

Rockmount Primary School



Governors' review 2016/17



Welcome

Welcome to our annual review. With every passing year it becomes more difficult to sum up and capture the energy, enthusiasm and joy which bubbles through the school community. Nevertheless, we have tried to bring you some of the moments which demonstrate a year in the life of this outstanding school. I would like to begin by thanking all of the staff and also the volunteers who provide the talent, dedication and passion which drives Rockmount to continue to inspire all of the children at the school. Firstly our exceptional senior leadership team – Michael Wilson, Helen Carvall, Tracey Langridge and Dan Hall. And particularly Sharon Sevier who leaves us after 19 years and whom we will all miss tremendously.



I also want to thank the year 6 leadership team, led by Olivia and Tom, as well as the School Councillors for their role in promoting democracy and ensuring everyone has a voice. Lastly the Parent Forum and Rockmount Friends and Community have continued in their vital role in connecting parents and in raising funds for the projects which make such a difference for all. Thank you.

There have been many challenges this year which have affected us all as citizens as well as members of the school community.

Our school is a safe and inspiring place to learn about each other and about our role in the world.

With so much that is good happening within the school, we must always remind ourselves to look outward, beyond our experience and to ask ourselves, “what can I do, how can I help?”. The governors are playing our part in this, building on the good work of the senior

leadership team and staff by strengthening our links with other local schools. In saying goodbye to year six and in welcoming those who join us in our wonderful nursery, we are constantly reminded that ‘all can achieve’ and that we can all make a difference. All have achieved this year with particular highlights such as the gold awards in cycling and as a food flagship school, participation at the Young Voices Choir at the O2 Arena, and an appearance on ‘Match of the Day’. More than that the incredible year round initiatives in sport, music and in our edible playground (which you saw at its best at the summer fair) have focused our commitment to healthy active lifestyles. All of this, coupled with Adventure Learning, ‘Den Day’, and the most amazing ‘Prehistoric Experience’, all shook up the traditional classroom environment. They also remind us that these activities provide such an important balance to the academic work which the school is rightly proud of. Read on to hear about these and many more exciting events.



I want to end with my personal thanks to Jonny Moore who served as Chair of the Governing Board for 5 years and who continues in his work with us. I want to acknowledge his impact and the dedication and friendship he showed and continues to show for the school.

Enjoy the report and I wish you all a wonderful summer. See you in September.

Kevin Gray
Chair of Governors
July 2017



Academic performance

Pupil Achievement

Data over the last academic year has shown that Rockmount pupils achieve above national expectations in all areas of the curriculum. We monitor how well each child is learning and achieving throughout the year. Half termly pupil progress meetings provide opportunities for staff to discuss support, interventions and next steps for individuals and groups of pupils. This ensures that all children make good progress and achieve to the best of their ability. Staff assess pupil standards. To ensure the accuracy and consistency of our judgements we

regularly hold staff meetings with other local schools to moderate work samples. This year, Local Authority moderators have completed external moderation visits in Early Years and Key Stage 1 and have validated our internal teacher assessments. We remain confident that test results this year will demonstrate the continuing high achievement of Rockmount pupils.

Attendance

Attendance for the year is 97.6% (Years 1-6) which is well above the national target and an improvement on last year. We continue to work closely

