



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a really busy start to the half term, with children participating in many events across the school that are linked to their personal development. This week has been Anti-Bullying Week, and the week started with an assembly from Mrs Drew and our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors about the theme of the week – Power for Good. The start of Anti-Bullying Week was also Odd Socks Day, in which everyone came to school wearing odd socks to show what makes us all unique and different. This perfectly complements our current PSHE topic for all children of 'Celebrating Difference'. The importance of children grasping concepts of diversity, equality and inclusion cannot be understated in our world today.

On Tuesday we held a poignant Remembrance Service at the school. It was impeccably observed by all of our children, and involved laying poppy wreaths (made by children across the school), a poetry recital from Year 6 and our two Remembrance Service songs 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' and 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'. The school also donated a poppy wreath to the Royal British Legion, which was laid at the War Memorial in Abingdon prior to the service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you to all parents who sent children in with money to contribute to the Poppy Appeal.

We now have our new School Parliament in place, with 12 members from Year 1 to Year 6, who have been elected by their classes. The children were very proud to receive their badges in the assembly last Friday and they had a meeting this week. I know they will represent the views of the children in the school admirably.

Every Friday, Mrs Barnes carries out Team Building and Orienteering activities with children in Key Stage 2. Each class has a block of four weeks, which really develops communication skills, confidence and the ability to work successfully with others towards achieving a goal. Currently, it is the turn of class 3HC and I know they are really enjoying these activities.

Last Friday was our annual Fireworks Display, which really went off with a bang! The fireworks were as impressive as ever and even the light drizzle throughout the evening couldn't dampen the spirits of those at the event. Thank you to everyone who attended and I am told it has made over £4,000 for the school! A huge thank you to Rebecca Strugnell, Chair of FoRC, for organising the event and the team of volunteers who helped make the evening such a success.

Thank you to all the parents that have attended important meetings in school over the last fortnight. Firstly, the Ufton Court Year 4 Residential Information Evening was very well attended, and we hope it was useful in preparing your child for this fantastic first residential trip. Secondly, thank you for everyone's attendance at the Parents Evenings this week. We really hope it was informative and helpful in understanding how your child is progressing in school. If any parent has not attended a meeting, please contact the school office ([office@rushcommon.school](mailto:office@rushcommon.school)) to arrange a time for this as soon as possible.

Finally, may I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable weekend as we look toward the rest of this exciting 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.



## Homework Champions

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Benjamin | 2JB |
| Evie     | 2JB |
| Maisie   | 2LG |
| Belle    | 2LG |
| Dougie   | 3HC |



## Rush Common School

*Dream, Aspire, Succeed*



### Visits, Tours and Taster Sessions - Autumn 2025

#### Taster Sessions

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Your children will experience our Reception classrooms and outdoor area with a wide range of fun, educational activities led by our brilliant Reception teachers.



*'Children in early years get off to a flying start'*

*Ofsted Nov 2021*

#### Open Mornings

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 9.00 am

See children learning across the school, meet our school staff and ask plenty of questions.

*'Happiness is all around. It is as if pupils have an extended family at school'*

*Ofsted Nov 2021*



#### Individual School Visits



Arrange a time to meet with the Headteacher, before a tour of the school. Plenty of opportunities for questions

*'Pupils love coming to Rush Common School'*

*Ofsted Nov 2021*

To register your interest, email: [office@rushcommon.school](mailto:office@rushcommon.school) or phone: 01235 533 583

Follow us on Facebook, or visit our website to find out more. [www.rushcommonschooll.org](http://www.rushcommonschooll.org)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

AGE RESTRICTION  
**PEGI 3**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

### ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

### QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time limited-match seasons consistently being introduced – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

### PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are repeated each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

### ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 170 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

### COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

### COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional reward rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

### SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

### PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

### TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

### Meet Our Expert

Sam Upcombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience, specialising in technology and gaming. He has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



**Wake Up Wednesday**

The National College



@wake\_up\_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

## Dates for your diary 2025/2026

|                                                                              |                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Year 6 STEAM Museum Trip</b>                                              | <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>                                                                                              |
| <b>FoRC Christmas Jumper Sale</b>                                            | <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 3.00pm</b>                                                                                    |
| <b>Year 3 Ashmolean Museum Trip</b>                                          | <b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>                                                                                              |
| <b>Year 4 Ufton Court Residential</b>                                        | <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                                                   |
| <b>Year 5 Cycling Training</b>                                               | <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                                                    |
| <b>KS1 Nativity Performance</b>                                              | <b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 1LM/BL &amp; 2JB at 2.15pm and<br/>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1EE &amp; 2LG at 2.15pm</b> |
| <b>Year 6 Curriculum Assembly</b>                                            | <b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.00am</b>                                                                                 |
| <b>Christmas Jumper Day</b>                                                  | <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                                                                            |
| <b>Reception Nativity Performance</b>                                        | <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup><br/>December at 9.15am</b>                                 |
| <b>Christmas Dinner Day</b>                                                  | <b>Wednesday 17<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<br/>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>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>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



**FREE ENTRY!**

**Christmas Fayre 25**

Benson Village Hall  
Wallingford OX10 6LZ  
10AM - 4PM  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November



**Santa's Grotto**  
**Craft Stalls**  
**Raffle**  
**Café**  
**Children's Games & Activities**  
**Tombola**  
**AND MUCH MORE**

Santa's Grotto Pre-Bookings available now on our Website!

Event held by Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue. Reg Charity Number 1194050



**OXFORD**

**2<sup>nd</sup> January - 1:1s available**

9-10am  
10-11am  
12-1pm  
1-2pm  
2-3pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> January - CHRISTMAS CAMP**

09:00-15:00pm  
10-14yrs  
£50pp

**SIGN UP LINK IN BIO OR EMAIL US!!**

targetnetballacademy@gmail.com  
07469196478

First come first serve basis...



**Could you be the next hockey star?**

**Junior sessions underway!**

- Every session is professionally coached
- High quality & modern playing facilities to play on
- U6s & U8s is 0930-1030 on Sunday @TP
- U10s & U12 is 1030-1200 on Sunday @ TP
- U14s is 1900-2000 on Mondays @ Radley
- U14 Boys & Girls compete in league games and fun festivals
- Fun and social hockey for all players...beginners welcome!



**Email:**  
**abingdonavengers@gmail.com**

**Interested? Try us out for free!**  
Tilsley Park, Abingdon, OX14 1PU  
Radley College, Radley, OX14 2HR  
Socials: @AbingdonHockeyClub



**Menstrual Health and  
Period Education Advocates**

November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

**All Yours Period Boxes**

2025 has flown by and we are already making plans for the Christmas period. We will be closed over the Christmas holidays to ensure that all our hard-working volunteers get a well-deserved rest.

If you would like to request an All Yours box to support you over Christmas, please could you make your request by Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December to ensure we have time to get your box to you before Christmas.

You can request a free, confidential All Yours Box here: <https://www.allyoursbox.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 for delivery (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.

All Yours will be closed between Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Normal service will resume on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January and all emails and messages received during the Christmas closure will be responded to from then.

**Dads Do Pads – final 2025 workshop date!**

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

**Dads Do Pads: Menstrual Cycle Edition**

November 18th, 7.30pm

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

Book here - <https://bit.ly/DadsDoPadsMCENov2025>

The session is completely FREE, just register to secure your place.

With best wishes,

*All Yours*

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