Newsletter 9 – Autumn 2026

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

I hope you had a good half-term and enjoyed your break and any Halloween or Firework based activities. It's been great catching up with the children about what they got up to. The children have settled back into school brilliantly this week. On Wednesday I visited lessons (one of the best parts of the job) with our School Development Partner and Miss Robinson. It was wonderful to see how hard the children were working - we were particularly impressed with their independence and how well they were challenging themselves.

Children In Need



Next Friday is Children in Need Day. The theme this year is Challenge Yourself 2026. Miss Towers has been busy planning our activities with some of our Year 4 Pupil Leadership Teams. Our Wellbeing Gurus and Sports Leaders have created six challenges that each child will complete 26 times through the day. All will be revealed next week! We are not dressing up this year as it may get in the way of some activities. If you are able to make a donation, please do via our School Fundraising page: [Rockcliffe's Challenge Yourself 26 is taking on Challenge Yourself for BBC Children in Need]

SCITT Art Day

Today, school has been a hive of activity with our children throughout the school demonstrating lots of creativity (one of our Rockcliffe Learning Superpowers) in a series of art activities. We hosted 18 trainee teachers from the Great North SCITT Teaching Training programme, who were in school to develop their pedagogy around teaching and learning in art. It was a great opportunity for them to see art lessons from Nursery to Year 4, as well as for our children to demonstrate their art skillset.







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Remembrance Day



Another charitable initiative in school has been selling poppies in class ahead of Remembrance Day next Wednesday. Our Year 4s have done a brilliant job in making sure that supply has met the demand. There will still be opportunities to buy them at the start of next week if your child would like to bring a donation in.

Quicksticks Hockey – from Miss Millen



Last half-term, our Year 4 children took part in the annual Quicksticks Festival at Marden Bridge Middle School. It was a fantastic morning organised by PESSPA alongside the Marden Bridge Year 8 pupils. Our children spent a morning in the sunshine developing a range of skills to support with their knowledge of hockey, including coordination, ball control, attacking, defending and goal scoring. The children demonstrated our 3R's throughout the morning and the staff were incredibly impressed by their teamwork and optimism. We love seeing the children participate in the inter-school sporting events in both KS1 and KS2, it is wonderful to see how the they develop in confidence and skill throughout their time at Rockcliffe.



Christmas Cards

Sorry to have mentioned Christmas on the first day back, but we hope you liked the children's card designs that we sent home on Monday. There is no obligation to buy one, but any purchases you do make will see a percentage go to the Friends of Rockcliffe, so not only will you have bespoke, limited edition cards, but you'll also be helping to support school. The deadline for orders is November 12th – please note that this cannot be extended.

This weekend I'll be limbering up for my Children In Need Challenges. I hope you have a good weekend too,

Tom Jones

Dates for Your Diary

November	
Tue 10th	Lighthouse Beach School AM
Wed 11th	Beacon Beach School AM
Mon 16th	Priory Beach School PM
Fri 13th	Children In Need Day Flu Immunisations for Rec to Y4 – Please see School Gateway message to opt out
Thu 19th	Parent Carer Coffee Morning – see flyer below
Fri 20th	Nursery Beach School
Fri 27th	Beacon Cake Sale after school
December	
Mon 7th	9.30am KS1 Christmas Performance for Y1 Parents
Tue 8th	9.30am KS1 Christmas Performance for Y2 Parents
Wed 9th	9.30am KS2 Christmas Performance for Y3 Parents
Thu 10th	9.30am KS2 Christmas Performance for Y4 Parents
Fri 11th	10.30am Nursery B Performance
Mon 14th	9.30am Reception Performance 10.30am Nursery A Performance
Fri 18th	End of Term

Training Days 2026-27

Term Dates are on our website here: Rockcliffe First School - Term Dates

Our remaining Teacher Training Days are:

- Monday 4th January 2027
- Thursday 6th May 2027 (Polling Day)
- Monday 7th June 2027

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