



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 5th July 2024

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

This week was our 'Move up' Day in which all the children in the school spent Wednesday morning with their new class teachers in their new classrooms. The children were really excited across the school and having visited many classrooms throughout the morning, I could see how happy they were in their new surroundings! As we always say to the children in school, change is a normal part of life (including all the feelings that can come with it) and the children have really embraced this change.

Year 6 are having one of the biggest transitions, as they prepare to move on to Secondary School next year. They had a wonderful final residential trip to 'Call of the Wild' in Wales last week, and enjoyed kayaking, gorge walking, rock climbing, waterfall walking, caving and canoeing. Not to mention the evening activities of hill walks, campfires and orienteering. For many children, it was their first experience of some of these activities and the way they took on the challenges, showing resilience, independence and courage was incredible to see. They will take so much confidence forward from this character building experience.

Our Boccia Team were competing in the Oxfordshire Finals last Friday and represented the school superbly. They showed great competitive spirit, and enjoyment of the event and finished 6th overall. The team of Vincent (Y5), Emily (Year 6), and Mabel (Y6) should feel extremely proud of their achievements. Congratulations to you all.

On Monday this week we had an Assembly delivered by the School Parliament all about democracy and the general election. This was a great opportunity to provide knowledge to the children of how this process works and to link it to the principles of democracy. The school parliament shared the information in a really presentable and clear way and showed such confidence and authority in their explanations.

This week we have had two lovely musical performances to parents. On Tuesday our School Orchestra played a number of songs all led by the wonderful Mrs Wallis. There were two encores and lots of applause! Then yesterday the School Woodwind Group performed to parents, led enthusiastically by Mrs Andrew. We are proud of the breadth of musical talent in our school and the concentration and dedication shown in both performance was great to see. Thank you to all the parents that attended these events.

At Rush Common we believe in the importance of teaching children about how to stay mentally healthy, and we have started a new initiative this week called the 'Make Me Smile' project. All of our Year 5 pupils participated in a workshop this week learning strategies for managing their mental well-being, which they will now share with younger pupils in our school. This will help us continue to raise awareness of this aspect of education.

Thank you to all of the parents that have been attending our current SWIFT course, which is for families and schools living and working with children who have autism and communication difficulties. There have been many valuable contributions during the sessions, and we hope attendees have seen the impact of implementing strategies from the course.

Finally, I am delighted to share that our Mini-Ox location for the Ox-trail is Millets Farm. We are really pleased with the location, as we know it is a place that lots of our families visit. Please do download the Oxtrail app and visit our Mini-Ox with your children this summer.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend ahead, as we look towards our sports days next week.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher



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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.



Trust Facilities Support

Abingdon Learning Trust is looking to appoint a site team member to support our schools across the Trust with maintenance duties.

If you or anyone you know has a trade background or experience of project management, please contact us.

Please see

<https://www.abingdonlearningtrust.org/about-us/work-for-us/current-vacancies/> or phone 01235 200239 for more details.

Homework Champions

Sophie 3LA

Sasha 3LA

Freddie 3LA

Adam 4CM

Evie 4CM

Dates for your diary 2024

KS2 Sports Day (Tilsley Park)

Tuesday 9th July 9.00am – 2.00pm

Vision Screening (Reception Only)

Tuesday 9th July

Reception and KS1 Sports Day

Friday 12th July 9.30am – 11.30am (gates open 9.15am – School Field)

Year 6 Performance 'Rock Bottom'

**Tuesday 16th July 6.00pm
Wednesday 17th July 6.00pm**

Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day

Wednesday 17th July

KS2 Back Up Sports Day (Tisley Park)

Thursday 18th July

Year 6 Leavers Party

Friday 19th July 5.00pm – 7.30pm

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Tuesday 23rd July 9.00am

End of Term 3b

Tuesday 23rd July 1.30pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ONLINE TROLLING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The term "trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.07.2024

Local Community News

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

We are excited to inform you that **House of Fun** will be returning to Rush Common with our much anticipated Multi-Activity camp from Monday 29th July to Friday 30th August along with an ibrick Inset Day Camp on Wednesday 24th July.

Our camps at House of Fun are designed to provide a diverse range of activities that cater to the interests and talents of every child.

What happens at Multi activity camps:

Experience the excitement of our multi-activity camps, where every day unfolds with a unique blend of engaging activities! In cookery, participants whip up a diverse medley of savory and sweet delights, ready to be proudly shared with the family at day's end. The Arts & Crafts sessions inspire the crafting of a stunning array of imaginative creations. Meanwhile, the sports enthusiasts among us can immerse themselves in a multitude of athletic pursuits, ranging from bench ball, archery, and football to netball and beyond. Each day promises a fresh adventure, ensuring an unforgettable and enriching experience for all.

What happens at ibrick camps:

At ibrick camps, we've redefined holiday fun, offering children a unique opportunity to embark on an exciting journey of learning and discovery through the magic of LEGO® bricks. Our bespoke ibrick sets, designed by mechanical engineers, are meticulously crafted to blend education with entertainment, providing young minds with an environment where they can flourish while having an absolute blast.

Booking information:

To secure your child's spot at our ibrick or multi-activity camps please follow the link below:
House of Fun Booking Link

HAF Places:

For families whose children are in receipt of free school meals, you will be eligible for 16 days at camp for free through the HAF program. You will soon receive a letter or email from school containing your unique booking code. Bookings need to be placed through the councils booking system, link below: **Bookings open on Thursday 27th June**
<https://houseoffun.coordinate.cloud/list>



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.

