



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024



## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

Last Friday, Dr. Jeffery Quaye (OBE) visited our school to carry out a thorough review on the quality of education. He is a former Headteacher, whose roles now include Lead Ofsted Inspector, National Director for Education and Standards at Aspirations Academies Trust, and a DfE Education Policy Advisor. He visited numerous lessons in a range of subjects throughout the day, visited Preschool, spoke to many children in and out of learning time, looked through workbooks, and spoke to many school leaders and staff. Overall, he was highly impressed with the quality of education and I have provided the following quotes from his feedback.

- 'Pupils thrive at this school and are exceptionally polite and well-mannered'
- 'Pupils are happy and kept safe in school and staff provide high quality care for pupils'
- 'Leaders are ambitious and there is complete determination that pupils will excel irrespective of their starting point.'
- 'The curriculum is meticulously planned and teachers have strong subject knowledge, which they use skilfully to model work and probe pupils understanding of key concepts'
- 'Pupils present their work beautifully and produce high-quality work that is consistent with the demands of the curriculum.'

We are extremely proud of this feedback, and will continue to strive to provide the very best possible education for our pupils as we move forward this year.

We are also extremely proud of our Cross Country teams, who participated in the locality competition at Tilsley Park last Monday. There were four teams that competed against many different schools in the local area. We won the Year 3/4 Girls Competition, the Year 3/4 Boys Competition and the Year 5/6 Girls Competition, and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Year 5/6 Boys Competition. This is an incredible achievement, and demonstrates the breadth of sporting talent across KS2. A huge thank you to Mrs Barnes for preparing the children superbly for this event.

We provide excellent enrichment activities in History, and this week Year 1 had an absolutely fascinating experience as they enjoyed a Dinosaur Workshop on Tuesday morning. Year 5 also had a very enjoyable trip out to the Oxfordshire Museum as part of their Victorians topic. On both occasions the children developed such deep and broad knowledge from people who are experts in these areas of History.

Last week we held our second Open Morning this year for prospective new parents. It is a lovely occasion for us to show the opportunities that exist at our school, and we always have parents attend that have heard great things about our school. Please keep spreading these positive messages as word of mouth is really important.

On Tuesday last week, we held our FoRC Second Hand Uniform Sale. The turnout was huge and we sold over £360 of uniform. Not only is this great for raising money, it is a more sustainable and affordable way to purchase uniform. A huge thank you to Vicky Dobson, who organises the second hand uniform, and to everyone who donated items for the sale.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the recent book fair, and we took a massive total of £1518. This took us over the £1500 threshold, which meant that we received 60% in rewards. Therefore this book fair made £911 for the school. A huge thank you to everyone who purchased a book or two.

Thank you to everyone who has donated an item to Abingdon Foodbank this week. I delivered an assembly on Monday to all of the children about the importance of supporting the foodbank and the response has been incredible!

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe half term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Kind regards  
*Kristen Fawcett*  
Headteacher



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Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW



**Rush Common School**  
*Dream, Aspire, Succeed*



## Visits, Tours and Taster Sessions - Autumn 2024

### Taster Sessions

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 and Pupil-led Tours



Arrange a time to meet with the Headteacher, before a pupil-led 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](mailto:office@rushcommon.school) or phone: 01235 533 583

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, or visit our website to find out more.  
[www.rushcommonschoool.org](http://www.rushcommonschoool.org)

### Foodbank Collection

Thank you for such a fantastic response to our foodbank collection. It was one of the biggest collections of recent times and the volunteers at the foodbank couldn't believe the quantity of food! They will let us know how much it all weighs in due course.

