



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 5 pupils back today, having spent three days on a residential trip in Staffordshire. From the updates I have received, it has been a fantastic, action packed trip, with children enjoying so many adventurous activities. Rock climbing, shelter building, fire lighting, zip wire and archery were some of the activities on offer that help to build confidence, perseverance, independence and 'safe' risk taking. It is an experience that is impossible to provide in school and such a valuable part of their personal development. Expect some tired children returning home today!

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, our Year 3 children had a brilliant afternoon at Radley College at the 'Big Sing'. Prior to the event children practiced the songs and had a workshop in school. The event was based on singing sea shanties and children even got to create their own verse of a sea shanty. It was a lovely experience for all of the Year 3 children.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March our Year 2 children delivered a well crafted Curriculum Assembly to parents, that really highlighted their confidence and enjoyment of the topic of Africa. With geography, art, poetry, dancing, drumming and much more, children really showcased the learning that has taken place on this topic. They should be very proud of the way they delivered their lines. Thank you to all the parents that attended this assembly.

Also in the week before Easter, a group of KS2 pupils went over to Tilsley Park to enjoy the 'Festival of Football'. This was a really inclusive event that allowed those that do not normally play for the school Football Teams to compete against other schools. We are very proud of the breadth of pupils that have taken part in Inter School Competitions this year, and it is an important part of our approach to PE and sports. The children really enjoyed the opportunity and experience.

On the last day of the Spring Term, the Preschool children had a visit from the police. This was really interesting and enjoyable, especially as the police linked their talk to the 'missing toy' investigation in Preschool the week before! You will all be pleased to know that 'Eeyore' was recovered in the end! The children learnt the importance of being able to describe missing things or people, and really liked it when the police told them about all the vehicles they use!

In the last newsletter I said I would let you know the totals raised from the Spring Discos and Reception Party– this was over £1,100. This is a fantastic amount and we are very grateful that so many children attended, and for the parent volunteers that helped throughout the events.

Thank you to the parents that attended our Curriculum Forum on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. It was useful to hear the views and ideas of parents, and every item is being considered by our Leadership Team. There are two more forums this year – a General Forum on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 5.00pm, and a forum based on Personal Development on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 2.00pm. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these forums.

Thank you to those Year 6 parents who attended the SATs Information Evening. I hope you found it useful to understand a little more about these tests and how to support your children at home. The children usually quite enjoy the week, as they get a 'SATs Breakfast' before school and a range of fun activities in the afternoons. Your support in preparing children for these test is always appreciated.

All of our extra curricular clubs start next week and it is a broad and exciting offer. Some of our new clubs include Art and Crafts, Dance, Film, Italian, Running and Book Club. Having such a broad range of clubs ensures there is something for everyone, and we know how much children enjoy these opportunities.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend, as we look forward to everything the Summer Term has to offer.

Kind regards

*Kristen Fawcett*

Headteacher



The School In-Reach team is holding several webinars for parents over the coming year. These awareness sessions contain useful information about how to support a child with some of the commonly seen emotional and mental health concerns.

Parent webinars | Oxford Health  
CAMHS Oxford Health CAMHS

### School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is **£2.60** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail. Meal choices must be made at least 3 days in advance.



**Friday 26th April**



Pre-orders only!

To buy boxes of 6 or 12 original Krispy Kremes please go to...

**<https://linktr.ee/friendsofrushcommon>**

Free-From & vegan sweets & Yo Yo box options also available to order

Please order before the 21st April then collect your orders at 3pm in the school playground on the 26th April, any BASC orders will be given to BASC directly!



All proceeds raised will go to FoRC to help fund amazing resources and experiences for the school.

# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18  
CENSORED

## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 18 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 10 games and products over the past year.



