



Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 24th January 2025



Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this newsletter with some results from our recent parent survey. There was a great response, with the total number of parents filling in the survey increasing by almost 50% from the previous year. We really appreciate the time you have taken to complete the survey, and we were really pleased with the results. I have included some of these below.

98% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at school.

99% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child is safe at school.

97% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child does well at school.

95% of parents agree or strongly agree that the school supports their child's wider development.

93% of parents agree or strongly agree that the school has a strong ethos of diversity, equality and inclusion.

We have read through the individual comments, which were insightful and helpful and we are considering how to address the ideas and suggestions from this section. Thank you once again for your important feedback.

Last week all of the children greatly enjoyed the Prayer and/or Reflection Space that was set up in the library. Each class were able to visit the 'Underwater Paradise' for a session, in which they thought about themselves and others, understanding what we are thankful for, how to say sorry and how to consider the needs of other people. I am pleased to let you know that many children wanted to say thank you to parents, and those who look after them!

On Wednesday last week our Boys and Girls Swimming Teams headed off to Abingdon School to take part in the annual Swimming Gala, competing against many local primary schools. It was a fierce competition, and as ever our children competed with determination, focus and humility. There were some brilliant individual performances which led to great team results. Our Girls Team won their event and our Boys Team came second. Congratulations to all of our Swimming Team, and a special thank you to Mrs Barnes for the way the children were prepared for the competition.

Sticking with the theme of Physical Education, every week on a Friday we have KS2 team building activities, with each class receiving four sessions during the year. These sessions are brilliantly organised and allow children to work in teams to achieve tasks and goals, and learn orienteering skills. We really see children gain in confidence and resilience during the sessions and this morning children in 4CM enjoyed this opportunity.

We are very pleased that Friends of Rush Common are currently in the Tesco Coins Scheme to raise money to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being. If you are visiting a local Tesco, please make sure to vote for us!

We are always hugely grateful for any donations to the school, and the easiest way to do this is to hover your camera phone over the QR code at the bottom right of this page. It will take you to a page where you can donate a one-off or regular amount to the school. Thank you in advance for any donations received.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe weekend ahead.

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

Homework Champions

Isabella	2RS	Charlotte	4TJ
Abel	2RS	Sophia	4TJ
Bella	3LG	Caitlyn	5SC
Newton	3LG	George	5SC
Alex	3LG	Josh	6EW
Christopher	3LG	Joseph	6EW
Phoebe	3LG	Isabel	6EW
Katie	4CM	Alex	6EW
Lilly-Mae	4CM	Isla	6JN
Lois	4CM	Raquel	6JN
Freddie	4CM		

Dear Parents

Students from across the Abingdon Learning Trust have been involved in collating information which has contributed to the draft plan for Abingdon's neighbourhood plan. The draft plan is now open for public consultation and further information can be found on the Abingdon Town Council website:

<https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

The deadline for submitting your feedback is 10th February 2025.

With all good wishes

Dr Grace Clifton

Trustee – Abingdon Learning Trust and member of Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan Extended Steering Group

Dates for your diary 2025

Books at Bedtime	Tuesday 28th January 4.00pm – 4.40pm Preschool and Reception 5.00pm - 5.40pm KS1
M&M Performance – Snow White	Friday 31st January
Year 5 Curriculum Assembly	Thursday 6th February at 9.00am
Parent Forum – Curriculum	Thursday 13th February at 9.15am (online)
End of Term 2a	Friday 14th February
Start of Term 2b	Monday 24th February
Book Fair	Week of the 3rd March
Height and Weight check (Reception and Year 6 only)	Monday 10th March
Year 1 Crocodiles of The World Trip	Tuesday 11th March
Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip	Wednesday 19th March
Parents Evening	Week of the 24th March (dates tbc)
Year 4 Youlbury Residential	Thursday 27th – Friday 28th March
Parent Forum – General	Wednesday 2nd April at 4.45pm (online)
End of Term 2b	Friday 4th April at 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Tuesday 22nd April
KS1 Fire Talk	Wednesday 23rd April
Year 5 Residential	Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th April
Year 4 Curriculum Assembly	Thursday 1st May at 9.00am
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 5th May
KS2 SATs Week	Week of the 12th May
Parent Forum – Personal Development	Monday 19th May at 3.30pm (online)
Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon	Friday 23rd May
End of Term 3a	Friday 23rd May
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 2nd June
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 3rd June
Class Photos	Thursday 5th June
Vision Screening (Reception Only)	Monday 16th June (Date Change)

Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential

Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July

Year 6 Leaver's Party

Thursday 17th July

End of Term 3b

Monday 21st July at 1.30pm

Local Community News


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

Wildlife Explorers

RSPB Sutton Courtenay Kites

Do your children enjoy nature and playing outside? We now have places for likeminded children, aged 8-12 years, to join our Wildlife Club; Sutton Courtenay Kites, which is run by RSPB volunteers and held at Sutton Courtenay Education Environmental Centre, belonging to the Wildlife Trust. We meet once a month on a Sunday 10.30 to 12.30 and carry out a variety of activities such as: pond dipping, wildlife photography, survival skills, 'alien' invasions, fungus forays and campfires. Please contact Christine and Maxine at: suttoncourtenaykites@gmail.com to find out more.

