



Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2026



Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I must start this newsletter with our incredible Year 5 residential trip to PGL Liddington. The children had a fantastic time, enjoying the full range of activities on offer. These included archery, zip wire, giant swing, sensory trail, climbing, problem solving activities, orienteering and trapeze. The food was also hugely enjoyed by all, including the portion sizes! The trip offered great opportunities for independence, confidence and resilience building, and we are very proud of how well the children gave everything a go and their impeccable behaviour on the trip. A huge thank you to all the staff who attended the trip and made this great experience possible.

Our sports teams have been busy at the beginning of this Summer Term. Last Tuesday, we sent two teams of Year 5 and 6 children to the Abingdon Schools Netball Tournament. The Yellow Team came 7th overall out of 10 teams, and the Green Team made it all the way to the final. They competed fiercely in the final, but eventually lost by 1 goal, meaning they finished the competition in 2nd place. As impressive as the victories, was the teamwork, attitude and support for each other shown by both teams. Our football team also played last week, storming to a 4-1 win against Dunmore School. Impeccable attitude and great talent were shown by the whole team during this impressive victory.

Our final sports update involves our amazing Boccia players. For the first time, we took 3 teams (9 children) and they enjoyed representing their school immensely. Inclusion is at the forefront of our approach to school sports and it was lovely to see this group of children develop their confidence and skills as the competition progressed. Our Blue Boys Team came in 3rd place out of 6, our Green Girls Team also came 3rd out of 6 in their group, and our Red Girls Team came 2nd in their group. This is a great achievement, and our Red Girls Team may have an outside chance of making the Oxfordshire Finals.

We have a wonderful set of school parliamentarians, who meet regularly to discuss ways to improve the school. They have been heavily involved in discussions in recent months about improving playtimes. They have provided input into the new playground markings that have been painted, and were very proud of themselves when they saw the finished work last week. These new markings form part of our approach to improving playtimes, and there will be an assembly on Tuesday 5th May by Mrs Kendry to outline some positive changes and opportunities at playtimes.

It is that time of year where Year 6 children are preparing for the SATs. We recently held our SATs Information Evening for parents, which was well attended. Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting, and we hope it was useful. Interestingly, many children talk about the SATs week very fondly, perhaps because of the SATs breakfast and numerous fun 'off timetable' activities that happen alongside the tests during the week. Our aim is always to ensure children do not feel any undue pressure, and go into the tests with confidence.

With the sunnier weather, please can I take this opportunity to remind parents to apply sunscreen to children before school. The Summer Term also brings more children in Years 5 and 6 walking home by themselves, and at times stopping by the park. I have talked to all the children in Years 5 and 6 about the importance of being safe, kind and respectful to each other, other children and families and local residents when leaving school and making their way home. I have also talked to these year groups about 'stranger danger' and what to do if approached. Please do reiterate these messages with children at home.

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

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher



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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

<i>Emilia</i>	<i>3HC</i>
<i>Dion</i>	<i>3HC</i>
<i>Valerie</i>	<i>3CM</i>
<i>Dharun</i>	<i>3CM</i>
<i>Henry</i>	<i>4TJ</i>
<i>Jules</i>	<i>4TJ</i>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS

Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearances.

PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT

Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.

HIDDEN ADVERTISING

Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting brand-purchasing. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, with the sharing personal data – such as facial images and usage habits – with apps and third parties.

BLURRED REALITY

As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.

SEXUALISED EDITS

Filters that can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may create unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussions without judgement.

REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL

Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.

CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS

When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.

PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE

Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships, and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

Meet Our Expert

Farven Karim is a digital parenting expert and founder of ids4kids.com, a platform dedicated to helping parents navigate the online world alongside their children. She is an expert contributor for InternetMatters.org, offering practical guidance on emerging online safety issues. Her insights have been featured by the BBC, The Telegraph, Talkin', and other major media outlets, supporting families across the UK.



The full version of this guide is available on our website.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is accepted into, current or future, in respect of any use of the data of the user.

