



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week was UK Parliament Week, and we started the week with an assembly about how the UK Parliament works and why democracy is so important in our society. The children then prepared speeches for our own School Parliament Elections, with each class carrying out a vote, after hearing from each of the candidates. Every child who delivered a speech should feel really proud, with some high quality speeches across the school. Those that were elected, have already met as the newly formed School Parliament this week.

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, we celebrated Be Bright Be Seen Day in KS1, with many children (and staff) coming to school in high visibility jackets, and learning about the importance of road safety. We have also had our Year 5 children learning how to cycle on the roads safely through their Bikeability course. The listening, concentration and application of important safety messages has been exemplary, and Year 5 have enjoyed the opportunity immensely. Road safety is something we take seriously at Rush Common and I am continuing to work with Oxfordshire County Council on initiatives to ensure children and families are as safe as possible when travelling to and from school. We now have a Travel Plan on our website, which is accredited as 'Good' by Modeshift Stars.

As a school community we are excellent at raising money for the school through the wide array of events organised by FoRC throughout the year. However, we sometimes have requests on how parents or the wider community can donate in other ways to the school. We have devised one simple, effective mechanism to do this, which is to visit [goodhub.com](https://www.goodhub.com). The easiest way to get to our page is to hover the camera (on your phone) over the QR code at the bottom of this page. This will take you straight to our page, which will allow you to make a one off or regular payment. These sorts of donations are vital for us to continue providing high quality education. Thank you hugely in advance for any donations.

On Monday and Tuesday this week Year 3 had an incredible time as they embarked on a journey down the Nile to visit the Great Pyramids! Each class spent the day learning everything and anything about Ancient Egypt from a highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable educator from the History Squad. The children gained so much knowledge and understanding of the time period in this exciting and hands-on approach to learning – an unforgettable experience!

Today our choir are very excited to join a number of other schools from across Oxfordshire for the 'Big Sing'. This is a unique opportunity to sing in a massed choir, led by a highly experienced conductor. The experience will be truly fantastic, and I hope all the parents that are able to attend, enjoy watching their children perform.

Finally, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone in our parent community for the many different ways you support the school. Through supporting your children at home with their education, volunteering your time, expertise or ideas, attending fundraising events, donating to our school, and working in close communication with us, you play a vital role in enhancing the high quality of education children receive here – it is hugely appreciated!

I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe weekend, as we head towards the festive season!

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.



### Homework Champions

Phoebe	3CO	Nina	5LE
Albert	3LG	Elizabeth	5LE
Megan	3LG	James	5LE
Kitty	4CM	Leopold	5LE
Luke	4CM	Dylan	5SC
Katie	4CM	James	5SC
Lilly Mae	4CM	Omar	5SC
		Flo	6EW
		Jacob	6JN
		Lana	6JN

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

Vacancies - Rush Common School - Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dates for your diary 2024/2025

<b>Choir Big Sing</b>	<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>
<b>Year 6 STEAM Museum Trip</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>
<b>KS1 Nativity Performance</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> (1EC/BL and 2JB) and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December (1ES and 2RS) at 5.00pm</b>
<b>Reception and Preschool Nativity Concert</b>	<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December RLH at 2.15pm and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December RLL at 9.15am</b>
<b>Christmas Dinner Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Reception Christmas Craft Afternoon</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Choir Visit to SMEG</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>End of Term 1b</b>	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 2a</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>
<b>Prayer and Reflection Space</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>
<b>M&amp;M Performance – Snow White</b>	<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025</b>
<b>Parent Forum – Curriculum</b>	<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 9.15am (online)</b>
<b>End of Term 2a</b>	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Start of Term 2b</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Year 4 Youlbury Residential</b>	<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>
<b>Parent Forum – General</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 4.45pm (online)</b>
<b>End of Term 2b</b>	<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 3a</b>	<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025</b>
<b>Year 5 Kingswood Residential</b>	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>
<b>May Bank Holiday (children not in school)</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>
<b>Parent Forum – Personal Development</b>	<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 3.30pm (online)</b>
<b>End of Term 3a</b>	<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025</b>
<b>Inset Day (Children Not in School)</b>	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025</b>
<b>Start of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025</b>
<b>Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential</b>	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>
<b>End of Term 3b</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 1.30pm</b>



FRIENDS OF RUSH COMMON'S

# CHRISTMAS ★ RAFFLE ★



BUY YOUR TICKETS AT:

[www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/forcchristmasraffle](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/forcchristmasraffle)

