



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 19th July 2024

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I must start this newsletter with the Sports Days that have taken place across the last week. Last Friday our Reception and KS1 children had a fantastic morning running, jumping and throwing for their respective houses. There was a lovely atmosphere on the field as children competed admirably, under the nurturing guidance of our Year 6 pupils. The sporting champions were carefully selected and celebrated for the confidence and empathy they had shown, and there was much anticipation for the overall winners, which was a very close run thing – eventually, the Kites were triumphant, for the second year running. A thank you to the huge numbers of spectators that came to cheer on their children.

Our KS2 Sports Day at Tilsley Park took place yesterday. As always, it was a lovely day with great competitive spirit shown by all the children. They cheered on each other brilliantly and as always were humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Overall, the winners of the Beth Davies Cup were the Falcons, who were clearly delighted! Thank you to all the KS2 spectators who cheered on from the stands – it was lovely to have so many parents there despite the date being rearranged. A huge thank you to the wonderful Mrs Barnes who organised both events superbly.

On Tuesday 23rd July our Year 6 children will come to the end of their journey at Rush Common, and this week they treated us to a fantastic musical production of 'Rock Bottom'. It was an immaculate, polished performance that had a little bit of everything and a lot of humour! The confidence shown in this performance speaks volumes for the way these children have grown during their time at Rush Common, and they are now ready to move onto the next stage of their education. They have also continued our trend of achieving KS2 SATs results well above national averages. We say goodbye to a truly incredible group of children and know they will all achieve success in their future lives.

On Wednesday we held our graduation ceremony for children who have come to the end of their time at Rush Common Preschool. It was a lovely occasion, as children performed songs for parents, wore gowns and were handed scrolls! Photos that will be enjoyed for years to come! It is of course not a goodbye for these children as they start in our Reception classes in September. We held an information meeting for parents of the new children joining Reception last week, and we are really looking forward to welcoming all of the children into Reception in September.

Last Wednesday, Fitzharrys Sports Leaders took a 'Fantastic Frisbee' sports session with our Year 5 pupils. This was enjoyed immensely by Year 5 and it was fantastic to have this collaboration with one of the secondary schools in our Trust.

We have a thriving and talented choir, and last Friday they delivered a wonderful concert to parents. The sound created was really special, and I know it was hugely enjoyed by all that attended. A huge thank you to Mrs Lipp and Mrs Brown who run our school choir.

This afternoon we are holding 'Rush Common's Got Talent' to showcase some of the skills, passions and talents across the school. This ranges from whole class performances to individual acts. It is fantastic to see the broad spectrum of skills across the school, and this is another great opportunity for the children to gain experience in performing to an audience.

FoRC have totalled up the amount raised across the year and it comes to a whopping £15,393! This is a fantastic effort and every penny is being put to good use to enhance children's education. A huge thank you to every member of FoRC and especially the chair of FoRC, Rebecca Strugnell.

Finally, at the end of this academic year, I would like to thank all of the parents for supporting the school in so many ways. We feel this support every day and it is this partnership that ensures children at Rush Common thrive, and achieve such success. I hope you all have a lovely summer, and we look forward to welcoming the children back in September.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett
Headteacher



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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.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.



Staff Treats

Thank you to the Prayer Group for providing the staff with some lovely end of year treats.



The members of School Parliament have been working hard, giving up our lunchtimes fortnightly to raise their own ideas and those from the other pupils that they represent. Early on in the Year, the pupils requested more clubs, especially for Key Stage 1. Running and Games, Dance, a lunchtime art club were all suggested at our meetings and we are delighted that these were able to run this year. School Parliament have also requested the return of Rush Common's got Talent - which will take place on the last Friday of term. We have campaigned for safer and cleaner streets by writing to local car parks asking them to participate in our Park and Stride scheme. Finally, we enjoyed teaching the school about the General Election by hosting our very own assembly on democracy and explaining how and when people are able to vote.

Yours sincerely,
School Parliament.

Homework Champions

<i>Jennifer</i>	5SC	<i>Lana</i>	5AS
<i>Neve</i>	5SC	<i>Dylan</i>	5AS
		<i>Cattaleyah</i>	5AS
		<i>Talulah</i>	5AS

Dates for your diary 2024

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

10 Top Tips for Helping Children STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

Over the summer our children will, of course, have significantly more spare time now they are out of school. For many youngsters, it may be that a considerable amount of this extra freedom is spent online, using social media apps, video games, streaming services and other digital tech to have fun. For that reason, it's even more important for trusted adults to focus on online safety during the summer break – ensuring that our children are not only aware of the most common threats but also know what to do if they encounter something in the digital world that upsets or disturbs them.

1 ENGAGE WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES

It might not always be convenient, but try to make time to show interest in what your child's doing online. Ideally, get involved – by joining in with video gaming and discussing the apps they're using. It will make your child more likely to come to you with any future online worries or concerns.

2 FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

Teach your child to question what they see in the digital world. As fake news increasingly uses AI to create believable audio, video and images, it will become even more important in future years to question the content that we see – and to know how to confirm it as true.