Find out more
suttoncourtenaykites@gmail.com
ail.com



FACE February 2025 Newsletter

FACE FAMILY ADVICE • COMMUNICATION • EDUCATION

<p>Thursday 20th Feb 19:00 - 20:00 FREE</p> 	<p>FREE SESSION Supporting Healthy Screen Use A range of steps that can help minimise the harms from screens</p>
<p>Monday 3rd Feb 10:00 - 11:30 £24</p> 	<p>Supporting a Child with ADHD Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.</p>
<p>Tuesday 11th Feb 19:00 - 20:30 £24</p> 	<p>Facing Defiance Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.</p>
<p>Tuesday 18th Feb 19:00 - 20:30 £24</p> 	<p>Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness Get the facts and know the harms about these two drugs so you can hold an informed conversation with your teens.</p>
<p>Tuesday 25th Feb 19:00 - 20:30 £24</p> 	<p>Understanding the Teenage Brain A 'must see' for all parents and teachers of teens and pre-teens. Explains why teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.</p>

facefamilyadvice.co.uk info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Looking for a recipe that can get your children to eat more vegetables?

At Beezee Families, we work with hundreds of families who want to eat healthier, but struggle to find dishes with vegetables their children will eat. Sounds familiar?

Check out our Mexican traybake below for a taste of our recipe selection!

Ingredients:

- 1 large red onion
- 3 cloves of garlic (2 tsp pre-minced)
- 1 can sweetcorn
- 1 can black beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 can chopped tomatoes
- 320g frozen spinach
- 100g uncooked red lentils
- 250g brown rice
- 600ml veggie stock
- 120g low-fat cheddar/mozzarella

Method:

1. Pre-heat your oven to 200 degrees/ gas mark 6.
2. Dice the onions and garlic (if using fresh) and add them to a large baking tray or dish.
3. Add your brown rice and lentils, along with the spinach, corn and chopped tomatoes.
4. Add all your spices to the tray. Make the stock, then pour slowly into the tray and mix everything together.
5. Pop into the oven for 45 minutes. Take the tray out, add beans and mix well, then top with grated cheese. Return to oven for 10 minutes.
6. Leave to cool for 5 minutes and then enjoy!

Sign up today!

Scan the code

[_or click here to find out more](#)



oxfmaximusuk.co.uk

Want more help with recipes?
We run FREE healthy lifestyle programmes to help families like yours make healthy habits, and have fun while doing so! Secure your spot today.

Big cheer for families with children aged 5+ who share their love, recipe.

Beezee FAMILIES **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

24-3293



Choristerships are available for boys aged 7-12, and we are currently holding open events for boys in Year 2.

AS A CHORISTER YOU WOULD...

- Meet new friends!
- Sing in regular concerts and services
- Receive free weekly singing, theory and instrumental lessons
- Receive excellent care and choral training from world-class music staff
- Have the opportunity to join international music tours
- Share supper each week with your fellow Choristers
- Earn some pocket-money!

FIND OUT MORE...

Come to a Sunday service

Join us at 10am on Sunday 19 January, 2 February or 9 February in Radley College Chapel. There will be refreshments after the service, as well as an opportunity to chat to current parents.

'Be a chorister' evening

Join the Radley Choristers on one of the following dates:
Thursday 16 January, 6 February or 6 March.

Meet members of the chorister team, then join in with warm ups, singing games and part of a rehearsal before enjoying supper with the other boys.

For info or to register for an event scan QR or email
musicadmin@radley.org.uk



Nature Tots
For pre-schoolers and their adults

Outdoor exploration, stories, songs, sensory play, crafts, making friends, meeting bugs and lots of nature fun on our lovely reserve all year round. Different themes every month (eg dinosaurs, minibeasts, weather). Come join us!

- Wed 5, Thur 6, Fri 7 and Sat 8 February
- Wed 5, Thur 6, Fri 7 and Sat 8 March
- Wed 2, Thur 3, Fri 4 and Sat 5 April
- Wed 14, Thur 15, Fri 16 and Sat 17 May

9:30-11am Wed-Sat, plus additional 1-2:30pm Sat session

£7 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Aimed at children aged 18 months to 4 years.

