



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 22nd March 2024

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this newsletter by congratulating Cody in Year 4 and Isla in Year 5, who took part in the Cross Country Oxfordshire finals this week. Cody finished 3rd and Isla finished 8th out of 70 runners in each race! This is a phenomenal achievement and we are all very proud of how well they performed.

Sticking with the sporting theme, I would also like to congratulate our Y5/6 Netball Team and Y5/6 Girls and Boys Football Teams. Our netballers competed fantastically in a locality tournament last Monday, whilst our Girls and Boys Football Teams beat Carswell School 4 – 0 and 3 – 1 respectively in their league matches. We have such a thriving, inclusive sports culture at our school, and our children really love competing for their school.

This week we held our Parent Evenings, and I would like to thank all the parents for their attendance at these important meetings. Hopefully it has been a good opportunity to understand more about your child/children's learning, see some of the work they are producing, their next steps and how you can support further at home.

Last week we held our Science Fair and the breadth and quality of projects somehow managed to top last year. The children clearly worked so hard on their projects at home and were rightly proud to have them displayed in the hall for all to see. Every child was able to explore all of the Science on offer, and were clearly inspired by what other pupils had produced. It was also lovely to see so many parents visit the Science Fair after school – thank you for supporting this brilliant event!

We continue to provide an ever widening breadth of enrichment activities to enhance children's personal development. Over the last two weeks, Preschool had a really exciting and informative visit by the Fire Brigade, Year 5 children visited a Planetarium at Abingdon School, the whole of Key Stage 2 enjoyed an author visit from Christopher Edge, and we had a whole School Assembly to further understand the Easter story.

Last week we held our Year 5 Curriculum Assembly. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the assembly, but heard that the children really did themselves proud. They shared information confidently and articulately and enjoyed presenting their learning to parents. Thank you to everyone who attended this assembly.

Last week we held our Reception Party and FoRC Discos, which were really enjoyed by the children. A huge thank you to Rebecca Strugnell, the Chair of FoRC and all the volunteers who helped on the evening. As well as providing an opportunity for everyone to perfect their dance moves, the event always raises a good amount of money for the school – I will let you know the total in the next newsletter. Thank you for supporting this event.

Thank you for supporting our recent Book Fair. It was one of the most well attended in recent times and this has shown in the total amount raised – a whopping £1,359! This means the school has made £747 to spend on books. We hope the newly purchased books have been really enjoyed by your children to further enhance their love of reading.

Last Friday was Red Nose Day, and the children really enjoyed coming to school in something that makes them feel happy. The total amount raised was £244. Thank you for supporting such a worthwhile cause.

On Saturday 16th March, a number of Preschool parents and staff came together to transform the Preschool garden. It was a spectacular change for just one day's time and effort, and the children have loved using it this week! A huge thank you to Cassie Ambrosini for organising the event, and the Preschool staff and parents that worked together on this. Please go to our facebook page to see some pictures!

Finally, may I wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable weekend, ahead of our final week this term.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett
Headteacher



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Cross Country

Amazing performance at the Oxfordshire Schools Cross Country Finals which was held at Radley College on Wednesday 20th March.



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.



Digital Health and Wellbeing Webinar

Wednesday 27th March
8:00pm - 9:00pm

As part of our work with Abingdon School Primary Partnerships, we are pleased to offer a webinar about Digital Health and Wellbeing. Please follow this link to sign up:
<https://forms.gle/MBToiJ5qpJ6m2tKp6>

A Zoom link will be emailed to you closer to the webinar date.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and your child.

KS2 Author Visit

On 20th March, KS2 enjoyed a visit by the author Christopher Edge where he talked about his new book, "Black Hole Cinema Club". The children were taken on an adventure through film genres and given challenges to solve together before discovering the important code words linked to his exciting new book. Copies of "Black Hole Cinema Club" will be available to borrow from the school library after the Easter holiday.