NOS  
National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://hipoi.app/about/privacy.html>

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

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## Dates for your diary 2024

<b>Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>
<b>Reception Farmer Gows Trip</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>
<b>May Bank Holiday (children not in school)</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Year 6 SATs</b>	<b>Week of the 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Year 6 Junior Citizens</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Cultural Diversity Day</b>	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>
<b>Year 6 Bake Sale</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>
<b>Year 1 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May @ 2.30pm</b>
<b>Whole School Picnic</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 12.10pm</b>
<b>End of Term 3a</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Inset Day (Children Not in School)</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>
<b>Start of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Class Photos</b>	<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 3 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June @ 9.00am</b>
<b>Year 6 Non-School Uniform Day</b>	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 6 Ice Lolly Sale</b>	<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 2 Abingdon Museum Trip</b>	<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2JM Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2RS</b>
<b>Reception Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June @ 2.15pm</b>
<b>Year 3 Hill End Trip</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>FoRC Summer Fete</b>	<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 6 Residential Call of the Wild</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Move Up Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>
<b>KS2 Sports Day (Tilsley Park)</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 9.00am – 2.00pm</b>
<b>Vision Screening (Reception Only)</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>Reception and KS1 Sports Day</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am – 11.30am (gates open 9.15am – School Field)</b>
<b>Year 6 Performance</b>	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July @ 6.00pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July @ 6.00pm</b>
<b>Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>KS2 Back Up Sports Day (Tisley Park)</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>Year 6 Leavers Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July @ 9.00am</b>
<b>End of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July @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

**ibrick**

**house of fun**

CREATE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE!

JOIN OUR  
LEGO ADVENTURE!  
EXPLORE THE WORLD  
AROUND YOU WITH LEGO

 FUN-FILLED STEM CLUBS  
USING IBRICK KITS WITH  
LEGO® BRICKS  
FOR YEARS 1-6

 LED BY EXPERIENCED  
HOUSE OF FUN  
INSTRUCTORS

 RUSH COMMON PRIMARY  
SCHOOL, ABINGDON

 THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL  
18TH APRIL TO 23RD MAY  
3:00PM - 4:10PM

 AGE YEARS 1-6

BOOK  
NOW  
AT  
[house-of-fun.co.uk](http://house-of-fun.co.uk)

SCAN ME



**FREE ENTRY**

**OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE RESCUE**

**SPRING FAYRE 24**

28TH April 2024 - Didcot Football Club

10am - 4pm Proudly sponsored by

**Fun Fair Rides | Ice Cream | Café**  
**Bouncy Castles**  
**Tombola | Live Music | Hot Food**  
**Licensed Bar | Craft Stands | Cakes | Sweets**

All proceeds are going towards the fundraiser for the build of the 'Oxfordshire wildlife hospital'

**CrossFit TEENS & CrossFit Kids**

**£7.50 PER SESSION**  
 BOOKABLE OVER THE PHONE ON 01235 206777 OR AT OUR FRONT DESK

**Park Club**  
 For a healthier you

**WHAT IS IT?**  
 CROSSFIT KIDS & TEENS PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN MOVEMENT PATTERNS FOR THE SQUAT, DEADLIFT, PRESS, AND MORE, THROUGH AGE-APPROPRIATE PROGRESSIONS AND GAMES

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**  
 WITH THE RISE OF TECHNOLOGY, OUR YOUNGER GENERATION ARE SPENDING MORE TIME BEING SEDENTARY ON THEIR DEVICES RATHER THAN MOVING THEIR BODIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY. WITH THE INCREASE IN CONSUMPTION OF HIGHLY PROCESSED FOODS AND ADDED SUGARS, THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM HEALTH ISSUES IS RISING.

<b>Kids (5-12 years)</b>	<b>TEENS (13-17 years)</b>
Tuesdays and Thursdays 15-45 - 16-30pm	Tuesdays and Thursdays 16-45 - 17-30pm
Saturdays 9-9-45am	Saturdays 10-10-45am

THE PARK CLUB, 17 CROFT DRIVE, MILTON PARK, ABINGDON, OX14 4RP

**Active Communities**  
**Drop in coffee and chat**

**FREE Drop in mornings**  
 Have a warm drink and chat  
 Find out more about how to be active  
 Starting 15 January with free Arts session  
 Different partners and information each week

Unit 24, Bury Street, Abingdon  
 , Every Monday from 15 January to 4 March  
 10.30-12.30



# CONGRATULATIONS

YOUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR  
**TWO WEEKS OF FREE**  
MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING!



TO REDEEM THIS OFFER, SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE, OR VISIT [WWW.MATTFIDDES.COM](http://WWW.MATTFIDDES.COM) AND BOOK ONTO A CLASS IN YOUR LOCAL AREA. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO BRING THIS VOUCHER TO YOUR FIRST CLASS.

(THIS OFFER IS ONLY VALID FOR NON-MATT FIDDES MARTIAL ARTS STUDENTS).