



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 27th March 2026

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of the Spring Term is always packed full of exciting events and this has certainly been the case across the last fortnight. I will start with our incredible Years 3 and 4 Cross Country Team, who competed in the Oxfordshire Cross Country Finals last Wednesday. The competition was fierce as it involved the best runners from across the county and our children gave some fantastic performances. The team finished 5th place out of 9 teams. A special mention for Freddie in Year 4, who came a superb 3rd place in his race – an incredible achievement. The whole team should be immensely proud.

Sticking with the theme of sports, our Year 5 and 6 footballers have been in action at the Abingdon Schools Football Festival, and also in a second football match against St Nicolas School. This now means that every child that has been attending the football club during the Spring Term has had the opportunity to represent our school!

We have held three Curriculum Assemblies across the last two weeks in Years 1, 2 and 3. Each of the assemblies were a joy to watch and I could see how proud parents were of their children's performances. The assemblies were put together differently, but common to all three was the confidence, enjoyment and knowledge of the children. Thank you for attending these delightful events in such huge numbers.

Last week we held our Parents' Evenings and these were really well attended. I hope they were informative and useful in finding out about the progress of your child in school. If for any reason you have not attended a meeting, please arrange this with the class teacher for another time.

On Monday Year 5 attended the Big Sing at Radley College. This was a lovely event in which our children joined up with 3 other schools and were taught to sing together by a music teacher from the Oxfordshire Music Centre. From Classical to Reggae, the children thoroughly enjoyed singing different genres of music and the whole experience enhanced their musical skills.

Yesterday, we held our annual Science Fair and there were some really thoughtful and exciting entries that demonstrated the knowledge and enjoyment of 'Hands On' Science. This year there seemed to be an even wider breadth of different areas of Science covered, and it was lovely to see every class enjoying the fair throughout the day. It was also great to see so many parents visiting the fair after school. A special thank you to Mrs Panchal who organised this fantastic event, and also to all the parents that supported their children with the Science projects at home.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned the hugely successful Book Fair we held last month. We now know the total spend was a massive £1,484. This has earned the school £816 to spend on books, which is incredibly useful to us. FoRC also held a Second Hand Book Sale this week, which was really well attended – I do not yet have the total raised. There was also a Preschool Easter raffle this week which raised £555 to spend on the Preschool outdoor provision. Thank you again for buying a book or two or a raffle ticket to support these important fund raising events.

Reception have had two exciting events over the last two weeks. Firstly, they had a paramedic visit last week, in which they were able to explore the inside of an ambulance. Then, yesterday it was Superhero Day in which children and staff dressed up as both real life and fictional superheros. It was a great day and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about behaviour of children when waiting for the gates to open in the morning. Please can you ensure that children do not play and run across the drive or climb the tree that is on the grassy area. This ensures children have a safe start to the school day.

Finally, may I wish everyone an enjoyable Easter break, as we look forward to the Summer 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

Josie 3HC
Hugo 3HC
Francesca 3HC
Henry 3CM
Ellie 3CM
Sophie 4TJ
Phoebe 4TJ

Archie 5SC
Elliot 6JN
Sophia 6JN
James 6JN
Torí 6EP
James 6EP

Easter Treats

Thank you to the Prayer Group who provided the staff with delicious Easter Treats this week.



Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, as you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.



2

PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES



You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES



For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.

4



THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES

As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the Internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental controls in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the Internet.

5

MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER



Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the Internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change so it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.



9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

6

REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS



Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.

7

DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE



Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES

Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



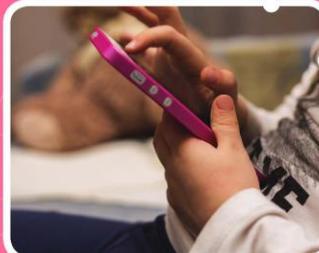
9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME

Managing how much time we spend on screens is a new challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'context and content' of what the screen is being used for. Still, it is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.



Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than a decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.04.2019

This poster and others can also be viewed on the link below:
<https://www.rushcommonschoo.org/information-for-parents/other-useful-information-2/online-safety-information/>

Dates for your diary 2026

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
Year 4 Abbey Ponds Trip	Thursday 7th 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
Year 3 Hill End Trip	Friday 12th 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

HOLIDAY HQ **THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

Junior Adventures Group

CAPTURE THE FLAG

WOODLAND CRAFTS

MULTISPORTS

Jump into the Great Outdoors these holidays!
SCAN TO SECURE YOUR SPOT

An Easter Packed with Adventure.

ACTION-PACKED SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FOR EVERY AGE. NOT JUST CHILDCARE BUT A DESTINATION!

WEEK 1: WILDLIFE & DISCOVERY
EXPLORE. CREATE. DISCOVER.

