



Rockmount Primary School **Governors' Review**



2023 **Report**

Welcome

The 2022/23 school year was one of leadership changes, growth, resilience, and unwavering commitment from our dedicated students, teachers, and staff. Our school community has demonstrated remarkable strength and adaptability, ensuring that our students continued to receive a high-quality education. The governing board is immensely proud of their achievements and the supportive environment that has been nurtured at Rockmount.

Looking ahead, the future holds exciting possibilities for Rockmount Primary School. Our unwavering commitment to excellence in education, coupled with your continued support and engagement, will propel us forward. Together, we will strive to create an even more inclusive, nurturing, and innovative learning environment where every child can flourish. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, staff, parents, and students for their remarkable contributions to our school's success. As I step down from my role as Chair of Governors, I am confident that the Rockmount community will continue to thrive, and I eagerly anticipate the many achievements and adventures that await the school in the coming year. Thank you for being an integral part of our Rockmount family.

Warm regards,

Emma James

Chair of Governors

How time flies; it is incredible to already be reflecting on another amazing year in the life of Rockmount!

The year has brought many highlights for our school community and I hope you will enjoy the following pages of this report in which we have tried to capture the enthusiasm, hard work and sense of fun our pupils and staff display.

We have been delighted with the continuing development of our curriculum and the exciting opportunities it offers our pupils to bring learning alive. We have introduced new 'Golden Threads' in all of our wider curriculum subjects to ensure that learning is constantly revisited; you can view them on the subject pages of our website. Outdoor Learning and our Edible Garden have also gone from strength to strength this year supported by our monthly Community Club sessions and the energy and enthusiasm of our gardener, Wendy.

Pupil progress and achievement has been very strong and the end of year statutory assessment results demonstrate above national figures, which is a great achievement. Whilst assessment results are an opportunity for our pupils to demonstrate how much they have learnt, we also impress upon them the value we all attach to the immense range of skills, talents and interests which contribute to each and every person's character. It is these qualities that we nurture and treasure and which should never be underestimated as the children grow into independent, confident and considerate young people.

Our community is as strong as ever and continues to be greatly valued as the cornerstone underpinning the resilience and success of our school. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank all families for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the year. We hope that you all reflect on the past school year with happiness.

Helen Carvall

Headteacher

Meet our School Governors...

What is the role of a School Governor?

The Governing Board of Rockmount Primary School works with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that each pupil at Rockmount Primary School receives the best education possible. Rather than being engaged in the day-to-day operations of the school, the governors act as a collaborative body to support the drive for school improvement.

Meet our Governors	About us and our everyday jobs	Link Role(s) to the school
Lucy Toop	Freelance writer. English teacher at a secondary school. 5 years.	CLA/Humanities and Music
Emma James	Emma is a lawyer for a Global professional services network.	Health and Safety Reading and Writing
David McDonald	David has been a governor since January 2022. Now retired he was chief probation officer for south east London. More recently he was lead official at the home office for child protection. Since his retirement, worked as a volunteer assessor for Croydon Citizens Advice.	Safeguarding / Modern Foreign Languages
Amy Carvall	This year Amy has undertaken a key role of Learning and Teaching Leader for Nursery and Reception and is part of the Senior Leadership Team. Amy will be starting an NPQ (National Professional Qualification) in Leadership in Early Years in September 2023.	Reception Class Teacher / Staff Governor / PSHE and SRE/ School Council
Imran Malik	Imran is a business analyst working in a consulting firm and is in his second year as a Governor.	Computing / PE and Sport
Sarah Hubbard	Sarah has been a Governor at Rockmount since 2015. Outside that, she leads the marketing for an architecture and design company based in the Barbican.	Art and Design/ Technology / Website / SEND
Natasha McCarthy	Natasha has been a parent Governor since November 2020 and is currently Vice-Chair. Natasha's day job is working with engineers and policy makers to think about how they solve challenges like climate change and how technology is used for everyone's benefit. This involves a lot of open discussion and shared decision making which she brings to the Governors' meetings.	Science/Outdoor learning/Sustainability
Trushar Patel	Trushar works as a Senior Finance Professional and is involved in the chartered institute of management accounts.	RE
Richard Steward	Richard is a director of business strategy for a large software company.	PSHE
Louise Eggett	Louise has been a Governor at Rockmount Primary since Spring 2023. She works in financial services and trained as an accountant earlier in her career.	Newly Appointed
Dorothy Bentil	Dorothy is our School Business Manager and has been in this role for 5 years. Dorothy loves all things finance and looks after our school health and safety.	Health and Safety and Business Manager
Liz Parry	Liz is our Clerk to the Governors' Board and also provides this service for other Croydon schools in the past.	Clerk to Governors'

Curriculum and Achievement

At Rockmount we aim to deliver our curriculum in the most memorable, exciting and effective way possible, where high standards are always sought and attention is always given to motivating children to be lifelong learners. We teach and encourage a growth mindset approach, where children learn from their mistakes enabling them to become confident, independent and inquisitive.

Our curriculum is constantly reviewed to ensure that it reflects current learning priorities. Knowledge and experience are at the heart of our curriculum and we offer opportunities which support pupils effectively in building their confidence, resilience and personal development. We encourage children to take ownership of their learning to develop deeper knowledge and higher-level thought processes. Collaborative learning is encouraged to promote engagement in education and an interest in the world around us.

We want our curriculum to maintain a consistent knowledge base to ensure conceptual progression. With this in mind we have identified a set of key concepts or 'golden threads', that children will repeatedly revisit throughout their time at Rockmount. These are interwoven into teaching, learning, assessment and environment throughout the school.

Health and wellbeing are part of the whole school ethos. The wide curriculum on offer and the rich experiences offered to pupils are planned across the school to ensure access for all and the development of a progressive skill set. It is underpinned by specific values with a particular emphasis on mutual respect, tolerance and inclusion to support our pupils to become active and engaged citizens. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual child and all they contribute to make our community so special.

Academic results for the 2022-2023 year were very positive; school results were above national standards which reflects the hard work and positive approach of our pupils as well as the skill and dedication of our staff.

