North
Tyneside
Council

Cake Sales

Held after school in the playground

Friday 18th Sept.
(Welcome Back Fair)
- PRIORY

Thursday 22nd Oct.
- LIGHTHOUSE

Friday 27th Nov
- BEACON

Thank you for your support!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE

Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS

Both official app stores contain copycat apps - often games - designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES

App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

SIDLOADED BANNED APPS

'Sideloading' - the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores - bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks - not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS

Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness - if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS

App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer - for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College®