



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 26th June 2026

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a hot week! I wanted to start by thanking all of our parents for your total understanding and support for the measures we had to put in place to cope with the heat – specifically closing the school for three afternoons. This support has been hugely appreciated, and we hope you have all managed to stay as cool as possible at home. Thankfully, the weather is looking cooler next week and we are all looking forward to getting back to normal!

Last Friday we held our Reception and Key Stage 1 Sports Day. It was a lovely morning, in which the children really enjoyed all the events and cheered each other on to the end. We were also reminded of the kindness and confidence of our Year 6 pupils who supported the younger children superbly throughout the morning. A huge thank you to all the parents that attended and cheered on their children and a special thank you to Mrs Barnes for once again organising and running a wonderful event. The overall winners were Eagles - congratulations to you all!

Last Monday, many of our musicians attended Orchestra Day at Radley College. It was a spectacular event, in which the children learnt specific pieces of music during the morning and then came together in the afternoon for an orchestra performance involving over 150 children. The children's behaviour was impeccable and the concentration and effort that went into the event was hugely impressive. Thank you to all the parents that came to watch the performance in the afternoon.

Last week, Year 6 competed in the Quad Kids Athletics event at Tilsley Park. They all truly excelled, putting in every last ounce of effort to give an excellent team performance. Once the overall scores had been calculated, they came in at an impressive 2nd place. Huge congratulations to you all!

Each Year 2 class went on a school trip last week to the Oxfordshire Museum. This was once again a lovely enrichment opportunity, in which children explored artefacts, toured the museum and made brooches to really bring their learning about Anglo Saxons to life. At the same time, 6JN were carrying out their IMPs training (Injury Minimisation Programme), in which they learnt emergency life skills and first aid.

Last Thursday, we held our annual Woodwind Concert, in which children performed brilliantly to a proud set of parents in the audience. Anne Andrew is a fantastic woodwind teacher and really prepared the children well to give such a lovely performance. Thank you to the parents who attended the event.

This week, the vast majority of our Year 6 children had their transition day at their secondary schools. We hope this was a useful experience and helped them feel prepared for this transition. There are a number of events still in the calendar for Year 6 (starting with Call of the Wild next week) before we have to say goodbye to this wonderful group of children.

It feels like a while ago now, but our Summer Fete was a huge success and felt like the busiest fete yet. This is reflected in the total raised which was in excess of £2800! Thank you to all the members of FoRC and staff that organised and ran the event, and thank you to everyone who attended and spent money during the day. A special thank you to Liz Jones, who took the lead in organising the Fete this year.

Finally, may I wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable weekend ahead.

Kind regards
Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher



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

Rosie	3CM	Olivia	4TJ
Marcus	3CM	Faith	4TJ
Finn	3HC		
Hugo	3HC		

HELP US WIN £1,000 FOR OUR LIBRARY

Nominate us and you could win a £100 gift card!
nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize



#rebuildthelibrary

National
Year of
Reading
2026

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It's therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

1 TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD

You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance - you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.

2 MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE

Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.

3 KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Current government guidance suggests no solo screen use below the age of five, with a maximum of one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slow-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.

4 CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES

For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it shouldn't be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.

5 KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misunderstood, meaning these kinds of conversations should feel open and fun, rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem - such as a scam or inappropriate content - they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.

6 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.

8 UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT

The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable - and what isn't.

9 EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS

AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.

10 CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS

AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human understanding. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert

Cathie Lovell is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the Founder and Director of Neuroteachers and the author of "The Other 29 - How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".