EYFS	National	School
Good Level of Development	67%	80%

Year 1	National	School
Phonic Screening	79%	83%

Key Stage 1

Reading	National	School
EXS	68%	75%
GDS	19%	28%

Writing	National	School
EXS	60%	70%
GDS	8%	12%

Maths	National	School
EXS	70%	78%
GDS	16%	25%

RWM Combined	National	School
EXS	56%	68%
GDS	6%	12%

Key Stage 2

Reading	National	School
EXS	73%	88%
GDS	29%	54%

Writing	National	School
EXS	71%	80%
GDS	13%	18%

Maths	National	School
EXS	73%	88%
GDS	24%	46%

RWM Combined	National	School
EXS	59%	79%
GDS	8%	18%

GPS	National	School
EXS	72%	79%
GDS	30%	37%

Health and Safety

The school Site Manager, Andres Lopez, and School Business Manager, Dorothy Bentil, have responsibility for ensuring the school building is safe and well maintained for our school community and that all of our health and safety inspections are completed on time and comply with statutory building requirements.

Together, they oversee the school's premises management plan, working with the Headteacher, other school leaders and the school's Health and Safety Committee to devise a programme of maintenance works for the school so that any costs can be committed to the school budget plan and timeframes for progress agreed. This way of working helps keep school building priorities on track and completed within our agreed timescales. Areas identified for development such as the school redecoration schedule, playground equipment maintenance and the Learning Kitchen project have been completed in the past year.

Daily building checks by Andres and weekly health and safety walks by Andres and Dorothy are part of their regular routines to ensure that the school building is well maintained and that any hazards or repairs and maintenance works are addressed promptly.

Staff and pupils are encouraged to be aware of their own health and safety in school. One of

the ways this is promoted is through the work of the Health and Safety Committee. Andres and Dorothy meet termly with other representatives from the staff community to highlight and discuss recommendations from building inspections, review school fire evacuation procedures, health and safety policies and procedures and address any questions brought to the meeting by staff health and safety representatives on behalf of the wider school body. The discussions from health and safety meetings are minuted and circulated to all staff so they can see how their questions have been discussed and followed-up.

There is also pupil representation on the Health and Safety Committee from School Council representatives and Eco-Warriors. The representatives discuss the items of focus with their class beforehand then bring their opinions and feedback to the committee and also take responsibility to feedback to their class after attending the meetings. The health and safety agendas include items that give our pupils the opportunity to voice their views and understanding of general school health and safety, as well as keeping themselves safe in and out of school, including online safety, and who they can talk to if they have questions about health and safety.



A great start to learning

All about our Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage at Rockmount, including both Nursery and Reception, we embark on a journey to help our pupils blossom into confident and enthusiastic learners.

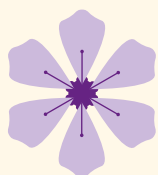
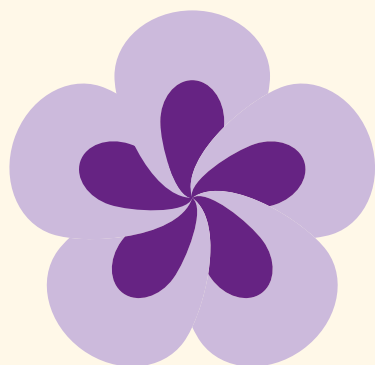
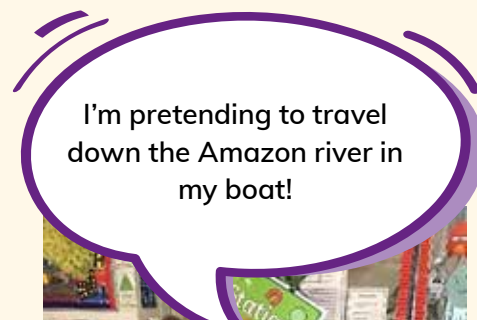
We acknowledge that the very essence of childhood learning lies in active engagement. We provide a dynamic and immersive learning experience within the indoor and outdoor environments, ensuring practicality is at the core of the provision.

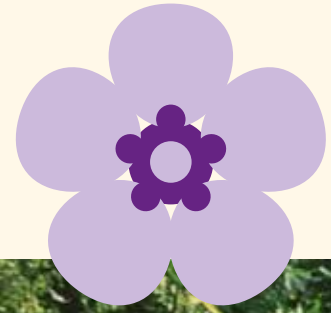
We are fortunate to have a wonderful outdoor space at Rockmount, where children are able to tend to our edible garden, care for our beloved rabbits, cook on our campfire and dive into pond dipping experiences.

In this earliest phase of education, we understand that the children's natural curiosity

is the catalyst for profound learning. Through a carefully crafted blend of play-based indoor and outdoor educational experiences, we foster an environment where children are free to explore.

Play, as the cornerstone of our provision, forms an integral part of our pedagogical approach. Children's development and learning is nurtured through a mixture of child-initiated and thoughtfully curated adult-led activities. Our overarching vision in Early Years is to ensure that every child, irrespective of their starting point, is granted the boundless opportunity to realise their fullest potential.





We have a highly skilled team of Early Years Teachers and Teaching Assistants who have a sound understanding of early child development and a great deal of experience working with this age group.

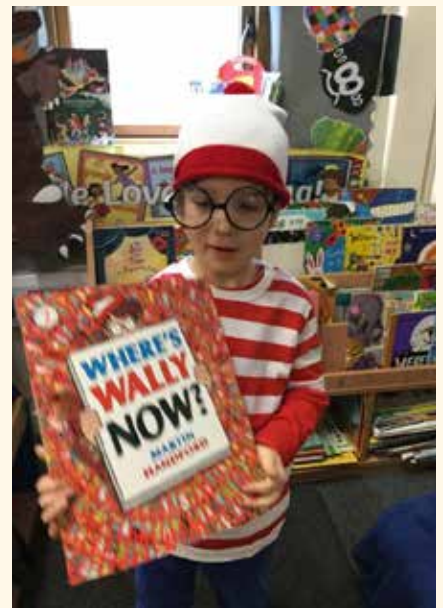
Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

In addition to addressing all seven Areas of Learning our curriculum is designed to promote the Characteristics of Effective Learning. These characteristics describe how the children will learn. These learning behaviours are particularly important in the EYFS because they build the foundations for

children to be lifelong learners. The characteristics are:

- Playing and Exploring - Engagement
- Active Learning - Motivation
- Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking

We offer the children in Nursery and Reception a “hands-on” play based curriculum, both indoors and outdoors, throughout the day. Planning can be intentional, responsive or anticipatory. It is flexible and can change in response to children’s ideas and interests. Planning may also be linked to events in the community or around the world.



