



Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025



Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a fantastic half term at Rush Common School, with children excelling in their learning and personal development right across the school. I visit many classrooms each week, and what has been notable is the extremely high quality of teaching and learning that is being delivered every day across all areas of the curriculum. This is resulting in huge progress in learning for all of our pupils and ensures everyone has had a flying start to this year. We hope you can see this when talking and working with your children at home.

This commitment to excellence also extends to other areas of school, and one fine example of this is our Cross Country Teams who competed in the Abingdon Schools Competition last Tuesday. We entered four teams (Year 3/4 Girls, Year 3/4 Boys, Year 5/6 Girls and Year 5/6 Boys) and all of the teams won their events! The way the children competed was wonderful to see, and they should all feel extremely proud of this unprecedented set of victories. The result is certainly not a coincidence and stems from the work that goes on in school to prepare children for this event, both physically and mentally, in no small part by Mrs Barnes. We look forward to seeing how the children get on in the Vale Finals in November.

Last week we asked everyone to contribute to our Abingdon Foodbank Collection, and the amount of food collected was extraordinary. The week started with an assembly explaining what the foodbank is and how it works, and children came in each day with many items - the total weight contributed was a massive 263 kg! Thank you to everyone for supporting such a worthy cause.

Last week everyone came to school wearing something red alongside their school uniform to support 'Show Racism the Red Card'. This is such an important day to remind everyone that there is absolutely no place for racism in our society. The day also complements our next PSHE topic 'Celebrating Difference' where diversity tolerance and respect are themes running through the unit. We raised almost £200 for this worthy cause – thank you to everyone for your contributions.

This week has been our first Walk to School Week of the year, which started with children being encouraged to come to school wearing something reflective or bright for road safety. It has been really noticeable how many children have walked, cycled or used the Park and Stride, which makes a big difference to congestion and road safety at the front of the school. The intention of the week is to help families see the benefits of these options for getting to school, and continue to maintain this as much as possible throughout the winter months.

In the last newsletter, I thanked everyone for contributing to our Book Fair, and I can now let you know the total purchased was a huge £1,581. As the total was above £1,500, we qualify for an even greater amount of money for the school to spend on books, which stands at £948! Your support with the Book Fair is always hugely appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families an enjoyable and safe Half Term holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all after the break.

Kind regards
Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher



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Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW

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.



Spare Clothing

A plea for small items of clothing (joggers, socks and pants) for use at BASC when needed please. These can be dropped off at BASC at the beginning or end of the school day. Thank you

Homework Champions

Barney	2JB
Tabby	2JB
Pippa	2LG
Henry	3CM
Josh	3CM
Riley	3CM
Charlotte	3CM
Florence	3CM
Christian	3HC
Isabella	3HC
Teddy	3HC
Boden	3HC
Noah	3HC

Jacob	4EG
Mary-Kate	4EG
Albert	4EG
Molly	4EG
Faith	4EG
Teddy	4TJ
Christopher	4TJ
Jules	4TJ
Emily	5SC
Charlotte	5SC
Bianca	5LB
Thomas	5LB
Jessica	5LB
Elliot	6JN
Amelia	6JN

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (78%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, even young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared online, they can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almado is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



The National College

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@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: 15.10.2025



Thank you!

Rush Common School

For your wonderful Harvest donations to the Abingdon Foodbank.
We are so grateful!

Your generous support will make a huge difference to the lives of
people facing hardship.

Philip Bingham
Foodbank Manager

An outreach activity of Christ Church, Abingdon. Registered
charity number 1153944. Registered in England and Wales.
in partnership with Abingdon Vineyard Church.



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to be able to let you know that Charlotte Fisher, who currently teaches a variety of musical instruments with Music For Schools Foundation, at Rush Common, will soon be starting to give private singing lessons at school. These lessons will take place on Mondays.

If you are interested in your child receiving singing lessons at school, please contact Miss Fisher directly. You will find her details below.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Lipp

Music Enrichment Lead



Singing Lessons with Charlotte Fisher
Mondays at school

£15 for 20 minutes
or £20 for 30 minutes

Contact me to find out more: 07394 979 053 or
charlotte@fishersnet.co.uk



Rush Common School

Dream, Aspire, Succeed



Visits, Tours and Taster Sessions - Autumn 2025

Taster Sessions

Saturday 27th September and Saturday 11th October 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Your children will experience our Reception classrooms and outdoor area with a wide range of fun, educational activities led by our brilliant Reception teachers.



