



# Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope everyone had a great Christmas break, and that children have enjoyed getting back to the school routine. I have visited many classrooms in this first week, and the level of engagement, focus, and enjoyment of learning has been exceptional. There are many exciting activities to look forward this Term, and it has been a truly fantastic start.

Giving children opportunities to perform to an audience is important to us, and in the final week of last term, parents were treated to two stunning performances. Firstly, the Year 6 Curriculum Assembly about World War II was immaculately delivered and showed the depth of knowledge children had gained, together with the high quality work they had produced. We then had a wonderfully creative performance of the Snow Queen by our Drama Club, with children from Year 1 to Year 6 performing together, The acting was excellent, and the children really embraced the creative way the story was told. A special thank you to Charlotte Fisher, who runs the Drama Club.

At the start of this Term, Year 1 enjoyed flying off to Australia in our hall and are looking forward to learning about this country over the coming weeks. All continents of the world are covered across this term, as Reception learn about the North and South Pole, Year 2 discover more about Africa, Year 3 learn about Europe, Year 4 study Asia, Year 5 enjoy South America and Year 6, North America. This not only provides a deep understanding of different parts of the world, but provides many opportunities to compare different countries around the world to the UK.

Today the children have been enjoying DRME (Diet, Resilience, Mind and Exercise) sessions, which have focussed on self awareness, being responsible for choices and improving resilience. Pupil wellbeing is extremely important to us and this session forms part of our approach to encouraging healthy active lifestyles and positive mental health.

We are developing increasingly good links with Oxford United Football Club, and some correspondence has taken place between the school and the club ambassador, Peter Rhoades-Brown (ex Oxford United player), including two letters from a child in Year 6. This will result in at least two assemblies in school for Key Stage 2 delivered by members of Oxford United FC. I will let you know the dates of these once finalised

This week we had a visit from the Police Safer Schools Officer for Years 5 and 6. The children gathered in the hall and listened intently, gaining a rounded appreciation of the importance of online safety, responsible use of social media, and the harmful impact of any form of bullying. This is such an important area of understanding as our Year 5 and 6 pupils move forward in their lives, and these topics are also discussed in our Computing and PSHE lessons.

Our Park and Stride arrangement, using the Boundary House car park is now in action and I hope as many of you as possible have taken up this opportunity. It is a sizeable car park, and if we all use this where possible, it will significantly reduce the congestion and improve road safety for our pupils and families.

I would like to give a reminder of the importance of waiting on the pavement when queuing for drop off or pick up. Please do not stand in the drive or allow children to do this, as there may be vehicles coming in or out of the school and the gate operates automatically.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable weekend as we look towards the rest of this exciting term.

Kind regards  
*Kristen Fawcett*

Headteacher



### School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is **£2.65** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail. Meal choices must be made at least 3 days in advance.



**Please see our website for latest school and Trust Job Vacancies:**

Vacancies - Rush Common School - Dream, Aspire, Succeed

### Dates for your diary 2025

<b>Prayer and Reflection Space</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>M&amp;M Performance – Snow White</b>	<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>
<b>Year 5 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am</b>
<b>Vision Screening (Reception Only)</b>	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Parent Forum – Curriculum</b>	<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 9.15am (online)</b>
<b>End of Term 2a</b>	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Start of Term 2b</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Book Fair</b>	<b>Week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>
<b>Height and Weight check (Reception and Year 6 only)</b>	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 1 Crocodiles of The World Trip</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Parents Evening</b>	<b>Week of the 24<sup>th</sup> March (dates tbc)</b>
<b>Year 4 Youlbury Residential</b>	<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Parent Forum – General</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 4.45pm (online)</b>
<b>End of Term 2b</b>	<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 3a</b>	<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>
<b>KS1 Fire Talk</b>	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>
<b>Year 5 Kingswood Residential</b>	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Year 4 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 9.00am</b>

<b>May Bank Holiday (children not in school)</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>KS2 SATs Week</b>	<b>Week of the 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Parent Forum – Personal Development</b>	<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm (online)</b>
<b>Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon</b>	<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>
<b>End of Term 3a</b>	<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>
<b>Inset Day (Children Not in School)</b>	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>
<b>Start of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>
<b>Class Photos</b>	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential</b>	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>Year 6 Leaver's Party</b>	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>Year 6 Leaver's Assembly</b>	<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 9.00am</b>
<b>End of Term 3b</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 1.30pm</b>

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

### SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

### RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

### KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to manage contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact; this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

### POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

### CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

### TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 29% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

### DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and setting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.01.2025

## Local Community News

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



**Menstrual Health and  
Period Education Advocates**

January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **All Yours Period Boxes**

We are pleased to be able to offer more period boxes as we move into 2025. We don't want any parents or young people to have to miss out on period products and we are here to provide whatever people need to comfortably and safely manage their periods.

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 as well. Where we are not able to hand deliver a box, we use 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **Want to know more about All Yours?**

In November, we were named the Greenham Trust's Health & Wellbeing Charity of the Year, and this is all down to the volunteers and supporters who help make All Yours the success it is.

If you would like to find out more about All Yours, or learn about the different ways you can support our work or volunteer, please visit our website: <https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/>

With best wishes for the coming year,

*All Yours*

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**OXFORDSHIRE CRICKET** **TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT NICK HOLROYD - NHOLROYD@OXONCB.COM**

## Every Mind Matters



Developed in partnership with the NHS and free to all, Every Mind Matters is the Government's **preventative mental health programme**.

Designed to make evidence-based, self-help digital resources accessible to everyone, the programme positively impacts the nation's mental health.

It is focused on those who are struggling with their mental health and aims to help prevent common mental health issues escalating into mental health disorders that require NHS intervention.

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<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/>



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