



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 27th September 2024

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

The Autumn Term is well underway and there is real excitement across the school, children are fully into their learning, enjoying the extra curricular clubs, and looking forward to the range of enrichment opportunities on the horizon! My overwhelming sense around the school is how happy, confident and engaged children are in all year groups from Preschool to Year 6, and this really creates the platform for all that our children achieve here at Rush Common.

Last week we held the voting for our Head Girl and Head Boy. The speeches were truly amazing and the pupils had such a difficult choice with many children worthy of being elected. Congratulations to Sophie (Head Girl), Joseph (Head Boy), Alice (Deputy Head Girl) and Dylan (Deputy Head Boy)! We know they will be fantastic in their new roles!

Yesterday was the European Day of Languages and we celebrated this in school by asking parents to send in videos of stories being read in different languages. We extended this to any language of the world, and we are so appreciative of the response. We have over 25 languages spoken in the homes of our families, and it is important to us to value and celebrate this diversity. The children listened to these stories in class today, and it has really helped them appreciate the wonderful range of languages in our school.

Thank you to all the Reception parents that attended our Read Write Inc. Phonics Information Meeting on Monday. This was a great opportunity to understand how phonics is taught, what to expect in terms of phonics resources/ books being sent home, and how to support your children. We are proud of the progress children in Reception and KS1 make in phonics and reading, and we can only achieve this in partnership with yourselves. If you have any questions or queries relating to this (particularly if you were unable to attend) please do not hesitate to contact us.

Today is National Teaching Assistant day, and it provides an opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work of the teaching assistants in our school. Alongside our team of talented and committed teachers, we have the most dedicated and talented team of teaching assistants, who do so much to care for your children and support them with their learning. I hope you can find a way to thank them for all of the many ways they help your children in school.

Tomorrow is our first of two taster sessions for children who will potentially be joining the school in September 2025. We also have three Open Days coming up and individual tours (a poster for this is included in this newsletter). Word of mouth is so important when parents are choosing a school, so please do spread the word to any families that you know.

Finally, please may I remind all parents that you may not park on the grass verges near the school. This is not a safe place to park. Please may I ask you to share this with all other adults that may pick up your children. It is important that we all work together to ensure children are safe when arriving or leaving school.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable weekend ahead.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett
Headteacher



大百中基金
SWIRE
CHINESE
LANGUAGE
FOUNDATION



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Rush Common School

Dream, Aspire, Succeed



Visits, Tours and Taster Sessions - Autumn 2024

Taster Sessions

Saturday 28th September and Saturday 12th October 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Your children will experience our Reception classrooms and outdoor area with a wide range of fun, educational activities led by our brilliant Reception teachers.



'Children in early years get off to a flying start'

Ofsted Nov 2021

Open Mornings

Thursday 3rd October, Wednesday 16th October and Tuesday 12th November 9.00 am

See children learning across the school, meet our school staff and ask plenty of questions.

'Happiness is all around. It is as if pupils have an extended family at school'

Ofsted Nov 2021



Individual School Visits and Pupil-led Tours



Arrange a time to meet with the Headteacher, before a pupil-led tour of the school. Plenty of opportunities for questions.

'Pupils love coming to Rush Common School'

Ofsted Nov 2021

To register your interest, email: office@rushcommon.school or phone: 01235 533 583

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, or visit our website to find out more.
www.rushcommonschoo.org

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is **£2.60** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail. Meal choices must be made at least 3 days in advance.





Badminton Tournament

Congratulations to Elizabeth in Year 5 who recently took part in the Oxfordshire Restricted Badminton Tournament. Elizabeth won silver medals in the Under 12 Mixed Doubles and Women Doubles events. Well done!

Dates for your diary 2024/2025

Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 2nd October
Preschool, Reception and KS1 Author Visit	Wednesday 2nd October
Inset Day (children Not in school)	Friday 4th October
Travelling Book Fair	Week of Monday 7th October
Individual School Photos	Thursday 10th October
World Mental Health Day	Thursday 10th October
Show Racism The Red Card Day	Friday 11th October
FoRC Uniform Sale	Tuesday 15th October 2.30pm – 3.30pm
Year 1 Dinosaur Workshop	Monday 21st October
Year 5 Trip Oxfordshire Museum	Wednesday 23rd October
End of Term 1a	Friday 25th October
Start of Term 1b	Monday 4th November
Year 2 Roman Day	Thursday 7th November
FoRC Firework Night	Friday 8th November
Parents Evenings	Tuesday 12th – Thursday 14th November
Children in Need Day	Friday 15th November
Year 4CM Science Workshop	Friday 15th November
Year 4TJ Science Workshop	Friday 22nd November