Making learning fun

Enriching our curriculum

When I grow up I want to be teacher and look after everyone

Nursery Curriculum Highlights

Silver Class have had a fantastic start to school life this year!

The children have enjoyed the huge range of daily activities in the nursery setting and making friendships with one another.

Outdoor Learning in Silver Class has offered our children fantastic opportunities to enhance their understanding of the world and expand their vocabulary. The nursery environment is set up for children to explore each day and they therefore have extensive contact with the natural world which offers them experiences which are unique to the outdoors. Playing and learning outside supports our children to understand nature, the environment and the interdependence of humans, animals, plants and lifecycles. Through hands-on

experiences of planting, caring for rabbits, searching for bugs and environmental sounds such as the rustling of trees they are supported to develop a deeper understanding of the natural world. These activities have been crucial in expanding children's understanding and vocabulary of the world around them.

Role play has been very popular in Silver Class this year; children have been keen to act out being a shopkeeper, teacher and even going into space! The variety of role-play opportunities has supported them to build the vital skills that nurture a child's development, such as communication skills and problem-solving skills. Role play in Silver Class is a collaborative process and, as a result, children are interacting and learning new words and expressions from those around them.



Next customer please!



It feels sticky like honey that bees make

Sensory play or messy play has been central to supporting the children to learn through hands-on investigation. Messy play gives children the opportunities to discuss what they are experiencing based on their senses e.g. what does it feel like? This year in nursery the children have had opportunities to explore sensory activities using shaving foam, pasta, rice, cornflour, sand, water, painting, playdough, mud and more! The opportunities for sensory play have supported the children to play collaboratively as well as develop their overall communication skills.

Reception Curriculum Highlights

Once again, Reception has had a wonderful and fun filled year. In the Autumn, we read several classic stories, such as Little Red Riding hood and The Three Little Pigs. We had a Grandma's cottage along with a Three Little Pigs house in our classrooms; it is constructed of straw, twigs, and bricks. We constructed our own homes, but luckily the wolf was unable to knock the brick building down! We planted our own beans and watched them grow after reading Jack and the Beanstalk; some of them even developed into beanstalks! As part of our Fairy-tale topic we also read the Gingerbread Man and made our own gingerbread biscuits.

In Reception, we incorporate celebrating a range of festivals and a focus on food around the world. At Rockmount, we aim to celebrate the diversity within our community and the wider world and develop confidence in individual identity through our curriculum. As part as our food and festivals topic, we learnt how to cook tasty jollof rice, we showed off our fabulous clothes from our culture and

we turned the classroom into a Diwali festival with lights and decorations. Festivals and cultural celebrations are a great vehicle for engaging early years children in their learning.

In order to support our 'People Who Help Us' topic, in the Spring term, we looked at real life and pretend superheroes. We learnt about how to keep safe and healthy and what to do in an emergency.

We also had lots of fun dancing in our 'Dance-a-thon' to raise money for our outdoor area. Together we raised an impressive £800 which enabled us to purchase a range of outdoor equipment such as 'space hoppers', new 'small world' toys and sand area tools.

Reception did an amazing performance for our end of year 'Rockfest' concert along with a 'Class Fun Day' trip to Crystal Palace Park with a magician and a visit to the farm.

Whatever the weather, Rockmount Early Years pupils are engaged in achieving their full potential.



Making learning fun

Enriching our curriculum

Year 1 Curriculum Highlights

Year 1 have had a fantastic year full of exciting and enriching learning opportunities. In the Autumn Term, we learnt about people who help us. In science, we looked at our bodies and how to keep them healthy and safe. During Black History Month, we learned about Mary Seacole and the wonderful natural medicines she made.

In the spring term we introduced our new topic 'Space'. To support our learning, we invited a planetarium to Rockmount. We learnt all about the different planets and stars in the sky. We even learnt about an astronaut's lifestyle including the food they eat and what they wear! The children also really enjoyed Coding week when they made their own space games using the programme Scratch Junior.

During the first half of the summer term, we learnt about North America specifically Mexico in our topic 'Off we to

Mexico!'. We compared Mexico with the UK, learnt some Spanish words, and even cooked traditional Mexican food. The children then took part in 'Mexico Day' where they cooked Mexican food and created art in the style of Frida Kahlo. A highlight of the day was the dance workshop where we had a dance instructor teach us a traditional Mexican dance. We then had a showcase with all of the Year 1 parents/ carers. even displayed our artwork and served our yummy Mexican food!

In the second half of the Summer Term, to support our learning for our topic 'Carnival of the Animals' we went on a trip to Port Lympne Safari Park. We enjoyed seeing a variety of wild animals and learning fascinating facts about them!





Year 2 Curriculum Highlights

As part of our 'London Ablaze' topic we researched and learnt about the Great Fire of London.

We studied Samuel Pepys' Diary and explored how the fire progressed over four days then we went on to create our own fantastic model Tudor houses which we set fire to in the Outdoor Learning Area to recreate how the fire spread and to understand how difficult it was to fight the fire.

To celebrate our learning through our 'Incredible India' topic, we enjoyed a busy, fun filled day. We were very excited to dress up in Indian style clothing and

we got involved in many different activities to explore learning in workshops. We had a visit from a Bhangra dance teacher who taught us a range of different moves that we put together to form a short dance. We were also lucky enough to host a visitor who shared a Tabla drumming session with us when we were able to learn about North Indian music styles.

During our outdoor learning session, we prepared the ingredients and cooked a vegetable curry over the fire.

"It was delicious" Gabriel

It set our town houses alight very quickly. We could see it spread



I loved hearing the different drums and doing Bangra dancing



We cooked a vegetable curry over the fire. It was delicious!

