

Autumn 1

Newsletter 2025



TERM DATES

Half Term Monday
27th October - Friday
31st October

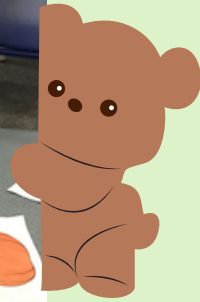
Monday 3rd
November - school
re-opens to staff and
pupils

Friday 19th December
- last day of term-
children finish at
1.30pm

Attendance

<i>Jade 96%</i>	<i>Diamond 98%</i>
<i>Emerald 99%</i>	<i>Garnet 99%</i>
<i>Onyx 99%</i>	<i>Zircon 98%</i>
<i>Topaz 97%</i>	<i>Opal 98%</i>
<i>Quartz 98%</i>	<i>Crystal 98%</i>
<i>Moonstone 96%</i>	<i>Sapphire 97%</i>
<i>Coral 94%</i>	<i>Pearl 92%</i>

Thanks for your continued commitment to boosting attendance and punctuality this half term. We've noticed that some year groups could use a little extra attention and we appreciate your help in making their improvement happen.



In literacy we have enjoyed listening to some of our favourite stories such as 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and 'Where's My Teddy?' The children loved acting out different parts of the story using props they had made in the workshop area. In maths we have been using some familiar rhymes to recite numbers past 5 and count objects. We have been extending our learning through play and independent exploration. Silver Class have also enjoyed finding out where food comes from and the importance of giving thanks during the Harvest Festival. They made some wonderful harvest crowns and used fruits and vegetables to create prints.

"I like playing with my friends"

"I like dancing and singing"

"I like reading stories"

Nursery

Our Nursery children have settled in wonderfully this half term! Our focus topic has been 'Getting to Know Each Other'. The children have enjoyed building relationships with new friends and taking part in lots of fun group games and activities. We have also focused on adapting to new classroom routines and the children have made wonderful progress with this. We are very proud of them.



Reception

This half term, we have enjoyed settling into Reception, spending time getting to know each other and learning our new routines.

We have also had an exciting start to our year, learning about 'The Wonderful World of Fairytales' through different stories including Goldilocks, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Princess and the Pea. To help us learn the different stories, we have had lots of interactive activities such as making and tasting porridge, building and testing a raft for the gingerbread man and using pombeers to help us with adding in maths.

We also attended a drama based castle workshop where we had lots of fun developing our expressive skills by pretending to be different characters. Another highlight for this half term was planting strawberries in the edible garden. We can't wait for them to grow so we can taste them!



"We did an experiment. We had to see what would float and what would sink. Then we made a raft for the gingerbread character"



"In Art and D&T we have built castles out of recycling, drawing inspiration from the work of Michelle Reader. We learnt about the different parts of a castle and introduced them in our projects."



"One of the highlights of this half term has been 'Castle, Knights and Fairies' workshop. We all dressed up in our most beautiful king and queens outfits and carried out quests to save us from dragons."



Year 1

What is a monarch's job?



During this half term, Year 1 undertook a regal exploration to unravel the mystery: "What is a monarch's job?" Equipped with photographs and portraits of the current King and historical royals, the children delved into the past to learn about decision-making, representing the people and supporting charitable causes. Through storytelling and role-playing life in a castle, they uncovered the enchantment of leadership, compassion and tradition. The children composed royal decrees to promote kindness and even constructed their own castles, all while fostering a sense of community and teamwork befitting a king or queen.



Year 2



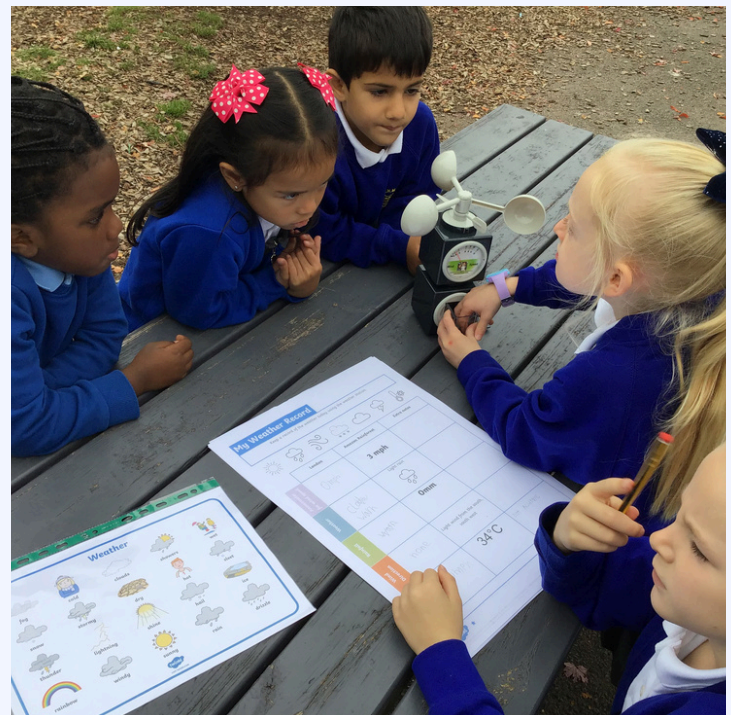
In computing, we have developed our understanding of basic programming through a creative project using Scratch Jr. We have learnt to use Scratch Jr to control sprite movement. We then explored how sprites could interact! Finally, we created short animations or stories using a sequence of instructions.



