

Rockmount Primary School



Governors' review 2017/18



Welcome

With each passing year, it becomes more and more difficult to summarise the activities and achievements of our wonderful school. A year is a very long time in the life of Rockmount and this review gives us a chance to celebrate and reflect on the journey we have all taken together.

I would like to begin by thanking all the staff for their commitment, talent and enthusiasm. The school bursts with energy and a love of learning driven by their dedication. I hope you will take the chance to thank them too. Thank you to those who are moving on to new opportunities and welcome to some new members joining the Rockmount Team in the autumn.



My thanks also to the RFC and Parent Forum. Their work is vital to the school and I look forward to strengthening our links with them over the coming year. I would encourage all of you to get involved and lend your support. As you will read, this is an important year, with a number of projects which will have a huge impact on the quality of our facilities.

It has been particularly satisfying for me to see the school embrace health and

well-being as a central part of our lives, in and out of school. Indeed, we have gained national recognition for our efforts! We have all become more mindful, active, healthy, thoughtful, curious citizens over the last 12 months. We have participated in so many new and inspiring adventures, so many more than we have space for here. For me, the theme of the year has been collaboration. We have learned how to make new friends, whether through the choir, or tag rugby or cycling in the snow. We have continued to learn how to grow food together and to enjoy eating it in good company. When I meet children in their classrooms, I see wonderful partnerships developing between learning partners and between the extraordinary teaching staff and their engaged eager classes. The governors have been busy too, working very closely with our colleagues at Downsview and Elmwood. This partnership is strengthening all three schools and we hope it continues to grow in the coming years.

Please enjoy reading about the highlights of the year here at Rockmount. I would also remind you to take a look at our new website and to read the termly newsletters to help reflect on another amazing year.

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

Kevin Gray
Chair of Governors
July 2018



Academic performance

Our pupils and staff continue to enjoy the engaging curriculum we offer at Rockmount.

We believe that our pupils learn best through first-hand experience and we take advantage of as many opportunities for curriculum enrichment as possible. Have a look at the year group pages in this report and on the school website to some of the activities and experiences this year. Staff plan, assess and moderate work samples throughout the year. Opportunities for cross school moderation have been extended this year through our close working links with James Dixon Primary and Downsview Primary as well as other local schools. This has helped to ensure that school

standards remain high and that we approach the statutory assessments with confidence.

The annual cycle of statutory assessment includes:

- Assessment of Early Years Foundation Stage
- Year 1 Phonic Screening
- End of Key Stage 1 SATs for year 2 pupils
- End of Key Stage 2 SATs for year 6 pupils

Full data for the 2017-2018 academic year will be made available in the autumn term and we are confident that this will demonstrate a positive picture across the school.

Overall pupil attendance figures have remained above national expectations. However, there has been a noticeable increase

in the number of families taking their children out of school during term time. This has had a significant impact on the number of pupils classified as "Persistent Absentees" i.e. those children with under 90% attendance in any one term. The Governing Body takes a firm stance on this and requests parents/carers to adhere to the school attendance policy (available on the school website) by not taking their children out of school during term time. Rockmount has recently engaged the services of TEAM Education Welfare Service. They work closely with staff to monitor attendance figures and offer support to families to support consistent attendance for all pupils.

Rockmount creates schools partnership

The way education and schools are managed continues to change, with many schools now part of academy chains. Rockmount is proud to be a local community school under local authority control.

The governors regularly review these changes and this year the school has formed a partnership arrangement with two local schools - Downsview and Elmswood. The idea is the informal and friendly relationship allow all three schools to share good practice, services and

additional support that is bought in, resources and staff training.

All three Croydon borough schools share similar challenges, which became apparent when attending one another's' Governing Board meetings. Attending the meetings has given governors a benchmark to evaluate our governance performance and implement new practices. While still in its early days we look forward to the continuation of this partnership and the exciting possibilities it holds.



Rockmount's future architects

When 'Our Hut' approached us about running sessions with Year 5 pupils on the architecture in Crystal Palace Park, we were thrilled to invite them in.

'Our Hut' is an architecture education charity with the aim of advancing the education of young people in architecture and the built environment.

The aim of the workshops was to help pupils to engage with, and learn about, the architecture and structures of Crystal Palace Park from the building of the Crystal Palace to the present day. There was a focus on specific buildings and pupils explored their own creativity through hands-on workshops.

The first session was very practical. The professional architects helped pupils build models from recycled household waste, structures based on the Crystal Palace Towers.