Homework Champions

Molly	2RS	Dylan	5AS
Newton	2RS	Huniya	5AS
Eddie	2JM	Robyn	5AS
Robyn	2JM	Alice	5AS
Darci	4CM	Sienna	6JN
Noah	4CM	Amber	6JN
Adam	4CM	Leela	6JN
Hrim	4LR	Teddy	6JN
James	4LR		

[Please see link below to current job vacancies in Rush Common School and Abingdon Learning Trust](#)

[Vacancies - Rush Common School - Dream, Aspire, Succeed](#)



Calling all gardeners!



After last year's success we will be once again holding a plant sale in May!

We are on the lookout for plants to sell so if you're growing plants from seed, or splitting plants you already have could we please have a couple?!

Any fruit or veg plants, flowers or houseplants would be wonderful!

We will be collecting a few days before the sale (date TBC!) but if you have any questions or would like to tell us what you're growing please email us on...

rushcommon.forc@gmail.com

We would love to hear from you!



Friday 26th April



Pre-orders only!

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

**[https://linktr.ee/
friendsofrushcommon](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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

▶ YOUTUBE ▶

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



Meet Our Expert

Clare Goodwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



Dates for your diary 2024

Year 3 Big Sing – Radley College	Monday 25th March
Year 5 Residential Q&A	Monday 25th March time?????
Year 2 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 26th March @ 9.00am
Dental Checks for 5 Year Olds (only)	Wednesday 27th March
End of Term 2b	Thursday 28th March @ 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Monday 15th April
Year 5 Residential Kingswood	Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th April
Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip	Tuesday 23rd April
Reception Farmer Gows Trip	Wednesday 1st May
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 6th May
Year 6 SATs	Week of the 13th May
Year 1 Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 22nd May @ 2.30pm
End of Term 3a	Friday 24th May
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 3rd June
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 4th June
Class Photos	Thursday 6th June
Year 3 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 11th June @ 9.00am
Year 2 Abingdon Museum Trip	Tuesday 18th June 2JM Wednesday 19th June 2RS
Reception Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 19th June @ 2.15pm
FoRC Summer Fete	Saturday 22nd June
Year 6 Residential Call of the Wild	Monday 24th – Friday 28th June
Move Up Day	Wednesday
KS2 Sports Day (Tilsley Park)	Tuesday 9th July 9.00am – 2.00pm
Vision Screening (Reception Only)	Tuesday 9th July
Reception and KS1 Sports Day	Friday 12th July 9.30am – 11.30am (gates open 9.15am – School Field)
Year 6 Performance	Tuesday 16th July @ 6.00pm Wednesday 17th July @ 6.00pm
Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day	Wednesday 17th July
KS2 Back Up Sports Day (Tisley Park)	Thursday 18th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Tuesday 23rd July @ 9.00am
End of Term 3b	Tuesday 23rd July @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



The poster is for 'Ibrick House of Fun' and features a colorful border of LEGO bricks. At the top left is the 'ibrick' logo with a small car below it. To the right is the 'house of fun' logo. Below the car is the slogan 'CREATE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE!' in a circular arrangement. Further right, it says 'JOIN OUR LEGO ADVENTURE! EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND YOU WITH LEGO'. The middle section is blue and contains three icons: a LEGO brick for 'FUN-FILLED STEM CLUBS USING IBRICK KITS WITH LEGO® BRICKS FOR YEARS 1-6', a clock for 'THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL 18TH APRIL TO 23RD MAY 3:00PM - 4:10PM', and an 'AGE' icon for 'YEARS 1-6'. The bottom section is white and features the text 'BOOK NOW AT house-of-fun.co.uk' next to a QR code labeled 'SCAN ME' and a photo of a child building with LEGO.

Easter holiday events at Abingdon library

Crafts available every day during the holiday.

Wednesday 03 April 11.30 – 12.30

Author Evelyn Crosskey and illustrator Imogen Ives reading from their magical new book “The Guardians of the Wittenham Clumps”

Signes books available to buy.

Suitable for children aged 8+ with a grown up.