Anti Bullying Week	Week of Monday 25th November
Year 3 Egyptian Workshop	Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th November
Odd Socks Day	Friday 29th November
KS1 Nativity Performance	Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th December at 5.00pm
Reception Christmas Concert	Monday 9th December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 10th December at 9.15am
Christmas Dinner Day	Wednesday 11th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 11th December
End of Term 1b	Friday 20th December at 1.30pm
Start of Term 2a	Monday 6th January 2025
M&M Performance – Snow White	Friday 31st January 2025
End of Term 2a	Friday 14th February 2025
Start of Term 2b	Monday 24th February 2025
Year 4 Youlbury Residential	Thursday 27th – Friday 28th March 2025
End of Term 2b	Friday 4th April 2025 at 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Year 5 Kingswood Residential	Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th April 2025
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 5th May 2025
End of Term 3a	Friday 23rd May 2025
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 2nd June 2025
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 3rd June 2025
Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential	Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July 2025
End of Term 3b	Monday 21st July 2025 at 1.30pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LEGO FORTNITE

Epic Games have recently introduced three new game modes to Fortnite: Rocket Racing, Fortnite Festival and, finally, Lego Fortnite: a survival game using official Lego characters. There are lots of great mechanics that encourage creativity in children, but – as with any online game – it's important to stay aware of the potential risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MONETISATION

Lego Fortnite utilises a similar online item shop to the main Fortnite game. When this title was released, the makers introduced thousands of Lego versions of the original game's character skins. Owning an original Fortnite cosmetic means you also own the LEGO version at no extra cost, but the addition of these extra versions could potentially spark new interest in young players, making it more tempting to pay real money for these in-game accessories.

ONLINE PLAY

LEGO Fortnite can be played online, as with the base game. While a player's LEGO world is private when it's first created, they can then invite anyone on their in-game friends list to play with them. If any strangers are on this friends list, they can be invited onto their server. Thankfully, Epic Games has implemented a solid reporting system, as well as tools to kick other players from the game.

FEAR FACTOR

There is no explicit violence in Lego Fortnite, but there is a lot of combat. While the battles in Lego Fortnite remain very cartoonish and child friendly, a lot of the action unfolds inside dark caves, with spiders, skeletons or scary-looking monsters. The game can get a little spooky at times, which could potentially scare younger players.

COMPLEX GAMEPLAY

Lego Fortnite is a survival game, though it's not as simple as something like Minecraft. There are lots of different crafting stations and loads of items to use or combine (including various rarities to seek out and harvest). The gathering and crafting elements of the game can get quite complicated and confusing, which could be a source of frustration for some younger players.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEGO IS FRIENDLY

Much like real Lego, this game is incredibly inviting. It's friendly, fun and accessible: a younger player could still enjoy this title even if they'd never played Fortnite before. With sanitised violence, it's a far more family-friendly gaming experience all round – worth bearing in mind if you're concerned about children and young people being exposed to violent or frightening content.

SET LITTLE CHALLENGES

As we've noted, the game is a lot more difficult than it may seem, which could be frustrating or upsetting for some younger players. While the game does a good job of setting realistic targets for players, it can still feel overwhelming. If parents suggest smaller challenges – such as building a house – children can flex their creativity, express themselves with their builds and feel a real sense of accomplishment.

PLAY TOGETHER

Take some time to play the game together. Not only will that help with some of the complicated tasks, but it's also just a fun pastime. Playing with family members also reduces the potential for younger players to invite strangers to enjoy the game with – if any are on their friends list. Furthermore, playing with children will let you more effectively limit their time spent on the game. Instead of "switch it off", you can now say "let's play some more later!"

MONITOR SPENDING

If a child has provided their parents' email address and been given consent to make in-game purchases, it's worth keeping an eye on how much gets spent on the in-game currency, V-Bucks. It's very tempting to buy character skins in LEGO form, as a way of expressing yourself and looking cool and unique. As you may know already, the average skin costs between £8-10, which can add up very quickly if not tracked and limited. Keep in mind that you can make it necessary to enter a PIN code to validate every purchase using the game's parental controls, and you can prevent the game from saving your payment information whenever you make a purchase. Furthermore, players under-13 automatically have their spending limited to \$100 (£78.95) per day.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality, augmented reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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Local Community News

Please note items and events detailed below are for information purposes only. Rush Common School do not endorse or make recommendation

ibrick
CREATE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE!