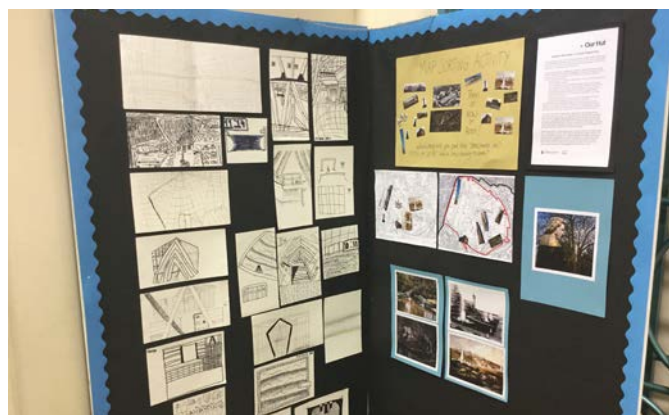
Next was a trip to Crystal Palace Park to look at structures, old and new, and to open the children's eyes to architecture all around them - from the Paxton structure to the National Sports Centre. They were encouraged to focus on the shapes and

sketch what they saw to support their own models.

'Our Hut' then taught about the history of the park and the children produced timelines of the main events of Crystal Palace Park, including the Crystal Palace and its demise.

The final sessions were the creative workshops where pupils produced their own architecture project that they would like to see in Crystal Palace Park, focusing on the theme of sports pavilions. The children followed an architecture project plan from the design stages through to the model stage. They were encouraged to use what they had learnt about different architectural buildings in terms of which designs make a building stronger and what makes it more aesthetically pleasing.

The knowledge the children gained was evident in the results of their final projects. These were displayed in an exhibition at school where parents, carers and pupils were encouraged to come and see the amazing architecture the children had produced.



Finance update

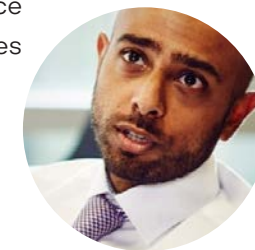
It's been another challenging year for all schools financially and Rockmount is no different. We continue to delicately manage the budgets without compromising the educational quality or the overall student experience; staff costs remain our biggest expense at around 75%. As with many schools our biggest challenge is that general inflation continues to rise faster than our funding, meaning that each year, we have less funding in real terms to selectively allocate to school priorities.

The leadership team have again managed and optimised the budgets well, finding opportunities to

make savings where appropriate or move funding to where it is needed most. There has been good management of contract renewals and we continue to look at smarter ways of sharing resources with our neighbouring schools.

The story remains the same next year; current forecasts expect costs to exceed income, meaning we will need to offset the difference from reserves or alternative sources to remain in the green.

Amish Patel
Finance Governor



Communication survey

We recently ran a survey for parents and carers to get your views on school communications and suggestions for improvements. Thank you to everyone who completed this - your views are important.

Below are a few headlines figures and the governors and leadership team will now be using this to see what we can do to improve. Overall respondents scored school communications highly, with few weak areas. A standout result is that 95% of respondents say staff are approachable and easy to talk to number of people - well done staff team.

How we communicate with parents

The five highest scoring questions

- I think Rockmount communicates well with parents/carers
- I get enough information about what my child is learning and what is expected of them
- I am well informed about the progress of my child's education/well-being
- Staff are approachable if I have a query regarding my child
- The information I receive from Rockmount is easy to understand

Five lowest scoring questions:

- I know how to contact a member of the School Governing Body
- I receive information from the school at the right time

- I know how to contact a member of the Parent Forum
- I know how to contact a member of the RFC
- I think the school promotes itself well to the local community

Areas where parents would like more information

- School governors
- The curriculum
- Pupil performance (across the school)
- Targets for improvement (education and well-being of children)
- Parent Forum

There are lots of points to consider and some great suggestions in the free text box which governors are now looking at and will look to put into practice. We will keep you informed via school newsletters.

Staff win award for promoting cycling at Rockmount

Rockmount has a strong focus on cycling, led by keen members of staff. In recognition of work Ms Jessel and Ms Ahmed received an award from Sustrans charity for all the cycling initiatives at Rockmount over the last 4 years. Congratulations to you both - only six schools in the whole of London were chosen for this special award.

To celebrate Ms Jessel cycled just under 500 miles over the February half term in Rajasthan, India as well as visiting our partner school in Delhi, with whom Rockmount pupils have been sharing their work.

With two bicycle shelters, four school bikes, a green park opposite and surrounded by quiet roads, Rockmount school is the perfect place for cycling.

