



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 27th February 2026

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will have seen, we sent out our Ofsted report to all parents this morning. It is a great report and we hope you have a chance to read through it. I have included some lovely quotes from the report below.

'Pupils thrive at this warm, ambitious and highly inclusive school'

'Leaders have created an inspiring culture'

'Behaviour is excellent'

'Pupils are deeply engaged in their learning and show kindness and respect towards one another'

'Leaders have developed an ambitious and engaging curriculum that inspires pupils and nurtures their enthusiasm for learning'

'Staff interact skilfully with children, using precise vocabulary and well-chosen questions to extend language and deepen understanding'

'Pupils produce high-quality work'

'Pupils benefit from a rich range of opportunities beyond the classroom'

Thank you again for the really positive responses to the Ofsted Parents Survey during the inspection.

The week before the half term break was Mental Health Week, which also coincided with Safer Internet Day on the Tuesday of that week. Positive mental health and online safety are clearly linked and the week began with an assembly all about this topic. During the week we sent out a communication with advice regarding online safety and simple steps parents can take, and we would encourage all parents to regularly revisit this topic with their children.

The week before half term was also our second Walk to School Week this year and we were really pleased with the way the whole school community engaged with this. Between 75% and 81% of children walked, cycled or used the Park and Stride each day. I stood at the Park and Stride on the Thursday morning, and the parents I spoke to were really positive about using this option. We know using the Park and Stride means a slight change to morning habits and routines but it can help to start the school day in a really positive way. Crucially, it reduces congestion and increases road safety around the school, and we are therefore asking as many families as possible to use it.

This week children have started their new PSHE topic for this half term of Healthy Me. This revolves around healthy eating, exercise and staying safe in the younger year groups, with areas such as celebrating inner strength, group dynamics, relationships with food and taking personal responsibility in the older year groups. This is an important topic for children to develop independence in making choices that are healthy for their body and mind - please do ask them at home about their learning in this subject.

Our Year 5 Residential Trip to PGL Liddington is on the horizon and I know children are really excited about this upcoming adventure. Thank you to all the parents that attended the information evening this week about the trip. We hope you found it useful and informative, and please do contact us if you have any further questions regarding this.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable weekend ahead as we look towards the rest of this exciting term.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher



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CHINESE
LANGUAGE
FOUNDATION



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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

Valerie 3CM
Erin 4TJ
Leo 4TJ

George 6JN
Holly 6JN
Rinkesh 6EP

Secondhand Children's Book Sale

Wednesday 25th March, 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 for 2 weeks before the sale.



SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!

DOG MAN
BIG TIM BELIEVES
PARTY PUPPETS

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid
PARTYPOOPER

MEGA EVOLUTION
MANGABOOK

Catchara
Kingdom

Tom Gates
PESKY PETS & PARTIES

The Scarecrow's Wedding

GO ALL IN!
National Year of Reading 2024

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

Scan to pay securely online!

The fair will be open:

Monday 2nd March 3.00-3.30pm

Tuesday 3rd March 8.00-8.30am

Wednesday 4th March 3.00-3.30pm

Thursday 5th March 8.00-8.30am

Friday 6th March 3.00-3.30pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include imposters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations. However, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Learn more about us on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Some of this content is for their own discussion, so it may be extended later. Content as of the date of release: 21.01.2024

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short levels, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigators have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechCrunch, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



[These posters and others can also be viewed on the link below:](https://www.rushcommonschool.org/information-for-parents/other-useful-information-2/online-safety-information/)

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

Dates for your diary 2026

Travelling Book Fair	Monday 2nd – Friday 6th March
Crocodiles of The World Year 1	Tuesday 3rd March
World Book Day	Thursday 5th March
Year 2 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park	Wednesday 11th March
Parents' Evening	Week of the 16th March (Days and times tbc)
Year 1 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 17th March at 9.00am
Weight and Measure Programme (Reception And Year 6 Children Only)	Wednesday 18th March
Red Nose Day	Friday 20th March
Year 2 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 24th March at 2.30pm
Year 3 Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 25th March at 9.00am
FoRC Second Hand Book Sale	Wednesday 25th March at 3.00pm
Science Fair	Thursday 26th March
End of Term 2b	Friday 27th March at 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Monday 13th April
Year 5 Liddington Residential	Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th April
Year 6 SATs Information Evening	Thursday 16th April at 5.00pm
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 4th May
Reception Trip to Roves Farm	Wednesday 6th 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
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