'Children in early years get off to a flying start'

Ofsted Nov 2021

Open Mornings

Thursday 2nd October, Wednesday 15th October and Tuesday 18th November 9.00 am

See children learning across the school, meet our school staff and ask plenty of questions.

'Happiness is all around. It is as if pupils have an extended family at school'

Ofsted Nov 2021



Individual School Visits



Arrange a time to meet with the Headteacher, before a tour of the school. Plenty of opportunities for questions

'Pupils love coming to Rush Common School'

Ofsted Nov 2021

To register your interest, email: office@rushcommon.school or phone: 01235 533 583

Follow us on Facebook, or visit our website to find out more. www.rushcommonschoo.org



RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL

FIREWORKS NIGHT

Friday 7th November 2025

GATES OPEN: 5.45pm, LAST ENTRY 6.45pm
FIREWORKS START: 7 pm

Glow sticks, refreshments, hot dogs, sweets & more!!

Tickets in advance only: £6 per person / under 3s free.

Book your tickets & hot food at:

www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/friends-of-rush-common-fireworks-2025

Rush Common Primary School, Hendred Way, Abingdon, OX14 2AW

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Dates for your diary 2025/2026

End of Term 1a	Friday 24th October
Start of Term 1b	Monday 3rd November
Author Visit Years 4,5, and 6	Wednesday 5th November
Year 4 Ufton Court Information Evening	Wednesday 5th November
Year 5 Museum Trip	Thursday 6th November
FoRC Firework Night	Friday 7th November
Parents' Evening	Week of the 10th November (Days and times tbc)
Anti Bullying Week	Week of Monday 10th November
Odd Socks Day	Monday 10th November
Children in Need Day	Friday 14th November
Year 6 STEAM Museum Trip	Monday 17th November
FoRC Christmas Jumper Sale	Wednesday 26th November 3.00pm
Year 3 Ashmolean Museum Trip	Tuesday 2nd December
Year 4 Ufton Court Residential	Monday 8th – Wednesday 10th December
Year 5 Cycling Training	Monday 8th – Thursday 11th December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th December at 2.15pm
Year 6 Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 10th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 11th December
Reception Nativity Performance	Monday 15th December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 16th December at 9.15am
Christmas Dinner Day	Wednesday 17th December
End of Term 1b	Friday 19th December at 1.30pm
Start of Term 2a	Monday 5th January 2026
Year 4 Curriculum Assembly	Thursday 29th January 2026 at 9.00am
Year 5 Curriculum Assembly	Thursday 5th February 2026 at 9.00am
End of Term 2a	Friday 13th February 2026
Start of Term 2b	Monday 23rd February 2026
Travelling Book Fair	Tuesday 3rd – 6th March 2026
World Book Day	Thursday 5th March 2026
Year 2 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park	Wednesday 11th March 2026
Parents' Evening	Week of the 16th March (Days and times tbc)

Weight and Measure Programme (Reception And Year 6 Children Only)	Wednesday 18th March 2026
Red Nose Day	Friday 20th March 2026
Year 2 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 2.30pm
Science Fair	Thursday 26th March 2026
End of Term 2b	Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Monday 13th April 2026
Year 5 Liddington Residential	Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th April 2026
Year 6 SATs Information Evening	Thursday 16th April 2026 at 5.00pm
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 4th May 2026
Reception Trip to Roves Farm	Wednesday 6th May 2026
KS2 SATs Week	Week of the 11th May
Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon	Friday 22nd May 2026
End of Term 3a	Friday 22nd May 2026
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 1st June 2026
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 2nd June 2026
Class Photos	Thursday 4th June 2026
Phonics Screening	Week of the 8th June 2026
Vision Screening (Reception Children Only)	Thursday 18th June 2026
Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential	Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July 2026
Move Up Morning	Wednesday 8th July 2026
End of Term 3b	Friday 17th July 2026 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



Ofsted Registered ELITE CAMPS

ELITE CAMPS HALF-TERM

Mon 27th – Fri 31st Oct 2025
Larkmead School, Abingdon OX14 1RF
Ages 4-13 Years

Elite Activities Include..