Below are some of the initiatives:

The Bike It Crew pupils in Year 5 stand outside the gates every Wednesday morning with Wheelie Wednesday cards they've designed. Anyone who cycle colours in a spoke, and they have completed 7 spokes they receive a prize.

The Lunchtime Cycle Club gives the opportunity for Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils to learn in the safety of the park.

At other times we take out strong confident cyclists to develop their skills and play games. Cycling is fun whatever the weather; 'The Beast from the East', did not stop us from enjoying the pristine snow in the park!

Year 5 and 6 pupils get the chance to do the

Bikeability Course after school when the evenings are light enough. Two instructors come in to teach the children strategies to ride safely on the roads. So far this year 19 pupils have achieved their Level 2 Bikeability award.

With so many able cyclists, for the second year running, we rode for **Sports Relief**. Twenty Year 4, 5 and 6 children, 2 parents and 3 members of staff did 8 laps of the park – roughly 8 miles of cycling. We raised over £100 for charity.

The **Croydon Bicycle Theatre** took our strongest cyclists last year on a theatrical ride through the parks of Croydon. To commemorate the centenary of the suffragettes and democracy, Year 5s were treated to a short presentation. In the summer term, the theatre group led another ride connected to this topical theme.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the number one priority for us as a Governing Body. The school, with support of the Governing Body, recognise the need for a holistic approach to support children to achieve their potential. We recognising the growing awareness in society surrounding mental health and wellbeing of children and the potential impacts to their education. We are equally concerned how children engage with social media platforms and the threat of cyberbullying, particularly as more of our pupils now have access to mobile phones.

Safer Internet Day

In February, the school participated in this annual event. The theme this year was to 'create, connect and share respect'. All the children participated in special assemblies. We will be running further sessions of the parents workshop on safer internet and strongly encourage all parents to use the many resources online to understand the issues and protect our children.

Safeguarding

We completed the annual local authority safeguarding audit before the start of the spring term. The school has increased the capacity its safeguarding team and completed further training to provide additional support.

I'm really pleased to see the work being led by Donna Rankine and Nishad Karim on wellbeing and mindfulness. Their aspirations to build upon the work already being achieved, through the healthy eating and healthy lifestyles work, to gain a Wellbeing Award is a great step forward. Furthermore, this work is being underpinned by the Tri-school partnership, through knowledge sharing and collaboration with the other schools.

Annette Saunders
Governor with
responsibility for
safeguarding



Hitting the high notes



enjoying their lessons, but also achieving high standards with numerous practical exams and music medals achieved this year.

Crystal Palace Overground Festival in another side-by-side performance with the LMP.

Highlights include the Christmas concerts and Year 2 Christmas

As always, there has been a number of fantastic musical events and activities throughout the school year



In October we were very excited to be chosen as one of the partnership schools to work with internationally acclaimed orchestra, The London Mozart Players (LMP).

In our first

project with the LMP, some of our instrumentalists performed in a side-by-side with the Central Band of the Royal British Legion and the LMP orchestra at the LMP's 'Christmas Cracker' concert. Rockmount choir was also selected as the school choir to perform a carol that was composed especially for the event by local composer, David Braid. It was an amazing experience for both the choir and the instrumentalists to perform with a professional orchestra and as result of this event we have been able to form Rockmount's first orchestra. The orchestra now rehearses weekly with Micky Posner (from the LMP) and has already managed to perform in school concerts and at the

show; termly Rocksteady concerts; Rockmount Choir and Orchestra performances with the LMP at St John's for the LMP Christmas Cracker and Midsummer Serenade Concerts; attending a workshop and concert at St John's with Nicola Benedetti; and Rockmount Choir (Years 4-6) performing in the CSMA Junior Concert at Trinity School.

To round the year off we dedicate a whole week to showcasing the children's musical talents with the 'Rockmount Proms' series of Summer Concerts in July.



**Scottish
Classic violinist
Nicola Benedetti
with pupils**



Music continues to play a big role in Rockmount life. So big that we had to find a bigger space.

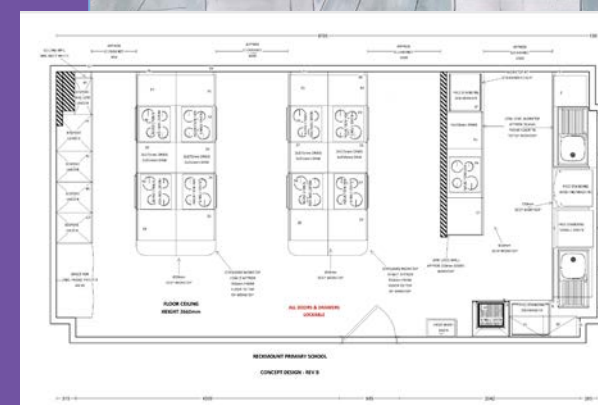
The new 'Music Zone' has been a fantastic success. As a result of the Music Zone we are now able to include more whole class instrumental lessons and small group creative tasks. It is great to finally have a proper space to allow children to be creative.