See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Some of this content is an AI-generated summary. See below for original links. Content as of the date of capture: 22.05.2024

[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/](https://www.rushcommonschoool.org/information-for-parents/other-useful-information-2/online-safety-information/)

Dates for your diary 2026

Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential	Monday 29 th June – Friday 3 rd July
Reception Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 1 st July at 2.15pm
Move Up Morning	Wednesday 8 th July
KS2 Sports Day Tilsley Park	Friday 10 th July 9.00am - 2.00pm
Year 6 Performance	Monday 13 th and Tuesday 14 th July 6.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day Tilsley Park	Thursday 16 th July 9.00am - 2.00pm
Year 6 Leavers Party	Thursday 16 th July 4.30pm -6.30pm
End of Term 3b	Friday 17 th 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

ADVENTURE
DISCOVER
PLAY
CREATE

HOLIDAY HQ

Junior Adventures Group

A SUMMER FULL OF STORIES

STARTS HERE

NEW THEMES EACH WEEK!

STEM
SPLASH
URBAN SPORTS
SUMMER SPORTS
WORLD DISCOVERIES & CULTURE
ENVIRONMENT & NATURE

Multi-Activity Summer Holiday Camp
We're running at 90+ venues! Scan here to find your local club, view dates and times, and book today!

Ofsted
Registered



A Summer Full of Stories Starts Here

A summer full of stories starts here. This summer, Holiday HQ brings seven weeks of high-energy adventures, creative challenges and unforgettable experiences to our school — with something different to discover every day.

From water battles and sports tournaments to science experiments, outdoor exploration and global celebrations, children will stay active, engaged and inspired all summer long through a holiday club packed with movement, creativity and play.

This summer, Holiday HQ returns to our school, delivered by Junior Adventures Group (JAG).

20 July - 4 September
Ages 4-11

[Check out What's On!](#)
[Register/Book Now!](#)

What's happening this summer?

- Global Celebrations** | 20-24 July
- Ultimate Sports** | 27-31 July
- STEM, Science & Discovery** | 3-7 August
- Summer Splash** | 10-14 August
- Urban Sports** | 17-21 August
- Environment & Nature** | 24-28 August
- World Discovery & Culture** | 31 August - 4 September

From Songkran-inspired splash water battles and Korean Street Games to Watermelon Explosion experiments, urban parkour challenges and creative Make & Take projects — every week brings something new for children to discover.

No two days are the same — and children come home happily tired, full of stories and excited for what's next.

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 reliable holiday cover, active days for children and a smoother, more organised summer break — without the stress of planning every day yourself.

Book early and save

Early bird discount - Save 10%
 Book by Sunday July 5th using code **STORIESIO** 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](#)

Big days for them. Headspace for you.

Have any questions?
 0333 577 1533
hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

Free Summer Holiday Club Sessions for children eligible for Free School Meals!
Local Authority: Oxfordshire
Venues:

- Didcot Railway Centre - OX11 7NJ**
Dates: 3rd - 27th August - Mon-Thur
Times: 10:00-14:00
- Rush Common School - OX14 2AW**
Dates: 3rd - 27th August - Mon-Thur
Times: 10:00-14:00

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted to have partnered with Junior Adventures Group (JAG) and Oxfordshire to offer your child a FREE place at our JAG Holiday Clubs this coming school holiday running at multiple venues in the Oxfordshire area this summer.

Ensure your children experience a Holiday Club like no other with JAG's Holiday HQ programme! Holiday HQ is the ultimate destination for children looking for an unforgettable break from the school routine. From exciting outdoor escapades to creative workshops, cooking classes and interactive learning sessions – our expert programme team provide a dynamic blend of engaging activities and enriching experiences.

We're part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) network!
 HAF provides funding to local authorities and childcare providers – such as JAG – so that local families needing additional support can book their children into out-of-school activities. This vitally important programme helps ensure that children:

- ✓ Stay active during the school holidays
- ✓ Take part in enriching, engaging activities that support their development
- ✓ Eat healthily during the holidays
- ✓ Are safe, socialise and make new friends

0333 577 1533
 5a Millars Brook Business Park, Molly Millars Ln, Wokingham RG41 2AD
junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

Building brighter futures together

Book now!
 Oxfordshire Council uses an external booking system called Eequ for parents to make their individual bookings.