KS2 Back Up Sports Day Tilsley Park

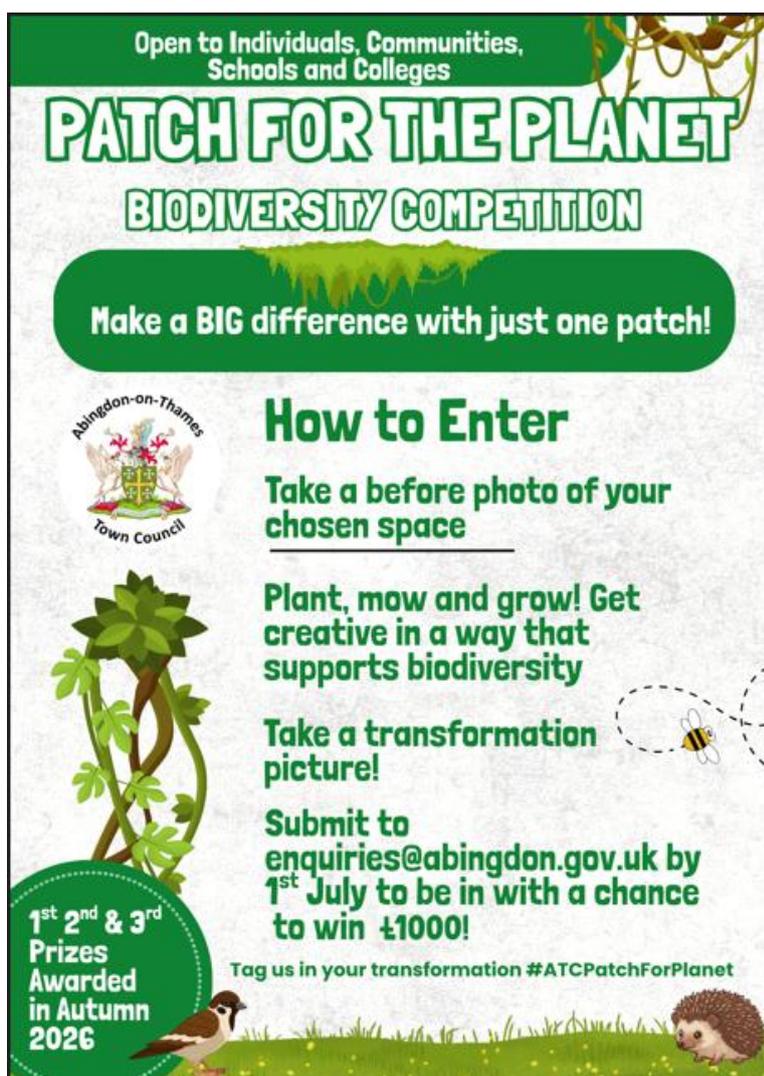
Thursday 16th July 9.00am - 2.00pm

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



Open to Individuals, Communities,
Schools and Colleges

PATCH FOR THE PLANET

BIODIVERSITY COMPETITION

Make a **BIG** difference with just one patch!

Abingdon-on-Thames
Town Council

How to Enter

Take a before photo of your chosen space

Plant, mow and grow! Get creative in a way that supports biodiversity

Take a transformation picture!

Submit to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk by 1st July to be in with a chance to win £1000!

Tag us in your transformation #ATCPatchForPlanet

1st 2nd & 3rd Prizes Awarded in Autumn 2026

The poster features illustrations of a bird, a hedgehog, a bee, and a plant.

Christ's Hospital

Families are warmly invited to attend our Open Morning on Thursday 7 March, which provides an excellent opportunity to see the school in action, meet staff and students and gain a fuller understanding of life at Christ's Hospital <https://www.christs-hospital.org.uk/admissions/book-an-open-morning/>



FOOTBALL FOCUS DC Abingdon

Join us for new exciting football training sessions for 4-12 year olds on Wednesdays in Abingdon. Whether you're just starting out or want to improve your skills, you're welcome!



Start with half-price fees for your first month – that's just £4.50 per session! Book now to secure your place, payment is due before your first session on 8th April

📍 Every Wednesday in Abingdon
🌐 footballfocusdc.co.uk

SCAN TO REGISTER

TENNIS

CAMPS 2026

WH Tennis Team at
St Helen and St Katharine School &
Radley College



EASTER, MAY, SUMMER & OCT H/T

9:00AM-3:30PM

EARLY DROP-OFF AVAILABLE

WWW.WHTENNIS.ORG
campsewhtennis.org



TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY
EST. 2024

Working on skills, tactics, match play and fun!!

EASTER NETBALL CAMPS

OXFORD	OXFORD
1st April 2026	8th April 2026
9-14yrs	9-14yrs
09:00-15:00pm	09:00-15:00pm
£40pp (sibling discount)	£40pp (sibling discount)
Oxford High School, Belbroughton Road	Oxford High School, Belbroughton Road

EMAIL TO BOOK!
Or google forms on social media.
targetnetballacademy@gmail.com



**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**
POWERED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

You are invited to

THE SCHOOLS TRIATHLON



Abingdon School

Sunday 26th April 2026

Registration Deadline

Friday 24th October 2025

Registering

1. Create a team of four children, then choose your team name!
2. Select one parent to register your team's interest in the event via the link above (you will need all participant names and their parent/guardian's email)
3. You will receive an email to confirm if your team has or hasn't been successful 3 weeks after the deadline date given above
4. If your team is given a place, we will email all parents within the team to invite them to register their child for the event

Register Here



Fundraising & **RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT**

Each participant must fundraise a minimum of £60, with a target of £100.
You can set up an [online JustGiving page](#) or download a [sponsorship form](#).

Your fundraising supports Restless Development: a global charity who champions the collective power of young people to create a better world.
Watch [this video](#) to learn more!

Head to our [FAQs](#) for more info and to find out what's included!



Year Group	Swim	Cycle	Run
Year 3 & 4	50m	1000m	750m
Year 5 & 6	50m	1000m	750m
Year 7 & 8	50m	2000m	750m

As a relay, each participant completes these distances.

email us: schoolstriathlon@restlessdevelopment.org



@schoolstriathlon

