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Dear Parents and Carers,

Our children have enjoyed listening to various authors who have provided some great inspiration for them to read some of their books and try out some of their writing tips. Helen Peters visited our year 5 and 6 classes where they learnt about the author's inspiration, Anne Frank. They played a mystery game where they had to solve clues to reveal details about the book. The children were inspired to look at the world around them to gain ideas for stories, especially when travelling to new places! Chitra Soundar worked with our year 1 and 2 children and they enjoyed listening to Chitra read extracts of her book, as well as asking questions. The children even created their own gardens, based on her book 'Nikhil-Jay, Flying High'. Year 4 children had an inspiring virtual session with the author A.M Dassu after being introduced to her books in our Friday Book Club. The children learnt about what inspired her to write, as well as asking her questions about her career. They had a shout-out from the author for interesting ideas and questions - great work! Children in Year 3 were so excited to meet the British poet and children's book author, Joseph Coelho online. He has been an inspiration during English lessons to support creative poetry and writing. During the session, the children listened to Joseph read his poetry, and even had a go at writing their own poems alongside him! They discussed how language and word choice is a tool for creating emotion. In addition to this, Year 1 enjoyed a trip to the Horniman Museum to support their half termly learning in class – well done to all of the children for their positive behaviour which made the trip enjoyable for children and adults alike!

Times tables took centre stage in our TTRS Rock Stars celebration on Thursday. Children (and staff!) dressed up as amazing rock stars, ready to show off their multiplication skills. Classes then battled it out in an exciting *Battle of the Bands*, demonstrating great teamwork and effort. A brilliant job by everyone. Remember to keep practising those tables on TTRS!

'Latest News' on the school website features all of these visits and events for you to share with your children at home.

Rockmount has been a 'Smart-Phone Free' school since July 2024 as part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a positive and healthy learning environment. Please see the 'Mobile Phone Statement' under the policies section of the school website for further information. Recent government and Ofsted developments have further supported the removal of smart-phones from school sites and we thank you for your support with this.

We are very fortunate to have supportive parents and carers whose strong relationships are of great value to us. Together this helps us to achieve the very best for our children in a mutually supportive partnership. I would like to remind all parents, carers and visitors to the school premises that there is a clear expectation for them to uphold the school values of '**Kindness, Resilience, Integrity, Responsibility and Respect**' at all times, and that the manner in which we communicate with one another should always be respectful. In this way we are able to continue to provide a happy and calm environment where everyone is encouraged to aspire and reach their potential.

We were very pleased to receive a letter from Bridget Phillipson congratulating the school on the excellent outcomes achieved last year due to the dedication and commitment of our whole school community in 'going the extra mile':

*Dear Helen,*

*Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Rockmount Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.*

*This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.*

*Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.*

*There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:*

- *engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;*
- *contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and*
- *sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils*

*Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.*

*Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education*

We are looking forward to the last week of a short half term; the school newsletter will be published next week.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Helen Carvall