



# Rush Common School Newsletter

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



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start the first newsletter of this year by welcoming all of our new children and families to Rush Common School. We have a new cohort of children in Preschool, who have settled into school life incredibly well. In Reception, we welcome all the new children and families that have started alongside those that moved up from our Preschool. The Early Years classrooms have been a hive of activity, and it has been a pleasure to see how smoothly children have started their educational journey at our school. We also welcome many new children and families that have joined our school in other Year Groups, and I know they have been warmly welcomed by their new classmates and the staff.

We are proud of our pupil's achievements across the school and our results for last year were excellent. The attainment measures in Reception, Year 1 Phonics, Year 4 Multiplication Check and Year 6 SATs were all well above national averages, and we are especially pleased that over half of our children achieved the Greater Depth Standard in Reading at the end of Year 6. These fantastic results mirror the superb teaching and learning that takes place across the school every day for all of our pupils!

We also know that our school is much more than just academic achievement and we are proud of how we craft children's personal development and provide enriching opportunities across the curriculum. One such experience has already taken place in Year 1 as children were astounded to find a large egg on the school field. This opened up a debate about what sort of egg it could be, followed by an unexpected visitor to our school field!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher Meetings. There was a really good turn out and we hope you all found the meetings informative and useful. The slides will be sent out by the teachers in each Year Group in case any parents were unable to attend the meetings. Continue to look out for the weekly updates provided by each Year Group through MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).

Thank you to everyone who has made a voluntary £10 contribution for the term ahead. It is hugely appreciated and will be put towards the everyday materials we use in school, including stationery, paper resources, workbooks, arts and crafts and many more daily items. If anyone would prefer to provide resources to the school (such as sets of glue sticks or whiteboard pens) please do let us know.

We know parking and road safety can sometimes be an issue at the main entrance and at the Norman Avenue entrance of the school. By the end of this month we will have received a visit from a Travel Engineer from Oxfordshire County Council and a plan will be formed to tackle the issues. I will update parents accordingly. For the time being please can those travelling by car make use of the Boundary House carpark (our permanent park and stride) and walk from there. Please do not park on the grass verges, do not park opposite the drive to the school or turn around in the drive. This is for the safety of everyone at drop off and pick up. Our first Walk to School week will be week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> October and we hope everyone will support us fully with this initiative.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe weekend ahead, as we look towards this exciting Autumn Term.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett  
Headteacher



## 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.



At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National On line Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games (like Cyberpunk 2077 and Hitman) have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

**18 CENSORED**

#### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

#### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles (like Fortnite or Splatoon 3) allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

#### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

**DO NOT**

#### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

#### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has

**#WakeUpWednesday**

The National College

### Dates for your diary 2025/2026

Reception and Year 1 Parent Phonics Evening	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
KS2 House Curriculum Afternoon	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September
European Day of Languages	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September
Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October
Inset Day (children Not in school)	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October
Travelling Book Fair	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October
Individual School Photos	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
World Mental Health Day	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October
Show Racism The Red Card Day	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 1 Dinosaur Workshop	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Road Safety Week	Week of the 20 <sup>th</sup> October
End of Term 1a	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
Start of Term 1b	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Author Visit Years 4,5, and 6	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 4 Ufton Court Information Evening	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 5 Museum Trip	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November
FoRC Firework Night	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Parents' Evening	Week of the 10 <sup>th</sup> November (Days and times tbc)
Anti Bullying Week	Week of Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November
Odd Socks Day	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November
Children in Need Day	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 4 Ufton Court Residential	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Reception Nativity Performance	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am
Christmas Dinner Day	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
End of Term 1b	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm
Start of Term 2a	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
End of Term 2a	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Start of Term 2b	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Travelling Book Fair	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2026



<b>World Book Day</b>	<b>Thursday 5<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>Red Nose Day</b>	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026</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>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>Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026</b>
<b>Move Up Morning</b>	<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026</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*

## Thames Vale Intermediate Orchestra



Calling for young\* musicians to join the **Thames Vale Intermediate Orchestra TVIO** a new feeder orchestra for the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra TVYO.



Starting date 15 September 2025  
Mondays 6:15 – 7:45pm  
Larkmead School, Abingdon  
Grade 3 – 5+ No audition required  
<https://www.tvyo.org.uk/join-us>

\*Ages c.8-15 years



September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

**All Yours Period Boxes**

We're here to support families again this school year. Back-to-school costs and the run-up to Christmas can be tough, but no one should go without period products.

You can request a free, confidential All Yours Box here: <https://www.aliyoursbox.co.uk/request>

We offer disposable products, reusable pads, and menstrual cups. If you're ordering for more than one person, just note this in the comments box.

Boxes are prepared and delivered by volunteers, so please allow up to 21 days (though most arrive much sooner).

If we can't deliver to you directly, we'll let you know how to find your nearest collection point.

**Dads Do Pads are back – two new workshop dates!**

We're excited to share two upcoming free online sessions for dads, carers, and any men who want to better understand periods and support young people.

**Dads Do Pads: Menstrual Cycle Edition**

October 22nd, 7.30pm

Learn how the menstrual cycle works and how it affects those who have periods.

Book here - <https://bit.ly/DadsDoPadsMCEOct2025>

**Dads Do Pads: Period Products**

November 12th, 7.30pm

Get practical knowledge about different products, how to use them, and ask any questions you've been nervous to ask.

Book here - <https://bit.ly/DadsDoPadsNov2025>

The sessions are completely FREE, just register to secure your place.

With best wishes,

*All Yours*

All Yours Period Box CIC – [www.aliyoursbox.co.uk](http://www.aliyoursbox.co.uk)  
Facebook & Instagram - @aliyoursmonthly

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