



Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 23rd May 2025



Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I must start with our fantastic Year 6 pupils, who approached the SATs last week with such confidence. Each day the children enjoyed coming to school for breakfast and had such a great mindset towards doing their best in each of the tests. The Year 6 children should feel very proud of themselves and I know many of them really enjoyed the week!

This week has been Walk to School Week and I have been hugely impressed with the numbers of children that have walked, wheeled or used the park and stride. From a recent survey 68% of children had been walking, wheeling or used the park and stride, and this week that figure rose to 94% on one day! Two classes in the school even managed 100% of the children in their class (5SC and 6JN). The roads directly outside school have felt much safer and I know children have really enjoyed using the park and stride for the first time. On the face of it, this is a huge success; however, it will only be a lasting success if the habits that some families have changed this week remain in place. Therefore I urge all of you that have walked/cycled for the first time or used the park and stride to continue doing so.

This week our Year 1 children performed their Curriculum Assembly with huge confidence and gusto. The children spoke lines with such clarity and volume and the enthusiasm for their learning was palpable. The assembly included both a recital of the Great Fire of London poem and London's Burning sung in a round. These performances really impressed the crowd of parents – thank you to all who attended this lovely occasion.

There have been three sporting events across this week, which have again demonstrated the breadth of sporting talent across the school. On Tuesday 20th May our Year 5 and 6 Boys Football Team played St Edmunds School in a football league match and won 7-2! The sporting spirit, teamwork and humility in victory were impeccable and (as always) the children represented the school superbly.

On Wednesday 21st May the Year 5 and 6 Orange Tennis Competition took place, with our two teams competing brilliantly against 16 schools in total. Our teams finished 3rd and 5th, showing excellent competitive spirit and talent. A great achievement for all of our tennins players, and it was particularly impressive that we had two teams that were able to compete towards the top of the table.

Yesterday it was the turn of our Year 6 Girls Footballers, who were competing in the Oxfordshire Finals. The best 10 girls teams across the whole of Oxfordshire played against each other for what was a fiercely competitive and hugely enjoyable event. Overall they came third, and proudly took home bronze medals! Once again they demonstrated fantastic team spirit and represented the school impeccably. Congratulations to you all!

Thank you to all the parents that donated and bought items at our FoRC Plant Sale. This was really well attended and FoRC made over £170 for the school.

Today has been our Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon. I hope everyone enjoyed the lovely atmosphere on the field and the opportunity to see children's workbooks in their classrooms. Thank you to everyone for the excellent turnout, and it is always such a nice way to end this half term!

I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe Half Term Holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 3rd June.

Kind regards
Kristen Fawcett
Headteacher



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.



Homework Champions

Alex	3LA	Sophie	4TJ
Sophie	3LA	Ethan	4TJ
Phoebe	3LA	Eli	4TJ
Andrew	3LA	Khaira	4TJ
Freddie	3LA	Harry	4TJ
Rosalei	3LA	Beatrix	4TJ
Isla	3LA	Omar	5SC
Isaac	4CM	Elliot	5SC
Jessy	4CM	James	5SC
Elsie	4CM	Matilda	5SC
Jessica	4CM	Belle	5SC
		Scarlet	5SC
		James	5LE
		Sophie	5LE

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



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f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.05.2025

Dates for your diary 2025

Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 2nd June
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 3rd June
Larkmead visiting Year 6 Transition Pupils	Wednesday 4th June
Reception Trip to Farmer Gow's	Wednesday 4th June
Call of The Wild Information Evening	Wednesday 4th June 5.00pm
Class Photos	Thursday 5th June
Ice Lolly Sale	Thursday 5th June (after school)
Online Author Visit	Wednesday 11th June
Year 3 Hill End Trip	Thursday 12th June
FoRC Non-School Uniform Day	Friday 13th June
Vision Screening (Reception Only)	Monday 16th June (Date Change)
Fitzharrys visiting Year 6 Transition Pupils	Wednesday 18th June (Date Change)
Reception and KS1 Sports Day	Friday 20th June
Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day	Tuesday 24th June
Summer Fete	Saturday 21st June 12.00pm - 2.00pm
Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential	Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 7th July
'Move Up' morning	Wednesday 9th July
KS2 Sports Day (Tilsley Park)	Thursday 10th July 9.30am -1.30pm
Year 6 Production	Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th July 6.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day (Tilsley Park)	Wednesday 16th July 9.30am -1.30pm
Year 6 Leaver's Party	Thursday 17th July
End of Term 3b	Monday 21st July at 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



house of fun

SCIENCE & SPORT Week!