This term, Year 2 have been learning all about weather in hot and cold climates. As part of our investigations, we used a weather station in the playground to observe and record the weather here in the UK. The children enjoyed checking the temperature, wind direction and rainfall each day. We then compared our findings to the weather in South America over the same week, noticing some big differences in climate! It's been an exciting way to understand how weather varies around the world.



"In art we have been exploring mixing primary colours to make warm and cool secondary colours. We had fun creating colours used by the famous artist."
Ted Harrison



Year 3



This half term, Year 3 have been transported back to the Stone Age where we have learned all about the lives of our hunter-gatherer ancestors. In our History lessons, we studied how people lived during the Stone Age including what they ate and what their 'houses' were like. We then studied how life changed during the Bronze Age with the discovery of metal and during the Iron Age with the discovery of Iron. We were fascinated to learn all about the discovery of Skara Brae (a Neolithic settlement) and wrote informative newspaper articles about the discovery in our English lessons.



D&T

In D&T, we are making prototypes of Stone Age clothing. We have gained new skills such as template making and sewing techniques.

Science

In Science this half term, we have been learning all about rocks! We have looked at how different rocks are formed at various stages of the rock cycle and the properties they possess. We ran a series of experiments to test the hardness and durability of a range of rocks and then tested how waterproof they were and whether or not they reacted to acid.



Year 4

Crystal & Quartz Class



What an exciting start to Year 4 it's been!

This half term, our learning has been centred around the question "How do we light up the world?"

In English, we read *Krindlekrax* by Philip Ridley and took part in class debates about the characters. We learned how to write balanced arguments and used our inference skills to describe settings in detail.

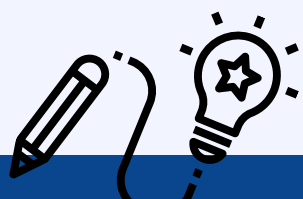
In science, we explored electricity, building simple circuits and testing which materials were conductors or insulators. We even designed our own "house of the future" powered by renewable energy!

In DT, we brought Lizard Street from *Krindlekrax* to life by designing light-up models using our knowledge of circuits. In art, we developed our shading and still life techniques, focusing on tone and texture.

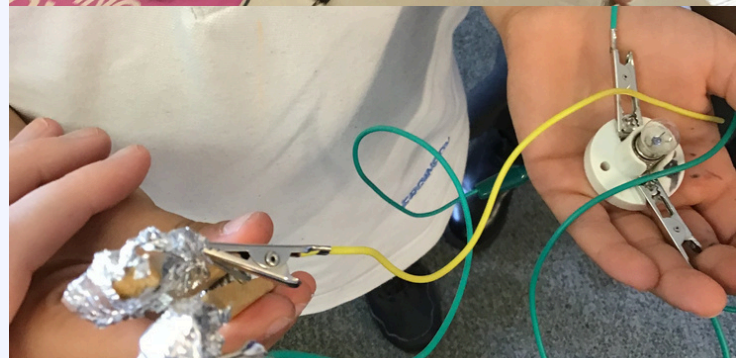
In maths, we strengthened our understanding of place value and practised the four operations. We have also been working hard on our times tables.

During PE, we developed our attacking and defending skills through football and handball, and in RE we discussed how different faiths show they belong to a community.

It's been a brilliant start to the year—well done, Year 4!



"We built Lizard Street as a class and it was so fun to add all the details. My group even made curtains for the windows" - Edith



YEAR 5

Launching into Year 5 with a Blast: "Why Can't We Time Travel in Space?" To kick off our learning journey, Year 5 delved into the captivating book *Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover* by Marcus Motum. This inspiring text explores the themes of exploration, discovery, and the power of curiosity. We followed NASA's rover Curiosity on its mission to Mars, learning how to use cohesive devices to expand and explain our ideas. As part of our writing project, we documented the rover's landing and crafted short news reports—broadcasting live to Times Square! Preparing and filming our reports was a highlight and we had a fantastic time bringing our learning to life.

In Art we looked at the work of astronaut and artist Alan Bean, focusing on how texture is created through a variety of mediums. We even borrowed wellington boots from Nursery to create prints.

Year 5 became astronauts, exploring the depths of space through Virtual Reality (VR). The workshop demonstrated an unparalleled journey where the entire class simultaneously researched vessels around planets and moons, delving deep into the wonders of the solar system.