At Rockmount we are proud to be able to offer a wide range of instrumental tuition in addition to the instruments taught in class. The number of children choosing to learn additional instruments in school has continued to rise, with over 130 children learning an instrument in school. The instrumentalists are not only



As a food flagship school and recipient of the gold award from Healthy Schools London, Rockmount has a proven track record in promoting healthy lifestyles. The school's vision is to create a learning kitchen. This is a dedicated classroom with ten fully equipped cooking stations, fridges, sinks, storage and ventilation to provide an appropriately designed and equipped kitchen environment. This will be a fantastic space to teach more children and adults to cook, support families to eat good food, encourage seasonal eating use fruit and vegetables from the Edible Garden and incorporate the curriculum into lessons. It will increase the opportunities to understand ingredients, handle and prepare food, understand food hygiene, cook food, use equipment safely

You can see more in the fantastic promotional video on the school website, generously produced by Mirko Parmigiani and Karin Stephan.



Email:
learningkitchen@rockmount.croydon.sch.uk

More info on JustGiving:
**[justgiving.com/crowdfunding/
rockmountlearningkitchen](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rockmountlearningkitchen)**

Follow their progress on Twitter:
[//twitter.com/RockmountPS](https://twitter.com/RockmountPS)



Rockmount Learning Kitchen

“It’s going
to be cool
to have
more
experience
with healthy
food”
Luka,
Onyx Class

Eat the Rainbow						
WHAT TO	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW	GREEN	BLUE & PURPLE	WHITE
<p>Tick off or put a sticker for each colour every day.</p> <p>You can also write the name of the fruit or vegetable you have eaten.</p> <p>Aim to 3 servings of vegetables and 2 servings of fruits each day.</p>	 <p>Apples Beetroot Cherries Cranberries Grapes Goats Pomegranates Radishes Raspberries Red onions Red peppers Rhubarb Strawberries Tomato Watermelon</p>	 <p>Apricots Cantaloupe Carrots Mangoes Nectarines Oranges Orange peppers Papaya Peaches Pumpkin Squash Sweet potatoes</p>	 <p>Batatas Gooseberry Corn Groggfruit Passion fruit Pineapple Squash Strawberry Yellow peppers</p>	 <p>Artichokes Asparagus Avocado Broccoli Brussel sprouts Cabbage Celery Chard Corn Green apples Green beans Green cabbage Green grapes Green olives Green peas Kale Muesli Muesli balls Kiwi Lemons Limes Olive Peas Peas Spinach</p>	 <p>Aubergine Blackberries Blueberries Figs Grapes Olives Peppers Plums Prunes Purple cauliflower Purple cabbage Raisins</p>	<p>Cauliflower Coconut Garlic Ginger Lyches Mushrooms Onions Parsnips Potatoes Shallots Turnips Yam</p>

£2,500

Eat the Rainbow Challenge

Pupils were sponsored to eat three servings of vegetables and two servings of fruit every day for a week. They ticked off each colour every day in order to eat a variety of foods. We help the children at After School Club to achieve their Eat the Rainbow challenge by getting them to chop up salad as an

extra side dish for their evening meal. Well done to all who took part. £1613 has been raised to go towards our Rockmount Learning Kitchen. Parents uploaded pictures of their rainbow charts to Facebook or Twitter, using the hashtag **#rockmountrainbow**.



Pupils came to school on 27 April dressed in the colour of their favourite healthy food or the colours of the rainbow and brought a minimum donation of £1. So far, £750 has been raised.

Edible Playground blooms

After the long winter the sun came out and Rockmount gardeners jumped into action. The beds were cleared and prepared for planting.

Unfortunately Jay the gardener was not able to be with us this term. We have been very fortunate to have Jane Wiseman from Coolings Garden Centre to keep us on task. Coolings kindly donated some pretty flowers for immediate impact and with Jane's expertise, things began to take shape very quickly.

We hope you have noticed the lettuces, spring onions, runner beans, mangetout, carrots, celery, pumpkins, raspberries, pink flowering strawberries and sunflowers all holding their heads high in the garden. In addition, we have tomatoes, edible violets and more, being nurtured in the green house and of course, we have our usual perennials that are looking good too!