FUN FILLED MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP WITH A SCIENCE & SPORT TWIST. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- HANDS ON SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS
- SPORTS
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- COOKERY

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

MAY HALF TERM MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th May, 2025
open from 8.30am to 6pm each day!

RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL
HENDRED WAY
ABINGDON
OX14 2AW

Scan the QR code to book now!
or visit house-of-fun.co.uk
or call 07762 944204



house of fun

INSET DAY STEM CAMP

Monday 2nd June
8:30am - 4:30pm

AN ACTION-PACKED STEM CAMP FULL OF HANDS-ON CHALLENGES INCLUDING:

- IBRICK LEGO® BUILDS
- AI DISCOVERY
- SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

ibrick

RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL
HENDRED WAY
ABINGDON
OX14 2AW

Scan the QR code to book now!
or visit house-of-fun.co.uk, or call 07762 944204

CREATE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE!



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
3:00PM TO 4:10PM
24TH APRIL TO 17TH JULY

AGE YEARS 1-6

BOOK NOW AT

SCAN ME

www.house-of-fun.co.uk

 @cygnetsartschool
 

 Book Now!

TERM TIME CLASSES • HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS • PRIVATE TUITION

CYGNETS ART SCHOOL

Abingdon Art Classes for 5-14 year olds

Traditional drawing, painting & sculpture combined with unique projects; experienced teachers & professional quality materials.

• Thursdays 4:00pm •
 Northcourt Centre
 • Fridays 4:30pm •
 Northcourt Centre
 • Saturdays 10:00am •
 NEACA - Peachcroft
 • Saturdays 11:15am •
 NEACA - Peachcroft

Holiday Workshops

May Half Term classes

BOOKING NOW!

Private Tuition

1-1 or Group
Classes at Your Home


07411 686935 | ABINGDON@CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM

WWW.CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM/ABINGDONWITNEY


 Have Fun!
 Wild CATS
 GIRLS' FOOTBALL



TO BOOK:



You can also book via this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/AYFCWildcats2025>

Fun football sessions to introduce girls to football & our club.

Age: Girls aged 5 - 8 years old

Date: Every Wednesday from Wednesday 23rd July to Wednesday 27th August 2025.

Time: 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Location: Abingdon Youth, Southern Town Park, Lambrick Way, Abingdon, OX14 5TJ

Pathways into our girls teams for those who are interested.

Any questions, please contact
beckyponting1992@outlook.com.

PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

Canoeing, climbing, making, sailing, helping, playing, volunteering, abseiling, fundraising, painting, acting... whatever you like doing, Scouts make it happen.

Spaces available for 10 to 13-year-olds at 30th Abingdon Scout Group. Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Abingdon Baptist Church

<https://www.30thabingdon.org.uk/>
 email gsl@30thabingdon.org.uk for more information



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SCOUTS

BEAVERS

TIME FOR FUN

For fun, friendship and activities that get you thinking as well as doing.

30th Abingdon Scout Group has space for Beaver Scouts (6 and young 7 year olds). We meet 6 to 7pm, Wednesday night at Abingdon Baptist Church, Ock Street.

<https://www.30thabingdon.org.uk/>
 email gsl@30thabingdon.org.uk for more information



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Radley Tennis Camp

27th - 29th May

Age Groups:

- 10:00am - 12:30pm
Ages 8-12
- 13:00pm - 15:30pm
Ages 12-16.

Elevate your game with our expert Tennis Lessons, lead by professional Tennis Player Lucy Brown.

Radley College, OX14 2HR


Only £95 per child



Book Now!

01235 543111 | sportscentre@radley.org.uk

**Walk. Cycle.
Bus. Train.
Earn rewards.
Win prizes.**



BetterPoints

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ever wanted to move more but need a bit more inspiration? Got a favourite spot for a cuppa while you're out and about?

Well now you can combine the two with the launch of the **BetterPoints** Oxfordshire app which has just been launched countywide.

Getting started is easy, just download the free app at <https://oxon.betterpoints.uk/> to your mobile phone and register using your email address, then you can earn **BetterPoints** when making greener and healthier journeys. Choose to walk, wheel, run, cycle or take the bus or train. Record your trips and see your points total grow.