Making learning fun

Enriching our curriculum

Year 3 Curriculum Highlights

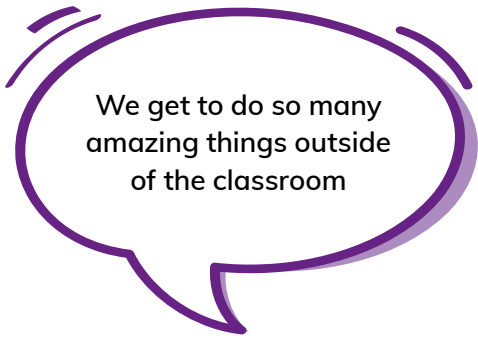
In the Spring Term Year 3 had an immersive 'Stone Age Day'. We were visited by cave woman Scuff and caveman Twig who set up their tent in the playground and camped overnight! When we met them, they were quite scary but we soon understood their strange mannerisms and learnt so much about that period of time. We enjoyed dressing up and travelling back in time. We learnt all about the history of the Stone Age along with crafts and survival skills. A highlight was preparing and cooking a whole fish over the fire and tasting it together. In the classroom we designed and sewed our own Stone Age outfits, practising different stitches with felt as part of our planning and then using our skills to make the real outfits.

At the beginning of Year 3 the children ventured to the Natural History Museum to enhance their learning on dinosaurs. Living so close to Crystal Palace Park with the resident dinosaurs is such a bonus when learning about this time period and many children used the park to support their amazing homework projects as well as class learning. We explored the different time periods during which the dinosaurs lived and discussed the facts from the myths about why they died out. We were lucky enough to see the diplodocus exhibition from the Jurassic period.



Year 3 also had the opportunity to take part in a First Aid Course run by Butterfly First Aid. Everyone had the chance to learn and practice their CPR skills on dolls and learned new tricks and skills to help them in an emergency! Throughout the sessions they learned about the Recovery Position, Contacting Emergency Services, Choking, Shock, Defibrillation, Stroke, Heart Attacks, Wounds & Bleeding. Year 3 worked so hard to learn how to help others; they received certificates certifying them as Mini Medics!





Year 4 Curriculum Highlights

Year 4 were lucky enough to experience what a rainforest was really like during their Amazonian Adventures topic. Unfortunately, a school trip to the Amazon would have been a bit too far, so instead we travelled to Kew Gardens and toured their world-famous Botanical Gardens. We explored their different temperate, tropical and arid greenhouses and saw a huge number of different plant species. We also climbed 18 metres to the towering treetop walkway which was quite an experience!

Year 4 spent the summer term learning about life during the Roman and Anglo- Saxon times. We researched all the different types of gladiators (who knew

there was more than one type!) and then wrote fantastic sets of instructions on how you would be able to trap a gladiator. We also looked at Roman mosaics and were inspired to create our own in groups.

Later in the summer term, we spent time looking at how the United Kingdom changed as different tribes such as the Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded from Europe and conquered the land. We explored how farming and village life was different to how we live now and finished the year by creating our own replica of an authentic Anglo-Saxon village, complete with chief house and blacksmith.



Using the Learning Kitchen

This year we have spent lots of time using our wonderful Learning Kitchen. To extend our learning we planned some 'enterprise' focus activities linked to the kitchen. We planned the recipes and costings, baked our items, such as Fairtrade banana muffins, and sold these in the playground at home time. We not only earned back what we'd spent but also made a small profit that we put towards new resources in Year 4.

In the Summer term as part of our focus on Healthy Schools Week, we made some high-fibre porridge that kept us very full up! Pupils cooked their own portions of porridge on the hob and added a range of toppings including banana, seeds, dried fruit and even a sneaky piece of dark chocolate!



Making learning fun

Enriching our curriculum

Year 5 Curriculum Highlights

Our Year 5 children have had a fantastic year enjoying a range of exciting and enriching activities within the curriculum. As part of our study of Space the children experienced a Virtual Reality workshop where they all use VR headsets to explore space and find out amazing facts about all of the planets and moons. As part of our World Wars topic, we took part in our World War Day which was delivered with the help of a theatre group. The children got to experience life as an evacuee moving away to the countryside. They dug for victory, worked at the local shop, harvested plenty of potatoes and even built air raid shelters!

During the Spring Term, the children learned all about the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. In our outdoor learning session, they put their engineering skills to the test in order to build their very own 'shadoof'. The children learned about its vital role in Ancient Egypt in the collecting and transporting of water from

the River Nile. In order to build a successful shadoof to collect water from the pond, the children had to build a tripod out of wood, secure it carefully with string and build a 'sweep' with a bucket on one end and a counterweight on the other. It was great fun!

Year 5 enjoyed a one-night residential trip to Broadstone Warren Scout Site. Children enjoyed the opportunity to spend the time together and for some it was the first time they had stayed overnight without their families. The children learnt so much from the experience. They built their self-confidence by taking part in orienteering, hiking, team games, building a camp fire, toasting marshmallows, wide games, frisbee golf and making their own lunches! They even had dinner and breakfast cooked by our very own school staff who were accompanying them – most pupil reports confirmed that their cooking skills were up to scratch!

Links we have established with a local Harris Academy have



also provided Year 5 pupils with the opportunity to take part in a Curriculum Experience Day. The children attended for the day taking part in Art and Design Technology activities and even some cooking with the Harris staff. This is of great benefit in preparing our Year 5 children as they begin to explore their school choices for the secondary phase of their education.



Year 6 Curriculum Highlights

This year has been a very busy year for our year 6 children. The children had heard of all the very exciting wider curriculum activities that are studied in Year 6 and really couldn't wait to get started with expanding their knowledge in many different subject areas.

We started off the year learning all about the Victorian era, which culminated in Victorian Day; an immersive experience of what life was like for the Victorians. As you can see the children really enjoyed dressing up as Victorians and taking part in activities that constituted their everyday lives.

After learning about the very important time period of the Victorians, we then moved onto Crime and Punishment Throughout the Ages. The children learnt about the different judicial systems dating all the way back to the Romans and how some of the laws we have now and the language we use

stems from these other time periods. The children especially enjoyed our trip to The Clink Museum, where they were able to see some of the methods of punishments used before and learn about some of the historical characters who brought about change to England's justice system.

During the Spring Term, we learnt all about the continent of North America; it's varied climate, landscape, people and history. The children were able to create some of their own legends in the style of Native America stories. Some of the descriptive language used was just amazing and really helped you to put you in the places where the legends happened.

We then went onto Natural Disasters. Living in a country that doesn't really suffer from any major natural disasters, the children were really amazed to learn about their destructive



nature and the history of some of those disasters. With the thoughts of 'How can we make the World a Safer Place', the children in groups designed and made hurricane proof shelters. We are able to test their survival capabilities in our class made wind tunnel - all very exciting!