This poster and others can also be viewed on the link below:

<https://www.rushcommonschoool.org/information-for-parents/other-useful-information-2/online-safety-information/>

Dates for your diary 2026

May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 4th May
Reception Trip to Roves Farm	Wednesday 6th May
Year 4 Abbey Ponds Trip	Thursday 7th May
KS2 SATs Week	Week of the 11th May
Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon	Friday 22nd May
End of Term 3a	Friday 22nd May
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 1st June
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 2nd June
Class Photos	Thursday 4th June
Phonics Screening	Week of the 8th June
Year 3 Hill End Trip	Friday 12th June
Vision Screening (Reception Children Only)	Thursday 18th June
Reception and KS1 Sports Day	Friday 19th June 9.00am – 12.00pm
Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day	Tuesday 23rd June 9.00am - 12.00pm
Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential	Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July
Reception Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 1st July at 2.15pm
Move Up Morning	Wednesday 8th July
KS2 Sports Day Tilsley Park	Friday 10th July 9.00am - 2.00pm
Year 6 Performance	Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July 6.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day Tilsley Park	Thursday 16th July 9.00am - 2.00pm
Year 6 Leavers Party	Thursday 16th July 4.30pm -6.30pm
End of Term 3b	Friday 17th 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



May half-term holiday camp at our school

The World Cup is coming — and this May half-term, Holiday HQ brings that excitement to life with a **high-energy, multi-activity holiday club** at our school. It's not about standing in lines or repetitive drills. Instead, children take part in a four-day celebration filled with creative challenges, fast-paced games, teamwork and play — all inspired by one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

This May half-term, **Holiday HQ** returns to our school, delivered by **Junior Adventures Group (JAG)**.

Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May

[Check out What's On!](#)

[Register/Book Now!](#)

Holiday HQ: World Cup Challenge

During the holidays, children will:

- 👥 Create team names, flags and anthems to kick off the week
- ⚽ Take part in striker, defender and goalkeeper skill challenges
- 🏆 Design and build their own World Cup trophy
- 🧠 Compete in quizzes, team missions and problem-solving games
- 👕 Design football shirts, bottles and flipbooks to take home
- 🏈 Play matches, footgolf and high-energy team games
- 🎉 Finish the week with Finals day, celebrations and awards

Every day combines **movement, creativity and teamwork**, with activities tailored so younger children feel supported while older children enjoy greater independence, challenge and leadership.

Children come home **happily tired**, proud of what they've achieved — often already asking about the next day.

What this means for families

- ✓ Safe, structured days delivered by experienced, DBS-checked staff
- ✓ Ofsted-registered holiday childcare you can trust
- ✓ A convenient, familiar school setting
- ✓ Full and half-day options — book only the days you need
- ✓ 48-hour cancellation policy if plans change
- ✓ Tax-Free Childcare accepted

For parents, it means dependable holiday cover and a calmer, more organised half-term — without disrupting work or existing routines.

Book early and save

👉 Early bird discount – Save 10%

Book by Sunday May 10 using code **JOININ10** at checkout

👨👩 Sibling discount – Save 10%

Automatically applied when booking more than one child

📅 Multi-day booking discount – Save 4%

Applied when booking four days or more within the same week. All eligible discounts are combined automatically at checkout.

Parents can view session times, prices and availability online.

👉 [Find our school club](#)

Active days for them. An easier week for you.

👉 Have any questions?

📞 0333 577 1533

✉ hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

Please see below form for Premier Soccer Club. This is also open to Year 1 pupils:



Premier Soccer Centres
4 Howden Green, Steventon,
Oxon, OX13 6FY
Telephone: 07795342509
E-Mail: mark@premiersoccercentres.co.uk
www.premiersoccercentres.co.uk



Application Form for Rush Common After School Football

To guarantee a place you must book now!

- Professional Coaching Courses
- Structured skills and technique sessions
- Open to boys & girls aged 5 – 11
- Fun games, competitions, and small sided matches
- Start Date Tuesday 5th May (Excluding half term, inset day) 3.20pm – 4.20pm each week for 10 weeks, finishing on Tuesday 14th July.

£50 bacs payment Premier Soccer Centres Ltd. A/C No 53505697. Sort Code 60-21-21. Please use venue code RC as reference plus your child/children's surname.

Please scan and email the application form to the above address & make payment at the same time.

- Please bring your football kit, boots, trainers (for use on the playground or indoors) & a waterproof. (Please dress appropriately for the weather conditions)

Many thanks for your continued support. We really hope you can join us!