Visit our website to book or for more info:

- bbowt.org.uk/events
- 01235 862024 or sceec@bbowt.org.uk



bbowt.org.uk

More nature everywhere

Registered charity no. 204330

Sutton Courtenay
Environmental Education Centre

A journey of learning and discovery



Family Event: Wild Stories and Mask Making
Tuesday 18 February; 10-11:30am and 1:30-3pm

Disappear into a rabbit hole of imagination as you join in with live storytelling then get creative, for families with children 4-11 years. This will be an indoor session but the reserve will be open for picnics and play between 11:30am and 1:30pm. £10 per child. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

7+ Workshops Birdbox Building
Thursday 20 February; 10am and 11:30am

Come along and learn to use a hammer and nails to construct your own bird box from pre-cut wooden pieces. Suitable for children aged 7+ with an accompanying adult. No younger siblings on this one please. £15 per box. Please see website for more details. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Day camp: Winter Wildness
Wednesday 19 February; 9:30am-3pm

A day camp for 8-12 year olds outside on the beautiful nature reserve. Activities will include nature crafts like raft building, shelter building, tool use and a campfire. £35 per child – drop off and collect at the end of the day. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Young and Teen Rangers

Monthly Saturday clubs for young people aged 8-17 years who love wildlife. Check the website for upcoming dates and booking. £7 per child; BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Nature Tots

Fun outdoor sessions on our beautiful nature reserve for 18 months to 4 years, Wed-Sat once a month. Check the website for upcoming dates. £7 per child; BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Visit our website to book or for more info:

- bbowt.org.uk/events
- 01235 862024 or sceec@bbowt.org.uk

bbowt.org.uk

More nature everywhere





What's on at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

NEW! - Adult Winter Tree and Shrub Identification
Saturday 22 February, 9:30am – 1pm

Most of us recognise a tree by its leaves, but what about in winter when many trees are leafless? Learn to identify a wide range of trees in the winter. Tea and cake included.
£35 per head, booking essential

Crafting a Future we'd be Proud to Leave to Future Generations
Saturday 8 February, 1:30-3:30pm

A community crafting session for adults and young people exploring current environmental issues.
£10 per head, booking essential

NEW! - Adult Memory Basket Weaving Workshop
Saturday 15 March 2025, 9:30am - 4:30pm

Learn to weave willow from the nature reserve, fabric scraps and memories into a beautiful, useful and unique basket. Go home with something to use and treasure. Tea and cake included. £50, booking essential

Adult Workshop: Willow Obelisks for Beginners
Thursday 24 April, 10am-3:30pm

Join a small group on our beautiful nature reserve to learn some basic weaving techniques while making an attractive and useful garden obelisk to take home. Suitable for adults.
£65 per head

Photo: BBOWT

Visit our website to book or for more info:

- bbowt.org.uk/events
- 01235 862024 or sccec@bbowt.org.uk



bbowt.org.uk

Registered charity no. 204330

More nature everywhere

February Half Term The North Wall Arts Centre

THEATRE

Belongings
Ages 7-11
21 - 22 February
11am & 2pm

Cleo arrives into a new home, unsure of what the future holds. She meets the playful Bertie, who brings her out of her shell, and Leila, who she has more in common with than she first thought.

Together they unite to discover a place called home, the value of play, and learn how to own their own stories.

NW Inventors Ages 8-11

Street Dance Theatre Course
17 - 19 February
9am - 12pm

Enjoy learning some authentic street dance moves, find your groove and explore funky freestyle around Hip Hop, Locking, House and Breaking styles before combining this social, soulful dance style with physical storytelling to bring modern, upbeat scenes to the stage! Great music and good vibes guaranteed.

Tickets £10 (£8 child)

Tickets £60

Full bursaries available
Email [Abie on waltona@thenorthwall.com](mailto:Abie@thenorthwall.com) to apply

Book now: thenorthwall.com

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR BEYOND

Saturday 1 March 2025

9:30am – 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am – 4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, shows, competitions and cafe

BOOK
TICKETS

www.brookes.ac.uk/science-bazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

X @obuengagement #BrookesBazaar25
f @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch
i @oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Clerici Building, Headington Campus,
Gipsy Lane, Headington, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

house of fun

Space Week!

A WEEK OF SPACE-THEMED SPORTS, COOKERY, ARTS & CRAFTS! INCLUDING:

- ROCKET JUNK MODELLING
- DANCING LIKE AN ASTRONAUT
- CLAY ALIEN DESIGN
- SPACE-ROCK CAKE BAKING

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February, 2025
open from 8.30am to 6pm each day!

RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL,
HENDRED WAY, ABINGDON,
OX14 2AW



Scan the QR code to book now!
or visit house-of-fun.co.uk, or call 07762 944204




4x WEEKS COACHING

FOR JUST £10!*

Junior badminton coaching sessions at The White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre Abingdon

Starting in March!

*non-refundable monthly coaching fees then apply




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NEXT GEN JUNIOR PROGRAMME