



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this newsletter with our fantastic Cross Country Teams who competed in the Vale Finals on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. We have some very talented runners across Key Stage 2 and we had by far the biggest team (and supporters) at the event! The children competed brilliantly and both our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Girls Teams have made it through to the Oxfordshire Finals. I will update you on how they get on. A special mention for Jacob in Year 4, who won his race, beating all other competitors across the Vale in his age group. Congratulations to you all!

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November we held our Fireworks Evening and it was absolutely spectacular! Once again we had the stilt walker at the event but the new addition this year was the fire show, which was a fantastic flaming hot build up to the main event. The crescendo to the fireworks display was truly amazing, as was the number of spectators. Nearly 1000 people attended the event, and it raised an incredible £4,600 for the school. A huge thank you to everyone who came to the fireworks and volunteered, with a special mention to Rebecca Strugnell (Chair of FoRC) who organised the event superbly.

Thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' Evenings this week. I hope you all had useful and informative meetings, and had a chance to see your children's workbooks. We are very proud of the academic and personal progress children make in our school and it is important to be able to share this with you. We were particularly pleased to offer ELSA drop ins for parents, and we hope this was useful. If you haven't managed to attend a meeting with your child's class teacher, please email the school to book in an appointment.

Last week, we held our first Key Stage 2 House Competition of this year. The children feel a real sense of belonging to their particular House Teams, and the competitive spirit across the school was great to see. Children took part in Cross Country, English quizzes and Times Table Rockstar competitions with real conviction to earn points for their house. The overall winners were Kites, but as always at Rush Common, the children were humble in victory, and gracious in defeat!

Our pupils always enjoy the breadth of enrichment opportunities we provide. Last week, Year 2 dressed up as Romans, spending the whole day carrying out Roman activities, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November Year 5/6 children took part in the Primary Maths Challenge, Year 4 enjoyed Science Workshops at Abingdon School today, and this week everyone in KS2 has had the opportunity to join England Rocks (the Timestable Rockstars National Competition).

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, we held a very poignant Remembrance Service for the whole school. The children placed wreaths they had made on our mound by the playground, and Year 6 recited the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. A one minute's silence was impeccably observed and the children understood the significance of the service. We also placed a poppy wreath from Rush Common School on the War Memorial for the Remembrance Service in Abingdon last Sunday.

This week has been Anti-Bullying Week and the theme for the week has been to 'Show Respect'. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors joined Mrs Drew in sharing this message with the rest of the school in assembly, and there have been activities provided to classes to help understand this further. The children at Rush Common have become very aware of the specific definition of bullying, and know that it will never be tolerated in our school.

In recent weeks we have been busy supporting a variety of very worthwhile causes. Firstly, our school provided a huge collection of food for Abingdon Food Bank, and I can confirm the weight was a massive 243 kg. Just before half term we supported 'Show Racism the Red Card' for which we raised over £300. We have also been raising money for the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need today. I will update you on the totals in the next Newsletter. Thank you everyone for your contributions towards such important charities.

Finally, a thank you to everyone that attended our SEND Coffee Afternoon this week. We had a speaker from CAMHS who outlined the important work they carry out. We hope this was useful for everyone who attended.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe weekend ahead as we look toward the rest of this exciting term.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett  
Headteacher



太古基金會  
SWIRE  
CHINESE  
LANGUAGE  
FOUNDATION



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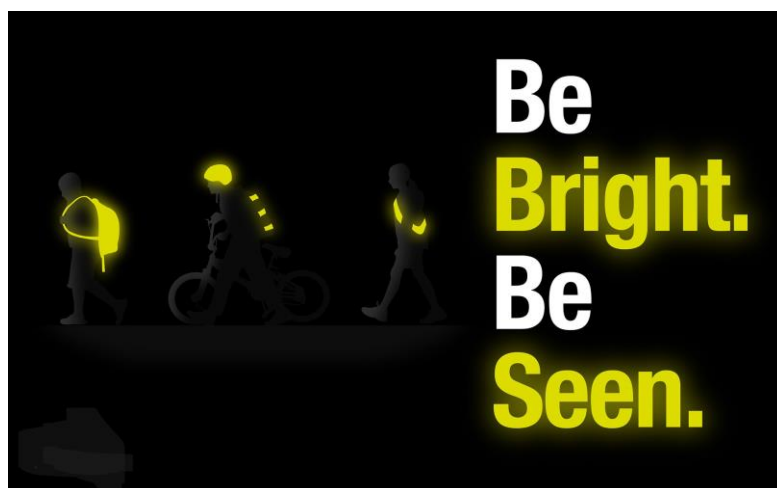
### School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is **£2.65** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail. Meal choices must be made at least 3 days in advance.