### 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.





RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL

# FIREWORKS NIGHT

Friday 8th November 2024

**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 at:**  
[www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/forcfireworks](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/forcfireworks)

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

## Homework Champions

Charlotte	3CO	Millie	4TJ
Issy	3CO	Steffan	4TJ
Leo	3CO	Eli	4TJ
Albert	3LG	Emily	4TJ
Megan	3LG	Elizabeth	5LE
Rupali	3LG	Tilly	5LE
Emily	3LG	George	5SC
Jessy	4CM	Henry	6EW
Robyn	4CM	Heidi	6EW
Tom	4CM	Caitlin	6JN
Jessica	4CM	Alice	6JN
		Robyn	6JN

### Dates for your diary 2024/2025

Start of Term 1b	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 2 Roman Day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
FoRC Firework Night	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
Parents Evenings	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Children in Need Day	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 4CM Science Workshop	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 4TJ Science Workshop	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Anti Bullying Week	Week of Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 3 Egyptian Workshop	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> (3LG) and Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November (3CO)
Odd Socks Day	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Choir Big Sing	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 6 STEAM Museum Trip	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm
Reception Christmas Concert	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am
Christmas Dinner Day	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Choir Visit to SMEG	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
End of Term 1b	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm
Start of Term 2a	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Prayer and Reflection Space	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
M&M Performance – Snow White	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
End of Term 2a	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Start of Term 2b	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Year 4 Youlbury Residential	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
End of Term 2b	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
Year 5 Kingswood Residential	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
End of Term 3a	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
End of Term 3b	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 1.30pm



As we approach half term and Halloween, please see our guide for horror films and how children scare differently.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

## CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

- U: Suitable for all ages
- PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them
- 12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references
- 15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above
- 18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

### CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

### FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

### PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

### REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them; this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

### DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

## Meet Our Expert

John Inley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>

[@wake\\_up\\_weds](#) [/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: 16.10.2024

## Local Community News

Please note items and events detailed below are for information purposes only. Rush Common School do not endorse or make recommendation



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 - 4:10PM  
12TH SEPTEMBER TO 19TH  
DECEMBER



YEARS 1-6

BOOK  
NOW  
AT



SCAN ME



[www.house-of-fun.co.uk](http://www.house-of-fun.co.uk)



CHILDREN'S MULTI-ACTIVITY  
CAMPS  
FOR 5-13 YEAR OLDS



COOKERY, ARTS & CRAFTS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES



All our activities are carefully planned so that children feel a sense of achievement, make friends and experience new things.



Rush Common Primary  
School, Abingdon



Monday 28th October -  
Friday 1st November  
8.30am-6.00pm


BOOK HERE




CHILDCARE  
VOUCHERS  
ACCEPTED


Sibling and Multiple Day Discounts Now Available  
[www.house-of-fun.co.uk](http://www.house-of-fun.co.uk)







Charleston



Street Dance

**Presents**

## Children's Dance Classes in Abingdon

**Wednesdays – Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road**


4.10pm – 4.50pm Sweet Peas (4-6 yrs)

4.50pm – 5.40pm Poppies (7yrs+)


(Lily Class 10 years + Waiting List)

Freestyle, musical theatre, role plays, performance, yoga, props and lots of fun!

**First Class is Free so come and try us out!**




Bollywood




Swing



Tango



Salsa



Freestyle



Disco

For further information visit [www.bettybloomdance.co.uk](http://www.bettybloomdance.co.uk)  
A World of Dance for Children



ay

ai

ee

**FREE**

# FUN WITH PHONICS



**Ages 4-6**



**LIMITED SPACES  
BOOK TODAY!**

 **Did you know?**

55% of children struggle with blending and segmenting in their first two years of school. Children will explore the world of rhyming words, building their confidence with phonics and guiding them on their journey to becoming phonics pros and future poets!

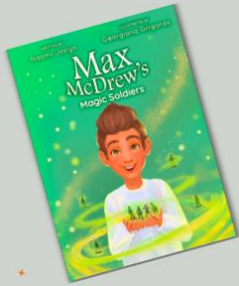
**Location:** Abingdon Library

**Date:** 31st October

**Call us to book:** 01865 595 509

**Time:** 11:30am

[explorelearning.co.uk](http://explorelearning.co.uk)



STORYTIME WITH CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

**Naomi Joslyn**

Tuesday 29th October 11am

AT ABINGDON LIBRARY

Join Naomi & Max  
for a  
fantastic learning  
adventure!