BOOK HERE

Rush Common Primary School, Abingdon
Monday 29th July - Friday 30th August
8.30am-6.00pm

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

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



ibrick house of fun INSET DAY CAMPS

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

FUN-FILLED STEM DAYS USING IBRICK KITS WITH LEGO® BRICKS

LED BY EXPERIENCED HOUSE OF FUN INSTRUCTORS

RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL, ABINGDON

AGE 6-13 YEAR OLDS

INSET DAY CAMP 24TH JULY

BOOK HERE

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

WWW.HOUSE-OF-FUN.CO.UK



Holiday Club 2024



19 - 22 August
9:30am - 12:30pm

For current school yrs R-6

Book online:
www.cca.uk.net/events



THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7 - 13 who love to sing. Established in 2013 to provide children and young adults with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment, the OCSS aims to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

"How lucky are these young singers. They are brilliantly taught and have a lot of fun, and you will be amazed at what they achieve in just a few days - and all in the most beautiful surroundings." - Bob Chilcott

Pupils will learn some beautiful seasonal music and at the same time gain a background in vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history. Singing lessons with a specialist vocal coach are also provided in small groups.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingschool.com or email samantha@oxbridgesingschool.co.uk

25 - 26th July 2024
Worcester College, Oxford

www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk



Menstrual Health and
Period Education Advocates

June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

All Yours Period Boxes

It has been another busy school year for All Yours, but we are ready to support anyone who needs help with period products over the summer break. To enable us to manage demand and volunteer holidays in July and August, please could you request your All Yours box as soon as possible so that we can deliver initial boxes as quickly as we can. You are welcome to order further boxes during the break but allow a little bit of extra time for delivery.

You can visit our website to request the period products you need. We have a range of disposable products as well as reusable period pads and menstrual cups to choose from. If you would like to request products for multiple people in your household, just use the comments box to tell us how many people and the kind of products you would like.

All requests are free and confidential.

You can request your All Yours box here: <https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/request>

All our boxes are prepared by volunteers and most boxes are delivered by volunteers. Where we are not able to hand deliver a box, we use 2nd class Royal Mail to send our boxes. We ask that you allow at least 21 days for delivery, but we do aim to drop off boxes far quicker than this.

All Yours Collection Points

We know that time bends and routines go awry during the long summer holiday so if you get caught short and need a box quickly, please feel free to pick one up from one of our local collection points. You can find a complete list on our website:

<https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/box-collection-points>

With best wishes,

All Yours



The perfect way for girls aged 5-11 to get involved with football



The QR Code will take you to the first session. Please click book multiple sessions to book more than 1.

You can also book via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/AYFCWildcats>

Fun football sessions to introduce girls aged 5-11 years old to football & our club.

Date: Every Tuesday from 23rd July to 27th August

Time: 6-7pm

Location: Abingdon Youth, Southern Town Park, Lambrick Way, Abingdon, OX14 5TJ

New players wanted for girls football teams in Abingdon for season 24/25



- 👉 New under 7 girls team
- 👉 New under 8 girls team
- 👉 Spaces in under 9 girls team
- 👉 Spaces in under 13 girls team
- 👉 Spaces in under 14 girls team

We are also looking for a manager for the new under 8 girls team. All courses and qualifications needed will be provided. Please contact us on email below.



Join a creative quest

A fun and free 1 hour workshop for 5-11 year olds.

Explore Learning tutors will take children on an adventure; breaking codes, solving problems, creating poetry and using their imagination.

Date: <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 15th August</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Abingdon Library</p>	Time: <p style="text-align: center;">11:30am-12:30pm</p>
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Call us today to **book your space**, or speak to the library team to get your ticket.

Phone: 01865 595 509	Take part, get creative and win! Everyone who takes part will have a chance to win a prize worth £350.
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Delivered in partnership with Libraries

Marvellous Makers

Join a creative quest

A fun and free 1 hour workshop for 5-11 year olds.

Explore Learning tutors will take children on an adventure; breaking codes, solving problems, creating poetry and using their imagination.

Date: <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 30th July</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Abingdon Library</p>	Time: <p style="text-align: center;">11:30am-12:30pm</p>
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Call us today to **book your space**, or speak to the library team to get your ticket.

Phone: 01865 595 509	Take part, get creative and win! Everyone who takes part will have a chance to win a prize worth £350.
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Delivered in partnership with Libraries

Marvellous Makers

As one of our Junior Newbury Building Society schools, we're excited to let you know that our much-loved calendar competition is back!

This year, we're inviting talented artists to submit a drawing of their dream home! From houses made of sweets to treetop mansions, it's a chance to let imaginations run wild. It's the perfect end of term activity!

The winner will receive a **£50 voucher of their choice**, as well as have their dream house featured in on the front cover of our 2025 Newbury Building Society calendar. The 11 runners-up will also have their pictures included in the calendar as well as win a **£25 Waterstones voucher**.



**Show us
your dream
house**

Competition opens 1 July 2024 and closes 4 October 2024.

With our Design your Dream Home Competition the only limit is your imagination!

Enter your drawing to be in with a chance to be featured in our 2025 calendar. The overall winner will receive a **£50 voucher of their choice** and the 11 runners-up will bag themselves a **£25 Waterstones voucher**.



To enter: Visit bit.ly/NBSDreamHomeComp or pop into your local branch.

Terms and conditions apply. Open to those aged 16 and under.

Newbury Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Financial Services Register number 206077). English Law applies and we will communicate with you in English. We are participants of the Financial Ombudsman Service. We have a complaints procedure which we will provide on request. Most complaints that we cannot resolve can be referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service. A133