3 BE A DIGITAL ROLE MODEL

Take opportunities to demonstrate your empathy and understanding of others online, giving your child a positive template to follow. Watching you being a good digital citizen will help your child to learn an appropriate level of respect for the feelings, thoughts and privacy of other internet users.

4 EMPHASISE THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Among the internet's oceans of content, of course, are things which can be upsetting and concerning for young ones. There's always a chance that your child could stumble across inappropriate material, so it's wise to discuss in advance what they should do if this happens. Underline that they can always come to you if something online has worried them.

5 FIND A BALANCE

Communicating and competing online is fun, but shouldn't replace in-person socialising, exercise or being outdoors. Work with your child to find a healthy balance between their online and offline activities. Take into account what they're actually doing online: researching something or cooperating in a game, for example, is more valuable than simply browsing TikTok.

6 STAY AWARE

Keep an eye on your child's online activity and regularly check in with what they're doing. If you have serious concerns, you could discreetly view their browser history. The extent of monitoring should correspond to your child's age and maturity: younger children are likely to need closer observation.

10 REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN

Obviously, the digital world isn't without its dangers – but, when navigated safely, it remains an exciting, engaging and educational place. Be mindful of the many risks, of course, but don't let them discourage you from supporting your child to explore and enjoy themselves in the online space.

9 KEEP DEVICES UPDATED

Ensuring any devices that your child uses to go online have the most up-to-date firmware and software installed is hugely beneficial. Many people put off downloading these regular updates, but very often they contain vital software patches which help to keep your device and data secure.

8 TEACH BASIC SECURITY

It's important that children learn to keep their personal data safe, and understand how strong passwords can help with that. Explain the basics of digital security (showing them examples, if possible) and when they're a little older you could move on to more advanced methods like multi-factor authentication.

7 TAKE (PARENTAL) CONTROL

It's wise to capitalise on the parental controls offered by most internet service providers and the devices and software that children use. These controls allow you to manage the kind of content your child is able to access, and they can usually be adjusted to reflect your child's specific age.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



NOS
National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 25.07.2023

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/supporting-healthy-gaming-habits-for-children>



Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Supporting healthy gaming habits for children

Want to make videogaming a positive experience for your child? Try Parenting Smart's guide on what is too much and ways to make gaming safer.

parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk



Friends of Rush Common How Much We Have Raised...

First Aid Course: £163	Non Uniform Day: £316
Book Sale & Scrunchies: £375	Mothers Day Boxes: £50

Christmas Cards: £627	Wreath Workshops: £750
Fireworks: £2,500	Christmas Raffle: £1,287



Secondhand School Uniform Table Top Sales: £675	
Secondhand School Uniform Throughout The Year: £960	

Plant Sale: £240	
Krispy Kremes: £117	

Autumn Disco: £1,200	
Spring Disco: £1,100	

Half Marathon Sponsorship: £350	
Pre-school Waitrose Funding £500	

Sports Day Drinks & Ice Creams: £150	
Summer Fete: £3,000	Summer Raffle: £1,033

Total Raised in 2023/2024:

£15,393!!



How Is The Money That FoRC Raise Spent?



Annual Pantomime:

£1,500
per year



EYFS play-based
learning resources:

£1,230



Class set of Chromebooks:

£8,000



Phonics resources:

£1,000

History Boxes:

£400
per year

Art resources:

£100

Library Books:

~ £500 per year

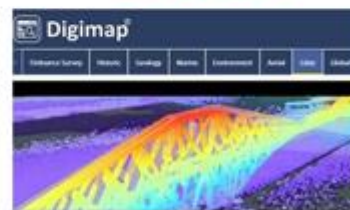


Maths resources &
subscriptions:

£250

Annual Digimap
Subscription:

£109 per year



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.

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

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

BOOK HERE

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

house of fun **ibrick** 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

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

WWW.HOUSE-OF-FUN.CO.UK

CHRIST CHURCH
ABINGDON

Holiday Club 2024



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

For current school yrs R-6

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



South Oxfordshire
District Council



Vale
of White Horse
District Council

JOIN US FOR FREE GIRLS FOOTBALL

5-11 YEAR OLDS
SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2024

At
Faringdon Leisure Centre
Wantage Leisure Centre
Abingdon White Horse Leisure Centre

To find out more and
to register, scan the QR code

Our Community Hub is here for you



If you're struggling financially or if you're just finding life difficult, we can help. For practical support or advice, please do get in touch:

- call our friendly Community Hub team on **01235 422600** (option 3)
- email us communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

We're open 8.30am - 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 4.30pm on Fridays.

See our website whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving southoxon.gov.uk/costofliving



- free or affordable food support
- financial support
- housing support
- health and wellbeing support

Our friendly team can also signpost you to debt advice and other support

If you're a guest from Ukraine, Afghanistan, a refugee or asylum seeker, we can show you where to go for information and support such as:



- where to go for help with mental health support education, food, medicine and other vital support
- local organisations who can help

See our website whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communitysupport
southoxon.gov.uk/communitysupport

Or get in touch with our friendly Community Hub team on the details above



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2024



moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

LAS IGUANAS

Join 'My Las Iguanas' via the App & Niños eat free with every adult main

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal (App needed)

PUREZZA

Children under the age of 10 get free pizza at Purezza with every adult meal purchased

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

TESCO CAFES

1 Free Kids meal with every 60p Spend. Available from July 1st Scotland and NI - from July 22nd England & Wales

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

YO! SUSHI

From Monday 1st July - Friday 30th August 2024, kids eat free all day Mondays to Fridays at YO! Sushi (min adult spend £10).

