



Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 17th January 2020



Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a good break and is ready to take on 2020 – the pupils have certainly started this term with bags of energy and enthusiasm for learning! In this first Newsletter of the year, I would like to share some key results of our recent parent survey. 96% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at school. 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels safe at school. 93% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. 94% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child does well at this school. 91% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school has high expectations for their child. These key results are extremely positive and above national averages, which goes some way to demonstrating the great work that is being carried out by our staff and the wider school community. Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the survey – the overall results provide such valuable feedback and will be used to help us to continue to improve our school further.

I am pleased to let you know that Mrs Stevenson continues to make a strong recovery and is looking forward to returning to the school. At this point we are hoping that she will be back in school, on a part time basis, before the Easter break. In the first few weeks she will be spending part of each day in school, renewing her relationships with pupils and staff, governors and parents, in preparation for taking over full-time.

I would also like to share that Dr Wallis has moved on from Rush Common. She has worked here for over 6 years as a class teacher and more recently as Writing lead and Phase leader and has had considerable impact on all of the pupils she has taught. We all wish her well for the future and hope that she will come back to visit at some point this year.

This week the pupils have enjoyed the 'Safari Prayer Space' in which they have had an opportunity to reflect on the things that make them smile and worry them. Discussion with pupils after using the space, has shown how much they have enjoyed the opportunity for reflection. Whilst complementing our RE curriculum, the space has also allowed pupils to develop a greater sense of self-awareness, one of our curriculum characteristics.

Also this week, our four anti-bullying ambassadors in Year 5 received a phone call from the 'Diana Award' in which they had to explain their first steps in continuing to raise awareness about bullying. Their actions have involved meeting with me and sharing their ideas in a whole school assembly. The pupils are taking the role very seriously and are working towards achieving the 'Well-Being Badge' by the end of this school year.

Everyone is looking forward to the development of a new trim trail that will be located on our school field. During the last academic year, FoRC raised a considerable sum for this project and it is due to be built during the week of the 27th January. The School Parliament were consulted on the design and different elements of the trim trail, and we feel sure it will be a great piece of equipment that our pupils will enjoy for many years to come.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who support the school with pupil attendance. However, I would like to discourage any parents from taking children out of school for an extended period of time, such as two or more weeks – our experience is that it has a considerable negative impact on their learning and should be avoided.

Finally, I would like to let everyone know about our intention to hold a 'Community Day' on one or two Saturdays during this year. This idea was raised in a Parent Reps' meeting and brings all members of the school community together to make school improvements. From painting to gardening to installing new features, this could make a real difference to our school environment. If you are interested in taking part, please could you let the school office know, and we will update everyone on dates in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Kristen Fawcett

Acting Headteacher



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Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW



School News

DR ME

Thank you to Claire from DR ME who visited school to teach our Year 4,5 and 6 children about self awareness and how to maintain a healthy body and mind.



Prayer Space

This week all children were able to visit the Safari Prayer Space provided by Christ Church, Abingdon and staffed by members of the churches in Abingdon. The school library was turned into a Safari adventure and gave the children the opportunity to think about things that they are thankful for, other people who may be going through a difficult time, things that they are sorry for and that everyone is unique. The children completed various activities all related to the Safari theme,

including creating their own zebra to represent that we are all unique



Bikeability

Thank you to Roz and Julie from The Bike Academy who have recently carried out cycle training with our Year 6 pupils again this year. It is a great experience for the children, while teaching them very valuable road safety.

They currently have a vacancy for a trainer working within Oxfordshire schools. It is a term time only position and full training will be given. If you are interested or know anyone who may be please email the school office and we will pass your details on for them to contact you directly.



School Dinners

Please remember that school dinners now cost **£2.20** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via our online payment system, Parent Mail. If you are having any problems please contact the school office.



Achievements



Gymnastics

Congratulations to Imogen in Year 3 who won a gold medal for vault at her gymnastics competition before Christmas. Well done!