We are now starting to harvest and enjoy our delicious and healthy crops.



Rockmount Friends and Community – get involved

Who are we? Rockmount Friends and Community (RFC) is open to everyone and is our version of a parent teacher association (PTA).

Getting involved is a fun way to get involved and support the school. We raise funds for different projects like improvements to the playground, and the edible garden. And we fund an extra activity for our year six pupils as a goodbye gift – typically a trip to the cinema or similar.



We fundraise through events like our summer and winter fairs, Rockmount primary school calendar, cake and book sales. We run free events like running club, and we help local charities like MIND with our clothes and textile collection, collect food for the West Norwood food bank and we organise cake sales for Red

Nose Day or Sports Relief.

If you have any ideas about new fundraising events please let us know.

Our next projects

As many of you have already seen the camping pods have been delivered and installed in our playground and soon will be available to be used by Rockmount children. They will be set up as reading and craft areas and used during the playground time. This has been an RFC project for the last year and a half, and it wouldn't have been possible without all your help, donations and time. The school will also use them as learning spaces outside the playground time. These pods will be an amazing addition to our school facilities.

We are currently studying new projects to put our efforts into for next year.

Charity status

We are in the process of becoming a charity, to try to get more funds for our projects. Becoming a charity will allow us to claim gift aid, apply for grants, get sponsorship from big companies and access crow founding. In order to become a charity we have been working in very hard in our constitution and all the requirements for the charity commission.

I would personally like to thank you the parents who have

agreed to be trustees for the first school year until our first AGM when all the Rockmount's parents will have the possibility to become trustees. Also special thanks to Jo Hunt who has been working extremely hard in the last few months in order to finish



the application on time. If you have any experience as a trustee, applying for grants, sponsorships or fundraising with please let us know.

As soon as we have the charity status we will communicate it to the rest of the parents.

Rafa Peinador,
chair of RFC
rockmountpta@
hotmail.com



Sport for all

Physical education at Rockmount is built on the foundations of promoting healthy living through offering a wide variety of sports to keep children active.

Rockmount received Gold Status in the School Games Mark initiative for the second year in a row due to our



continued commitment in offering an active lifestyle for children to participate in. We continue to offer a wide variety of sports skills for the children to develop through our diverse curriculum. These include; gymnastics, netball, basketball, football and swimming lessons for years 4,5 and 6 at Thornton Heath Leisure Centre.

The government focus this year in schools has been child obesity and, due to the Sugar Tax, the school has received an increased amount of funding. We have used this money to replace old equipment, increase the range of equipment for the children, to train staff on how to get children active and much more (full breakdown can be found in the P.E funding statement 2017/18 – accessible on the school's website).

Rockmount offers a wide variety of extra-curricular sports clubs that children can take part in, such as football, karate, judo, dance and multi-skills. These are all run by trained professionals who provide them with the best coaching to develop skills. We are also able to provide intra-school competitions

through the Croydon Schools Sports Partnership. This involves opportunities to participate in tag rugby tournaments, kwik cricket tournaments and cross country etc. This year we made it into the Tag Rugby Final for Croydon, which was a fantastic achievement for Rockmount!

Links with Premier League Primary Stars and Crystal Palace Football Club

We still continue our relationship with Crystal Palace Football Club through the Premier League Primary Stars. We have a sports coach to support high-quality skill-based learning during physical education sessions supporting class teachers. They also co-ordinate the playtime and lunchtime sports provision



following a calendar of sporting activities for the children. Our partnership with Palace For Life facilitated a visit from Julian Speroni, Crystal Palace's goal keeper, who has been with the club for 14 years. He spent time with pupils in a special assembly with a question and answer session as well as a quiz. Some of the Crystal Palace youth team also visited the school to inspire our pupils.



New structure to maths lessons

Improving pupil performance in maths has been a priority in this year's School Development Plan. Staff have worked closely with an external mathematics consultant to develop an exciting new structure for maths lessons. These lessons are now made up of several components which can be flexibly adapted to match the needs of different pupils.

Maths Subject Leader Lyndsey Smith explains the new approach.

"All lessons begin with a short reasoning activity. We believe that reasoning is the magic ingredient that gives maths purpose, direction and depth and allows children to apply their existing knowledge in different areas".

Mild, spicy or hot?

This is followed by counting activities and oral exercises to support confident recall, manipulation of number and visualisation. Each lesson features a teacher-led session on the key learning objective. Teachers demonstrate and model the approach and then children practise the new skill by self-selecting from range of questions, with difficulty from 'mild' (easy) up to 'spicy' or 'hot' activities.