The summer term began with the SATS assessment week. Our Year 6 pupils had all worked hard over the year and were well prepared to do as well as they could. They all took it in their stride and should be very proud of themselves!



Make your view count!

What do our most important people think of our school?

It is important to capture pupil voice throughout the year.



"I love that we have access to different animals and wildlife even though we are in a school"

Sam

"I feel like we have lots of opportunities to do fun things like the learning kitchen, I love cooking in there"

Nerys

"All the people are really kind at Rockmount"

Delia

"I really love being a peer mediator in the playground, I feel like it is a really grown up job"


Ruqayyah

"The best thing about Rockmount is that we get to have swimming lessons, it is nice to have that opportunity in school"

Kristina

"We are quite lucky that we have lots of equipment for sports"

Jamie



"I really enjoy Art because we get learn about so many different styles of Art"

Zynah

"I really like the fact that there are lots of opportunities for leadership roles in the school, I really enjoy being on the school council"

Isobel

"The best thing without a doubt is 'Rocksteady' and the food"



Stanley

Parents and Carers

We regularly ask our parents and carers for their opinions which are greatly valued by the school and help to support effective forward school development planning. We are always grateful for feedback, comments and suggestions. You can always find the full results of our most recent parent/carer consultations on the school website. Here are a few of the comments from the past year.

An excellent, happy, ambitious and caring school.

I'm really enjoying watching my children learn and grow and become more themselves at Rockmount!

Exceptional provision across the board; high standards and expectations for all.

The staff at Rockmount are extremely helpful, polite, professional, always willing to help and listen to both parents and children. Thank you!

Thank you for caring so well about children. "Give the children love, more love and still more love – and the common sense will come by itself."
(Astrid Lindgren)

We selected the school based on the well-being awareness and focus and we've had very good engagement.

Rockmount have been very supportive with my child and when it comes to their needs. I feel comfortable as a parent to approach Rockmount staff at all times, they have a warm approach and are always on board to help. Thank you all!



Rockmount School is known for enabling cycling!

Nudged by the new road restrictions on neighbouring streets, which do not permit cars at drop off and pick up times, families are considering the cycling option. The school cycle shelter is well used, placed within a designated zone, safe from cars and locked during the school day.

Throughout the year there is a regular weekly lunchtime Cycle Club on Wednesdays with a focus on Year 5 children. Demand is high for the cycle club so we divide the children up according to their ability and which class they are in. This year, we had 35 on the register with 10 children who were complete beginners. Not every 10-year-old gets the chance to learn to ride a bike, particularly if they live in a flat with no suitable bike storage facilities. For this very reason, we have school bikes, stored in 2 bikeshels. At present, we have 18 bikes of

varying sizes which our Dr Bike maintains. Some of these are abandoned or gifted bikes which have been reconditioned (6 were added this year to our stock).

By the summer term, we had enough Year 5 children ready to complete the Government Bikeability Level 2 Course. 22 children in Year 5 and 21 in Year 6 have now been taught how to cycle safely on the road. These are important life skills in preparation for greater independence at secondary school as well as encouraging an active life style. Looking forward to September, 26 of our Year 4 parents have already signed their child up, so we are on course for the continued promotion of cycling at Rockmount, thanks to the commitment and expertise of Sumra Ahmed, William Gall (Dr Bike) and Suzanne Jessel.





Music to our ears!

Music continues to play a big role at Rockmount and the Music department has had a very busy year! As well as weekly singing assemblies and curriculum Music lessons, children can also take part in a range of extra-curricular music activities that take place during lunch breaks, making them free and available to all that would like to take part. The Rockmount choirs have had a fantastic year performing in various events and concerts both in and out of school. Some of the highlights have been the Year 6 Choir performing with Young Voices at the O2 Arena, the Year 5 Choir performing with the Croydon Schools Music Association Junior Choir at Fairfield Halls and the Year 4 and 5 Choirs joining together to perform at our Rockmount Summer Proms Concert. Some other highlights from our extra-curricular music groups have been the Year 6 Samba band performing brilliantly at the Black History Celebration event and the Year 6 Choir deciding to diversify and form their own band which

you can see performing 'Flowers' by Miley Cyrus on our Rockmount Musicians LIVE page on our website!

Due to the vast amount of musical talent at Rockmount we have once again been able to end the year with our Rockmount Proms series of Summer Concerts. We had to make one concert an 'online concert' due to some unforeseen clashes, but none the less we managed to deliver a series of eight concerts: Brass, Flutes, Violins, Guitars, two piano concerts, Rocksteady and our Summer Concert featuring the Year 4 and 5 choirs, drum-kit students and some other soloists. Thanks to all the amazing performers and our brilliant team of instrumental teachers the concerts were a huge success. It is always so rewarding to see how much progress the children have made – we have some incredibly talented musicians at Rockmount!

Please take a look on our Rockmount Musicians LIVE page on the school website to see some performances from the concerts.



Rocking the Future: Student Trailblazers at Rockmount

As we reflect on the achievements and progress made during this academic year, we can highlight the amazing successes of our Pupil Leadership Groups. These groups have played a vital role in shaping our school community and have empowered the pupils at Rockmount to become active participants in their educational journey.

One of the most significant accomplishments of our Pupil Leadership Groups has been the fostering of a sense of ownership and belonging among our pupils. Through regular meetings and discussions, these groups have provided a platform for our pupils to voice their ideas, concerns and suggestions, ensuring that their perspectives are considered in the decision-making processes of the school.

They have embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm and commitment, demonstrating

exceptional leadership skills along the way. They have organised fundraising events for local and larger charities, championed sustainability projects and been involved in enterprise initiatives. As well as this, they have been actively involved in the implementation of pupil wellbeing initiatives. They have worked closely with the school staff to promote mental health awareness, encourage peer support networks and ensure that every student feels safe, supported and valued within our school community.

Looking ahead, we hope to strengthen the Pupil Leadership Groups further through partnerships with the wider school community and beyond. We aim to collaborate with local businesses, community organisations and schools to foster a spirit of community engagement and social responsibility.