£1  
PER TICKET

## Prizes Include:



- Miele Vacuum Cleaner worth £169
- £100 John Lewis Voucher
- Waterperry Gardens Season Ticket for 2 People
- Breakfast for 4 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Oxford
- Bright Sparks Snowman Science Kit
- House of Fun Holiday Camp Session
- Rainbow Hampers
- Loose Cannon Brewery Tour
- Pranac Therapy Relaxation Sessions by Harriet Matthews
- 4 Passes to Jump Inc
- Vouchers for Laser Kombat
- 1 Month Free Classes to MF Dance
- Family Pass to Partyman World
- Family Pass to Snakes & Ladders



*Raffle drawn on the 13th Dec at 8pm*

Promoter: Friends of Rush Common, c/o Rush Common School, OX14 2AW. Registered Charity No. 1169863  
Registered with Vale of White Horse District Council No. GALOTT/09552/19

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are trained on a large dataset of text to learn patterns and relationships in the data and generate text, images, sound or even video based on the data they are trained on. As such, users can ask a question, provide a prompt or provide other source material, and the AI solution will then provide a response.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ACCURACY

AI language models such as ChatGPT, generate their responses based on the data they have been trained on. This is often drawn from the internet and therefore may include incorrect facts, leading to responses which contain errors and inaccuracies.

### BIAS

AI Language models, including ChatGPT, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained on. This could lead to biased responses and the reinforcement of stereotypes.

### SENSE

AI solutions do not have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or prompt. This could result in inaccurate or irrelevant or even non-sensical responses, whether that be in text, image or other responses.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

AI solutions do not have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could cause confusion or misunderstandings in language models if the AI's responses are taken as fact and the truth. With generative AIs that create images, it can lead to output derived from other people's content but without any attribution of the source artist's work.

### LACK OF CREATIVITY

AI solutions are not capable of independent thought and rely on the data they were trained on. This may potentially produce a lack of creative thinking and problem-solving abilities if students come to be heavily reliant on AI solutions.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Empower children and young people to use the various AI models in a safe environment and with appropriate content filtering/supervision, and to raise any concerns or questions as they arise.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Encourage children to use AI solutions as tools to help them research and learn, but remind them to not take the model's responses as the truth. Emphasise that they should question, verify and think critically about the information they receive.

### DISCUSS BIAS

Discuss with children the potential biases that may be present in the responses generated by AI language models and encourage them not to simply accept the responses that it gives them at face value.

### MONITOR USAGE

It is important for parents to monitor their children's usage of AI solutions (as with technology use in general) to ensure that they are utilising it responsibly and to provide opportunities to discuss its use, if needed.

### ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Help children learn how to use AIs in conjunction with other resources, such as books and the internet, but also humans such as teachers, relatives and friends. Emphasise the importance of human interaction as part of life and as part of learning.

### SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Be aware of school rules or other guidance in relation to the use of AI solutions in relation to a child's education and discuss appropriate and inappropriate with young people accordingly.

## Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT in a large UK boarding school having previously taught in schools and colleges both in the UK and in the Middle East. He has a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security believing that it is important that we are all more aware of not just the benefits of technology, but also the risks.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



## Local Community News

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



**ibrick** house of fun

CREATE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE!

JOIN OUR  
LEGO ADVENTURE!  
EXPLORE THE WORLD  
AROUND YOU WITH LEGO

FUN-FILLED STEM CLUBS  
USING IBRICK KITS WITH  
LEGO® BRICKS  
FOR YEARS 1-6

LED BY EXPERIENCED  
HOUSE OF FUN  
INSTRUCTORS

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](http://www.house-of-fun.co.uk)



OXFORD UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY [www.ouitc.org](http://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](mailto:plkicks@oufc.co.uk)

Premier League  
**Kicks**

OXFORD UNITED  
IN THE COMMUNITY



**Menstrual Health and  
Period Education Advocates**

November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Christmas All Yours Period Boxes**

We know that Christmas can be an expensive and tricky time for a lot of families, and we are here to support anyone who needs period products, either for themselves or their family members. As this is a very busy time of year for us, we would suggest you order your period box sooner rather than later so that we can ensure that it is with you before the Christmas holidays. The last date for requesting a period box in time for Christmas is **Thursday 12th December**. Any request made after this date may not arrive before the holidays.

All requests are free and confidential, and 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. 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.

### **Christmas All Yours Collection Points**

All Yours will be taking a break from 21<sup>st</sup> December until 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Any requests we receive during this time will be processed when we return on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. If you find you need period products urgently during this time you can collect a period box from our various collection points. You can find a list of our collection points on our website, but we would suggest checking opening times with the venue before travelling as they may vary over the festive period.