Homework Champions

Talia 2LK
Naveah 2CG
Callum 2CG
Annabel 2CG
Maia 2CG
Gracie 4CM
Katie 4NM
Martha 5JN
Swarish 5JN

Parental Guidance

Parental Controls

There are so many connected devices on the market now, each with their own unique way of setting up parental controls and restrictions. Equally the functionality of these devices can be daunting with chat, game downloads, in-app purchases, third party apps on the devices (such as social media, Netflix) etc.

I always advise parents two things. Firstly look up the device on YouTube using a simple 'how to' query, e.g. 'how to restrict in-app purchases on Playstation 4'. Secondly, the wonderful people at Internet Matters have a one-stop shop for setting up devices which can be found here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Internet Matters also has a gaming hub which is really useful for parents; it was updated a couple of months ago and has invaluable information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/>

From *Alan Mackenzie* e safety adviser

Dates for your diary 2019/20

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| Hooke Court Parents Meeting | Tuesday 21 st January 5.00pm |
| Year 1 Assembly to Parents | Monday 27th January 2.30pm (Please Note Date Change from previous newsletter) |
| 2LK Visit to Pizza Express | Tuesday 28 th January |
| Books at Bedtime FS/KS1 | Wednesday 29 th January 5.00pm |
| Year 4 Trip to the Sheldonian Theatre | Friday 31 st January |
| 2CG Visit to Pizza Express | Tuesday 4 th February |
| Year 3 Trip to the Ashmolean Museum | Tuesday 4 th February |
| FoRC Bingo Night | Friday 7 th February |
| Year 5 Production to Parents | Tuesday 11 th February 1.45pm and Wednesday 12 th February 6.00pm |
| Love Languages Competition | Thursday 13 th February |
| M&M Production of Cinderella | Friday 14 th February |
| End of Term 2a | Friday 14 th February @3.00pm |
| Start of Term 2b | Monday 24 th February |
| Year 2 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park | Tuesday 25 th February |
| Vision Screening (FS) | Wednesday 26 th February |
| Height and Weight (FS and Year 6) | Thursday 27 th February |
| Class Photos | Tuesday 3 rd March |
| Ambitions Day | Wednesday 4 th March |
| Parent Consultation Evenings | Tuesday 24th March and Thursday 26th March (Please Note Date Change from previous newsletter) |
| Year 4 Residential to Hooke Court | Wednesday 18 th – Friday 20 th March |
| Year 3 Production to Parents | Tuesday 31 st March 1.45pm and Wednesday 1 st April 6.00pm |
| Foundation Stage Party | Tuesday 31 st March (timings tbc) |
| FoRC Spring Disco | Thursday 2 nd April (timings tbc) |
| End of Term 2b | Friday 3 rd April @ 1.30pm |
| Start of Term 3a | Monday 20 th April |
| Year 2 Story Museum Trip | Tuesday 21 st April |
| May Bank Holiday (children not in school) | Friday 8 th May |

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| KS1 SATs weeks | Monday 4th May – Friday 8th May and Monday 18th May – Friday 22nd May |
| KS2 SATs Week | Monday 11th – Friday 15th May |
| Year 6 Junior Citizen Trip | Monday 18th May |
| Year 4 Production to Parents | Tuesday 19th May 6.00pm and Thursday 21st May 1.45pm |
| End of Term 3a | Friday 22nd May @ 3.00pm |
| Start of Term 3b | Monday 1st June |
| KS2 Sports Day (Tilsley Park) | Wednesday 17th June |
| School Concert | Thursday 18th June 6.00pm |
| FoRC Summer Fete | Saturday 20th June |
| KS2 Sports Day Back Up Day (Tilsley Park) | Wednesday 24th June |
| Year 6 Production to Parents | Thursday 25th June 1.45pm and 6.00pm |
| Year 6 ‘Call of The Wild’ Residential | Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July |
| Inset Day (children not in school) | Friday 3rd July |
| End of Term 3b | Friday 17th July @ 1.30pm |
| Inset Day (children not in school) | Monday 20th July |
| Inset Day (children not in school) | Tuesday 21st July |

Local Community News

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



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Home Educators' Day: Love the Winter

Tuesday 11th February 2020; 10am – 2pm

An immersive day of outdoor learning for home educating families. Come find out why we love the nature reserve in winter and discover how the animals survive the chilly weather.