Sports Leaders

This year, we've had the incredible opportunity to dive headfirst into the dynamic world of the Croydon School Sport Partnerships (CSSP). Picture this: a thrilling journey to enhance the very heart of Physical Education and School Sport in the vibrant landscape of the London Borough of Croydon.

But that's not all! Our Senior Year 5 Sports Leaders embarked on a thrilling journey of their own. Guided by our valued link advisor, Daniel Beecham, they undertook a rigorous six-week Sports Leader training. This course unearthed the depths roles and responsibilities, empowering them to orchestrate a symphony of sporting excitement within our school.

One of their most remarkable achievements has been steering the ship for our 2023 Sports Days! These young leaders didn't just plan these events; they were the architects of sporting visions. They stood front and centre on the big day, marshalling their peers to partake in the exhilarating contests. It was a feat of leadership that left an indelible mark on our school's sporting legacy.



Our Leadership Teams

Year 6 Leadership Team

The eldest children in our school have the remarkable opportunity to join the Year 6 Leadership Team. As torchbearers of responsibility, they share the task of co-chairing the School Council, ensuring that the voice of every pupil can be heard and serving as representatives both within and beyond the school gates.

At the beginning of the school year, these Year 6 Leaders embarked on an epic journey, collaborating with staff, fellow students, parents and even our Partnership School. Together,

they conjured and refined the enchanting tapestry of our Black History Showcase event—a journey as enjoyable as it was fulfilling.

Following the triumphant success of this event, the pupil leaders from both schools convened in a summit of intellects, sharing stories of their achievements and reviewing the symphony of success that had unfolded for both institutions. It was a meeting of minds, a celebration of accomplishments and a testament to the power of young leaders shaping the future.



School Council

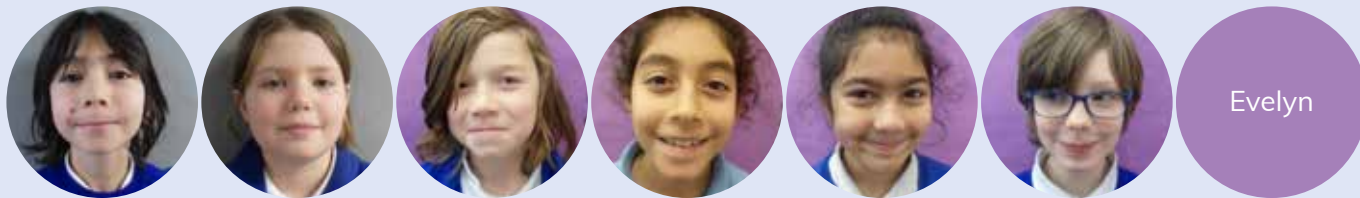
Our elected school councillors have been very busy this year. Miss Carvall (Reception Class Teacher) and Miss Fryman (Year 3 Class Teacher) ran the School Council this year and regularly hosted meetings to make sure that children in our school continue to have a voice.

We started off the year with the group organising a fund raiser for the 'Poppy Appeal' for money towards the Royal British Legion's biggest fundraising campaign that is held every year in November during the period of Remembrance. We raised an impressive £873 to provide support to the Armed Forces Community. The school council also embraced the theme of 'Enterprise' and got together a business venture for the winter fair selling personalised goody bags.



The School Council recently visited the Houses of Parliament and had a fantastic trip! The children went to the Horse Guards, had an informative tour around the Houses of Parliament and also had the opportunity to attend a debate in the public gallery in the House of Commons. They took part in a

workshop where they got to take on a role of an MP and weigh up the pros and cons of a topical subject; "should homework be banned?" Miss Fryman and Miss Carvall were so impressed with the representatives who were inquisitive and took on their role to the best of their abilities.



Digital Leaders

The Childnet Digital Leaders Programme is a youth leadership training programme empowering young people to educate their peers about online safety.

Groups of Digital Leaders complete training on an interactive, informative and fun platform. They work through

online modules, equipping them with the skills they need to go on to educate and support their peers.

During Internet Safety Week, the team of Year 5 pupils organised an assembly for the school centred on online safety. Recognising that online safety, while a familiar topic, requires periodic reminders due to its easy oversight and potential

pitfalls, the team embarked on this assembly to reiterate its importance.

Their determination to continue creating presentations in the future, with the aim of heightening awareness within their school community, highlights their commitment to the role and to making a difference in school.

Peer Mediators and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

This year, our Peer Mediators gained further training from The Diana Award and also became Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Programme raises awareness of bullying behaviour and supports schools and young people to tackle it across the UK and beyond. The programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with the facilitators giving young people the skills and confidence to become Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their schools long after the training has finished. The anti-bullying work undertaken by the Diana Award is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable and youth-led approach.

Since receiving the initial training, the pupils have been given additional training on Anti-Racist Bullying. This included discussion around what racism is, looking at case studies of famous people who have experienced racist bullying and the definition and role of an 'Upstander' (someone who 'stands up' when they see something that isn't right).

They have also taken part in a training session on Anti-Sexual Bullying. The course included learning to understand, recognise and respond sexual bullying by:



- Defining and identifying it
- Understanding how it can affect people
- Confidently using skills as an ambassador to be a successful 'upstander' in order report sexual bullying behaviour
- Knowing the difference between prevention and intervention
- Effectively planning and running 'Respect' campaigns in schools
- Learning about 'consent' also formed a large section of this training session and the Ambassadors are working together to plan ways to share their training with the wider school.

Following these invaluable training sessions, the Ambassadors were able to lead assemblies and circle times across the school to spread the important messages they had learned.

Eco-Warriors

At Rockmount, the staff, governors, pupils and parents/ carers all believe in the importance of becoming an Eco-School. Being an Eco-School empowers pupils, raises awareness of environmental issues and helps improve the immediate school environment. It also supports wider local community engagement with the school.

The programme encourages pupils of all ages and abilities to work together to develop their knowledge and environmental awareness. Independent

research into the Eco-Schools programme in England found evidence of the positive impact on pupils, including increased confidence, development of leadership skills, improved pupil well-being and behaviour and greater motivation at school.

The schools Eco-Warriors are made up of children from Years 5 and 6. Their jobs include - looking after the school animals, promoting a sustainable environment, recycling, being energy aware and promoting active travel to and from school.