house of fun

JOIN OUR
LEGO ADVENTURE!
EXPLORE THE WORLD
AROUND YOU WITH LEGO

FUN-FILLED STEM CLUBS
USING IBRICK KITS WITH
LEGO® BRICKS
FOR YEARS 1-6

LED BY EXPERIENCED
HOUSE OF FUN
INSTRUCTORS

RUSH COMMON PRIMARY
SCHOOL, ABINGDON

THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL
3:00PM - 4:10PM
12TH SEPTEMBER TO 19TH
DECEMBER

AGE
YEARS 1-6

BOOK
NOW
AT

SCAN ME

www.house-of-fun.co.uk

house of fun

CHILDREN'S MULTI-ACTIVITY
CAMPS
FOR 5-13 YEAR OLDS

COOKERY, ARTS & CRAFTS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES

All our activities are carefully planned so that children feel a sense of achievement, make friends and experience new things.

Rush Common Primary
School, Abingdon

Monday 28th October -
Friday 1st November
8.30am-6.00pm

BOOK HERE

CHILD CARE
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED

Sibling and Multiple Day Discounts Now Available
www.house-of-fun.co.uk



OXFORDSHIRE SHORT BREAKS

- play games
- make friends
- inclusive
- have fun

Packed full of sport, games and fun activities to provide your child with the ultimate fun and safe experience. For children and young people who are autistic or have a mild learning disability.

LONG FURLONG PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOULTER DR, ABINGDON OX14 1XP
TIME: 10.00AM - 3.00PM
DAY: SATURDAYS

For more information contact: jake.ramshaw@sportworksltd.co.uk

To book, click the link or scan the QR code:
<https://bookwhen.com/sportworks/e/ev-seup-20240608100000>



Free Entry

OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE RESCUE

Christmas Fayre 24

Saturday 7th Dec 2024
10am - 4pm
Benson Village Hall

Santas Grotto | Christmas Gifts
Tombola | Raffle | Cafe | Craft Stalls
Childrens Games & Activities

Santas Grotto pre-bookings online via our website !

STUDY SMART
Free Online Courses

spire Education

ncfe | cache Education & Skills Funding Agency

Fully Funded School Support Course

www.studysmartuk.online

Next Start date 30th September

CACHE Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
CACHE Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
CACHE Certificate in the Principles of SEN
Levels 1, 2 & 3

Six Week Course
Mon - Fri
9:30 - 11:30am
12:30 - 2:30pm
4 - 4:30pm
(last optional session for reflection and support if needed)

**TRAINING FOR
STAGE & SCREEN
AGES 4-18**



**READY FOR
MORE THAN
MUSICAL
THEATRE?**

**NEW FRIDAY EVENING SESSION
COMING 27TH SEPTEMBER**

PQA ABINGDON
EUROPA SCHOOL UK, OX14 3DZ

PQA
THE PAULINE QUIRKE
ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
BOOK YOUR FIRST SESSION
FOR FREE

**TRAINING FOR
STAGE & SCREEN
AGES 4-18**



Step through the doors of our academy and discover the wonderful world of performing arts. Our project-based learning in musical theatre, film and drama nurtures skills for stage, screen, and every day.

PQA ABINGDON

**FRIDAY | 6-18 YEARS |
16:45 - 20:00**

**SATURDAY AM | 6-18 YEARS |
09:45 - 13:00**

**POPPETS | 4-5 YEARS |
10:00 - 11:30**

SATURDAYS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

**EUROPA SCHOOL UK,
OX14 3DZ**

**YOUR PRINCIPAL IS
JENNA HONES**

PQA
THE PAULINE QUIRKE
ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK
YOUR FIRST
SESSION FOR FREE




**OCTOBER HALF TERM
TECH CAMP**

IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK

21ST OCT - 1ST NOV

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

ROBOTS
INVENTIONS

MINECRAFT & LEGO
ENGINEERING

VR
& TECH FUN

**AGES 5-11 | £45 PER DAY
9AM - 3PM DAILY**

**5 DAYS
for only
£175**

www.nextthing.education

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2024
What's on?







MINECRAFT ENGINEERING **PROGRAM ROBOTS** **SPOOKY FILM MAKING** **LEGO ENGINEERING** **3D CREATIONS**

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities.

21ST OCT - 25TH OCT LIMITED SPACES
28TH OCT - 1ST NOV LIMITED SPACES

Check out what parents are saying...

"The kids absolutely loved the camp. They could not stop talking about what they did and how much fun they had and begged to go back. Great tech camp!"

★★★★★

SPECIAL OFFER

**BOOK 5 DAYS
FOR ONLY £175**

What to bring to camp

- Packed Lunch and Snacks (not included)
- Water Bottle
- Medication if Required
- Halloween Costume (Friday Optional)

www.nextthing.education E: info@nextthing.education
T: 01442873150