This activity is suitable for children aged 4-9 years with an accompanying adult. Please bring a packed lunch (tea, coffee and squash will be available) and come dressed for the weather as lots of our activities will be outside. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Family Event: Love our Winter Wildlife

Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th February 2020; 10am - 3pm

What does the wildlife do in winter? Wrap up warm and come discover the ingenious ways the animals and plants use to survive the winter weather. Show them you love them by making a winter treat to take home to the wildlife in your garden.

This event is aimed at children 4 to 11 years old accompanied by an adult. £5 per child. BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

Children's Workshop: Weave your own hanging bird table

Friday 21st February 2020; 10am – 12:30pm

Discover how to use plants to weave your own hanging bird table to take home. The birds in your garden will love it!

This activity is for children aged 8 and over, no accompanying younger siblings please. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please remember to come dressed for the weather. BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

Adult Workshop: Forage and Weave - hedgerow baskets for beginners

Sunday 1st March 2020; 10am - 4pm

Nature in winter is a rich source of basket making materials. Learn what to choose and make your own basket to take home.

This activity is suitable for adults. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. £25 per head. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Teacher Training: Introduction to teaching outdoors

Tuesday 24th March 2020; 4:30 - 7pm

Are you a primary school teacher tired of being stuck inside and keen to take your class into the outdoors? This evening session is the perfect introduction to help you get started or broaden the range of your outdoor teaching activities. No experience necessary. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

Please dress for the weather as we will be going outside for some of the session. Bring ideas and questions to share! £3 per head. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

For all bookings please head to our website: www.bbowl.org.uk

Get in touch

Email: sceec@bbowl.org.uk Phone: 01235 862024

Where to find us

Milton Park Estate, off the A34, 3 miles north of Didcot
Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Road, Abingdon, OX14 4TE

Supported by



RHS

See what's happening at our other education centres at College Lake near Aylesbury and Woolley Firs near Maidenhead:

www.bbowl.org.uk



OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY



FREE fun for the whole family!

SCIENCEBazaar

Saturday 29 February 2020

10.30am - 4pm

Headington Campus, Oxford OX3 0BP

No booking required. Just drop in at our reception and enjoy a range of activities for children aged 5-14 years.

www.brookes.ac.uk/science-bazaar



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#ScienceBazaar



Animals on the Move

*Discover the incredible journeys
made by our migratory animals*

Sat 18th – Sun 19th Jan



Swift: pswartig

- Learn about **animal migration**
- See animal-inspired **artworks**
- Get involved with local **conservation groups**
- Meet the **scientists**
- **Children's activities**



© Vicki DeLoe



© Cheryl Fro



© Taomeist

Free Entry!

Venue
St. Swithun's Church Hall
Kennington
Oxford
OX1 5PL

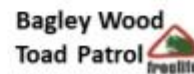
Opening Hours
Sat 18th Jan 10:30 – 16:30
Sun 19th Jan 11:30 – 16:30

animalsonthemoveexhibition.wordpress.com

Funded by:



Exhibition Partners:



Abingdon Swift Project

Puppet workshop - Peachcroft Christian Centre

on 2nd February 2020 - 2 - 5 pm

with special guests



A hands on workshop on the basics of rod arm puppetry, covering everything from attaching arm rods and lip synchronisation to choreography and moves for your puppet.

Please bring a puppet if you have one, if you don't have one, just come along and you will be able to borrow one.

This event is for all ages - you don't need to be a child or have a child to take part! (Suggested minimum age 8 years, though younger children are very welcome)

All children must be accompanied by an adult

If you are interested, please e-mail minister@peachcroftcc.org

IN AID OF ABBEY BRASS NEW BAND HUT

FUN SWIM SESSION FOR
ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

SUNDAY JANUARY 26th 2020
4.00 PM TO 4.45 PM

RADLEY COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE

TICKETS ADULTS £5 CHILDREN £3 [U12]
FAMILY £10 {2A+1C or 1A+3C}

SUPPORTED BY RADLEY SPORTS CENTRE

Contact Caroline 06.521435

