



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 12th June 2026

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

The Summer Term has started with real energy and a great buzz around the school, in no way dampened by the intermittent downpours we are having at the moment! This was certainly the case for the Year 4 pupils at the Quad Kids Athletics Competition on Wednesday, battling through the rain and wind to compete admirably. They came an impressive 5th out of 14 teams, and every team member should be proud of the effort they put into the competition. Our Girls football team were also out this week with an away football game against St Nicolas School. They showed great competitive team spirit and skill to eventually win 3-0.

Over the last fortnight, the children in Year 4 have completed the Multiplication Table Check, and children in Year 1 completed the Phonics Screening. We are very proud of the progress children make at the school and the way they approach any form of assessment – we are sure the results will reflect this. For those of you with children in Year 1 and Year 4, you will receive the score from these assessments with the End of Year Report in July. For parents of children in Year 6 the results of the SATs tests will also be provided with the End of Year Report.

Today, Year 3 have been putting their survival skills to the test on their trip to Hill End. It is a wonderful trip that the children really enjoy, with activities including den building, fire-lighting and a nature walk. It's brilliant to do a trip where the children spend almost the entire time outside, and I'm sure when the children come home today they will be full of stories of their adventures from the great outdoors!

Thank you to all the parents that have attended our Year 5 PGL Liddington Residential Information Evening (for current Year 4 parents) and the Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential meeting. The Call of the Wild trip is coming up this July, and it was great to see so many parents at the meeting to understand the many packing requirements for the trip! It promises to be another absolutely amazing trip and we know the children can't wait!

It is a time of year when thoughts turn to transition, and with this in mind our next year's Reception teachers have been out making home visits to the new starters in Reception. This has been a great opportunity to start the relationship with the new children and families and we hope those parents that are already part of our Preschool have found it useful. New for this year will be Preschool starter home visits, which means all children joining the school (whether in Preschool or Reception) will receive a home visit before they start.

It is a busy time of year for FoRC with all the preparations for the Summer Fete tomorrow. Thankfully the weather forecast looks fine, so we can swap the umbrellas for sun cream for what promises to be a lovely event. Thank you to everyone who provided a summer fete prize in order for children to wear non-school uniform last Friday. It makes a real difference to the success of the event. Thank you also to FoRC for the pop up school uniform sale on Tuesday, which was clearly very popular.

Please may I remind all parents to ensure their children are not climbing on the pedestrian gate at the front entrance at the beginning of the day. It is a magnetised gate, and it may become damaged if children are climbing on it.

Finally, may I wish all of our families an enjoyable and safe weekend, and I hope to see many of you tomorrow at our Summer Fete.

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

Lexie
Ethan

3CM
3CM

Boden
Ben

3HC
3HC

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National
Year of
Reading
2026

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution, however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2023.

NEXT EPISODE

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 18-year-olds averaged 2.8 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified file links to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting, with binge watching coming at a cost of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and how adverts and recommended shows/movies are generated. Encourage them to think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some TV shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, so it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idle in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions, if the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed 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 use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 1.03.2025

[This poster and others can also be viewed on the link below:](https://www.rushcommonschoo.org/information-for-parents/other-useful-information-2/online-safety-information/)

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

Dates for your diary 2026

FoRC Summer Fete	Saturday 13th June 12.00pm – 2.00pm
Year 2 Abingdon Museum Trip	Tuesday 16th June (2LG) and Wednesday 17th June (2JB)
Vision Screening (Reception Children Only)	Thursday 18th June
Reception and KS1 Sports Day	Friday 19th June 9.00am – 12.00pm
Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day	Tuesday 23rd June 9.00am - 12.00pm
Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential	Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July
Reception Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 1st July at 2.15pm
Move Up Morning	Wednesday 8th July
KS2 Sports Day Tilsley Park	Friday 10th July 9.00am - 2.00pm
Year 6 Performance	Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July 6.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day Tilsley Park	Thursday 16th July 9.00am - 2.00pm
Year 6 Leavers Party	Thursday 16th July 4.30pm -6.30pm
End of Term 3b	Friday 17th 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



● A Summer Full of Stories Starts Here ●

A summer full of stories starts here. This summer, Holiday HQ brings seven weeks of high-energy adventures, creative challenges and unforgettable experiences to our school — with something different to discover every day.

From water battles and sports tournaments to science experiments, outdoor exploration and global celebrations, children will stay active, engaged and inspired all summer long through a holiday club packed with movement, creativity and play.

This summer, Holiday HQ returns to our school, delivered by Junior Adventures Group (JAG).

📅 **20 July – 4 September**
👶 **Ages 4-11**

👉 [Check out What's On!](#)
👉 [Register/Book Now!](#)

● What's happening this summer?

