



## Newsletter 4 – Autumn 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

This week, we celebrated National Poetry Day at Rockcliffe with a series of events, special lessons and assemblies, so here's my contribution:

*At Rockcliffe we rhyme and we play,  
Sharing poems and stories in every way.  
We write with delight,  
And our ideas shine bright,  
As we celebrate Poetry Day!*

### National Poetry Day – from Miss Robinson

To celebrate National Poetry Day, we enjoyed a wonderful week of poetry across the school. This year's theme, Wonder, encouraged us to pause and look closely at the natural world around us, as poets do, using our imagination to see the ordinary in extraordinary ways. The theme also beautifully complemented this week's Learning Superpower focus on Creativity, as children explored new ideas, made imaginative connections and expressed their unique thoughts through poetry.



On Monday, local poet and parent Melina Deeks led a poetry workshop in every class. Inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah's poem *Six Ways of Looking at a Leaf*, the children examined real leaves, noticing their colours, shapes and textures. They then drew around their chosen leaf and wrote their own leaf-inspired poems inside, creating some beautiful and thoughtful pieces of work.

Throughout the week, children across school produced some fabulous Exciting Writing inspired by the wonders of nature.

### Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Here are two examples written by our Rockcliffe Reporters:

#### Wonder by Isla



*I wonder at the extraordinary starry sky, wheeling around like a rolling ball.*

*I wonder at the pearly pink shell, gleaming in the sun.*

*I wonder at the fluffy, white cloud, changing shape as it gets older.*

*I wonder at the marbly, purple flower, spreading its pollen in the breeze.*

*I wonder at the flickering fire, burning bright like a starry night.*

*I wonder at the little ladybird, crawling along a damp leaf with its glossy red coat and black buttons.*

#### Wonder by Sunny

*I wonder at the starry sky, glistening with billions of dreams.*

*I wonder at the shell, peeping over the sand like the sun looming over the horizon.*

*I wonder at the cloud, obscuring the sun like a solar eclipse.*

*I wonder at the flower, like a vast skyscraper for the bees.*

*I wonder at the flickering fire, chomping away at the broad logs.*

*I wonder at the ladybird, glimmering in the sunlight like a minuscule apple.*

On Wednesday, our Year 4 Reading Ambassadors shared more poetry during assembly and introduced us to another poem by Benjamin Zephaniah, *Nature Trail*, which has been adapted into a rhyming picture book. The celebrations continued on Thursday when we joined schools from across the country for a live National Poetry Day assembly featuring Michael Rosen, the Hot Poets and Young Poet Laureates. Together, we listened to inspiring poetry, explored the theme of wonder and created poems of our own.

It has been a fantastic week of creativity, curiosity and imagination and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and talent shown by our Rockcliffe poets.

#### Year 1 and 2 Space Exploration – from Miss Thompson

Our Key Stage 1 children had an unforgettable day at the Life Science Centre on Tuesday, where they enjoyed a range of exciting space-themed experiences. The children visited the Planetarium, took part in an interactive workshop to learn how astronauts live and survive in space, and were amazed by the live science show. They also had great fun exploring the Dino Den and Lightbox, discovering and investigating through hands-on play.

We were incredibly proud of the children, who were exceptional throughout the day, especially on the long walk to and from the Metro station due to some signalling issue. They represented our school brilliantly and truly lived up to our motto of Shining Brightly Together.





This was reflected when I received a lovely message from a member of the public later on that day: *Can you just pass on how wonderful the group of year 1/2 pupils were who were on the Metro back from the Centre for Life? They were very considerate in letting me sit down with my baby and pram and we're very good at the quiet game! It was lovely to hear about what they learnt about space.* It was a very proud Headteacher moment!

### School Photos



On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, it is school photo day so get the hair bands and hair gel ready! For families who would like siblings not at Rockcliffe in a picture, you are welcome to come to have these taken before school from 8.20am. Please come to the Key Stage 2 door (up the ramp by the bike racks) and a member of staff will meet you. Please can you stay with your children until the start of the school day. Reception would usually have PE that day, if you would like your child to be in normal uniform, please send them to school in that.

### Safeguarding

We all have a responsibility for the safety and welfare of our children. If you have a concern about any children, please report this to me as our Designated Safeguarding Lead. Alongside me, our Deputy DSLs of school staff Miss Robinson (Deputy Head), Miss Thompson (SENCo) and Mrs Duggan (Early Years Lead). Also Miss Tracy Lockwood-Trillo is now our Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead for Kids' Club. You can find more information on our website of needed:

[Rockcliffe First School - Safeguarding](#)



SAFEGUARDING

Start your Whitley Bay school journey at...

**Rockcliffe First School**

**OPEN MORNING**  
**SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**OCTOBER**  
**10.30AM**

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

This evening your child should have bought home a slip with your Parent Consultation appointment time. Please check any bags, pockets, (perhaps even lunch boxes) in case the children have hidden these away too safely!

Have a lovely weekend.

*Tom Jones*



## Dates for Your Diary

| October                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue 6 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sandpipers Beach School AM                                        |
| Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Tempest Photography - Individual & Family Photos                  |
| Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Lapwings Beach School AM<br>Parent Consultations 1                |
| Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Wear Red for Show Racism the Red Card                             |
| Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Puffins Beach School PM                                           |
| Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Parent Consultations 2                                            |
| Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 9am: North Tyneside Inclusion Service Parent Workshop (see below) |
| Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Lighthouse Cake Sale after school<br>End of Term                  |
| November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                   |
| Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Start of Term<br>Nursery Beach School                             |
| Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Lighthouse Beach School AM                                        |
| Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Beacon Beach School AM                                            |
| Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Priory Beach School PM                                            |
| Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Children In Need Day<br>Flu Immunisations for Rec to Y4           |
| Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Nursery Beach School                                              |
| Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Beacon Cake Sale after school                                     |
| December                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                   |
| Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 9.30am KS1 Christmas Performance for Y1 Parents                   |
| Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 9.30am KS1 Christmas Performance for Y2 Parents                   |
| Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 9.30am KS2 Christmas Performance for Y3 Parents                   |
| Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 9.30am KS2 Christmas Performance for Y4 Parents                   |
| Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 10.30am Nursery B Performance                                     |
| Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 9.30am Reception Performance<br>10.30am Nursery A Performance     |
| Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | End of Term                                                       |
| Training Days 2026-27                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                   |
| Term Dates are on our website here: <a href="#">Rockcliffe First School - Term Dates</a>                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                   |
| Our Teacher Training Days are:                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026</li> <li>• Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027</li> <li>• Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2027 (Polling Day)</li> <li>• Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027</li> </ul> |                                                                   |
| <b>Facebook</b> - 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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!*