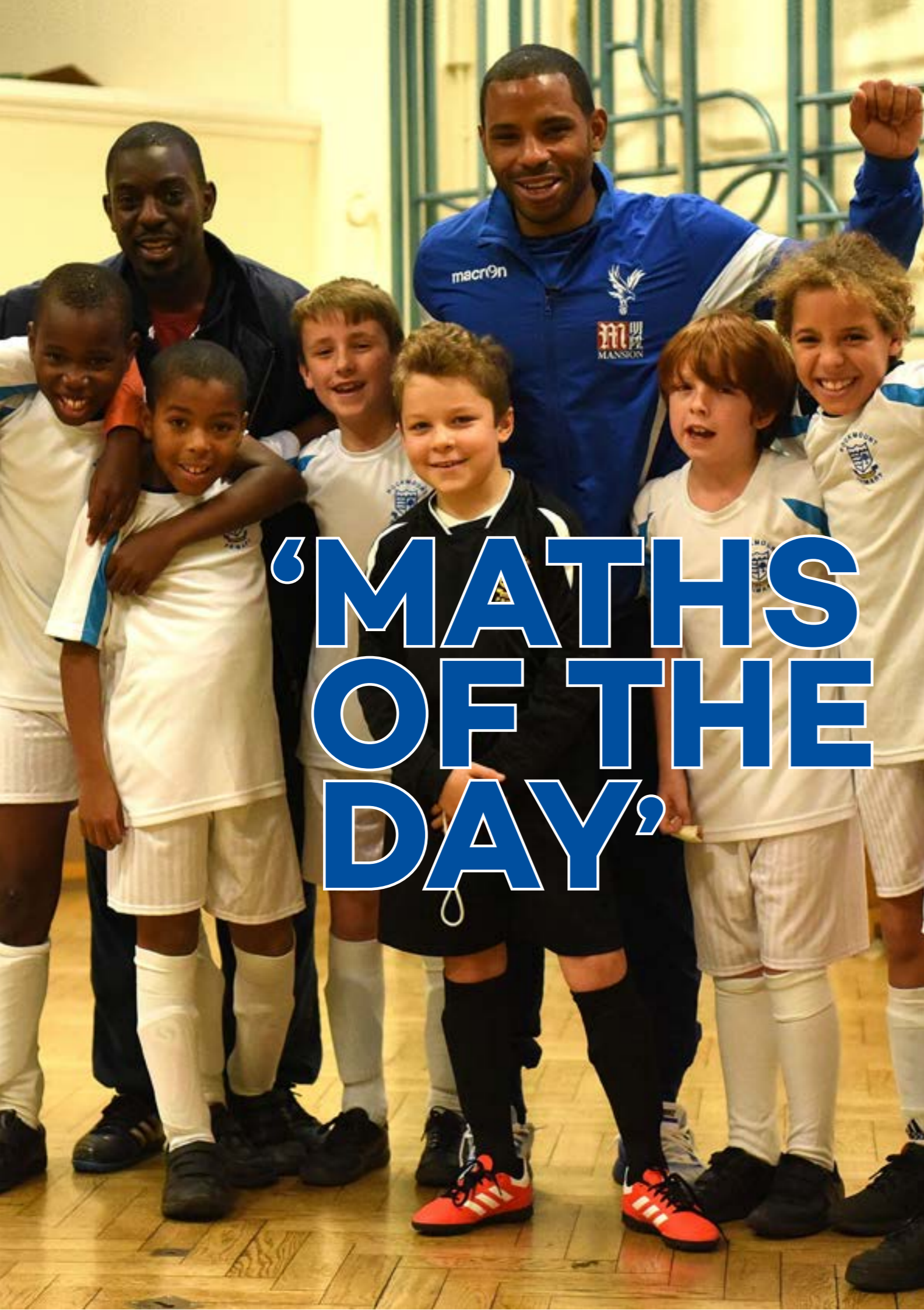
with the Educational Welfare Service to support the families who need support with their children’s attendance and/or punctuality. Attendance clinic meetings have been held with action plans being put in place where needed; this has seen a significant reduction in persistent absence which is now well below the national figure. Weekly figures are displayed and form part of the weekly achievement assembly with class rewards. Pupils are aware of how important regular school attendance is and of the impact this can have on their progress and achievement.

Adventure learning

This year children across the school have been able to enjoy unique outdoor learning experiences in Crystal Palace Park, thanks to our new partnership with the Wide Horizons charity.

Sessions have included map making and orienteering, shelter building and cooking over a campfire, complete with roasted marshmallows. Come rain or shine, every class at Rockmount has been able to take part in an outdoor session since the programme began last November. The park, with its lake, maze, dinosaurs and many different types of gardens, has provided a rich learning environment, and feedback from the children has been resoundingly positive.





'MATHS OF THE DAY'

Rockmount's dedication to promoting healthy living is reflected in the wide variety of sports on offer and the additional opportunities that our pupils pursue to keep active.

Increased participation in sport was one aspect considered in the awarding of our School Games 'Gold' status last year. The curriculum includes athletics, dance, gymnastics, netball, basketball and swimming lessons for years 4, 5 and 6 at Thornton Heath Leisure Centre.

The children have other opportunities to participate in sports activities including 'Maths of the Day' where pupils take part in active maths games organised by year five and six sports leaders at playtimes and lunchtimes. Year 3 and 4 take part in our 'Mile-a-Day' initiative where the children walk around the rec outside school twice a week in the morning to refresh and prepare them for the school day.

Rockmount prides ourselves on the range of sports clubs available to the children including judo, dance, multi-skills, football, netball and much more. We have a strong football and netball team that play in the local schools league, where they play matches against other schools in the local area.

Palace stars visit Rockmount

Our recent link with Crystal Palace Football Club Foundation has brought a number of benefits and exciting opportunities for our pupils. We employ a full time sports specialist, Tomasz Krol, who supports every year group with the delivery of the P.E curriculum. Working together with teachers in each PE lesson, Tomasz supports the delivery of high quality skill-based lessons. In addition, following our calendar of focus sports, he leads skills training and organises intra-sport competitions during play times and lunchtimes. Our partnership with CPFC also led us to be featured on BBC's Match of the Day. Former Rockmount pupil Jason Puncheon and Palace legend Mark Bright presented the children with a new team football kit, following their participation in a 'Bright Readers' reading activity led by coach Tomasz to support year five pupils.



Snappy dresser
CBBC TV presenter
Ben Shires hands
over Premier
League 'Primary
Stars' programme
set of reading
books to the school



Meet Sports Coach Tomasz Krol

You work for the Crystal Palace Football Club Foundation – does that mean that you only like football?

Not really. Football has been my passion since I was five and I used to play at a professional level in Poland. When I was at school, I used to play all different types of sport like volleyball, handball and athletics as well.

As well as leading sport during playtimes and lunchtimes, what else do you do at Rockmount?

I help to run sports activities after school and I work in years 4 and 5 to help pupils to develop their reading ability. I also help to run Maths of the Day, which is a fantastic initiative that helps pupils to progress in maths through sports activities and games. I helped to organise sports days which are great fun. I also worked holiday club last summer holiday, when I supported all sorts of different activities including gardening, art, cooking and all sorts! I can also be seen on duty by the school gate first thing every morning with a big smile on my face.

Since you have worked at Rockmount, what has been your greatest success?

Last year, I think that we did really well in achieving the 'School Games Gold Status'. This meant that I was very busy increasing the number of pupils playing sport and joining teams in different sports tournaments.

How has the Gold Status Award affected the school?

The standard of sport is much better than it was before. I think that we have achieved the status because we managed to increase the number of pupils who are interested in sport

and the pupils have shown a good mentality towards competitive sport.

Did you try any sports when you were young that you were not very good at?

Swimming! Swimming was my favourite sport, I know how to swim, but it was very tiring!

How did you become a sports coach?

When I arrived in England six years ago, I played football for Horsham FC and I injured my back. I decided to train as a sports coach so that I could work as a goalkeeping coach.

What was sport like for you when you were at primary school?

In Poland, it is very different. Pupils don't go outside at playtimes. Only at lunchtime, would we be allowed to play football or other games. The PE curriculum is also very different. In Poland, each lesson is very different – sometimes volleyball, handball or athletics, for example. So you can do several sports in the same week!

Are there any new sports activities that you would like to see at Rockmount?

Skipping is a really fun way of keeping fit and I would like to see more and more pupils (and adults) with a skipping rope in their hands!

I would love to introduce volleyball, but it is not a very popular sport in England and also you normally play on sand!

Do you keep fit and healthy? How?

Yes, five times a week, I go to the gym just to work on my fitness levels. I think the Edible Playground is fantastic and helps pupils to understand the importance of nutrition and I always eat a healthy lunch in the dinner hall at school.

If you could meet one sports personality, who would you meet and why?

Michael Jordan, the American basketball legend, was my hero when I was young. I would like to meet him and ask him about how he achieved everything in his career.



Pupils at Rockmount are not only encouraged to eat healthily, grow their own veg and fruit, but also to include exercise in their life style. We have the gold Healthy School status as well as the Gold Stars travel to school award. This means that have successful in getting many of our children to scoot, walk or cycle to school. Below are examples of some of the initiatives that children have taken part in over 2016/17.

The Croydon Bicycle Theatre

In May a group of children, along with parents cycled the 8 miles round trip to Croydon, with the Croydon Bicycle Theatre. During this relaxing ride through the parks of Croydon, we were entertained by 2 Edwardian cyclists (actors) who made us aware of how times have changed over the last 100 years, through short performances.

