



Rockcliffe Newsletter 5 – Autumn Term

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

I'm sure all our families are aware of the news yesterday about the future of some schools in Whitley Bay. As a staff team we have many connections to the staff in those schools and work in collaboration with them on a regular basis. I'm sure as families you have links to the schools affected too. We are all thinking of them and sending best wishes this week.

Our Rockcliffe Learning Superpower focus has been Creativity. We have been focusing on how we can use this across the curriculum. In my assembly I shared some of my favourite creative poems from my school days as part of National Poetry Day. It has also been a week of using our creativity whilst getting out and about to enhance our learning opportunities with a number of educational visits taking place.

Great North Museum



Beacon class visited the Great North Museum this week to find out more about animal skeletons and the Stone Age. It was a great opportunity to be hands on with artefacts and take part in fieldwork as scientists and historians. Lighthouse and Priory classes will be visiting in the coming weeks.

Ursula, one of our Rockcliffe reporters, said this about the visit:

In the museum we looked at Ice-Age artefacts. We found lots. I really liked it. Next, we got to look around the museum and we saw an enormous tree trunk. We saw lots of strange writing from different times in history. There was lots of species of animals, like the interesting Spider Crab. We saw a fossilised stone foot print from millions of years ago and the fastest bird in the world. Ask Year 4 what it is!

Discovery Museum

Puffins and Sandpipers had an exciting visit to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Wednesday, followed by Lapwings on Thursday. They took part in a workshop which taught them about the Great Fire of Newcastle - they even had the chance to perform in a puppet show! The children were so responsible when looking around the museum with some telling me it was the "best trip ever!"



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"It was really fascinating - I didn't know all that happened in Newcastle!" Aurora

"I would say 'Oooh' to the first explosion, 'Ahhh' to the second, and 'Arrrgh' to the big one!" Jack

Beach School

Lapwings enjoyed their visit to the beach this week. Inspired by the story, the children created their own artistic pieces - here is one of the amazing creations "Volcanoish".



Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to support these visits – it's really appreciated.



National Poetry Day

Nursery and Reception enjoyed a special visit to celebrate National Poetry Day with local poet and Rockcliffe parent, Melina Turner-Deeks. The Nursery children explored Benjamin Zephaniah's 'People Need People' and autumnal movement poems by Nick Sharrat.

Reception Applications – September 2026

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in a place at Rockcliffe for September 2026, we are holding a number of tours for families to visit our school. There are details on the website. Please pass on the link.

[Early Years Applications – Rockcliffe First School](#)



Reminders

This week we sent out information via School Gateway about nominating yourself to be a Parent governor – please complete applications by next Friday. We also sent the link to sign up for a Parents Evening Slot - the deadline for this is on Sunday so we can allocate appointments next week.

Have a great weekend,

Tom Jones



Dates for Your Diary

October	
Mon 6 th	Lighthouse class – Great North Museum
Mon 6 th	Reception Parents Phonics Workshop – 5pm
Tue 7 th	Starfish – Beach School
Mon 13 th	School Photograph Day
Tue 14 th	Seahorses - Beach School
Mon 20 th and Wed 21 st	Parents' Evenings (3.30 – 6.00)
Mon 20 th	Priory class – Great North Museum
Wed 22 nd	Sandcastles Nursery – Beach School
Fri 24 th	Break up for half-term
November	
Tue 4 th	Start of Autumn Term 2
Wed 5 th	Dolce: Fireworks and Bonfire Night themed lunch (please order via School Grid)
Training Days 2025-6	- Monday 3rd November 2025 - Monday 5th January 2026