- 🌍 **Global Celebrations** | 20–24 July
- 🏆 **Ultimate Sports** | 27–31 July
- 🔬 **STEM, Science & Discovery** | 3–7 August
- 🌊 **Summer Splash** | 10–14 August
- 🏃 **Urban Sports** | 17–21 August
- 🌿 **Environment & Nature** | 24–28 August
- 🌐 **World Discovery & Culture** | 31 August – 4 September

From Songkran-inspired splash water battles and Korean Street Games to Watermelon Explosion experiments, urban parkour challenges and creative Make & Take projects — every week brings something new for children to discover.

No two days are the same — and children come home happily tired, full of stories and excited for what's next.

What this means for families

- ✓ Safe, structured days delivered by experienced, DBS-checked staff
- ✓ Ofsted-registered holiday childcare you can trust
- ✓ A convenient, familiar school setting
- ✓ Full and half-day options — book only the days you need
- ✓ 48-hour cancellation policy if plans change
- ✓ Tax-Free Childcare accepted

For parents, it means reliable holiday cover, active days for children and a smoother, more organised summer break — without the stress of planning every day yourself.

Book early and save

🕒 **Early bird discount – Save 10%**
Book by Sunday July 5th using code **STORIES10** at checkout

👨 **Sibling discount – Save 10%**
Automatically applied when booking more than one child

📅 **Multi-day booking discount – Save 4%**
Applied when booking four days or more within the same week

All eligible discounts are combined automatically at checkout.

Parents can view session times, prices and availability online.
👉 [Find our school club](#)

Big days for them. Headspace for you.

📞 **Have any questions?**
0333 577 1533
📧 hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk



Free Summer Holiday Club Sessions for children eligible for Free School Meals!

Local Authority: Oxfordshire

Venues:

Didcot Railway Centre - OX11 7NJ
Dates: 3rd - 27th August - Mon-Thur
Times: 10:00-14:00

Rush Common School - OX14 2AW
Dates: 3rd - 27th August - Mon-Thur
Times: 10:00-14:00

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted to have partnered with Junior Adventures Group (JAG) and Oxfordshire to offer your child a FREE place at our JAG Holiday Clubs this coming school holiday running at multiple venues in the Oxfordshire area this summer.

Ensure your children experience a Holiday Club like no other with JAG's Holiday HQ programme! Holiday HQ is the ultimate destination for children looking for an unforgettable break from the school routine. From exciting outdoor escapades to creative workshops, cooking classes and interactive learning sessions – our expert programme team provide a dynamic blend of engaging activities and enriching experiences.

We're part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) network!
 HAF provides funding to local authorities and childcare providers – such as JAG – so that local families needing additional support can book their children into out-of-school activities. This vitally important programme helps ensure that children:

- ✓ Stay active during the school holidays
- ✓ Take part in enriching, engaging activities that support their development.
- ✓ Eat healthily during the holidays
- ✓ Are safe, socialise and make new friends



Book now!
 Oxfordshire Council uses an external booking system called Eequ for parents to make their individual bookings.

To check your eligibility and to create your account, please visit <https://eequ.org/hafoxfordshire>

If you have any questions, please contact the Oxfordshire HAF Team via email at: HAF@oxfordshire.gov.uk



JAG's Holiday HQ Programme!

Holiday HQ is JAG's holiday club programme, delivering an epic break from school! Children dive into thrilling outdoor adventures, creative workshops, cooking classes, and interactive fun. They'll make new friends, explore their interests, and return to school with unforgettable memories!

Each season, we introduce a new theme with exciting daily activities, from arts and crafts to sports and STEM. With fresh, fun experiences every day, there's always something to spark their interest! Our daily schedule blends planned events with opportunities for kids to share their ideas.

Each week also features experience types: Daily themed hero activities, Skill Zone activities, Make and Take and Special Event sessions for extra creativity and keepsakes. Two themed activities each day ensure endless adventures and surprises!

For further information on how JAG supports families and local authority partners during the school holidays, please visit <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/haf/>. Otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact their friendly bookings team via email at hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk or telephone 0333 577 1533.

Kind regards,

[Insert name]



READ to the BEAT

Turn up the volume on reading this summer with a FREE children's reading challenge at your local Oxfordshire library!

From 4 July to 5 September, children across Oxfordshire can collect stickers and rewards as they enjoy reading library books.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat, in partnership with Universal Music Group UK, celebrates the joy of reading with a theme inspired by music. It's the National Year of Reading, so make reading part of your summer adventures!

Children who finish the Challenge at an Oxfordshire library will receive a medal, a certificate and entry into a prize draw. Under 4s can take part in a mini challenge with their own special collector's folder and stickers.



Read to the Beat illustrations by Harry Woodgate, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2026

Look out for fantastic new books and activities at your library.

Find out more at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge and go to summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for more fun!

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SEE YOU THURSDAY!



THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Singing School was established in 2013 to provide children with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

This summer at Somerville College, we will be learning some beautiful seasonal music, and, as always on our courses, we will be giving sessions on vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingingschool.com or email oxbridgess@gmail.com

21 -23 July 2026

also 21 & 22 December 2026

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