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11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to have everyone settled back into school after the summer break. A warm welcome to all of our new families joining us this year in Nursery and Reception as well as those who have joined us across other year groups; we are all delighted to have you as part of the Rockmount community. We would like to thank all families for your support and contribution to the school community over the past year. Working in partnership, we have ensured our standards remain high and have enjoyed many successes to build on during the year ahead. As we begin a new year, we remain ambitious for all of our children and look forward to supporting them individually to enjoy school life and to realise their full potential.

Our work in school throughout the school year is built upon our School Values – Kindness, Resilience, Integrity and Responsibility centred around our core value of Respect. We use these values to underpin everything we do and to help to create a safe, happy and respectful learning environment for everyone. The partnership between school and home is the key to success in upholding these values and we look forward to working with the whole school community to support all of the children in their academic and personal development.

A new academic year in school brings new ideas and challenges as we constantly look for ways to improve and provide new opportunities.

This year we will be building on the success of our work with Oracy Cambridge. Many of you will have seen in the summer newsletter that we successfully gained Oracy Cambridge accreditation as a centre of excellence for Oracy. This is a fantastic achievement at the end of a year of hard work and an extremely rigorous assessment process which involved visits to all classrooms, discussions with pupils, interviews with staff, parents/carers and governors and an evaluation of the ongoing work which has taken place to promote Oracy skills across the school. Many thanks to the staff team for their enthusiasm and dedication across the year which ensured that Oracy has had such an impact across the school. One of the most important things we can do for our children is to help them find their voice and our children learn best when they can talk about their thinking, ask questions and discuss their ideas with others. Strong speaking and listening are important life skills and help our children to succeed in reading, writing and maths whilst also building confidence, friendships and resilience. We will continue to work on this priority over the year ahead by refining our practice and by providing outreach support to facilitate the development of Oracy in other schools.

The report from Oracy Cambridge is available for you to read [here](#).

As we continue our role as one of the five DfE RISE Reception Network schools across Greater London, we will work with schools across Croydon and beyond to share our Reception expertise and support the professional development of Early Years practitioners. We are proud to play a role in strengthening EYFS provision across the wider educational community while celebrating the excellent practice established at Rockmount. We will seek to implement improvements to our own practice through the links we make with other Early Years providers.

We will also be providing opportunities to strengthen our inclusive practices by participating in The Rights Respecting Schools programme which puts children's rights at the heart of school life. This programme is provided by Unicef to work with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. Our School Council will lead us

in working towards the Rights Respecting Schools Award which embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens. The Award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond. More information can be found here:

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Across the school year we will continue to refine and consolidate the curriculum adaptations that we have made over the past few years to ensure that the foundational skills in core subjects including reading, speaking and listening, writing, maths, handwriting and spelling are being taught securely. Children need these core skills to access the wider curriculum on offer and to make good overall progress as they move through the school.

There is a lot to pack into the months ahead!

Many thanks to the vast majority of families who have made sure that their children returned to school in the correct uniform – they look so smart! We sent out uniform reminders in the summer term and our policy is also available on the school website. If a member of staff speaks with any parent/carers regarding the correct uniform requirements, please remember that they are doing this to maintain school standards and expectations and to uphold fairness in the eyes of the children. When one child is seemingly permitted to wear branded and/or coloured trainers, other children feel that they should also be able to wear them and this undermines the value of the school's Uniform Policy. If any family requires support with school uniform, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist.

As it is the beginning of the school year, we would also like to remind all families that we have asked for your support in contributing towards the School Fund. Schools are constantly having to manage very tight budgets and we rely on the kind generosity and support of our parents/carers. Each school year, we are asking parents/carers to contribute to the School Fund. This contribution allows the school to purchase additional resources, equipment and experiences. We are suggesting a voluntary contribution of £8 per month (a total of £96 per year) through a standing order or as a one-off payment. Please feel free to give more or less depending on your circumstances. Any amount is appreciated and will be carefully put to use supporting our pupils' extended learning experiences in school. Further information about this was sent out in March 2026. [School Fund Letter](#)

The school bank details for payments/setting up of standing orders are:

Nat West Bank sort code: 560046

Account number: 58783717

Account name: Rockmount JNR

Payment reference: School Fund 2026-2027

Alternatively, please come to the school office where we can take credit/debit card payments

OR

Pay on-line using the ParentPay website. Please log into your account and select the item School Fund 2026-2027.

Wishing you and enjoyable weekend.

Helen Carvall