

Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 28th February 2025

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start with our Girls Football Team, who continue to perform superbly at league matches against local schools. Before half term they played Caldecott School and showed great talent and determination to win 5-0. This followed up our recent Boys Football Team victories. We know the children in our school have such a fantastic attitude to team sports, demonstrating team spirit, competitiveness and commitment to their sport. This translates into excellent (and often winning) performances, and we always expect our children to be humble in victory. A huge thank you to Mrs Barnes (our PE and School Sports Lead) for instilling this fantastic mentality into our sports teams.

Sticking with the football theme, today the children in Key Stage 2 were really excited to have an assessmbly from the Club Ambassador at Oxford United, Peter Rhodes-Brown. He is an ex Oxford United player, who also played for Chelsea for several years. His talk was really inspiring, and helped to demonstrate the importance of healthy lifestyles and resilience in the face of any setbacks. This connection with Oxford United started with one of our Year 6 children writing a letter to Oxford United in school, and we hope to develop this relationship further, perhaps inviting some of the current players into school!

Before half term we held our Discos in the new format, during the school day. Holding discos like this was a huge success, not least because it made the discos fully inclusive. We know there were a number of children who had never attended a school disco before who enjoyed the experience immensely. There were also a number of important practical and health and safety reasons to hold the discos in the school day. The children loved dancing and singing along, and many of the staff got involved too! Of course, the other aim of these events is to raise money for the school, and we are so pleased to have raised £1100! Thank you to the parents for the contributions and embracing this new format. A huge thank you also to FoRC for all their efforts to make this a success!

This week we continued our run of police visits to the school, with a visit for Reception and Year 1. The children enjoyed the visit, and learnt so much about how the Police help everyone in our community. These visits early on sow the seeds of how children can keep themselves and others safe as they move forwards in their lives.

Thank you to all the parents that attended our Year 5 Residential Meeting before half term. This was an important meeting, given the change of provider to PGL and we hope it was informative and helpful. Not least, we hope the Year 5 children are excited for what promises to be a great residential. We also hope our Year 4 pupils are excited for their residential to Youlbury which takes place on Thursday 27th March.

Thank you to all the parents that have previously attended and/or are currently attending our SWIFT Training. The training is facilitated by our SENCo, Mrs Drew and a member of the Communication and Interaction Team, and is aimed at parents of children with autism and/or similar communication and interaction needs. It provides a space to learn more, discuss effective strategies for parents, and share individual experiences. I would highly recommend parents emailing the school office, if you are interested in attending or just to find out a bit more.

Thank you to the parents that have used our Park and Stride option at the Boundary House car park. The more parents that take this up, the safer and less congested Hendred Way will be for our children and families at drop off and pick up. I am in regular communication with a member of the Travel Planning Team at Oxfordshire County Council and will update you on any further developments.

I hope you all have 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

Josie 2RS Ben 2RS Ella 3LG Sara 3LG Ted 3LG Freddie 3LA Jerome 3LA Eddie 3LA Thomas 4CM
Isaac 4CM
Luke 4CM
Emily 4TJ
Leo 4TJ

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safey Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains. 13+

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhotsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money stansfer because of a spurious 'emergency' - pius a scam where froudstess trigger a verification message by attempting to leg in to your account, then (posing as WhotsApp') call or text to ask you to repeat the code book to them on which the money of the position of th

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the Whotstapp uner they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to consense they don't know, that person could then contact them will will whotstapp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhotsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly - whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages fervanded more than the times on the app now display a "Torwanded many times" label and a double small icon. This makes users are that the message they're just cavieved is far from an original _ and might not be entirely factual.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

in 2023. Whatskip introduced a feature that lefs users keep their challs in a separate facked shout folder, sowed behind their phone's psecode. Imperpint or loce to, there is an additional feature - "Socret Code" - where users set a unique passeword for locked challs. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content has users their sorrate wouldn't accessed.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

the oblifty to send images or messages that comnotly be viewed once has led to serne Whotstappusers shering inappropriate moterial or abusinetosts, knowing that the recipient contraction or abusinethem later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be oble to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added Whotstapp returns more blacks this, offing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