<https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/box-collection-points>

### **#KnowYourFestivePeriod**

Our Christmas gift to you all this year is some more period education! Keep an eye out on our socials for nuggets of information in December to help you understand your festive period better! You can find us on Facebook and Instagram on @allyourmonthly

With best wishes for Christmas and the coming new year,

*All Yours*

2023 Charity of the Year

MBE BC&V Thames Valley

Winners - Didcot Mayor's Community Champions 2021

Play2Give's

# Sleigh2Give10

Spreading cheer, joy and smiles this Christmas  
*celebrating a decade*

The annual festive appeal of

Registered Charity No: 1200351

Scan the code to donate instantly

Please donate or give a gift to help those less privileged this Christmas

**ALL NEW TOYS, books, dvds, arts & crafts, baby items, soft toys, toiletries, games and more welcome...**

\*For hygiene, infection control and safety, all gifts must be brand new only\*

**Various Donation Zones**

• across Didcot, Abingdon, Oxford, South Oxon, and other areas

A list of all donation points can be found online at our website with full details

FOR DONATION POINTS & TO GET INVOLVED: [play2give.org.uk/sleigh2give](http://play2give.org.uk/sleigh2give)

The Sleigh2Give 10th anniversary appeal celebrating a decade in 2024 of spreading cheer, joy and smiles across Oxfordshire since 2015 to children less fortunate, young hospital patients and the families of babies in neonatal care, to those with disabilities and the vulnerable, families in crisis and financial hardship, and with your help this year's milestone 10th Sleigh2Give can be the biggest and best Christmas toy and gift giving appeal yet. Play2Give - Registered Charity No: 1200351

Created by Andrew Baker  
MBE BC&V Thames Valley  
Charity of the Year

Play2Give has provided over 450,000 to good causes over 21 years

For more information or to donate please visit [play2give.org.uk / hello@play2give.org.uk](http://play2give.org.uk/hello@play2give.org.uk)

Your generosity and kindness will help to lift the spirits this Christmas to so many including...

Storage sponsored & provided by



## 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](http://www.oxbridgesingschool.com)

**Sat 21 & Mon 23 December 2024**  
**Oxford**





## **Christmas at Abbey Baptist Church**

# **Christmas Family Craft**

**Saturday 7th December at 10.00am**

All children must be accompanied

Please book online at [www.abbeyonline.org.uk](http://www.abbeyonline.org.uk)

**Abbey**

## **Christmas Services at Abbey Baptist Church**

**Nativity from scratch for all the family**

Sunday 15th December at 10.30am

**Carols and Cake Thursday 19th December at 2.30pm**

**Carol Service Sunday 22nd December at 10.30am**

**Carols by candlelight Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm**  
(traditional Carols followed by refreshments)

**Christmas Day all age service**

Wednesday 25th December at 10.30am

Abbey Baptist Church, Checker Walk,  
Abingdon, OX14 3JB

[www.abbeyonline.org.uk](http://www.abbeyonline.org.uk)  [/abbeybaptist](https://www.facebook.com/abbeybaptist)

**Abbey**

# The Nurturing Programme



A **FREE** 10-Week programme for parents and carers.

Over the 10-weeks, we will look at lots of different topics, including:

**Understanding...** why children behave as they do

**Recognising...** the feelings behind behaviour (ours & theirs)

**Exploring...** different approaches to discipline

**Finding...** ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children

**Learning...** the importance of looking after ourselves

**Where?** Abingdon Carousel Family Centre, Caldecott Chase, Abingdon, OX14 5GZ

**When?** Tuesday mornings from 9.30am -11.30am

**Starting?** Tuesday 14th of January 2025

**Cost?** Free

**Interested?** To book a place, please email [m.etienne@abingdoncarousel.org.uk](mailto:m.etienne@abingdoncarousel.org.uk) or call (01235) 526691

## How Nurturing Programme Parent Groups have helped other parents

"I am a much more confident, positive and understanding parent. I feel much more able to cope now."

"We are having less family arguments and the household is a lot calmer."

"The group was fun. It's the only two hours I have for myself each week."

"The atmosphere was really relaxed. No-one judged anyone and everyone was listened to and respected."



Check out [familylinks.org.uk](http://familylinks.org.uk) for more information on *The Parenting Puzzle* book and the Nurturing Programme

## The 10-week Nurturing Programme for parents and carers

**where:**  
Abingdon Carousel  
Caldecott Chase  
Abingdon  
Oxfordshire  
OX14 5GZ

**when:**  
Tuesday: 9.30am - 11.30am  
Starts on 14th January 2025 - 25th March 2025  
(No session on 18th Feb 2025)  
FREE COURSE

**contact details:**  
For more information or to book a place please contact:  
[m.etienne@abingdoncarousel.org.uk](mailto:m.etienne@abingdoncarousel.org.uk)  
(01235) 526691

