



Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2020



Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of the first half term, it is time to reflect on an extraordinary start to the year. Our school has been balancing the provision of excellent education with a wide range of safety measures due to Coronavirus. This has been exhausting but hugely rewarding. From my perspective, I have nothing but admiration for the way our entire team has embraced this challenge to the huge benefit of our pupils. I am also extremely grateful to everyone in our parent community for the compromises you have made, to face the challenge of Coronavirus together.

Your views are very important to us, and as such, we are currently running two parent questionnaires. The first relates to the use of Parentmail and the second to the current drop off and pick up arrangements. We would be very grateful if you could complete both questionnaires to help us review our systems.

We are also looking to consult with parents on two further topics. The first is an online meeting we would like to hold on new DFE guidance on teaching relationships and sex education. We will hold this on Wednesday 18th November at 3.30pm. We will send out a letter after the half term holiday with the details of the forum and our provisional policy. It will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions and for us to hear your views.

We would also like to invite parents of SEND pupils to a focus group on Wednesday 25th November at 10.30am. This will be a really good opportunity to hear your thoughts about SEND provision and the systems and procedures we use in school for supporting SEND pupils. A letter will also go out after the half term holiday with details on how you can join this online meeting.

Thank you so much to everyone who purchased books from our book fair. It was lovely to still be able to offer this service although in a different way to usual. I am delighted to say that over £1000 of sales were made, which means the school receives just over £600 to spend on books for our pupils. Every penny will be put to good use to purchase the books we require to benefit pupils.

October has been Black History month, and our children have been learning about historical figures that have made a big impact on society. Year 1 have studied Mae Jemison (the first female black astronaut in space); Year 2 have been studying a variety of aspects of different cultures, Year 3 have studied modern figures such as Barack Obama, Marcus Rashford and Beyonce; Year 4 have discussed famous black Tudors, John Blanke and Catalina de Cardones; Year 5 wrote biographies on Fredrick Douglass (American social reformer) and Nelson Mandela; Year 6 focussed on Walter Tull, one of the first black professional footballers and first black British army officer in WW1. Pupils learnt a huge amount and it really supported our approaches in celebrating diversity.

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Thank you for supporting our Wear Red for Anti-Racism day last Friday. It was fantastic to be able to support this cause and increase awareness in our pupils. The school received over £500 in donations of which 50% will go to anti-racism charities with the other half being used by the school on books and resources to support our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.

As you may well know, the Government is supporting schools with COVID-19 catch up funding. We have been considering how best to use this money to support all of our pupils and a summary of this will be available on the website in due course.

I would like to remind parents of the importance of road safety when picking up and dropping off pupils. It is crucial that our pupils and families are kept safe and feel safe when using the roads around our school. Please take some time to consider your road use and if you need to make any change to keep others safe. If you see any unsafe behaviour by road users you should contact the police, or PCSO on AbingdonTownNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable half term holiday, and look forward to seeing everyone back at school after the break.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher

Wear Red Day – Friday 16th October

Wear Red Day is a national day of action which encourages schools, businesses and individuals to wear red and donate to help fund anti-racism education for young people and adults across the UK. Thank you to everyone who supported this and helped us raise over £500.



School Dinners

Please remember that school dinners now cost **£2.20** per day

Meal choices and payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail.

Please note meal choices must be made at least three days in advance.

Thank you.



Homework Champions

Sophia	1JB/BL	Isabelle	5CM
Samuella	3EF	Olivia	5CM
Emily B	3EF	Aidan	5CM
Robyn	3NM	Tom	5CM
Ethan	3NM	Jessica	5JN
Cara	3NM	Sam	5JN
Frank	3NM	Kaylah	5JN
Clara	3NM	Sanvihaa	5JN
Ruby	3NM	Chloe	5JN
Evan	3NM	Summer	5JN
Minuo	4LR	Martha	6SA
Soi	4LR	Isabelle	6SA
Jack	4LR	Ailbe	6SA
Hannah	4LR	Livvy	6SA
Charlie	4RS	Chloe	6SA
Ellie-Mai	4RS	Aimee	6EW
Lilly	4RS	Kate	6EW
Andrew	4RS	Josie	6EW



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Virtual Open Evening

Welcome videos and tours available on our website now.
Live Q&A Session on Monday 16th November at 6:00pm

Visit:

<https://rushcommonschool.org>



To book our Q&A session, email:

office@rushcommonschool.org

or phone:

01235 533 583

We are open to families from across Abingdon.

Dates for your diary 2020/21

End of Term 1a	Friday 23rd October
Start of Term 1b	Monday 2nd November
Flu Immunisation (Reception – Year 6)	Wednesday 4th November
School Closing Early	Friday 20th November @ 12.00pm Reception/KS1 and 12.10pm KS2
School Closing Early	Tuesday 8th December @ 12.00pm Reception/KS1 and 12.10pm KS2
End of Term 1b	Friday 18th December @ 1.30pm
Start of Term 2a	Monday 4th January 2021
End of Term 2a	Friday 12th February 2021
Start of Term 2b	Monday 22nd February 2021
Individual School Photos	Tuesday 2nd March 2021
Class School Photos	Wednesday 28th April 2021
End of Term 2b	Wednesday 31st March @ 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Monday 19th April 2021
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 3rd May 2021
End of Term 3a	Friday 28th May 2021
Inset Day (children not in school)	Monday 7th June 201
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 8th June 2021
End of Term 3b	Wednesday 21st July 2021 @ 1.30pm
Inset Day (children not in school)	Thursday 22nd July 2021

Local Community News

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

Pupil Safety and Dark Nights

This Saturday night we will be setting the clocks back an hour and summer time ends. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The latest available government statistics (2015) show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3 and 7pm. From next Sunday, much of those will happen in darkness.

Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15 year olds are actually more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury.

The resources below will help remind children, about road safety and safe cycling.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Be Bright, Be Seen Poster https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Be_Bright_Be_Seen-A5-Flyer.pdf