Whotakapp's Live Location feature lefs users shore their current whereadousts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is sofe white out, for example, Hoderver, anyone in a user's centrals sometimes of in a mutual group chet can also track their latest in a mutual group chet can also track their latest in a mutual group chet can also track their latest in a mutual group chet can also track they child's home address or journeys that they make regulately.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ONLINE

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with coulding get them to consider whether it sounds like comething a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal decails over Whotakapp, and to be wary of clicking on any links i messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a hurther layer of protection to their Whotakapp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhotsApp settings to specify which at their contracts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contracts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a chair need to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

heck in with the child about how they're using that sape, melding sure they know you ently from their othery of heart. If you spot a Locked Chais felder, you right wont to talk about the sort of content they've tored in them, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chais hidden. Also, if children send any lew Once content. It could be helpful to ask them why,

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be minimterprised. Incourage them to licrove a good impression, to avoid joining in it conversations turn towerds busying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way, Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes the appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes the appropriate way.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on Whotskipp. It's easy - and all too common - for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, wen publicly an social media. Encourage children is consider how on impositive message or forwarding might demage their reputation or users a binary share user as the more than the same than

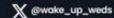
Meet Our Expert

Or Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has derivelyed 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 and academic patients of the Australian Government comparing internet and academic patients. If the Australian development is the IV ISA and Australian

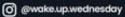


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The National College









Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.02.2024



Dates for your diary 2025

Book Fair Week of the 3rd March

World Book Day Thursday 6th March

Height and Weight check Monday 10th March (Reception and Year 6 only)

Year 1 Crocodiles of The World Trip Tuesday 11th March

Science Fair Wednesday 12th March

Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip Wednesday 19th March

Red Nose Day Friday 21st March

Parents Evening Week of the 24th March (dates tbc)

Year 4 Youlbury Residental 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 Residental Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th April

FoRC Second Hand Book Sale Wednesday 30th April 3.00pm

Year 4 Curriculum Assembly Thursday 1st May at 9.00am

May Bank Holiday (children not in school) Monday 5th May

KS2 SATs 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

Year 3 Hill End Trip Thursday 12th June

Vision Screening (Reception Only) Monday 16th June (Date Change)

Summer Fete Saturday 21st June

Year 6 Call of The Wild Residental 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





Sutton Courtenay

Environmental Education Centre

A journey of learning and discovery

Family Pond Dipping Workshops Tuesday 8 April 2025; 10:00am - 11:30am and 1pm - 2:30pm Spring pond dipping fun for families with children 4-11 years at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre. £8 per child. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Family Trail: Easter Butterfly Hunt
Wednesday 9, Thursday 10, Saturday 12 and Tuesday 15 April 2025; 10am-2pm
Flutter by and find a rainbow of butterflies (and a chocolate treat!) on our Easter
Trail for ages 4-11. £8 per child. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

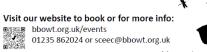
Day Camp: The World of Butterflies Wednesday 16 April; 9:30am – 3pm

A day camp for 8-12 year olds, discovering our fluttering friends at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre. £35 per child. 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 (rising to £8 in April); 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



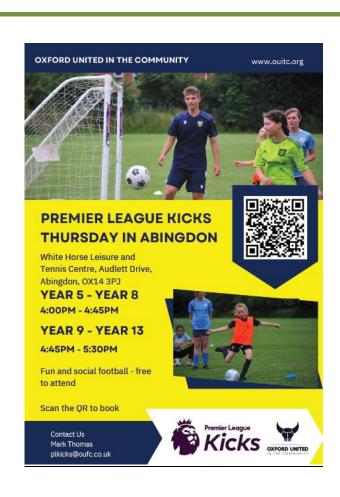
01235 862024 or sceec@bbowt.org.uk

bbowt.org.uk

More nature everywhere









EXAMARA

Come and try our engaging music courses on Sunday 23 March - book now!

Children start their music journey with us between the ages of 2 - 7 and can continue through to 18



Matrix Arts Centre Sutton Courtenay OX14 4UA www.matrixartscentre.org.uk