Wellbeing Ambassadors

We also have a group of children who are very active in the promotion of health and wellbeing across the school. You can find out more about the work they do on page 28 in our Wellbeing section.



Before we move on...

The final half term for Year 6 was one they'd never forget! After having worked so hard this year, we had plenty of ways to help them celebrate how much they had achieved.

We started off with some transition workshops, which helped prepare the children for their journey through life after Rockmount. They really enjoyed the financial workshop, where they earned 'money' by doing different activities and learned the importance of saving and spotting a good deal! On a more serious note, the children also attended a Choices and Consequences workshop, where they learnt the impact their choices can have now that they will soon be entering their teens.

The children also spent a lot of time rehearsing for their school play 'OLIVIA!', which culminated in three excellent performances by all the children involved for other year groups in the school as

well as for parents and carers.

The long awaited PGL trip to the Isle of Wight was a great success! It was such an excellent trip where the children were able to challenge themselves to complete a great range of activities and spend some quality time with their friends day and night. Definitely a trip the children will never forget.

To end the term with a bang, we also went to Adventure Island Theme Park, where we all enjoyed the rides despite the wet weather. We realised that there are some real daredevils in Jade and Diamond classes!

Finally, our Year 6 pupils participated in their Leavers' Assembly, sharing some amazing memories and 'best bits' of their years at Rockmount – some very humorous, some serving well to reduce the adults to tears! A very emotional day finished with a lovely barbecue and disco to bid farewell to Rockmount.



Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!

Enjoying our wonderful outdoor environment...

What is growing??

This year has been a very busy year out in the Edible Garden. We have welcomed Wendy on to the team and she works with the children to plant, grow and harvest many types of vegetables and fruit. This year we have had a wide range of plants growing including tomatoes (both cherry and salad), sweetcorn, beans, peas, carrots, raspberries, potatoes, sunflowers, radishes, squashes, herbs, chillies and courgettes. The new polytunnel was a great help getting the seeds started. Once strong enough, the children then planted them out in their beds to tend to them. We had a plentiful crop (even though the slugs and snails had a good attempt at eating it all!).



Grace & Outdoor Learning

Grace Bartlett, an Outdoor Education expert, continued to work with all the children again this year. Each of the sessions are linked to the topic the children are covering in class. For example, when Year 5 were learning about 'World Wars', the session was map work, building simple shelters, basic first aid and brewing tea using a recipe from the war. Great fun and learning!

Community Club Days

One Sunday every month we open the Outdoor Environment to parents/carers and children to come along and join in some Outdoor Fun. Each club is slightly different and through the year we have weeded, planted, tidied, looked after the school animals, made cone bird feeders, planted up and decorated pots to take home, had a BBQ, cooked sausages and smores over the camp fire and always provide refreshments for everyone. It is always a surprise how much work gets done as everyone works so hard – many hands make light work! A good time is had by all.



Meet Wendy our gardener

"Hi, my name is Wendy and I help look after all things green at Rockmount! I have been into gardening for about 25 years and I was first interested in the opportunity at Rockmount after my two children went here and have grown up through the school. I plan and deliver gardening sessions for the children in the school

My favourite flower to grow is a Rose because they smell incredible and you can make new plants by taking the cuttings."

Keeping ourselves fit and healthy with PE and Sport

The delivery of physical education at Rockmount Primary School continues to inspire people to recognise their ability to succeed and excel in a wide range of competitive sports and other forms of physical activity

This year Rockmount Primary School has re-joined the Croydon School Sports Partnership. The CSSP supports us to deliver a high-quality PE curriculum. We have a Sports Developer allocated to our school who provides support, CPD and various other events tailored to our needs. Through our membership, children can also participate in range of competitions and festivals both inside and outside school. They are also the main assessors for The School Games Mark.

The School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme that rewards schools for their commitment to development of competition across their school and into the community. Schools

in England are able to assess themselves across BRONZE, SILVER and GOLD levels. At Rockmount, we have received all these marks in the past. We are proud that in the academic year of 2022/2023 we have been awarded GOLD mark status.

At Rockmount, we have a different focus sport every half-term. Through our focus sports we also try to build school teams. We will host a variety of intra-events and tournaments to consolidate this. For example, we hosted a World Cup Football Tournament. Children were balloted to represent countries that participated in the event. Over 100 children participated in the tournament and enjoyed playing football to the delight of teeming football supporters around the Arena on every lunch break. After the event, we held a rewards assembly and children received medals for taking part. The best teams and players also received special trophies.





Understanding our place in history and our Coronation Picnic



As part of Black History Month in October to celebrate the accomplishments of Black people around the world and showcase our diverse and inclusive curriculum, we put on an exhibition of work created by the children in all year groups. The children's work covered amazing and detailed pieces of art in the style of different artists such as Augusta Savage. The children researched and wrote about many different trailblazers such as Matt Small, Pablo Fanque and Amy Sherald to name a few. Some children were then also given the opportunity to take part in African drumming and dance workshops. All this hard work by the children culminated in the exhibition, where we also had food and music of Black heritage, which our local community could take part in.

After the sadness of the Queen's death, the children got the opportunity to celebrate the coronation of King Charles II. The children came in to school wearing the colours of the Union Jack, but the British weather wasn't kind to us. We enjoyed our planned school picnic in the hall. When it was a little sunnier outside, the children were able to enjoy games and music.

Science

We have had an amazing time celebrating British Science Week and learning all about connections. The children took part in live lessons, carried out scientific investigations and found out about people working in the scientific industry who are smashing stereotypes.

#ScienceSelfie

A big well done to everyone who took part in the science selfie competition. It was great to see the children continuing their science learning at home.



Community

Rockmount Children's Club RCC

Our Breakfast Club continues to operate in 2 rooms with its own kitchen facilities where we offer a wide range of delicious and nutritious food. We currently have 75 children enrolled. Following the end of our eligibility for the Magic Breakfast scheme which provided schools with a sustainable, low cost, long-term food and support offer, we have been busy trying to find other alternatives and are pleased to announce that we have now joined The National Schools Breakfast programme. The National Schools Breakfast Programme is funded by the Department for Education and delivered by Family Action to support schools in England to provide children with a healthy breakfast at the start of the school day. From September all classes will have bagels available for children to eat in the mornings when they arrive in the classroom. As well as bagels, we will also receive weekly deliveries of cereals to support our Breakfast Club. We also offer breakfast free of charge to vulnerable pupils.