ROCKMOUNT - PUPIL PEDAL POWER

The Cycle Fest in central Croydon

In May, 8 Croydon Primary schools took part this year in the Croydon Cycle Fest. This is the 3rd year that Rockmount Cycle Team with 10 of our fastest cyclists from Year 5, taking part. The interschools race took place through the very centre of Croydon, using the same track as the professional cyclists raced on later on the same day.

Who got the fastest time? It was very close.

Each cyclist from each school got a time, which was added together to give each school a score. The Rockmount Cycling team collect their prizes on the podium at the Croydon Cycle Fest.

Tuesday Lunchtime Cycle Club

Every Tuesday lunchtime, throughout the year, there is a cycle club for any child in Year 5 who is interested in either learning to ride a bike from scratch or hone their cycling skills.

The Big Pedal at Rockmount

During the 14 days of the Big Pedal, lots of events took place, one of which was for Key stage 2 children to do a 4 mile ride around the Recreation Park to raise money for Sustrans, the charity which is creating safe routes to cycle in London. 23 children took part and we raised £520.

Can animals ride bikes? Of course not!

But you can...

Many children won a humorous book called 'Why Animals Can't ride Bikes', on the final day of the Big Pedal. We were lucky to have the author, Darren Ruddell, come to Rockmount to talk to the children about his new book.

The Big Pedal at Rockmount

22 Key Stage 1 children and some parents also did a ride in the Recreation Park, during the Big Pedal. During the The Big Pedal, 40% of pupils travelled to school by bike or scooter. Jade Class cycled or scooted 172 times, Onyx 163 times and Zircon 161 times! Everyone who cycled or scooted to school 7 or more times during the Big Pedal, received a prize on the final day.

Rockmount pupils at the Velodrome

We are lucky to have a velodrome on our doorstep. In October, using public transport, a group of 10 children went over to the Herne Hill Velodrome, where the children were given light weight track bikes and shown how to ride on an Olympic style track. Quite a few Rockmount pupils go to this track regularly on a Saturday morning and during holiday times where there are cheap courses and bikes are provided.

Lastly, on Red Nose Day, it was quite a spectacle to see children decorating their scooters and bikes and coming to school in red.



Bumper crop in the Edible Playground

The Edible Playground continues to grow under the expert green fingers of head gardener, Jay Bell, and his 400 or so gardening assistants.

This year the playground has seen its first full crop with apples, strawberries, broadbeans, pumpkins, artichokes, beans, peas, onions, kale, raspberries and potatoes on offer to name but a few. Throughout the year children from all classes have enjoyed tending to the plants and seeing first-hand how to grow produce from seed. As well as the fruit and vegetables there's also been fun to be had inside the compost heap, where the children have enjoyed seeking out the different kinds of creepy-crawlies who've made their home there. Meantime watch this space for the next Edible Playground project - the creation of the Rockmount scarecrow!



'Gold award' healthy school

As a Food Flagship School we're passionate about food. Over the past two years we have been working hard to promote a positive attitude towards food and healthy lifestyle choices within our whole school ethos.

We've been improving packed lunch choices; increasing the number of children having school meals and improving the overall dining experience. We've introduced many changes. One has been the introduction of waiters in the dining room. The service is great and the children take their roles very seriously.

We have been focusing on embedding the whole school food policy. The children have enjoyed a range of assemblies, circle times, workshops and class activities to promote a healthy attitude towards food and healthy lifestyle choices. We are delighted that our hard work has been recognised and we've have now been awarded London Healthy Schools Gold Award. We look forward to receiving our award at City Hall and attending Croydon's Healthy Schools celebration.



Learn about lunchtimes

Lunchtimes continue to be a really important part of the school day at Rockmount. This year, we have employed a new chef Hussein Nawol, who has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the catering industry.

His role has been to ensure the meals are balanced as well as tasty and to help educate our children on eating a healthy range of foods and engage with them in their classrooms. This has been extremely successful



and has meant the children have a better understanding of what a healthy lifestyle and diet really means.