- Soft Archery
- Bubble Football
- Crazy Golf
- Giant Volleyball
- Nerf Wars
- Arts & Crafts
- Halloween Fun

TRY A FREE TASTER DAY

Find out how to claim your free taster inside →

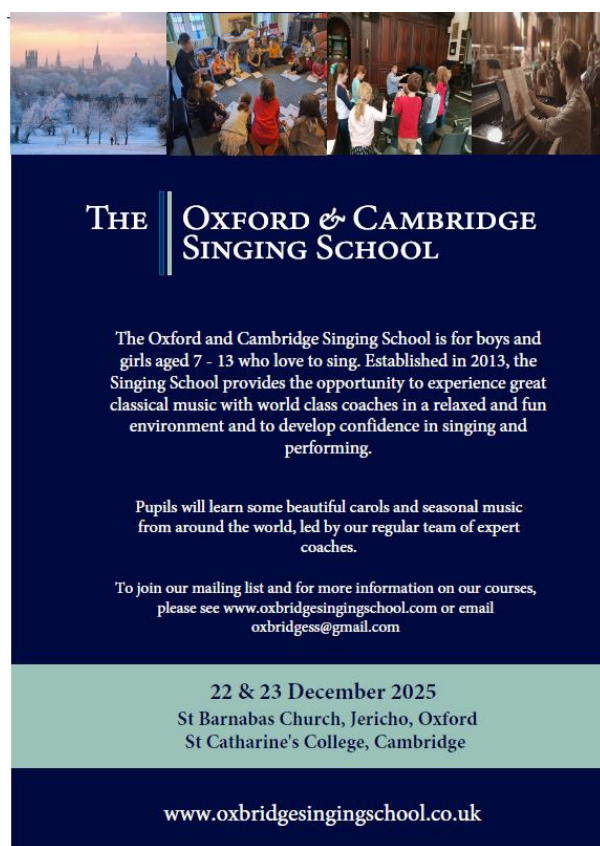


ELITE CAMPS ABINGDON

HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES OCT 25

	OVER 8'S	UNDER 8'S	ARTS & CRAFTS
MON 27	BUBBLE FOOTBALL Danish Longball, Football, Kwik Cricket, Handball, Gymnastics		PAPER SPOOKY CHARACTERS
TUE 28	CRAZY GOLF Hockey, Dodgeball, Yoga, Basketball, Volleyball		WITCH HANDPRINT
WED 29	NERF WARS Handball, Tag Rugby, Netball, Dance, Hockey	GIANT VOLLEYBALL Handball, Tag Rugby, Netball, Dance, Hockey	3D SCENE CRAFT
THUR 30	SOFT ARCHERY Dodgeball, Football, Basketball, Kwik Cricket, Dance		HALLOWEEN HAND PUPPETS
FRI 31	FANCY DRESS HALLOWEEN SPECIAL Halloween Festivities & Fancy Dress		PUMPKIN TRICK OR TREAT BAG

BOOK NOW 01235 415846 eliteyouthsports.co.uk ELITE CAMPS



THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

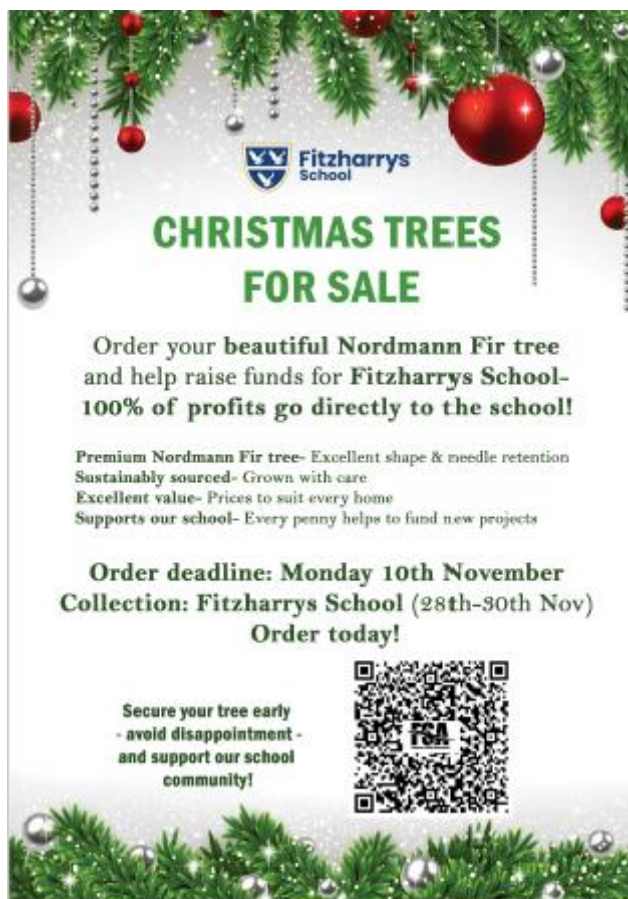
The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7 - 13 who love to sing. Established in 2013, the Singing School provides the opportunity to experience great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop confidence in singing and performing.