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

COCONUT TREE

One child (aged 10 and under) eats free per paying adult. Valid Daily, 12pm - 6pm from Monday 22nd July to Friday 6th Sept 2024.

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

Low cost and free activities for families to enjoy together!

YouMove is brand new for Oxfordshire, providing low cost and free fun activities for families including weekends & school holidays.

Enjoy a fantastic range of activities including swimming, badminton, activity packs, children's holiday activities & so much more!

Find out more here:



YouMove is here to offer free and low cost activities for children on benefit related free school meals and their families.

YOU MOVE

It's quick and easy to sign up for YouMove:

- 1 Visit www.getoxfordshireactive.org/you-move to register or call your local Activator for more information (numbers below)
- 2 We'll send you a YouMove Welcome Pack and membership cards
- 3 Your local Activators will be on hand to provide lots of support & advice
- 4 Enjoy getting active together!

Contact your local Activator today:

Oxford City: 07485 311346

Cherwell District: 01295 221980

West Oxfordshire: 01993 861561

Vale of White Horse: 07801 203571

South Oxfordshire: 07717 225679

YOU MOVE

YouMove is funded by Oxfordshire County Council Public Health and co-ordinated by Active Oxfordshire in partnership with district councils.



29 JULY - 30 AUG

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

summer

OF FUN

✓

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Skateboarding

Fun Days

Dance

Xplorer

and more

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Scan the QR code for details and booking



 /SouthandValeActiveCommunities






WIMBLEDON PICKLEBALL

Summer | Holidays 2024

Free for all the family

FARINGDON TENNIS CLUB	WANTAGE TENNIS CLUB	WHITE HORSE LEISURE AND TENNIS CENTRE, ABINGDON
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To find out more and to register, scan the QR code



From **Friday 19 July to Sunday 11 August** South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are running FREE Litter Bug Detectives Trails for children in a number of sites across the districts.

The children who take part have a chance to win £20 vouchers for themselves and a rainbow-coloured bench - made from recycled plastic - for their school.



The activities are aimed at primary school children (under-12s) and have been produced to promote recycling and reuse messages and explaining the damage litter does to our environment.

Each child, who sends in the correct answer, can request a personalised Litter Bug Detectives certificate.

How to take part

1. Go to our webpage southandvale.gov.uk/litterbugs and download the trail map of the area to visit. We have a number of sites including Abingdon, Didcot, North Hinksey, Thame, Wallingford and Wantage. There will be maps for each site showing the trail to follow.
2. At each site there will be a question on the themes of waste and recycling. The 10 answers will each provide a letter (or two!) to make two words.
3. Email the two-word answer and your name and address to **waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk** before **midnight on Friday 30 August** and the team will send you a Litter Bug Detective Certificate and enter you for the prize draw.

**THE DOWNLAND
DANCE PERFORMANCE
ACADEMY presents:**

**26th
& 27th
JULY
2024**

THE NUTCRACKER

www.downland-dance.co.uk/ddpa

Cornerstone Arts
Centre
25 Station Rd,
Didcot, OX11 7NE

**FEATURING
PROFESSIONAL
DANCERS!**

**A STORY BALLET PERFORMED BY THE STUDENTS OF
DOWNLAND DANCE.**

2024

THE READING AGENCY Summer Reading Challenge

Delivered in partnership with libraries



Marvellous Makers

Abingdon Library Events Program

29/7 2:30-3:30: Story time and illustration workshop with illustrator Allen Fatimaharan.

Age range: 7+. Book via the library

30/7 11:30-12:30: Explore Learning - use your imagination to go on an adventure: breaking codes, solving problems, creating poetry. Age-range 5-11.

Book via Explore Learning 01865 595 509

6/8 2:30-3:20: Cherwell Theatre Group performance. Suitable for all ages inc. pre-school.

Book via the library

8/8 11:00-12:00: Story time with Naomi Joslyn children's author. Join Naomi on her magic blanket for a fantastic learning adventure. Age-range 7+. Book via the library

15/8 11:30-12:30: Explore Learning - use your imagination to go on an adventure: breaking codes, solving problems, creating poetry. Book via Explore Learning 01865 595 509

16/8 10:00-12:00: Racing Robots - a fun, digital-based activity. Age-range 7+.

Book via the library

19/8 11:00-12:00: Story time and colouring activity with Kevin Thomson, author of the Willy & Wally series. Age-range: 5-11. Book via the library

ALL THIS PLUS A PRIZE DRAW AND NEW CRAFT EVERY WEEK OF THE HOLIDAYS!



summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Illustrations by Natalie Quinn. Logo artwork by Louise Corbett. All © The Reading Agency 2024



Celebrating
creativity

CREATE!

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