To check your eligibility and to create your account, please visit <https://eequ.org/hafoxfordshire>

If you have any questions, please contact the Oxfordshire HAF Team via email at: HAF@oxfordshire.gov.uk

JAG's Holiday HQ Programme!
 Holiday HQ is JAG's holiday club programme, delivering an epic break from school! Children dive into thrilling outdoor adventures, creative workshops, cooking classes, and interactive fun. They'll make new friends, explore their interests, and return to school with unforgettable memories!

Each season, we introduce a new theme with exciting daily activities, from arts and crafts to sports and STEM. With fresh, fun experiences every day, there's always something to spark their interest! Our daily schedule blends planned events with opportunities for kids to share their ideas.

Each week also features experience types: Daily themed hero activities, Skill Zone activities, Make and Take and Special Event sessions for extra creativity and keepsakes. Two themed activities each day ensure endless adventures and surprises!

For further information on how JAG supports families and local authority partners during the school holidays, please visit <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/haf/>. Otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact their friendly bookings team via email at hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk or telephone 0333 577 1533.

Kind regards,
 [Insert name]

0333 577 1533
 5a Millars Brook Business Park, Molly Millars Ln, Wokingham RG41 2AD
junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

Building brighter futures together

READ to the BEAT

Turn up the volume on reading this summer with a FREE children's reading challenge at your local Oxfordshire library!

From 4 July to 5 September, children across Oxfordshire can collect stickers and rewards as they enjoy reading library books.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat, in partnership with Universal Music Group UK, celebrates the joy of reading with a theme inspired by music. It's the National Year of Reading, so make reading part of your summer adventures!

Children who finish the Challenge at an Oxfordshire library will receive a medal, a certificate and entry into a prize draw. Under 4s can take part in a mini challenge with their own special collector's folder and stickers.



Read to the Beat illustrations by Harry Woodgate, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2026

Look out for fantastic new books and activities at your library.

Find out more at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge
and go to summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for more fun!

TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY

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AGES 9-14 YEARS
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WHAT YOU'LL IMPROVE

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- SPEED, FITNESS & CONDITIONING
- CONFIDENCE UNDER PRESSURE

WHY TRAIN WITH TARGET?

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ABINGDON YOUTH CLUB

YOUR SPACE. YOUR CLUB. YOUR VOICE.

MAKE FRIENDS. TRY NEW THINGS. BE YOURSELF.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10-14

ANIME. MANGA. COSPLAY. ART. YOU.

ANIME & MANGA
Watch, read, chat and share your favourite series

COSPLAY
Create, design and show off your looks!

ART & DRAWING
Draw, sketch, colour and bring your ideas to life

MAKE FRIENDS
Meet new people with similar interests

GAMES & MORE
Board games, quizzes, music and chill time

WHEN?
EVERY THURSDAY
5.30 - 7.00PM

WHERE?
NORTHCOURT CENTRE
ABINGDON

COST?
£8 A SESSION

JOIN US!

- SAFE & WELCOMING SPACE
- RESPECT & KINDNESS
- ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
- NO PRESSURE - JUST BE YOU!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
CONTACT LAURA
abingdonyouthclub@gmail.com

BE CREATIVE. BE YOU. BELONG HERE.
PROUD TO BE PART OF ABINGDON

SEE YOU THURSDAY!

THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Singing School was established in 2013 to provide children with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

This summer at Somerville College, we will be learning some beautiful seasonal music, and, as always on our courses, we will be giving sessions on vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history.

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

21 -23 July 2026
also 21 & 22 December 2026
Courses for those aged 7-13 who love to sing

www.oxbridgesingschool.com

Cygnets ART SCHOOL

Summer Holiday Art Classes

FOR AGES 5-12

Fine art classes throughout August at North East Abingdon Community Association, Peachcroft

cygnetsartschool.com/abingdon 07411686935