



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an excellent start to the Summer Term, with classrooms filled with the buzzing energy of children happy to be back in school. The learning atmosphere has been fantastic, and children are clearly looking forward to the exciting events that lay ahead in this busy term.

During the week before the Easter break we carried out a fundraising project for Oxfordshire Mind, a mental health charity who also run Abingdon Bridge. The aim was to create an understanding of the link between physical exercise and positive mental health, and all of the children very much enjoyed being put through their paces on the obstacle course. The response from parents was fantastic and we raised just over £2,000 for Oxfordshire Mind. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to such a worthwhile cause.

We have a number of talented musicians on our staff team and just before the break we held our staff (and guests) Orchestra for the children in the hall. The children were utterly inspired by seeing the staff playing music together and loved clapping and singing along to some classic and modern tunes. Many of our children now learn musical instruments, and our children's orchestra (superbly run by Mrs Wallis) is extremely healthy!

We have been delighted with the inclusion of a new Drama Club this academic year run by Charlotte Fisher. The weekly sessions build towards a final performance for parents to come and watch. At the end of the first term, we were treated to the Snow Queen, and just before Easter the performance of Into the Woods wowed the audience. We can not wait to see the final performance of the year at the end of the Summer Term.

Over the last three days our Year 5 pupils have been having a wonderful time on their residential trip at PGL Liddington. Residential trips offer the experiences, activities and opportunities that are almost impossible to recreate at school, and the confidence, independence and resilience that develops as a result is fantastic to see. This cohort have thoroughly embraced the huge array of activities, which have included Giant Swing, Climbing, Aeroball, Orienteering, Zip Wire, Trapeze and Laser Tag. They have also loved the buffet style cooked breakfast each morning! It has been an unforgettable experience and I am sure they will all sleep well tonight!

We tend to be hugely successful in sporting competitions, and we are also proud of the way we include as many children as possible to take part in these competitions. In a KS2 football festival just before Easter, a large number of children were representing their school for the first time, and this week we entered a Boccia Competition, specifically for SEND pupils. It was fantastic to involve a broad range of SEN pupils in this competition, some with highly complex needs. The experience they gained from this competition is unparalleled, and they should all be extremely proud of the way they competed!

Finally, I am delighted to let you know that during the Easter break Miss Lambert (our Reception Lead) got married and has returned as Mrs Harrison. Huge congratulations from all of us!

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe weekend as we look towards this exciting Summer Term.

Kind regards

*Kristen Fawcett*

Headteacher



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### 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.



### Easter Treats

Thank you to the Prayer Group who provided staff with some delicious treats before Easter.



## Secondhand Children's Book Sale

Wednesday 30th April, 3pm

In the school hall at pick up

**Most books 50p each!**

If you have any children's books to donate we will have crates outside the Music Room (to the right of BASC) at drop off and pick up the week before and after the Easter holidays.



## Calling all gardeners!



We will be holding a plant sale one a day after school in May and are looking for plants to sell!

If you're growing plants from seed, or splitting plants you already have could we have a couple?!

Any fruit or veg plants or flowers 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](mailto:rushcommon.forc@gmail.com)**

We would love to hear from you!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

### MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

### MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

### ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

### ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

### UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

### QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

### IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

### PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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### Dates for your diary 2025

Author Visit Years 4,5, and 6	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April
2RS Trip to Abingdon Musuem	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April
FoRC Second Hand Book Sale	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 3.00pm
Year 4 Curriculum Assembly	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May at 9.00am
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
2JB Trip to Abingdon Musuem	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 4 Trip to Abbey Fish Ponds	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May
KS2 SATs Week	Week of the 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Fitzharrys visiting Year 6 Transition Pupils	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May
Parent Forum – Personal Development	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm (online)
Year 1 Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 9.00am
Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
End of Term 3a	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
Larkmead visiting Year 6 Transition Pupils	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
Class Photos	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 3 Hill End Trip	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June
Vision Screening (Reception Only)	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June (Date Change)
Reception and KS1 Sports Day	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June
Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Summer Fete	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> June
Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July
‘Move Up’ morning	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July
KS2 Sports Day (Tilsley Park)	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 9.30am -1.30pm
Year 6 Production	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 6.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day (Tilsley Park)	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 9.30am -1.30pm
Year 6 Leaver’s Party	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July
End of Term 3b	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> 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*



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FOR YEARS 1-6



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RUSH COMMON PRIMARY  
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THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL  
3:00PM TO 4:10PM  
24TH APRIL TO 17TH JULY



YEARS 1-6

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