**Book your  
ticket at the  
counter**



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL



**LEFT TO  
THEIR OWN  
DEVICES?**

'Left to Their Own Devices?' is an evening for parents and carers of under-11's to explore confident parenting in a world of screens. Drinks and desserts served!

**Monday 18th Nov, 7-9pm**  
**The Barn, Christ Church Abingdon, Northcourt Rd**

**BOOK YOUR SPOT AT**  
**[WWW.CCA.UK.NET/EVENTS](http://WWW.CCA.UK.NET/EVENTS)**

 **CHRIST CHURCH**  
ABINGDON



**Multi Sports Club  
Tilsley Park, Abingdon**



Dear Parent/ Carer,

We would like to invite children in local Primary Schools to take part in a free, weekly Multi Sports Club, as part of Abingdon School in Partnership.

The club is run by Abingdon School Student Coaches and supervised by Teachers and Coaches from our Sports department. The club will run on Thursdays at Tilsley Park, 4-5pm starting on 16th January and is open to children in Years 5 and 6 from local partner schools.

The aim of the club is to give opportunities to students to get active and develop an interest in and enjoyment of physical activity. It will also help our students develop skills associated with leadership, communication and coaching.

The activities for each week have been designed to be fun, active and to help develop skills associated with a wide range of sports starting with Rugby. Our student leaders have been trained and will be fully supervised.

If you would like your child to take part, please register your interest via the information form linked [here](#). **Please wait for confirmation of a space as numbers are limited.**

There are facilities for parents to stay on site if needed, along with adequate parking.

Best wishes,

*Robin Southwell-Sander*

**Director of Partnerships**

[robin.southwellsander@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:robin.southwellsander@abingdon.org.uk)

*Steve Bates*

**Sports Partnership Lead**

[steve.bates@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:steve.bates@abingdon.org.uk)

*Jess Burns*

**Partnership Coordinator**

[jessica.burns@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:jessica.burns@abingdon.org.uk)

## Family Theatre and Dance



M6 Theatre Present

### A Tigers Tale

Saturday 26 October  
11am & 2pm

From a circus train in South Africa, to a steamboat on the Atlantic Ocean and onward to West Yorkshire, a ramshackle travelling troupe tell us the unbelievable true story of a family of acrobats and their adopted tiger cub.

For ages 4 -11  
Tickets: £10 / £8



Body Politic and Dancin' Oxford Present

### Family Dance Party

Saturday 26 October  
St John's Church, Kidlington  
10.30am & 1pm

Join us for a 'hip-hopping, toe-tapping' daytime disco for all of the family. Featuring a live DJ, party games, bubbles and disco lights and more!

Perfect for families with children under 7  
Tickets: Pay what you can

## October

**Book Now**  
01865 319 450

## Holiday Workshops



NW Inventors

### Making Music Workshop

28 - 30 Oct  
9am - 12pm

Join us this half term to explore storytelling through sounds and song. Discover new ways to make music, create rhythm and use soundscapes to shape the way we tell stories.

For ages 8 - 11  
Tickets: £60 for 3 half days  
Full busary places available: email Abie on [waltona@thenorthwall.com](mailto:waltona@thenorthwall.com) for more information



YouthLab

### Songwriting Masterclass

28 - 30 Oct  
1pm - 4pm

Join us this half term for a collaborative workshop experience, combining storytelling, singing and songwriting to create a new composition together. Come along, have fun, and try out some new skills along the way!

For ages 12 - 17  
Tickets: £60 for 3 half days  
Full busary places available

## October Half Term

**Book Now**  
01865 319 450