Book a free place at the library or by calling 01235 520374 or by email to Abingdon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Thursday 04 April 11.30 – 12.30 **and**

Tuesday 09 April 1.00 – 2.00

Handwriting Zoo workshop with Explore Learning

Suitable for children aged 4 – 7 with a grown up

Booking your free place is essential by calling 01865 595509

Friday 12 April 10.30 – 11.30

Interactive storywriting – use Twine to create your own fun adventure on our computers

Suitable for children aged 9 - 11 with a grown up.

Book a free place at the library or by calling 01235 520374 or by email to Abingdon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Dorchester Festival 3rd-12th May

www.dorchesterfestival.com

64 events over 10 days in and around Dorchester Abbey to raise money for the Abbey and Restore, a local mental health charity. Everything from Nick Cope to a big hands-on science afternoon, art and lego workshops and a duck race and scarecrow trail, Little City and kids classical music and kids opera. Lots of massive grown up events too, and all with endless supplies of very good cake! Just brilliant!

TRINITY OXFORD NETBALL

U9-U11s

Come along and try a session with Trinity. Open to all players in year 3, 4, 5, & 6.

You'll be part of a fabulous club and can enjoy friendly, fun sessions with netball loving qualified coaches.

 Saturdays 9.30-11am

 John Mason School, Abingdon

ALL PLAYERS ARE WELCOME.

Email trinitynetball@hotmail.com to arrange a FREE taster session.



www.trinitynetball.com



GIRLS

TASTER SESSION

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024

WE LOVE BASKETBALL YOU CAN TOO

Current School Year
 11.00 am - 12.30 pm Years 5, 6 & 7
 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm Years 8, 9 & 10

**A FUN, EXCITING,
SPORT FOR ALL** **£5 PER PERSON
PAYABLE ON ARRIVAL**

SPORTS HALL, ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE,
 ABINGDON CAMPUS, WOOTTON ROAD, ABINGDON, OX14 1GG
info@abingdoneagles.com www.abingdoneagles.com

the signup form is
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNeKadxCc-F-4VDirllq4OpX5tquUh_-ROfk2gI92FujtcZg/viewform

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID



**COURSE FOR
PARENTS AND
CARERS**

**Tickets: £25 per
person**

WHEN
 3rd MAY, 2024
 7 - 9.30 pm

WHERE
 NORTH COURT CENTRE,
 NORTH COURT ROAD,
 ABINGDON,
 OX14 1NS

BOOKING:
 To book please use the
 website below or scan
 the QR code



THE COURSE IS RUN BY A CERTIFIED PARAMEDIC AND COVERS:
 Paediatric Basic Life Support, use of an AED,
 recovery position, choking, anaphylaxis, burns,
 wounds & bleeding & head injuries among other topics.

<https://linktr.ee/friendsofrushcommon>

Organised by: Friends of Rush Common, Charity No. 1169863

Made with PosterMyWall.com



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

OPEN MORNING INVITATION SATURDAY 27 APRIL

Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form Entry

We warmly invite the families of your current Year 5 pupils, who are considering secondary education in September 2025 to our Open Morning on Saturday 27 April 2024.

Christ's Hospital was established 470 years ago as a charitable boarding school and is proud to maintain its founding principles and ethos.

It offers an independent boarding education of the strongest quality to children with academic potential, from all backgrounds in a caring and supportive environment.

Our means-tested bursaries are granted to 635 of our 900 pupils; 11% of those receive a free place with 35% paying less than 10% of the full boarding fee.

To book now sign up here > [Book an open morning - Christ's Hospital \(christs-hospital.org.uk\)](https://www.christs-hospital.org.uk)



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.

Pupils will learn some beautiful seasonal music and at the same time gain a background in vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history. Singing lessons are also provided in small groups. Families are most welcome to come and listen to an informal concert at the end of each day.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingschool.com or email oxbridgess@gmail.com
Bring a Friend and save £20 each family. See our website for details

8 & 9 April 2024
WORCESTER COLLEGE
OXFORD

www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk