



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 11th October 2024

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start the newsletter by congratulating our new House and Sports Captains, who were elected last Monday. The speeches were truly fantastic and the children in each house had a difficult choice to make. It was a really close run thing, but I am delighted to announce that Isla, Lily, Robyn and Lana are our new House Captains, and Megan, Jessica, Talulah and Neve are our new Sports Captains. Pupil leadership is really important at Rush Common, and we know these children will all excel in their new roles.

On Saturday 28th September we held our first 'Taster Session' for prospective new parents and pupils. This was followed by our Open Day on Thursday 3rd October. It was really successful, and a number of parents said that they had heard great things about the school from current parents. This is hugely appreciated, and please keep doing this, especially if you have neighbours and friends that are currently considering schools in our local area. Word of mouth is really important!

Last Wednesday we held a brilliant author visit from Anne-Marie Anang for children in Preschool, Reception, and Key Stage 1. She delighted the children with her stories and had the children up on their feet dancing. The inspirational visit was finished with a book signing, in which children were very pleased to take away a signed copy of her book. Thank you to all the parents that requested a signed book.

Sticking with the theme of books and reading, thank you to everyone who has attended our Book Fair this week. We have really enjoyed seeing children's excitement as they search for a brand new book. For every book purchased, the school gets commission to spend on books for the school. I will let you know how much was raised in the next newsletter.

We are very proud of our enrichment opportunities across the school, and the ways in which we raise awareness of important issues. This week we celebrated World Mental Health Day, with additional activities in class and a whole school assembly delivered by Natalie Hunt, the Mental Health and Well-Being Co-ordinator at Abingdon School. Ensuring children can maintain good mental health is an important part of our work, and runs throughout school life, including PSHE sessions linked to mental health, ELSA sessions for individuals, whole class resilience sessions, and creating the right environment and climate to support positive mental health.

Today we are all wearing something red to 'Show Racism the Red Card'. It is really important that children understand that there is absolutely no place in society for racism of any kind, and we thank everyone for supporting this day. Half of the money raised will be sent to the charity, and half will be used in school to continue supporting our work in diversity, equality and inclusion.

Finally, please can I remind parents queuing at the front gate to ensure that children are behaving sensibly and safely. There have been some concerns about children running and playing in the drive. Please remind children not to do this and instead wait on the pavement and/or the grass area next to the pavement. This is important as vehicles may be leaving or entering. Please can parents ensure they never park in the drive to the school and block the drive way.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend ahead.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher





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.rushcommonschoool.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.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't, meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These trolls often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the difference between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

@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: 02.10.2024

**Friends of Rush Common
Second Hand Uniform Sale**



Tuesday 15th October
2:30 - 3:30 PM
in the school hall

Prices start from £1

Come along and grab a bargain!

- V-neck Sweatshirts - Sweatshirt Cardigans - Ties - PE T-shirts
- Book Bags - PE Bags - Dresses - Trousers - Shorts - Skirts
- Joggers - Sweatshirts - Hoodies - PE Shorts - House T-shirts



RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL
FIREWORKS
NIGHT
Friday 8th November 2024
GATES OPEN: 5.45pm, LAST ENTRY 6.45pm
FIREWORKS START: 7 pm
Glow sticks, refreshments, hot dogs, sweets & more!!
Tickets in advance only: £6 per person / under 3s free.
Book your tickets at:
www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/forcfireworks
Rush Common Primary School, Hendred Way, Abingdon, OX14 2AW
Works with PeoplesFundraising.com

Homework Champions

Alex	3CO	Gracie	5SC
Eddie	3CO	William	5SC
Robyn	3CO	Jake	5SC
Fergus	3LG	Sophia	5SC
Ellis	3LG	Matilda	5SC
Albert	3LG	Albie	6EW
Jacob	4CM	Jess	6JN
Ruben	4CM	Hailey	6JN
Bianca	4CM	Anja	6JN
Kaitlyn	4CM	Sophie	6JN
Sophie	4CM		
Sasha	4CM		

Dates for your diary 2024/2025

FoRC Uniform Sale	Tuesday 15 th October 2.30pm – 3.30pm
Year 1 Dinosaur Workshop	Monday 21 st October
Year 5 Trip Oxfordshire Museum	Wednesday 23 rd October
End of Term 1a	Friday 25 th October
Start of Term 1b	Monday 4 th November
Year 2 Roman Day	Thursday 7 th November
FoRC Firework Night	Friday 8 th November
Parents Evenings	Tuesday 12 th – Thursday 14 th November
Children in Need Day	Friday 15 th November
Year 4CM Science Workshop	Friday 15 th November
Year 4TJ Science Workshop	Friday 22 nd November
Anti Bullying Week	Week of Monday 25 th November
Year 3 Egyptian Workshop	Monday 25 th (3LG) and Tuesday 26 th November (3CO)
Odd Socks Day	Friday 29 th November
Choir Big Sing	Friday 29 th November
Year 6 STEAM Museum Trip	Tuesday 3 rd December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Tuesday 3 rd and Thursday 5 th 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
Choir Visit to SMEG	Friday 13th December
End of Term 1b	Friday 20th December at 1.30pm
Start of Term 2a	Monday 6th January 2025
Prayer and Reflection Space	Monday 13th – Thursday 16th 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



Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood's too short to be spent on a smartphone

We're on a mission to

01.

Bring parents together to start new and positive conversations about the problems of smartphones and social media in childhood

02.

Empower parents to wait to get their kids a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9, through signing up to the Parent Pact in their region

03.

Demonstrate that parents are demanding change at scale, and therefore force the government and tech companies to act

Why we're doing this now

We've been put in an impossible position by the tech companies. It's a lose lose - either allow our children access to something all the evidence tells us is damaging, or say no and risk alienating them among their peers at a crucial stage of their social development. **We believe something needs to change, and it starts with all of us.**



Scan to sign the Parent Pact
[#smartphonefreechildhood](#)

How you can get involved

Sign the Parent Pact - Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay - it takes 30 seconds
parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Join your WhatsApp community - Find solidarity, support and inspiration - we have one in every county in Britain
whatsapp.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Help build the movement - Volunteer to be a Regional Leader and start making change in your community
regionalleadersignup.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Sign up to our newsletter - Get the latest news and campaign updates from SFC HQ
smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/newsletter

Follow us on Instagram/LinkedIn
[@smartphonefreechildhood](https://www.instagram.com/smartphonefreechildhood)
[smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/smartphonefreechildhood)

Local Community News

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

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house of fun

CREATE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE!

JOIN OUR LEGO ADVENTURE!
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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.

BOOK HERE

Rush Common Primary School, Abingdon

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

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

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMISSIONED BY OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FUN AND FRIENDSHIP
Delivered by SportWorks

OXFORDSHIRE SHORT BREAKS

- play games
- make friends
- inclusive
- have fun

Packed full of 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>

Please join us for our

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Music, Buffet & Fancy Dress Competition

27 OCTOBER
1:00 - 3:00 PM

The Nourthcourt - Abingdon United
OX14 1PL
£3 per child. Under 1's Free

Scan me for tickets!



Suitable for children aged 5 to 11 years
£35 per child, per day.
Sibling discount available
See back for dates & venues!

Firework Science



FUN SCIENCE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

October Holiday Camps 2024: Venues and Dates

Monday 28th Oct	West Oxford Primary School, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford, OX2 0BY
Tuesday 29th Oct	Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN
Wednesday 30th Oct	Begbroke Village Hall, Begbroke Lane, Begbroke, OX5 1RN
Thursday 31st Oct	Stockham Primary School, Stockham Way, Wantage, OX12 9HL
Friday 1st Nov	Caldecott Primary School, Caldecott Road, Abingdon, OX14 5HB

Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day. Sibling discount available.

Firework Science

Investigate the science behind fireworks in this exciting activity day. We'll take a brief look at the periodic table and then get stuck into practical investigations as we examine the elements and compounds used in fireworks and discover what colour flames they make. With safe practical investigations, fun craft activities and some great WOW moments, it'll be unforgettable!



To book, please go to the 'Science Holiday Camps' tab on our website and click the 'Register Now' button. All bookings are processed through Active Network. Spaces are subject to availability. Sibling discount available.

Call: 01865 522 775

www.brightsparksevents.co.uk

International Welcome



- English Conversation
- Fun & Friendship
- Refreshments
- Local Information

Every Friday during school term:

13th, 20th, 27th September
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th October



iw@cca.uk.net

1:00pm – 2:30pm
The Barn, Christ Church
Northcourt Road
Abingdon, OX14 1PL

International Welcome

Come along for an English conversation class, refreshments, fun & friendship, and local information - all free of charge. The class is aimed at those with English as an additional language. For further information, or any questions, please contact iw@cca.uk.net. The initiative is a collaboration between Host Abingdon and Christ Church Abingdon.

OXFORD UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY www.ouitc.org



**PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS
THURSDAY IN ABINGDON**

White Horse Leisure and
Tennis Centre, Audlett Drive,
Abingdon, OX14 3PJ
YEAR 5 - YEAR 8
16:00PM - 16:45PM
YEAR 9 - YEAR 13
16:45PM - 17:30PM

Fun and social football - free
to attend





Scan the QR to book

Contact Us
Mark Thomas
plkicks@oufc.co.uk




@cygnetsartschool

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THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7-13 who love to sing. The Singing School was established to give children the opportunity to experience great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

Pupils will learn some beautiful music and at the same time gain a background in vocal technique, music theory and history. Families are most welcome to come and listen to an informal concert at the end of each day.

For more information and to book, please see www.oxbridgesingschool.com

Sat 21 & Mon 23 December 2024
Oxford