- Camouflage Mask Making
- Bird Feeder Creations
- Wildflower Seed Pops
- STEM Magnifying Discoveries
- Kwik Cricket & Outdoor Games

Creative mornings, active afternoons and plenty of fresh-air fun.

WEEK 2: SURVIVAL & ADVENTURE
BUILD. COMPETE. CONQUER.

- Escape Room – The Lost Explorer
- Escape & Evasion Games
- Mini Raft STEM Challenge
- Crocodile River Crossing
- Capture the Flag – Wildlands

PLUS 31ST MARCH
MAKE YOUR OWN LARIBO!
CREATE IT, BUILD IT, TAKE IT HOME.

- Childcare Vouchers Accepted
- Weekly Booking Discounts
- Flexible Payment Options
- Tax Free Childcare

Scan here to book now or find out more!

FOLLOW US ONLINE @JUNIORADVENTURESGROUPUK
JUNIORADVENTURESGROUP.CO.UK

WEEK 1 - DAY ONE

30/03/26

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

CHILDREN'S CHOICE: 13:00 - 14:15

CRAFT CAMOUFLAGE MASKS

9:30am-10:45am

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Children design and create camouflage masks inspired by wildlife and natural environments, then test how well they can blend into different outdoor settings.

Setup:

- Set out craft materials on tables.
- Create a small "camouflage test zone" using natural features outside.
- Have talking points ready to engage children

Running the Activity:

- Introduce the idea of camouflage and how animals use it to hide in a circle time, use co-research and shared sustained thinking to support this.
- Ask the children what their favourite animal is and why.
- Children design and decorate their masks using natural colours, patterns and materials from outside (don't worry if you don't have an outside space – what could you use instead?).
- Children make holes for eyes and area for string (Adult Supervision).
- Attach string/elastic so masks can be worn.
- Test the masks by having children hide while others try to spot them outside.

What we provide	What you will already have
✓ Compasses	✓ Clipboard
	✓ Ball point pens, pencils and crayons
	✓ Treasure (Items that can be used as)
	✓ Tea bags
	✓ Paper/card

TIPS & TRICKS!

Encourage children to observe their surroundings before decorating. For younger children, offer pre-cut shapes, children can research specific animals and recreate their patterns for an added challenge.

CRAFT EXPLORER BINOCULARS

11:00am-12:15pm

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Children craft their own wildlife binoculars and use them for spotting challenges and outdoor observation games.

Setup:

- Set out craft materials on tables.
- Prepare a simple spotting checklist or outdoor challenge area.

Running the Game:

- Show children how to attach two toilet roll tubes together, do this by using glue or Sellotape.
- Decorate using paper, pipe cleaners, pom poms or any other decorative materials wanted.
- Allow to dry.
- Head outdoors for a bird or nature spotting challenge.

What we provide	What you will already have
✓ Toilet roll tubes	✓ Scissors
✓ Pipe cleaners	✓ Crayons/pens
✓ Wool	✓ Outdoor access
	✓ Paper
	✓ Glue
	✓ String
	✓ Sellotape
	✓ Pom poms
	✓ Decorative materials

TIPS & TRICKS!

Encourage quiet observation and listening skills, talk about what we can see and what is going on in our surrounding.

KWIK CRICKET KANGAROO RULES

14:30pm-16:00pm

HOW DOES IT WORK?

A fun twist on cricket where children must bounce like kangaroos instead of running between wickets.

Setup:

- Set up cricket stumps and mark safe zones.
- Divide children into two teams.

Running the Game:

- Explain cricket basics and the bouncing rule.
- Batters must bounce instead of running to score.
- Rotate batters and fielders regularly.
- Keep score in a fun, relaxed way.

What you will already have

- ✓ Playing space
- ✓ Paper and pen
- ✓ Cricket set
- ✓ Cones for boundaries (if needed)

TIPS & TRICKS!

Keep pitches short for younger children. Focus on teamwork and fun rather than strict rules.

START

SHAPE

SHARE

Scan and for registration



THE MUSE
- ART SCHOOL -

Easter Art Camp

Spring Creatures

Draw, build and sculpt
your own magical animals

12:30 PM - 4 PM

March 30th, 31st & April 1st

From £9.50 per hour

Children aged 5-12

Abingdon Centre

- ✓ All materials provided
- ✓ Small, welcoming groups
- ✓ Eco-friendly and recycled materials
- ✓ Guided by a professional sculptor

More info and booking:

www.themuseartschool.com

+44 7450197705 / WhatsApp



@themuse_artschool

@TheMuseArtSchool



THE MUSE
- ART SCHOOL -

After School



SCULPTURE Club

A space for children to explore, experiment and create
through sculpture.

Working with clay, paper and mixed materials, they
develop confidence, curiosity and their own way of
thinking through making.



by Sculptor and Art Teacher Maisa Stolz
www.maisastolz.com

FRIDAY 3.00 - 4.15PM

Term 3a: 17th April - 15th May

3b: 5th June - 10th July

Only 12 spaces available

£11 per week

All materials included



Scan the QR code to
Book for the term and pay online or access:
www.themuseartschool.com



Drama Club!