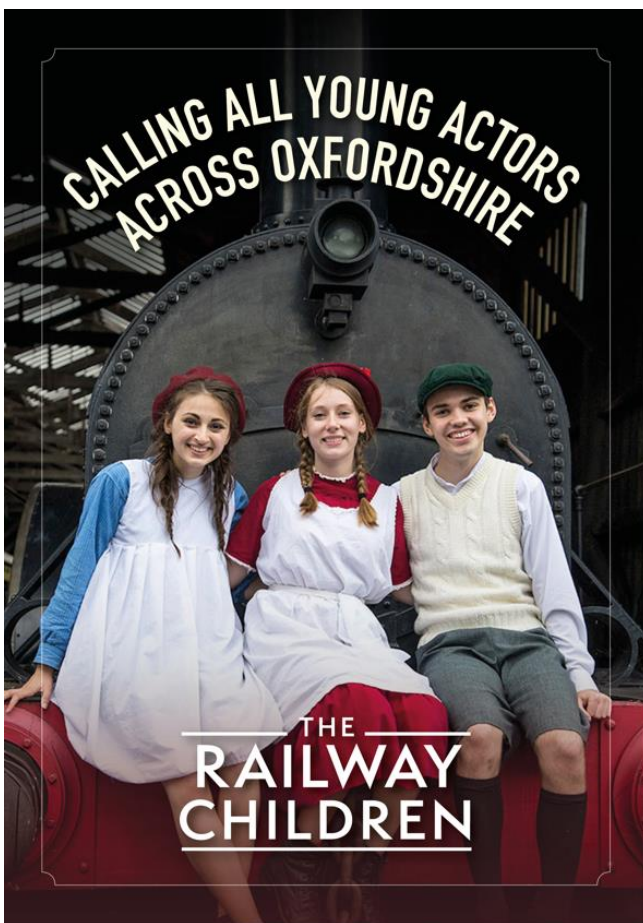
You can then turn your Better Points into rewards and redeem them at many high street and local Oxfordshire based businesses. Points can be swapped for high street vouchers, spent with local businesses, or even donated to charities.

The app is really easy to use and helps you keep track of your progress. If you step outside Oxfordshire, don't worry. As long as part of your trip takes place within the county boundary you will still earn points.

It's a fun way to stay motivated and make positive changes in your life. By making one change at a time, you can get fitter, be healthier and earn **BetterPoints**.

Oxfordshire County Council
Active Travel

CALLING ALL YOUNG ACTORS ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE



THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

ALL ABOARD FOR AN AMAZING SUMMER ADVENTURE!

Do you love acting? Dream of being on stage? Want to be part of a real theatre show with professional actors?

Then hop on board — **Didcot Railway Centre and Gobo Theatre** are teaming up to bring the magical story of *The Railway Children* to life this summer... and you could be in it!

We're looking for local, talented, enthusiastic young people to join our cast and perform in this exciting outdoor theatre production — right in the heart of the historic Didcot Railway Centre, with real steam trains and amazing sets!

We're casting the following roles:

MAIN ROLES (perform in all 4 shows)

Roberta (15 years old)
Peter (12)
Phyllis (9)

SUPPORTING ROLES (perform in 2 shows each — double cast)

John (14)
Alfred (12)
Edith (11)
Bert (9)
Emma (8)
Joan (7)
Jim (any age)

(Ages are just a guide — if you feel right for the part, we want to hear from you! We actively encourage submissions from everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, gender or disability.)

No acting experience? No problem! We're looking for enthusiasm, energy, and commitment. Once cast we will expect full commitment to ALL rehearsals and performances.

You **must** be available for all rehearsals. These will take place 1-2 evenings a week & some Sundays in June and early July. Towards the middle-to-end of August you will be required for more intensive daytime rehearsals in the run up to the performances on 27th, 30th and 31st August. All rehearsals and performances happen at **Didcot Railway Centre**, so please consider the distance you will need to travel to take part.

How to Apply

Ask a parent or guardian to help you send an email to amy@gobothatre.co.uk with:

- Your name, age, and where you live
- About 500 words on why you want to be part of this amazing production

After this initial round, you will get to meet the director online followed by in-person auditions.

Closing date for applications is 31st May.

So if you're ready to step into the spotlight, wear amazing costumes, and bring *The Railway Children* to life this summer... **Don't wait — get your application in now!**

We can't wait to meet you!



HELP WITH FEES AVAILABLE FOR 2026 ENTRY



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

- ✓ INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2024/25
- ✓ CO-ED DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL FOR AGES 11-18
- ✓ BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS - FOR DAY AND BOARDING STUDENTS
- ✓ NEAR HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX
- ✓ CONTACT US NOW - BOOK OUR NEXT OPEN MORNING SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER



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