From discussions with children it is evident that they enjoy having more control over their learning. To give a sense of the amount of work covered during a ten-day period, pupils will typically do five pieces of independent work, two paired tasks, two investigations or games and one group task.

Rockmount uses White Rose Maths Hub resources to support the planning process and deliver mastery of the subject. White Rose planning features opportunities for pupils to apply their knowledge to problem solve and reason in a variety of contexts.

Encouraging pupils to talk and listen

During maths lessons we encourage children to work collaboratively with their 'Learning Partners'. Working with their Learning Partners encourages quality talk in the classroom. Quality talk supports all children to getting fully involved in the learning activities and enables them to make the best progress. Lots of research shows that when

"We believe that reasoning is the magic ingredient that gives maths purpose, direction and depth."

speaking and listening is well developed and encouraged it has a positive impact on children's learning. Throughout maths lessons, pupils are also encouraged to carry out peer and self-assessment to support their learning and meet their individual targets.

Raising the profile of maths

Over the academic year, staff and pupils have also been working hard to raise the profile of maths across the school to ensure these skills are embedded.

Everyone enjoyed our whole school focus on times tables and the children have benefited from a range of approaches and challenges including our 'Time to Shine' times tables challenge.

It is important for children to develop confident recall of multiplication and division facts as these skills support them to develop skills for learning, life and work. We look forward to further developing our approach to maths over the next academic year.

After school clubs and holiday club

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:

"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 for parents/carers to enjoy before the end of term.

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum is a place for the school leadership, governors and parents to meet and discuss developments and issues in school. It's different to the Rockmount Friends and Community (RFC) which is more focused on fundraising activities.

Who are we?

We are mostly 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.

We have a range of Rockmount 'special guests' at our meetings. These have included sports coordinators from Croydon council, food nutritionists and local members of the community who may offer an experience to benefit the school and our children.

Our aims

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
New members are always very welcome.

Sarah Bower

Parent Forum Chair
[sbower@eno.org](mailto:sbowern@eno.org)



Meet our new School Business Manager

My name is Dorothy Bentil and I am the new Business Manager for the School. Although new to working in Croydon, I have been working in various administrative roles in schools for over 20 years. My main areas of expertise are around school budgets, income generation and HR related matters. Since joining the school I have enjoyed learning about Rockmount and getting to know the staff and pupils. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more parents/carers, pupils, governors and our many stakeholders over the coming months. Come and say hello when you are next at the school office.

Dorothy Bentil - our new School Business Manager



Come Dine with Me

We are working with our catering company Pabulum to continue to develop our lunchtime dining experience. Recently we have introduced 'Meat Free Mondays' to support healthy eating choices and will soon be trialling some plant-based menu choices. This year, we have launched our 'Come Dine with Me' lunches. Parents and carers of Year 2 children were invited into school to have lunch with their children. This gave them the opportunity to enjoy the dining experience we have strived to create at Rockmount in conjunction with Pabulum. The lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all that

attended and the comments from both children and adults were extremely positive. Malayeka in Emerald Class commented 'I think it was a great idea because I got to sit with my mum on her own. I liked eating with my mum and my cute little sister.' Alice (Joe's mum) commented 'It was lovely being invited into school to have lunch with Joe and you could tell that the kids loved having us there. The chicken curry was really delicious and it was great to see such an extensive salad bar on offer... and the children actually using it!'



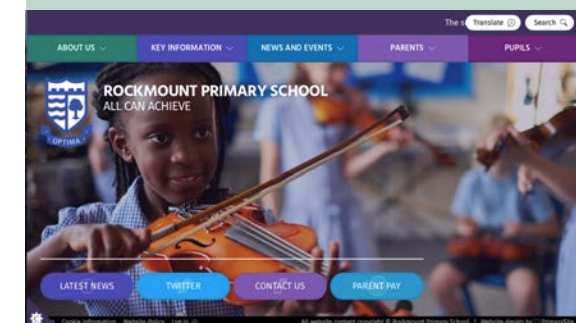
Science in school

The school makes a big investment so that our children can get hands on with science in school. We buy into the Empiribox resource, which continues to make a positive impact on our science learning at Rockmount.

Staff receive extensive training each term to ensure that they are fully prepared for the range of practical science we offer. This year, the children in Key Stage 2 have built on their scientific skills of planning, data

collecting and interpretation. Plenty of practical demonstrations and hands on experiments have allowed the children to add to their scientific knowledge of Health and Human Fitness in Biology, Electricity for Physics, and Geology. Highlights have included making a working model of our digestive system (including fake poo!), building burglar alarms that made us jump and exploding fizzy pop that shot 2 metres up into the air!

New school website



We wanted it to be attractive and easy to navigate. Being mobile friendly was key and we wanted the updating system to be quick and easy to use so our teaching staff can add content easily. It also has to be Department for Education and Ofsted compliant; there are detailed requirements on what information must be published on a website.

After consulting many different website providers, we found that Primary Site suited all our needs. Developed with input from across the school community the website's new features include five drop down tabs – About Us, Key Information, News and Events, Parents and Pupils. The pages include numerous slideshows and the Video Resource Centre allows for larger films and clips. On the Home page there are also four buttons, which include a link to our Twitter account.

We will continue to develop our website over the year ahead and always welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Take a look and keep up to date with all that is going on in school.
www.rockmountprimaryschool.co.uk

2017/18 Scrapbook



NURSERY found a dinosaur egg in their Dinosaur Den, which then hatched! They also enjoyed being archaeologists, finding dinosaur bones and then counting them.



RECEPTION enjoyed a fantastic visit to Godstone Farm. They found out facts about some of the animals and even got a chance to feed the pigs and ride on the tractor.



YEAR 1 became artists and had great fun learning about Frida Kahlo and creating beautiful paintings in her art studio as part of their role play!



YEAR 2 visited a local temple where they were able to join in with some traditional chanting and dancing. Year 2 also had a whole day dedicated to India where they learnt how to do Indian drumming and dancing.



YEAR 3 travelled back to prehistoric times when learning about the history of Dinosaurs. They had a great visit to the Natural History Museum where they became palaeontologists, finding and studying fossils. The Iguanodon Restaurant an outdoor theatre company then arrived in the playground.



YEAR 4 focused on a topic, 'Amazon Adventures' by studying the tropical rainforest; learning about the flora and fauna, as well as topical issues such as deforestation. This culminated in a visit to London Zoo, where they got to see examples of some of the animals close up.



YEAR 5 learned about rationing, evacuation and how women were involved in the world wars. They created their own gas masks and wrote gas mask posters with instructions on what to do in a gas attack. They then had a World War 2 day, where a theatre company came to visit. Year 5 were all involved in a play called, 'We'll Meet Again', where they were finding out about life as an evacuee.



YEAR 6 immersed themselves in the murky world of Victorian orphans and workhouses, using 'Street Child' and 'Oliver Twist' to inspire their writing. Their examination of the Victorian period has also linked to the incredible history of our local area and the story of the Crystal Palace as well as learning about the heroic efforts of Dr. Barnardo. On a visit to West Norwood Cemetery, Year 6 used their detective skills to track down Victorian grave sites.

Meet Rockmount's Governors



Name: **Kevin Gray**
Governor Role: **Co-Opted Governor and Chair of the Governing Board**
Years on the board: **9**
Occupation: **Architect**
Highlight: **Every time I visit the school, it is buzzing with energy. I can see the staff and children really enjoying what they do.**



Name: **Annette Saunders**
Governor Role: **Co-Opted Governor - Safeguarding Lead**
Years on the board: **2.5**
Occupation: **Corporate Responsibility Manager**
Highlight: **Taking responsibility as Safeguarding Lead Governor. Supporting the school to include a holistic wellbeing strategy as a part of their safeguarding framework.**



Name: **Sarah Hubbard**
Governor Role: **Co-Opted Governor**
Years on the board: **3**
Occupation: **Communications Consultant**
Highlight: **I love all the artwork on display at Rockmount, it's really exciting to see what everyone's been doing (and the fun you've been having!)**



Name: **Daniel Dyer**
Governor Role: **Co-Opted Governor and Vice Chair of the Governing Board**
Years on the board: **7**
Occupation: **Civil Servant**
Highlight: **here are always so many but this year has to be being invited by the year six leadership to watch some of the dodgeball games they arranged.**



Name: **Monique Malcolm-Hay**
Governor Role: **Co-Opted Governor**
Years on the board: **6 months**
Occupation: **Accountant**
Highlight: **It is very clear to me that the school is committed to celebrating diversity and striving for excellence for all its pupils - which are values I am passionate about.**



Name: **Fabrizio Melis**
Governor Role: **Parent Governor**
Years on the board: **2.5**
Occupation: **Chief Commercial Officer at travel firm**
Highlight: **Being a governor is amazing - you get to see all the things the school does for the children. Learning is more than just academic results; the governors look at the whole picture.**



Name: **Christine Spooner**
Governor Role: **LA Governor**
Years on the board: **6 months**
Occupation: **Education**
Highlight: **I am pleased to be involved as a governor in Rockmount. The school is inclusive, vibrant and the staff are friendly and welcoming.**



Name: **Amish Patel**
Governor Role: **Co-Opted Governor and Deputy Chair of the Governing Board**
Years on the board: **2**
Occupation: **Strategy**
Highlight: **Seeing the great relationships the staff have with the students.**

Welcome to our new parent governor - Tania Bazell



Why did you decide to become a governor?

As the parent of three Rockmount pupils, I have a long-standing relationship with and appreciation of the school's diverse communities: the children, families, school staff, and Governors who shape our school's unique identity. Rockmount's motto is 'All can Achieve'. It is an ethos I wholeheartedly endorse. I hope to contribute to Rockmount's ongoing success by sharing best practice from schools across London to ensure all Rockmount's children continue to achieve.

Can you tell us about your day job?

I work for Place2Be, a school-based children's mental health charity that seeks to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, families and staff. We currently work in 286 primary and secondary schools nationwide and support over 129,000 children and young people. As a School Project Manager, my days are as varied as the schools

in which I work. In the course of a day I might be offering therapeutic support to a child struggling with parental depression, providing clinical supervision to my

team of counsellors, raising safeguarding concerns, or exploring strategies with the school leadership team to build resilience amongst the staff team.

What are your first impressions of the role of school governor?

It's early days, but I have been impressed by the breadth of expertise amongst the Governing Body. Their enthusiasm, energy and vision seem to permeate every aspect of school life as I recently discovered during a Governing Body morning in school. Year 3 pupils were measuring their chalk drawings of dinosaurs in the playground whilst unwittingly learning about scale. Ingenious.

You have had children at Rockmount for 9 years. What changes have you seen?

Rockmount has gone from strength to strength - a fact reflected by the school's 'Outstanding' Ofsted report in May 2015. The playground has been transformed into a magical space worthy of our

children's boundless imaginations. Then there's the school's attainment in Dec 2016 of the London Healthy Schools Gold Award in recognition of its commitment to healthy eating, physical activity, emotional health and well-being and personal, social health and education. Parents at other schools rarely believe me when I recount that Rockmount's pupils dine on tablecloths and eat fruit and vegetables grown in the school's own Edible Garden.

Are there any particular issues you plan to focus on as governor?

93% of UK school leaders report that pupils have more worries than they did five years ago (Place2Be/NAHT, Feb 2017). Academic pressure, deprivation and divorce are just some of the worries that burden children today. The impact on classroom learning and teacher effectiveness can be detrimental. I passionately believe in the importance of promoting children's emotional well-being in schools and welcome Rockmount's mission to attain the Wellbeing Award for Schools. As a Parent Governor, I plan to focus on ensuring every Rockmount child leaves school with the self-belief to achieve academically and the emotional resilience to cope with life's inevitable ups and downs.

best bits



Angelina

I learnt about new animals at the safari park. The strangest animal I saw looked like a pig, goes under the water and is very cute...it's a Waterhog!

Elsbeth

I enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale. We made our own hospital with pretend rats.

Daisy

When we went to The London Eye the views were amazing. I could even see Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral and the River Thames!

Woody

I went to see the Houses of Parliament with the School Council. We stood on top of the spot where Guy Fawkes put the gunpowder...boom!

Dusty

I am so pleased that I have learnt to join my handwriting. Now it's smaller and incredibly neat!

Nazeeha

I have wanted to visit the Houses of Parliament for a long time and finally, this year, my dream came true! It was nerve wrecking but really interesting and a wonderful memory.

Alex

It was so funny when the Cavemen came into the dining hall. They started to eat all the food and mix up the puddings! I learnt so much about the Stone Age from them.

Lila

I learnt how to use the hand breathing technique to control angry feelings when we worked with CuesEd

Timi

Our mindfulness sessions were very interesting and we have learnt so much about how we can relax.

Frances

Going to London Dungeons was one of the best school trips. I remember when we went to the courtroom and Mia was found guilty of living in Crystal Palace!



Award Winning Chef

We are very proud that our Chef, Hussein Nawol, was awarded 'Pabulum Primary Chef of the Year 2018'. Hussein provides an extremely high quality of service to Rockmount. He leads and motivates a happy and dedicated kitchen team producing food which is amazingly tasty and beautifully presented. Hussein shares his passion for food and cooking with children, taking time to talk and to encourage them to try new foods. His work extends into the whole school community as he attends many events across the school year and has even taken a starring role in the video to promote the fundraising for the Rockmount Learning Kitchen. It is certainly a well-deserved accolade!

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