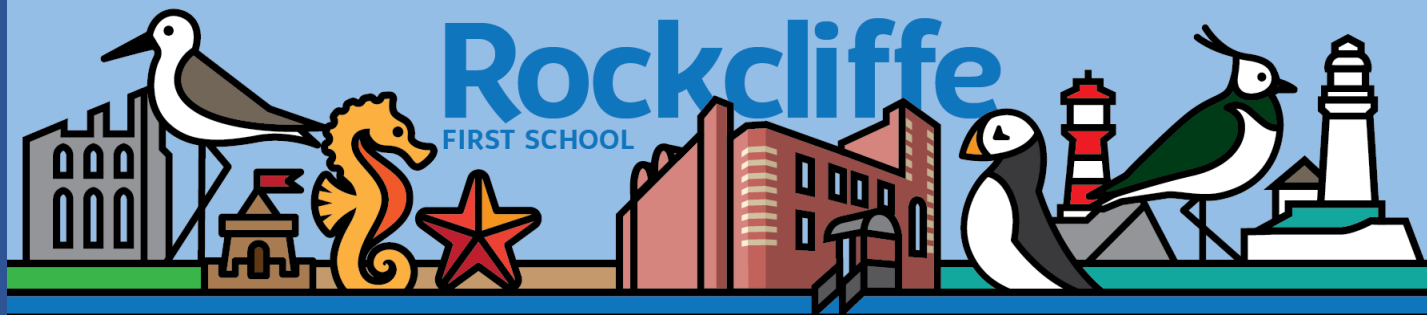




Newsletter 7 – Autumn 2026

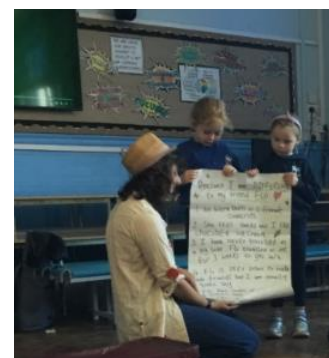
Dear Rockcliffe Families,

It was lovely to welcome so many families into school for the first parent consultation meetings of the year on Wednesday. As staff, it made us reflect again on what a brilliant start to the year the children have made. We look forward to welcoming more of you next Tuesday. It's also been another week of great opportunities for the children too, culminating in us wearing red to support the **Show Racism the Red Card campaign** today. In yesterday's assembly, we looked in more detail about this important initiative and how we can contribute to making sure everyone feels welcome and respected in our school and the community.



Black History Month

On Tuesday, Reception and Year 1 took part in workshops from Bigfoot Productions where they learnt about the story of "My Friend Flo" and the journey of Floella Benjamin. They put their story clothes on, packed their suitcases and sailed across the sea whilst learning of her voyage to England in support of our learning for Black History Month. The children enjoyed dancing and acting out the story as we discovered the experiences of Flo.



Today, Years 2, 3 and 4 also took part in a workshop focusing on Windrush. During the session, children stepped back in time to explore the experiences of the Windrush generation. They received their own Empire Windrush ticket, discovered what life on the journey may have been like and considered the feelings of those travelling to Britain. It was a valuable opportunity for the children to put themselves in the shoes of others and bring this important part of British history to life.

These important and exciting experiences are thanks to the fundraising efforts from the Friends of Rockcliffe.

Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Zoolab



To support their learning about rainforests in geography and habitats in science, Year 3 and 4 had some very interesting visitors to their classrooms on Thursday! Luckily, the creatures were very well behaved and followed our 3Rs whilst being handled by the children (and staff!). It was a brilliant way to bring learning to life and the children are now experts.

Here's some interesting facts from the Rockcliffe reporters – Otto, Isla, Charlie and Poppy. Did you know....?

- A tree frog can change from green to brown. If they are brown they are grumpy!
- Desert rats can “drop” their tails for predators but they won't grow back!
- A corn snake has a forked tongue.
- Desert rats (gerbils) have long whiskers to sense how big holes are so they don't get stuck.
- To eat food, tree frogs put their eye balls up to gulp food and have to yawn to get them back down again!
- The giant snail finds old animals' bones to make its shell stronger.
- The giant snail's slime is good for your skin!



Democracy Day

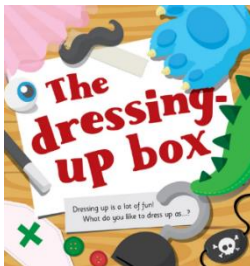
On Wednesday our Year 4 Leadership Team Events Co-ordinators took part in a Democracy Day session with other schools at the North Tyneside Council Headquarters. In the session they got to understand how the voting system works. They then set to work on designing their ideal MP for our area – thinking about the issues and skillset that would be important. They also raised some questions which will be put to local councillors who will be sending us back a response. Our ideas were presented to the Chair of the Council, Wendy Lott. Our Events Co-ordinators will be feeding back their experience to the rest of the school in assemblies during UK Parliament Week after half-term.





Beach School

This week, Lapwings enjoyed a blustery but sunny pleasant morning at the beach. They explored the beach, looking for a range of sounds, shapes, colours and smells. The children showed a brilliant attitude to all activities and really represented our school well to other beach users.



Lunchtime Experience

Thank you for the donations of dressing up clothes for our lunchtime activities. Please keep more coming – we are particularly looking for larger sizes for Key Stage 2 children. We are looking for a wide range of items so please send character onesies, character outfits, animal outfits too!

Next week is the last week of the first half-term. Please remember that on Friday, school is closed to children as it is a Teaching Training Day. It is the Beacon cake sale after school on Thursday so please remember cash for a well-deserved end of term treat!

Tom Jones





Dates for Your Diary

October	
Tue 20 th	Parent Consultations 2
Wed 21 st	Puffins Beach School AM (Rescheduled from Monday 19 th)
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.	