Pupils will learn some beautiful carols and seasonal music from around the world, led by our regular team of expert coaches.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk or email oxbridges@gmail.com

22 & 23 December 2025
St Barnabas Church, Jericho, Oxford
St Catharine's College, Cambridge

www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk




**CHRISTMAS TREES
FOR SALE**

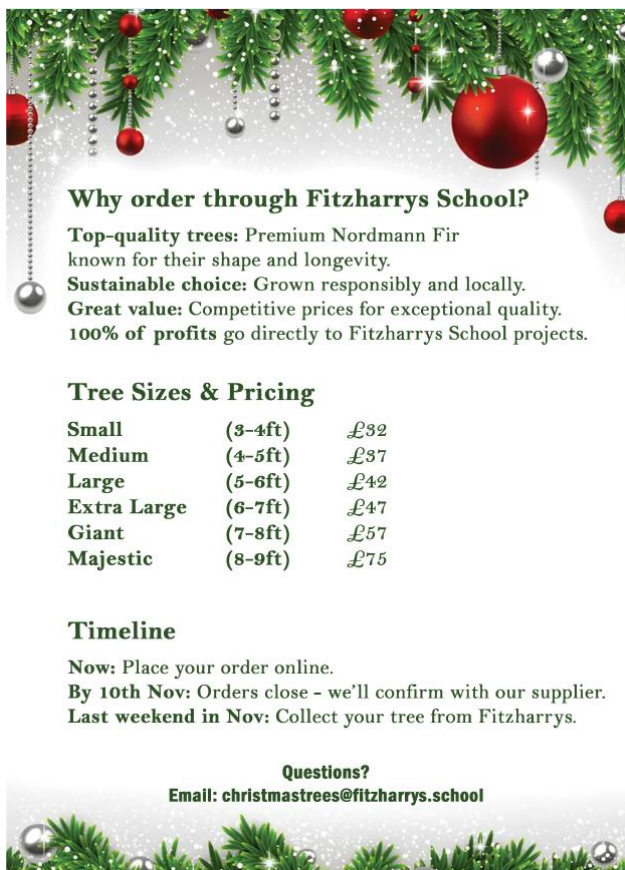
**Order your beautiful Nordmann Fir tree
and help raise funds for Fitzharrys School-
100% of profits go directly to the school!**

Premium Nordmann Fir tree- Excellent shape & needle retention
 Sustainably sourced- Grown with care
 Excellent value- Prices to suit every home
 Supports our school- Every penny helps to fund new projects

**Order deadline: Monday 10th November
Collection: Fitzharrys School (28th-30th Nov)
Order today!**

Secure your tree early
 - avoid disappointment -
 and support our school
 community!





Why order through Fitzharrys School?

Top-quality trees: Premium Nordmann Fir known for their shape and longevity.
Sustainable choice: Grown responsibly and locally.
Great value: Competitive prices for exceptional quality.
100% of profits go directly to Fitzharrys School projects.

Tree Sizes & Pricing

Small	(3-4ft)	£32
Medium	(4-5ft)	£37
Large	(5-6ft)	£42
Extra Large	(6-7ft)	£47
Giant	(7-8ft)	£57
Majestic	(8-9ft)	£75

Timeline

Now: Place your order online.
By 10th Nov: Orders close - we'll confirm with our supplier.
Last weekend in Nov: Collect your tree from Fitzharrys.

Questions?
Email: christmastrees@fitzharrys.school