



Rockcliffe Newsletter 3 – Autumn Term

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

This week our Rockcliffe Learning Superpower focus has been Resilience. It's been great to hear about so many fantastic examples of this celebrated in our Superhero Assembly today, including with work, through art and also in wider school life.

What's been happening in school?

Every time I walk through school, I have been blown away by how focused and ready the children have been. Each classroom has been a hive of activity. Here's a little insight into what the children have been doing.



Nursery have been celebrating International Dot Day this week. Our story of the week was 'The Dot' by Peter H. Reynolds and the children were inspired to create a huge collaborative piece of artwork that was very colourful and dotty. They also created their own 3D dotty art installation, inspired by Yayoi Kusama's 'Obliteration Room'. This piece is continuously evolving and getting dottier as the days go by!

Starfish and **Seahorses** have also been celebrating International Dot Day by creating a collaborative piece of art. They worked as a team across both classes to create a giant dotty extravaganza! They discussed that no matter how big or small of a mark you make, creativity is within all of us. "It made me feel good because I love painting and working with my friends." Ada. "I feel happy because I just love painting." Max.



Lapwings, Puffins and **Sandpipers** have taken inspiration from the story Ish to create their own artwork. Displaying great creativity and a growth mind set, they took a wobbly line and created it into their own Ish work.

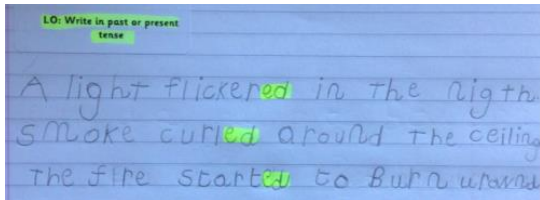


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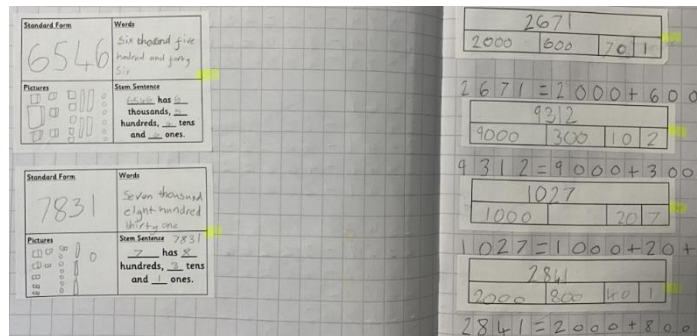
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In **Puffin** class the children have also been learning how to add the -ed suffix onto words to help write in the past tense. They will be using our past tense verbs in a diary entry next week.

Priory Class have been looking at place value and the importance of it when solving number problems. The children have been using their knowledge to partition numbers into bar models and part-whole models. There was great resilience on show when dealing with numbers in the ten-thousands.



Lighthouse class have been thinking hard, combining their work in science and history to work out if people in the Stone Age had a balanced diet. The conclusion was that they probably didn't.

Beacon Class enjoyed creating "sky colour" works of art, without using blue, based on Sky Colour – another book by Peter H Reynolds. They also incorporated ideas from his first book, The Dot, on International Dot Day - a global event encouraging creativity, courage and collaboration.

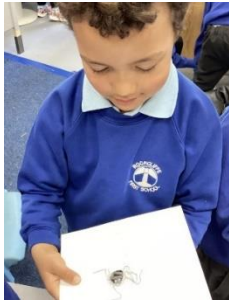


Start of the Day

Now that the children have settled well into their classes and you have met your child's new teacher(s), we are going to make a slight adjustment to how children in Key Stage 1 (Lapwings, Puffins and Sandpipers) and Key Stage 2 (Lighthouse, Priory and Beacon) come into school in the morning. Instead of lining up, we're asking that the children wait with you and then members of the key stage team will open the door at 8.45 for Key Stage 1 and 8.50 for Key Stage 2 and the children will filter in and up the stairs to meet their teacher in the classroom. The adult on the door will take any messages to pass to the teachers. At the end of the day, the teachers will bring the class down in the usual way so you will have the opportunity to see them then. Reception (Starfish and Seahorses) are going to continue to line up on their spots.



Reception Applications



Although we are still in September and have just welcomed our new Reception children and families, we are already looking at September 2026. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in a place at Rockcliffe for then, 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](#)

We need you!

This is a call out to all parents who would like to become involved (or more involved) in school life.

We currently have four Parent Governor Vacancies on our **Governing Body**. If you are interested in this position or want to find out more, please see the letter from our Chair of Governors, Judy Williams, attached to this week's email. This is an important role to help shape and support the school's future.



We are also looking for a group of parents to take on the running and forming a committee for the **Friends of Rockcliffe**. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. Having lots of people involved will make running events for children and parents much easier. With school budgets as they are, we are so grateful to the Friends of Rockcliffe and other parent organised events to enable us to keep improving opportunities for the children. From the money raised last year, we have been able to buy Metro passes (to keep trip costs down), equipment for beach school for all year groups, our lovely new Superhero certificates, a new screen will be coming to the hall to help assemblies and PE provision. There will also be a whole school treat at the end of this half-term for all children. Without the fundraising these things wouldn't be possible. If you would like to be involved in any capacity, please email office@rockcliffeschool.org.uk and we will arrange a meeting to discuss plans going forward.



There's no such thing as bad weather....



... just the wrong clothes! I think I'm just about used to our coastal climate of four seasons most days! Our aim is to get the children out for break and lunch each day. Please can you make sure your child has a waterproof coat with them so they can be set for any passing shower that tends to arrive between 12 and 1!

Baby News

Congratulations to Mr Singh and his partner who welcomed their fourth daughter into the world last weekend (a little bit early!). Everyone is doing well and Mr Singh can't wait to share pictures with Sandpipers when he returns to school.

Please check the updated dates for your diary on the next page and I hope you all have a restful weekend,

Tom Jones



Dates for Your Diary

September	
Mon 22 nd	Wellfield Middle School Open Evening- 5.30 – 7.30pm
Tue 23 rd	Puffins – Beach School
Mon 29 th	Beacon class – Great North Museum
Tue 30 th	Flu Vaccination – please register if you would like your child to have this
Tue 30 th	Lapwings – Beach School
October	
Wed 1 st	Puffins and Sandpipers – Discovery Museum
Thu 2 nd	Lapwings – Discovery Museum
Thu 2 nd	Dolce: A Day at the Movies themed lunch (please order via School Grid)
Mon 6 th	Lighthouse class – Great North Museum
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) Booking details will be sent soon.
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