Over the second half of the summer term, midday meal supervisors have undertaken training to help support good behaviour at lunchtimes through skipping. They will learn how to teach children a variety of individual and team skipping games including long rope games and double-dutch. There were skipping workshops in July for Key Stage 2 children, a playground skipping area launch as well as skipping rope sales. The Key Stage 2 children will then share their new skills and knowledge to their peers in Key Stage 1. This will all add to the already fun and active playtimes that the children currently enjoy.



Restaurant review "A Wonderful Dining Experience"

School governor Daniel Dyer is our restaurant reviewer.

If you are looking for a great place to eat out every day that provides excellent food, a great atmosphere and fantastic table service then you should look no further; this is the place for you.

The food is exquisite; a wide variety of hot mains and an excellent salad bar which underlines its healthy food options with the pudding cart provides plenty for those partial to something sweet.



The ambiance is created by the little touches; from the flowers on the table to the background music, this place has the steady buzz of excited chatter as my fellow diners catch up on their mornings and make plans for the rest of the day. Waiters and waitresses bustle around, pouring water, ensuring plates are cleared; armed with a quick smile and friendly conversation.

This is Rockmount Primary School at lunchtime and unfortunately only a few of us get to experience it. For Hussein and his team it is a double thumbs up.



E-safety

- keeping safe online

We work very hard to ensure all children remain safe online. This year we celebrated Safer Internet Day with Childnet Internet Centre by supporting the social media campaign asking people to 'Unite for a Better Internet!'

Children were involved in developing an understanding of using apps and deciding which app were appropriate for them. All classes got involved by presenting in assembly the best apps to use for their age group. Parents and carers had the opportunity to attend an e-safety workshop aimed at supporting children online, including managing filters on YouTube and how to have an open family dialogue about the online world.

Advice to other parents from those who attended included: "Get informed – it's an important issue", "We as parents need to be educated on how best to support our children" and "all parents should receive this information". This session was very successful and we hope to run more next year.

FINANCE

In common with other schools in the borough, Rockmount School has had to step up to the challenge of maintaining the right level of expenditure to provide a high quality curriculum with the best staff and facilities.

The school management have done a terrific job in effectively managing the current national financial challenges faced by all schools by

Litter Project



The Litter project evolved from an idea two years ago when Rockmount's School Council visited the Houses of Parliament. Local MP Steve Reed was delighted our children wanted to get involved in a project where they could make a real difference in their community – reducing litter in Croydon.

In January 2017 the Litter Project was launched and all schools in East Croydon were invited to participate in a Litter Poster Competition where the winning posters would be displayed on buses, bins and other sanitary vehicles in Croydon. Several schools submitted entries; in Rockmount alone there were over 300 posters.

In March 20 posters were shortlisted and judged by a panel consisting of members of Steve Reed's team and other officials from the Borough of Croydon. We have been informed that they have selected the overall winning poster together with the second and third place runner up. We are now anxiously awaiting directions from Steve Reed's office regarding a date for the prize giving ceremony. There will also be a grand exhibition of all submissions which will be held at Rockmount School later in the year. We are very proud of our school councillors who have stood up to a burning issue in their community and worked very hard to see this project come to fruition.



overseeing the budget accordingly. Even with the odd additional costs, we are still able to continue progressive investment into the school; for example installing new fencing and continuing the (expensive) Empribox science programme for our pupils. With the changes anticipated to educational funding arrangements, including the introduction of a new

national funding formula (NFF) and the ongoing economic uncertainty which the UK faces, we expect the challenges will continue into the short term. For these reasons, it is important Rockmount continues to aim for a balanced budget while minimising impact on pupil curriculum.

Amish Patel, finance lead, School Governor

pupil voice

At Rockmount we really value the contribution that the children make to improving our school. Their voice is heard in many ways and their contribution to our school community is at the forefront of our values. Every year we elect a



Head Boy and Head Girl, and Deputies and Ambassadors from year 6. They represent the school and promote student voice in school improvement initiatives and student issues.

Tom Lewin, Year 6

"I have managed to do some incredible things and met some incredible people this year in my role as Head Girl. My biggest achievement was surveying pupils in Key Stage Two about what new equipment they would like in the playground and then ordering it."



Olivia-Rae Stevenson, Year 6 – Pearl Class

From Key Stage 1 upwards, every class has two school councillors. They have meetings with a



member of staff to discuss school issues and they represent the voices of the children in their class. "I love being a school councillor because it means I can help make lots of important changes to the school. At our meetings we get to share our own and our classes ideas and opinions. I am very proud to be a school councillor."

