



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

I must start this newsletter with our fantastic KS1 Nativity Performances. The packed hall on both occasions were delighted by the brilliant singing, the clarity with which children spoke their lines and the overall enjoyment and enthusiasm shown by all children. They should be very proud of their performances. Thank you to everyone who attended and also for your kind donations towards the school.

Last week we all enjoyed the visit of Matt Lucas (well known actor, and TV presenter) who gave an inspiring talk about his latest children's book. He also gave his tips on how to be a great writer and he shared some facts about himself along the way! Thank you to those who purchased the book, and please do keep an eye out for our next celebrity author in school!

This week the children in Year 4 had an immersive Tudor experience on their residential trip to Upton Court. There were so many Tudor activities packed into the trip including 'Life on a Farm', Tudor games and skills, bow making, Tudor scavenger hunt, Tudor banquet and a 'Raid' on the House. It was an unforgettable experience and truly brought their learning of the Tudor topic to life!

There have been many other enrichment activities over the course of the last two weeks. These include a truly memorable 'Big Sing' event for our Choir, a fascinating Year 3 trip to the Ashmolean Museum, an Orchestra performance in our Celebration Assembly, a Sports and Movement Festival for a number of children representing the school for the first time and 'BeSpoke' cycling training in Year 5. Our Boys Football Team also played Caldecott school on Thursday and won 6-0! These type of events really help children with children's personal development journey, and have been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday, Year 6 shared their in depth knowledge of World War II through their Curriculum Assembly to parents. Every child spoke individually (either sharing their knowledge or written work), demonstrating that every child has the confidence to perform to an audience. It was clear to see the way children had engaged with this fascinating topic and their commitment to learning will stand them in great stead going forward.

We are looking forward to a number of Christmas events and activities before we break up next week. This afternoon is our Reception Christmas Craft Afternoon, which is a great opportunity for parents to visit their children in their classrooms. Then after school today is our Christmas Choir Concert. Thank you in advance for your attendance at these events.

Next Tuesday is our Christmas Orchestra performance, and having heard lots of the practice, I know it's going to be really enjoyed by all! Then on Wednesday, the children join staff in singing and playing music at our 'Singalong Carols'. This is a unique opportunity for children to see staff playing instruments, and they very much look forward to this special event. On the same day everyone will be tucking into their Christmas dinner and feeling extremely festive! Finally on Thursday, Reception make their annual trip to the postbox to post their carefully worded letters to Santa. It certainly is a busy and wonderful time of year!

This is the last newsletter for the term so I would like to thank all of our families for the tremendous support you have shown the school this year, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards

*Kristen Fawcett*

Headteacher



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### School Dinners

The cost of school dinners this term is **£2.80** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail. Meal choices must be made at least 3 days in advance.



### Homework Champions

Hannah	3HC
Francesca	3HC
Boden	3HC
Rosie	3CM
Marcus	3CM
Amella	3CM
Harrison	3CM
Isla	4TJ
Darcy	4TJ

Megan	4EG
Ted	4EG
Sophie	5SC
Millie	5SC
Lucas	5SC
Beatrix	5SC
Avalyn	5LB
Sasha	5LB
Eva	5LB
Sophia	6JN
Matilda	6JN

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**  
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**  
Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the default 'For You' feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and scrolling for long enough allows access to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.8 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a false date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

## BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both topics appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the 'blackout' trend, where users hold their breath until passing out. Trends filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

## MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear light-hearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, homophobic, antisemitic or conspiracy material. Some bad clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

## IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £5.99 to £24.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

## ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 27 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's to allow to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chance of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, Techradar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
**The National College**

See our reference list on our website

@wake\_up\_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 26.11.2026

This poster and others can also be viewed on the link below:

<https://www.rushcommonschool.org/information-for-parents/other-useful-information-2/online-safety-information/>