Mark & Dave

NAME OF CHILD AGE:

ADDRESS

HOME TEL:

EMERGENCY TEL:

E-MAIL ADDRESS

MEDICAL

CONDITIONS

Please tick box if you
give your permission for
your child to walk home.
(Year 5 & 6 only)

SIGNED
(Parent/Guardian)

* In line with GDPR we have updated our privacy policy, to view please visit our website for more details

* Refund policy: We do not issue refunds for any reason. Credit notes will be issued at the discretion of the directors which can be used on any future Premier Soccer Centres course.

* Please note: PREMIER SOCCER CENTRES LTD or the organisation providing the facility cannot accept any liability whatsoever in respect of any personal loss or damage caused whilst attending any course.



Scouts

Volunteer with Scouts in Abingdon.

4th Abingdon (Peachcroft) Scout group is growing and needs new adult volunteers to continue to provide outstanding opportunities, experiences and skills for life for local young people.

We're looking for volunteers in these teams:

- Beaver Scouts (6-8 yrs.)
- Cub Scouts (8-10.5 yrs.)
- Scouts (10.5-14 yrs.)

4th Abingdon has a unique programme, meeting twice a month for one weekday evening and a Saturday (PM) activity day.

No experience necessary – training is provided. Volunteering is flexible, fun, rewarding and a chance to make a difference in your community.

#SkillsForLife

Sounds good? Drop us an email.
4thAbingdonScoutGroup@gmail.com

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Drama Club!

Thursdays 3pm-4.15pm.

Years 1-6

Only 15 spaces available

2 weeks: 16th April - 16th J

£10 per week

Book for the term



← Password: RCDC25-26T5+6

<https://bookwhen.com/dramaclubs>

Dippers and Divers

Saturday Morning Childrens Lessons in Goring - Spaces Now!

Give your child the gift of water confidence

Lessons available at Goring, Blewbury & Childrey

What to expect

- 30-minute playful, stress-free lessons tailored to your child's age and stage
- Qualified teachers and assistants in the water, guiding children in every lesson
- Life-saving water skills taught in a safe, fun and supportive environment

Availability

We currently have a small number of spaces available across our baby, toddler and mixed-ability classes at Goring, Blewbury and Childrey. If you've been thinking about getting your little one started, give us a call, our friendly team will be happy to help find the right class for you.

Ready to book a place?
Get in touch with Dippers and Divers today

Call 01235 763 328
enquiries@dippersanddivers.co.uk
www.dippersanddivers.co.uk

Cake-tastic Calendar Competition!

Open for entries between 30 March and 1 September 2025

Are you a brilliant baker or dazzling designer, aged between 5 and 14? We need you to design a show-stopping cake for our 170th birthday!

Whether it's shiny like a pound coin, stacked sky-high with candles, or shaped like our famous castle logo - we want you to dream big!

How it works:
The top 12 designs will star in our 2027 calendar. The 11 runners-up will win:

- A £25 Hobbycraft voucher
- A special apron, perfect for future makes, bakes, and creative projects!

The overall winner, picked by our judges, will win a £50 Hobbycraft voucher and see their cake design created and baked for real!

How to enter:
Scan the QR code or pop into your local branch and ask for a paper entry form.

Terms and conditions apply.

Hobbycraft Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Financial Services Register number 260077). ©2025

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**Menstrual Health and
Period Education Advocates**

April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

DADS DO PADS IS BACK!

We are delighted to announce that our popular series Dads Do Pads is back!

We are running two sessions covering Period Products and the Menstrual Cycle.

These free online workshops offer essential information for any dad supporting a young person who is about to start, or is already having, their periods. Sessions take place on 2nd and 9th June, online at 7.30pm.

Information on how to sign up to Dads Do Pads can be found on our events page:

<https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/events>

PERIOD BOX COLLECTION POINTS

From 1st June, we will be moving from home deliveries to community collection points, to help us make better use of volunteer time and ensure our service is sustainable for the long term. You will continue to be able to order reusable period products online.

You can still order period boxes for yourself or any family members via our website up until 31st May: <https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/request>

If you have used our service before, you will receive an email on 1st May explaining the changes to our service, and how to access period boxes from 1st June.

With best wishes,

All Yours

All Yours Period Box CIC – www.allyoursbox.co.uk
Facebook & Instagram - @allyoursmonthly