Hermela Yousef, Year 2 – Jet Class

Rockmount Friends and Community (RFC) is our version of a school PTA

The RFC raises funds for projects like improvements to the playground, edible garden, we also pay for an extra activity for year six as a goodbye gift. We found raise through events like summer and winter fairs, cake sales, etc... We are planning the first Rockmount calendar and a big surprise, stay tuned!!!

This year we have agreed to fundraise for three wooden pods for the playground. They will be used

PARENT FORUM

Regular, open communication and consultation is highly valued at Rockmount. The parent forum aims to represent the views of all parents and to be a voice to inform our school of the needs of children and families. It facilitates communication between parents, carers and staff and governors. The forum works to provide feedback on provision, offer a parent's perspective on current policy and practice and input into decision making and planning for future provision.

- To support and promote children's learning
- To help the school find out what parents and carers think about important issues
- To involve parents and carers actively in school decisions
- To support the school to develop and improve outcomes for our children

The membership is made up of parents and carers of children attending Rockmount. We aim to have two representatives per year group and ideally one for each class. Members of the senior leadership team and a representative of the governing body also attend meetings which last about an hour, every half term.

The agenda is prepared in advance of the meeting and circulated by email. See website or school office for meeting dates or contact Sarah Bower (Parent Forum Chair) on sbowern@eno.org directly. New members are always welcome.



as reading, science and craft areas and available during playground time. These projects would not happen without the funds raised by parents' carers and the wider Rockmount community. We'd love to see new faces at our 1st Friday of the month meetings. Everyone is extremely welcome and it is a fantastic way of meeting parents.

Rafa Peinador
Chair of RFC

Find us on Facebook Rockmount and Friends and Community



MUSIC, SWEET MUSIC

Music continues to play a big role in Rockmount life. The impact of teaching a varied and challenging music curriculum throughout the school is becoming increasingly evident through the confidence, enthusiasm and musical skills being achieved by children in KS2, who have now followed this curriculum for 4 years.

At Rockmount all children are given the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, with whole class tuition of tuned percussion starting from Reception, recorders in Year 3, ukuleles in Year 4 and Samba in Year 5. We have also successfully introduced the 'Just Play' programme in Years 4-6, where classes build foundational skills, both instrumental and musical, through participation in a whole class ensemble. The Just Play classes have been learning the core skills needed to play guitar, electric bass, keyboard and drums in a band.

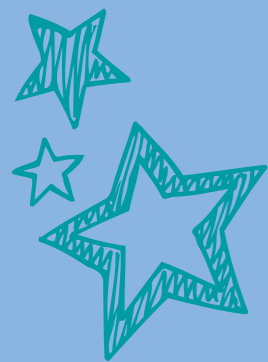
The number of children choosing to learn additional instruments in school has risen again this year. We now have 128 children learning an instrument in school – a massive increase from the 12 children learning piano four years ago! The instrumentalists are not only enjoying their lessons, but also achieving high standards with numerous practical exams and music medals passed this year. The variety of instruments

being taught at Rockmount has also increased this year. We are now proud to be able offer tuition in piano, guitar, electric bass, drums, violin, trumpet and trombone. In addition to these instrumental lessons we also now offer children the opportunity to learn with Rocksteady, where groups of children are taught together as a 'rock band'. Rocksteady has been a great asset to Rockmount this year and it has been great to watch the children performing in their bands in the termly concerts.

There's been musical events and activities throughout the year. **Highlights include the Christmas concerts and Year 2 Christmas show, taking our pianists to see The Nutcracker at The Royal Opera House, and the Rockmount Upper and Lower Junior choirs joining over 7500 children to sing as part of the Young Voices Choir, live at the O2 Arena.** We have also recently been lucky enough to welcome musicians from the London Mozart Players to perform to our string players and Year 2 as part of Crystal Palace Overground Festival.

We ended the year with the Year 6 production and leavers assembly as well as The Rockmount Proms, a series of Summer concerts showcasing the schools musical talents.





2015/16 Scrapbook

School trips, special visitors, workshops and outdoor activities are central to our learning at Rockmount. They generate great enthusiasm in subject areas and the children have a lot of fun. Here are a few highlights from the past year. Thank you to the parents who are able to come along and provide support - we couldn't do it without you.



Nursery pupils learned some French vocabulary when Emmeline, a student from France came to visit.



Reception had a visit from our local fire brigade and made pizzas at, 'Pizza at The Palace' in Crystal Palace.



Year 1 visited a synagogue in Bromley and looked at The Torah.



Year 2 went to the London Transport Museum and a magician visited!



Year 3 went to the Natural History Museum met Dippy the Diplodocus. They also had wild time with Will Lord's Prehistoric Experiences.



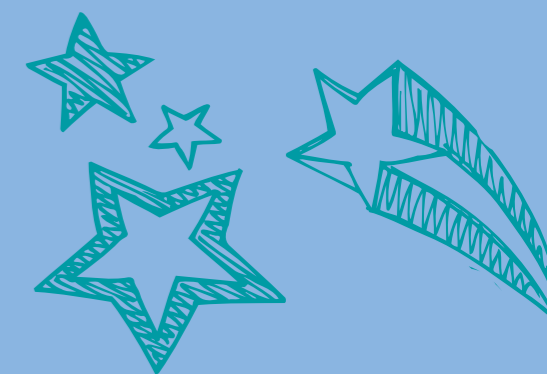
Year 4 visited the Science Museum and London Zoo.



A Russian cosmonaut met Year 5 and they also paid a visit to the local Horniman Museum.



Year 6 spent 3 nights away on their PGL trip at the beginning of the year.



After school clubs and activities



Providing activities after school is a really important part of what the school does. This last year we have worked hard to enable nearly 250 pupils to enjoy an extensive and exciting range of clubs. Activities have been thoroughly enjoyed by pupils of all ages:

“My favourite club is gymnastics. I like learning new things, in particular all of the stretches and exercises we do.”

“I like netball because it keeps me energised and it’s fun spending time with my friends”.

We use various spaces around the building to offer 20 clubs per week. These cover a wide variety of activities including sports, music, martial arts, languages, homework, Lego, chess and board games, film, dance, gymnastics and drama – to name a few!

Three Year 6 pupils have already achieved their orange belts during their time at Karate club and are now training for their red belts this year: “The club has been great for my discipline and I’m really proud of my achievements!”. Dance club students have been working very hard in order to perfect their end of year performance which parents/ carers are set to enjoy before the end of term.



Children’s Club

For those working or with other caring commitment Rockmount Children’s Club now supports more of our families before and after school than ever before. Demand for places remains high and the staff team have worked hard to expand capacity to cater for around 70 pupils at breakfast club and around 100 pupils at after school club each day. The service has been enhanced this year with a new full-time cook who ensures that pupils have a hot, nutritious meal every day. Sports activities have been led by our specialist sports coach and pupils have enjoyed skills training in a variety of different sports. These new developments, coupled with a well-embedded programme of varied activities, means that pupils can be reluctant to leave at the end of the day!

“I like that it has loads of fun games and activities that you can play with.”

Grace Narty Year 2



“I like all the teachers at ASC, and the tea is lovely.” **Carmen Chauhan-Grof Year 2**



“I like the fact there is a wide range of games to play with inside as well as outside There is also time to do your homework and other things like that.”

George Bendel Year 6



What is an owl's favourite subject?

Owlgebra

Who is the king of the classroom?

The ruler

Teacher: "Jakub, where is your homework?"

Jakub: "I ate it."

Teacher: "Why did you do that?"

Jakub: "You said it was a piece of cake."

What did the zero say to the eight? – Nice belt.

Why was the maths book sad?

Because it had too many problems.

Why didn't the two 4s want any dinner?

Because they already 8!

What did the triangle say to the circle?

You're pointless.

Why are circles so hot?

Because they are 360 degrees.

What tool do you use for maths?

MultiPLIERS.

What is a math teacher's favourite season?

Summer.

How do you make one vanish?

Add a 'g' to the beginning and it's gone.

What is an insect's favourite subject at school? MOTHematics.

Why was the student doing multiplication on the floor?

He was told not to use tables.

Why is the obtuse triangle always upset?

Because it is never right.

Which king loved fractions?

Henry the 1/8.

Hilarious⁶

We asked our year 6 for some maths jokes

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