



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the end of another great term at Rockcliffe Manor, we would like to thank you for your continued support and also wish you a fantastic Easter Break. We would also like to share with you the outcome of our recent Challenge Partner Review. This is a collaborative annual review which is led jointly by school leaders here and external reviewers, the lead being Ofsted experienced. We invited the reviewers in on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March for three great days of showcasing Rockcliffe Manor. During this time, leaders worked with the reviewers to discuss Rockcliffe's strengths and jointly decide upon our next steps.

We are pleased to say that the quality of teaching and learning was agreed to be leading, with much to celebrate. We are proud to share some of the key strengths with you:

- *At Rockcliffe everyone is pivotal in driving improvement. The sentiment 'Leaders are learners to benefit pupils' encourages responsibility and accountability.*
- *Rockcliffe is a small school with a big heart. Strong relationships are at the centre of the whole school ethos.*
- *Pupils are empowered to make changes. Junior Leadership teams are organised jointly and effect change such as designing new play areas. Pupils engage with tough, sensitive topics because of the themes of the global curriculum and explicit focus on character skills. The school hosts Leadership Development Days to help schools develop character skills in their own settings.*
- *Teachers plan a precise learning focus and clearly explain steps to success. Modelling is strong, consequently pupils are clear about what is expected and produce high quality outcomes. Work is well presented because of teachers' high expectations.*
- *Teachers employ engaging strategies to embed new learning.*
- *Core texts underpin the teaching of reading. These are carefully chosen to represent the global curriculum themes. A consistent approach to the teaching of reading concentrates on core skills. Pupils extract evidence by applying these skills in 'selfie tasks'.*
- *The 'limitless minds' approach of no ceiling placed on learning underpins scaffolding as a focus for planning. Well deployed adults facilitate learning and challenge pupils from their starting points by questioning and prompting to enhance independence.*
- *Strong subject knowledge and consistency enhances the teaching of early reading, phonics and language strategies. The lesson structure builds on prior learning and as a result, pupils successfully retain their phonics knowledge to apply in reading and writing. The*



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*language rich EYFS provision reinforced the use of sound buttons. This helped children read labels and statements independently.*

- All adults use assessment effectively to address misconceptions so that pupils get targeted support to move on.*
- Pupils develop independent learning strategies because the learning environment is well organised. Resources are chosen to scaffold learning well. Sentence stems and depth prompts are on display in all classrooms to promote oracy.*
- Teachers embed opportunities for oracy skills throughout the curriculum. Pupils talk confidently in different ways for different purposes.*
- The school's values and character skills are an integral part of all tasks and are referred to.*

Of course, with this comes our unwavering ambition to continuously provide the children with the very best learning experiences and our next step, which is one of our school development plan priorities this year, is to further develop the subject discipline skills focus, so that pupils are able to confidently articulate the skill being applied during a task to enhance assessment across the curriculum.

We have also emailed you the full report and put this on our website. We hope that you feel as proud of Rockcliffe Manor as we do. The support from our parent community plays a large part in the success of the school, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Nancy Cook  
Associate Headteacher