In Science, we learned the order of the planets by singing a catchy song from our music lessons. We also created a to-scale model of the solar system using plasticine, and explored the Earth's orbit to understand why we experience day and night.

On Monday, 13th October, Year 5 took part in an engaging workshop led by the theatre group 'London Bubble'. The session focused on online safety, with particular emphasis on recognising and avoiding online scams.



Year 6

The Victorians



This half term, Year 6 have been stepping back in time to explore the fascinating world of the Victorians. Our learning has taken us on a journey through history, full of discovery and creativity!



One of the highlights was our visit to West Norwood Cemetery, where we became historical detectives. By analysing the birth and death dates on the gravestones, we explored how life expectancy has changed since Victorian times. It was a powerful way to understand the realities of life in the 19th century.

We also experienced what it was like to be a Victorian child during our exciting Victorian Day workshop. Dressed in traditional clothing, we took part in classroom activities from the era – complete with strict teachers and chalkboards! It was a fun and eye-opening experience that brought history to life.

In art, we have been inspired by the famous Victorian designer William Morris. After learning about his work, we created our own beautiful Victorian-style prints, using repeating patterns and natural elements, just like Morris did.



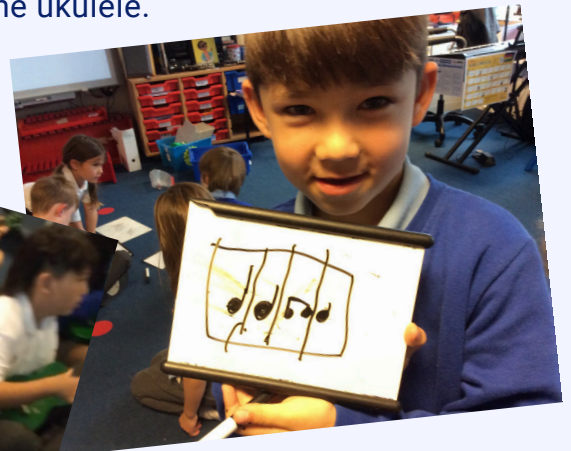
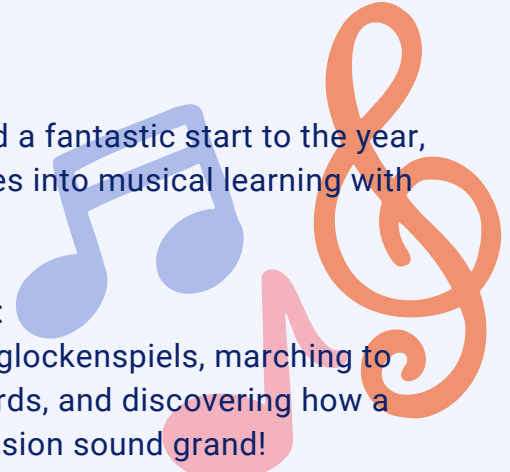
It's been a half term full of learning, hands-on experiences, and creativity – and we can't wait to see where our next topic takes us!

Music

The Music Department has had a fantastic start to the year, with pupils throwing themselves into musical learning with energy and enthusiasm!

Some highlights so far include:

- Year 1 learning to play the glockenspiels, marching to the beat like the Royal Guards, and discovering how a fanfare can make any occasion sound grand!
- Year 3 learning about Stone Age music, focusing on reading and writing rhythm and creative percussion.
- Year 4 becoming increasingly confident at changing between chords on the ukulele.



Our whole-school initiative, 'Musician of the Month', remains a great success, with children confidently recognising and discussing a wide range of musicians. **Don't forget, the Musician of the Month home information is available on the [Music page](#) of our school website.**

The 'Busk Stop' continues to be a hit. The hallway piano gives children the chance to perform for classmates after lunch, with many talented pupils taking part and cheering each other on.

Finally, we're very proud to have so many children learning to play additional instruments at Rockmount! We currently have a few spaces available for lessons in **flute, trumpet, and trombone.**

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please visit the **[Musical Tuition page](#)** on our website for details on how to sign up – but be quick, as these spots fill up fast!





A fond

farewell...



We'll
Miss
You!

As we come to the end of the half term, we say a heartfelt goodbye to Mrs Robinson, who is leaving Rockmount after more than 20 years of dedicated service.

Mrs Robinson has been an incredible support to so many pupils over the years, particularly those who have faced challenges with literacy. Her calm, patient approach and unwavering belief in every child's potential have made a lasting impact on our school community.

She has been a kind and steady presence, always putting children first and offering support to colleagues with warmth and generosity. Mrs Robinson's contribution to Rockmount has been truly invaluable and she will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and families alike.

We wish Mrs Robinson all the very best for the future and thank her for everything she has given to our school. She will always be part of the Rockmount family.





HAVE A WONDERFUL HALF TERM BREAK

Please check the school calendar
regularly for key dates.

