



Rockcliffe Newsletter 1 – Autumn Term

Dear Rockcliffe Families,

Welcome to the new academic year! I hope you all had a great summer break - it has been lovely to hear all about what the children have been up to. We have had a brilliant first week back. It has been lovely to welcome our existing families back and also meet the new members of the Rockcliffe Family. There has been a brilliant atmosphere in school and the children have settled really well into their new classes and routines. We are really excited about the term, and year, ahead.

We Rock our 3Rs at Rockcliffe

As a staff team, on our training day on Monday we looked at our approach to behaviour, routines and rewards in school. We looked at the work of educational researcher Paul Dix to review our systems and approaches. To keep building on the super attitudes and behaviours of our children, we are going to be focusing on three key personal attributes that we want all members of our school community to promote.

- **Ready** – being ready for our learning; what is coming next and ready for a challenge.
- **Respectful** – being respectful of all members of our Rockcliffe family; of other opinions and beliefs and of our school, wider community and the world.
- **Responsible** – being responsible for our own actions; for our belongings and being responsible citizens in and out of school.

The children have heard these behaviours a lot this week so that “We Rock”. Hopefully they can tell you how they have been showcasing these and being rewarded for them. You may want to start ‘rocking the 3Rs’ at home too. Building these behaviours and attitudes will, in turn, underpin the development of vital non-cognitive skills already exemplified through our Rockcliffe Learning Superpowers (more on those in the coming weeks).

Staff Welcomes



This week Mrs Ratcliffe returned to school, following her maternity leave last year, to teach Seahorses at the start of the week. It has been great having her back in school and she really enjoyed her first week.

We also welcomed Mrs Lockwood-Trillow to the wider support team. Having completed some of her training with us last year we are delighted she has become part of the team. She will be mainly based in Year 1 and 2 and will also be working in Kids’ Club.



Headteacher: Tom Jones

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Great North Run

Best of luck to all of our children running the Mini Great North Run this weekend. And good luck to any parents and family members taking on the half-marathon on Sunday. You will be joined on the start line by Mrs Duncan and Mrs Wilson (who is raising money for Children's Cancer North) – best of luck to them too. It's such a great event for the North East – I will be at start to cheer people on.



Reminders

Our school communication is via Schoolcomms and the School Gateway app. If you haven't got the app yet – please download this. If you haven't got the app yet, you will receive an email about how to do this.

Just another a reminder that all children should come in to school in their PE kit on PE days this year. PE sessions will start next week.

Reception	Monday and Friday
Year 1 and 2	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3 and 4	Wednesday and Friday (Swimming on Wednesdays – a schedule will be sent out when the pool have confirmed reopening times)

To help keep the corridors more orderly, bags are now being stored in classrooms. Unfortunately we don't have space for big back packs so please can children just bring book bags into school.

Finally, can you make sure that all children are just walking with bikes and scooters across the playground before and after school. We had a collision earlier in the week and we don't want any more accidents.

Thank you for your help with all the above.

It has been lovely to catch up with so many of you this week. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead. Have a restful weekend (if you're not running!).

Tom Jones



Dates for Your Diary

We will be updating this section over the coming weeks so please keep checking back

September	
Wed 10 th	Y4 Robinwood Information Evening – 5pm
Fri 12 th	Bikeability for children signed up in Y3
Mon 15 th	Marden Bridge Middle School Open Evening - 5.30 – 7.30pm
Tue 16 th	Valley Gardens Middle School Open Evening - 5.30 – 7.30pm
Wed 17 th	Monkseaton Middle School Open Evening - 5.30 – 7.30pm
Mon 22 nd	Wellfield Middle School Open Evening- 5.30 – 7.30pm
October	
Thu 2 nd	Dolce: A Day at the Movies themed lunch (please order via School Grid)
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