### Dates for your diary 2025/2026

<b>Preschool &amp; Reception Nativity Performance</b>	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am</b>
<b>Christmas Dinner Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Reception Post Box Walk</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>End of Term 1b</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 2a</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>
<b>Year 4 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 9.00am</b>
<b>Year 5 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 9.00am</b>
<b>End of Term 2a</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Start of Term 2b</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Travelling Book Fair</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>World Book Day</b>	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Year 2 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Parents' Evening</b>	<b>Week of the 16<sup>th</sup> March (Days and times tbc)</b>
<b>Year 1 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 9.00am</b>
<b>Weight and Measure Programme (Reception And Year 6 Children Only)</b>	<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Red Nose Day</b>	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Year 2 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2.30pm</b>
<b>Year 3 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 9.00am</b>
<b>Science Fair</b>	<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>End of Term 2b</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 3a</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>
<b>Year 5 Liddington Residential</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>
<b>Year 6 SATs Information Evening</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 5.00pm</b>
<b>May Bank Holiday (children not in school)</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>
<b>Reception Trip to Roves Farm</b>	<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>
<b>KS2 SATs Week</b>	<b>Week of the 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon</b>	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026</b>
<b>End of Term 3a</b>	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026</b>
<b>Inset Day (Children Not in School)</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026</b>
<b>Start of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026</b>

<b>Class Photos</b>	<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>
<b>Phonics Screening</b>	<b>Week of the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>
<b>Vision Screening (Reception Children Only)</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>
<b>Reception and KS1 Sports Day</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 9.00am – 12.00pm</b>
<b>Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 9.00am - 12.00pm</b>
<b>Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026</b>
<b>Reception Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 at 2.15pm</b>
<b>Move Up Morning</b>	<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>
<b>KS2 Sports Day Tilsley Park</b>	<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 9.00am - 2.00pm</b>
<b>KS2 Back Up Sports Day Tilsley Park</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 9.00am - 2.00pm</b>
<b>End of Term 3b</b>	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 1.30pm</b>



## Local Community News

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




Thursdays 3pm-4.15pm. Years 1-6  
Only 15 spaces available  
11 weeks - 8<sup>th</sup> January - 26<sup>th</sup> March  
£10 per week

Book for the term and pay online. Password: RCDC25-26T3+4

<https://bookwhen.com/dramaclubs/e/ev-s9kvg-20260105151500>

**Drama Club is back for 2026!**



### THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7 - 13 who love to sing. Established in 2013, the Singing School provides the opportunity to experience great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop confidence in singing and performing.

Pupils will learn some beautiful carols and seasonal music from around the world, led by our regular team of expert coaches.


To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see [www.oxbridgesingingschool.com](http://www.oxbridgesingingschool.com) or email [oxbridgess@gmail.com](mailto:oxbridgess@gmail.com)

22 & 23 December 2025  
St Barnabas Church, Jericho, Oxford  
St Catharine's College, Cambridge

[www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk](http://www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk)

Join us for an afternoon of free fun!

## WINTER ACTIVITY AFTERNOON



**Monday 22 December**


The Junction  
Next to the Library,  
Broad Street,  
Abingdon, OX14 3LZ

- Wheelchair accessible,
- Baby changing facilities

**FREE**

JOIN US FOR FUN ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY WITH DANCE PARTIES, CRAFTS AND SOFT PLAY

BOOKING REQUIRED SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT [SOUTHANDVALE.GOV.UK/HOLIDAYACTIVITIES](http://SOUTHANDVALE.GOV.UK/HOLIDAYACTIVITIES)



## OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS OPEN MORNING 2026

Free, fun taster session  
for children  
aged 4-18



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Cherwell School, North Site**

Reception-Year 1: 9:15-10:05am  
Year 2-Year 3: 10:10-11:40am  
Year 4-Year 6: 9:15-11:10am  
Year 7-Year 13: 10:30am-12:30pm

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE** → **MORE INFO: [TINYURL.COM/OYC2026](http://TINYURL.COM/OYC2026)**





**Multi Sports Club**  
**Tilsley Park, Abingdon**

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We would like to invite children in local Primary Schools to take part in a free, weekly Multi Sports Club, as part of Abingdon School in Partnership.

The club is run by Abingdon School Student Coaches and supervised by Teachers and Coaches from our Sports department. The club will run on Thursdays at Tilsley Park, 4:00 - 4.50pm starting in January and is open to children in Years 5 and 6 from local partner schools.

The aim of the club is to give opportunities to students to get active and develop an interest in and enjoyment of physical activity. It will also help our students develop skills associated with leadership, communication and coaching.

The activities for each week have been designed to be fun, active and to help develop skills associated with a wide range of sports starting with Rugby. Our student leaders have been trained and will be fully supervised.

If you would like your child to take part, please register your interest via the information form linked [here](#). **Please wait for confirmation of a space as numbers are limited.**

There are facilities for parents to stay on site if needed, along with adequate parking.

Best wishes,

*Robin Southwell-Sander*

**Director of Partnerships**

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**Sports Partnership Lead**

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**Partnership Coordinator**

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