### Travel Plan

Rush Common School have received a certificate to show that our Travel Plan has received a 'Good' accreditation. The travel plan will be appearing on our website soon. We are continuing to collaborate with OCC on road safety, particularly during drop off and pick up times.



**Please see our website for latest school and Trust Job Vacancies:**

Vacancies - Rush Common School - Dream, Aspire, Succeed

## Homework Champions

Erin	3CO
Elsie	4CM
Esmee	4CM
Teodor	6JN

### Dates for your diary 2024/2025

Brake Road Safety Day	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 3 Egyptian Workshop	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> (3LG) and Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November (3CO)
Choir Big Sing	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 6 STEAM Museum Trip	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm
Reception Christmas Concert	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am
Christmas Dinner Day	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Choir Visit to SMEG	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
End of Term 1b	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm
Start of Term 2a	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Prayer and Reflection Space	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
M&M Performance – Snow White	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
End of Term 2a	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Start of Term 2b	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Year 4 Yowlbury Residential	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
End of Term 2b	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
Year 5 Kingswood Residential	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
End of Term 3a	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
End of Term 3b	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 1.30pm



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online, internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

## VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

## FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different overarching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirate' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

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## Local Community News

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





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LEGO ADVENTURE!  
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AROUND YOU WITH LEGO



FUN-FILLED STEM CLUBS  
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FOR YEARS 1-6



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INSTRUCTORS



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SCHOOL, ABINGDON



THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL  
3:00PM - 4:10PM  
12TH SEPTEMBER TO 19TH  
DECEMBER



YEARS 1-6

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**Would your son like to join our world-famous choir?**  
**Saturday 11th January, 2.30 - 7.00 pm**  
**Open to Current Years 2, 3 & 4 boys**

Rehearse with the Cathedral Choir, perform at Evensong & experience life at CCCS. Cathedral Chorister school fees are subsidised with additional bursary support available.

Sign up: [cccs.org.uk/beachorister](http://cccs.org.uk/beachorister)  
Email: [registrar@cccs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk)

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VISIT US

# STAY TRUE TO YOU

Free online training sessions  
for parents, carers and wider family  
or community members

Tuesday 12 November, 6.30pm–8.30pm (online) → [register in advance](#)

Thursday 21 November, 6.30pm–8.30pm (online) → [register in advance](#)

## Course content:

Everyone is worried about the levels of violence in our community, particularly knife crime involving young people.

The Stay True to You campaign aims to prevent violence by taking a positive approach to supporting young people to help them build confidence and make the right decisions.

Open to all parents, carers and wider family members, these sessions are an opportunity to better understand the facts, including:

- Risk factors to crime and violence
- Exploitation and county drug lines
- Online harm
- How fear drives weapon carrying
- Legal consequences
- How to have those difficult conversations and create trusted relationships
- Sources of help and support

**Tuesday 12 November**  
6.30pm–8.30pm (online)

Register in advance at [bit.ly/stty-12nov2024](https://bit.ly/stty-12nov2024)

**Thursday 21 November**  
6.30pm–8.30pm (online)

Register in advance at [bit.ly/stty-21nov2024](https://bit.ly/stty-21nov2024)

Or visit the training page on the website:  
[staytruetoou.co.uk/upcoming-training-dates-parents/](https://staytruetoou.co.uk/upcoming-training-dates-parents/)

## Contact

[info@staytruetoou.co.uk](mailto:info@staytruetoou.co.uk)

THAMES VALLEY  
VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION  
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