Our After-School Club operates in 4 rooms. We have 150 children enrolled, with an average of 95 children per day. Our school caterers, Pabulum, continue to provide tea for the after-school club and a menu is available on the school website. As a self-funding provision, we rely on parents' regular payments to cover the cost of staffing, catering and resources. The children take part in a range of planned activities across the week and the club continues to be very popular, with high demand for places. We operate a waiting list policy for children wishing to join the club once it is at full capacity.

Taking care of our health and wellbeing

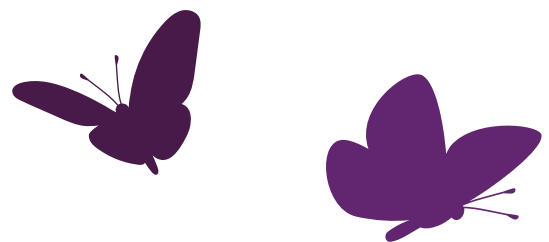
At Rockmount, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of our school community. We know that everyone experiences life challenges that can make us vulnerable and at times, anyone of us may need additional emotional support. We take the view that positive mental health is everybody's responsibility and that we all have a role to play. This commitment was reflected in our reassessment for the Wellbeing Award for Schools in November. We are very proud to have our Wellbeing Award for Schools reinstated for a further 3 years; thank you to our whole school community for supporting all of the initiatives which have helped us to achieve this great accomplishment. The award assessor was particularly impressed with the high importance placed on wellbeing and mental health which was visible throughout the school.



Wellbeing Ambassadors

It is important for pupils to have a voice, be able to contribute ideas and influence how to improve the wellbeing of their peers and the wider school community. We are proud to have a group of children appointed by their peers as Wellbeing Ambassadors to help drive through positive change and support the whole school community. The Ambassadors meet regularly to discuss ideas to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all, especially their peers. This year they have been raising awareness of mental health problems during carefully planned themed days which included Children's Mental Health Week, World Kindness Day, World Sleep Day and Keeping Myself Safe Week.

The Wellbeing Ambassadors have been particularly instrumental in creating a new interactive storybook and song in partnership with Croydon Council to help boost the mental health of all young children in Croydon. We are so pleased that illustrations drawn by children in KS2 were chosen to be a part of Croydon Council's 'Wellbeing Way' Storybook. Various children across the school also narrated the storybook to create an audio version. Children in Early Years and KS1 were taught the 'Makaton Song' which is now part of Croydon's video resource used to teach others the Makaton signs for the Five Ways to Wellbeing. This has been a great whole school effort this year in promoting the 5 Ways to Wellbeing to the children and families across the borough and showing how committed we all are to promoting positive health and wellbeing.



Staff Wellbeing

Good staff wellbeing is essential for cultivating a mentally healthy school, for retaining and motivating staff and for promoting pupil wellbeing and attainment. As school staff juggle a multitude of different tasks and demands, it is important that everyone is given the right emotional and practical support so that they can, in turn, support their pupils. At Rockmount, we are continuously looking for positive ways to support the wellbeing of our staff, this includes staff having dedicated time for discussions with a member of the Senior Leadership Team

(SLT) about their wellbeing. This, in turn, has helped SLT to evaluate staff workload, required meetings and encourage a good work-life balance. Recognising the hard work and dedication of individuals and groups has shown staff that the whole school community appreciates their efforts and commitment. We have taken the time to ensure staff know they are appreciated by having Appreciation Days throughout the year which included Admin Appreciation Day, Teaching Assistant Day and Teacher Appreciation Day. Part of our Spring Inset Day, also gave staff a moment to focus on their wellbeing as they were

encouraged to take part in different social and wellbeing activities. This included learning to cook for wellbeing, a bit of Zumba and some staff opted to bring in their own games for a bit of a fun “games night.”

“I appreciate that our wellbeing is a priority here and it is taken seriously. Workload is a big concern across the profession but it is great that we can look for ways to reduce this without impacting the quality of education that is provided to the children. It was lovely spending some quality time together during the Inset Day and having a bit of fun too”. Ms Walker





Parent/Carer Workshops

Throughout the year, with the support of the Croydon Mental Health Support Team (MHST), we have offered a range of in-person and online mental health and wellbeing workshops aimed at providing parents and carers with the knowledge, strategies and techniques to support family wellbeing. The Mental Health Support Team are available to parents/ carers for informal discussions during whole school events such as Parents Evening, Summer and Winter Fairs. Parents/ Carers can also request one-to-one support from our Wellbeing Practitioners through class teachers and our school SENCOs or they can make a self-referral by emailing the MHST directly at MHST@croydondropin.org.uk or calling on 07736 043796.



Wellbeing Room

We are extremely fortunate to have a beautiful Wellbeing Room for our pupils, staff and parents which was created by staff early in the school year. Pupils have benefited from using this room during group interventions, one-to-one support, collaborative work with outside agencies and drop-in sessions at lunchtime. The room is full of comfortable furniture, sensory items, books and resources which support therapeutic and calming activities. The Wellbeing Room allows us to provide a safe, calm and friendly area for all as we continue to build and strengthen our whole school approach to wellbeing and mental health.

Meet Sonny

This year we welcomed 'Sonny'; the newest member of our Wellbeing and Inclusion Team. Sonny has already become a much loved, valued member of our school community. When Sonny is not at school he lives with Mrs Burrige, our school secretary. On his 'working days' he spends his time ready to support children who may need some time with him to support their emotional, social, and mental wellbeing. Sonny has also supported many children with their reading – we have found that children reading to Sonny have developed their reading skills, built their confidence, self-esteem and this has also encouraged positive behaviour.



Making our mark

Our young artists have been working hard this year to create items for our Rockmount Art gallery. We wanted to show not only the progression of skills we have learnt in our lessons, but the artwork that comes from outside the scope of the curriculum. Some of the artwork was created from very own Art club.

"I feel happy in Art because I feel like I have no limits to what I can do!"
Year 3



"When I want to improve I try my hardest. Sometimes I do Art at home too. I am inspired by other artists"
Year 3

"I was very proud of my American Gothic portrait. We could change the background and I chose Ela and Olaf"
Year 6



Rockmount Primary School
Governors' Review