Thursdays 3pm-4.15pm.

Years 1-6

Only 15 spaces available

2 weeks: 16th April - 16th J

£10 per week

Book for the term



← Password: RCDC25-26T5+6

<https://bookwhen.com/dramaclubs>

create CLUB

Create Club is a fun place where kids get to explore exciting materials, make new friends, and create awesome artwork every single week while building confidence and discovering their creativity!

EVERY THURSDAY
3:00 pm - 4:15pm
Rush Common Primary school

This term's theme, Create the Change, inspires children to learn about nature, wildlife and climate issues while making imaginative artworks and models that explore how we can all help protect our planet.

If interested please email:
arielwright@thecreationstation.co.uk

or book here

EASTER AT THE WHITE HORSE LEISURE & TENNIS CENTRE

Easter Weekend Opening Hours

Good Friday- 7:00-18:30 (last entry 17:30)
 Saturday 4th Apr- 7:00-17:00 (last entry 16:00)
 Sunday 5th Apr- 7:00-17:00 (last entry 16:00)
 Easter Monday- 7:00-18:30 (last entry 17:30)

Please note ALL swimming lessons will continue to run as normal!

Toddler Splash

Alongside our regular sessions on
Tues 13:00-14:00
Weds 11:00-12:00
Thurs 13:00-14:00
 we will be running extra sessions on
Tues & Thurs
14:00-15:00



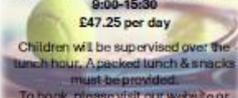
Open to all Tennis Camps

We will be running camps suitable for children aged 6-11 years, that are either new to tennis or those looking to improve on their skills.

Tues 7th, Weds 8th & Thurs 9th April
9:00-15:30
£47.25 per day

Children will be supervised over the lunch hour. A packed lunch & snacks must be provided. To book, please visit our website or BETTER UK app.

For further information please contact our Tennis Manager Sue- sue.auger@gl.org



Kids swim for £1
 everyday Monday- Friday
 during our 9-10am swim
 sessions.

£1



Aqua Splash

Our inflatable sessions suitable for both adults & children aged 5 years+ run

Mon 30th March, Wed 1st, Mon 6th & Wed 8th April
12:00-13:00 & 13:10-14:10

Children under 8 years **must** be supervised by a competent adult swimmer. Buoyancy jackets will be supplied and **must** be worn.

Junior Gym

Juniors aged 11-15 years can use our gym daily **Mon-Fri 9:00-18:00**.

All those attending our gym for the first time will be **required to undertake an induction** before their first session. Those who have already had an induction will be able to book.

Our usual weekend junior gym sessions will continue to run
Sat & Sun 9:00-17:00

Follow us to stay updated-



whitehorseleisure



The White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY BADMINTON TRIALS

Radley College Sports
 Centre
 Sunday 3rd May
 10am - 1pm



All levels welcome
 - both community
 and county places
 offered!

See age group timings & book now:
bookwhen.com/nb-trials

NATIONALBADMINTON.ORG.UK



EASTER FAMILY BINGO

Fun & Games for the whole family

TIME: 4-6PM

March

Northcourt Centre,
 Abingdon, OX14 1NS

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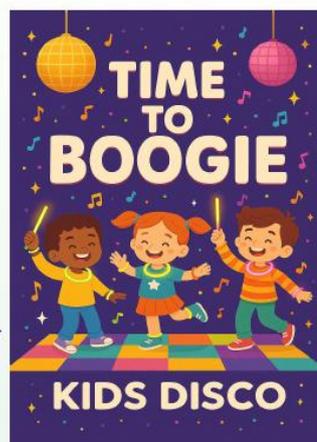
£8 for family ticket (up to 4) £2.50 per additional ticket



TICKETS CAN BE RESERVED BY EMAILING OUR BOOKINGS SECRETARY:
NORTHCOURTCENTREBOOKINGS@GMAIL.COM

Party Time at The

Northcourt Centre



Glitter
 Tattoos
 Grab &
 Glow Bar

Dance
 Awards &
 Prizes

Snacks &
 Refreshments

When: Saturday 23rd May

Where: Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, OX14 1NS

What time: 2-5pm

Tickets £3 per child - Adults go Free
Suitable for infant and primary age children

For tickets email: chak.northcourtcentreatbingdon@gmail.com

TERM TIME CLASSES

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS



Holiday Art Workshops

FOR AGES 5-12

Springtime Wonders

Book here...



North East Abingdon
Community Association,
Peachcroft Centre

Each Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday of Easter holidays

10:30am-2:00pm

07411686935 | ABINGDONWITNEY@CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM
WWW.CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM/ABINGDONWITNEY

PQA ABINGDON



EASTER

3 DAY

WORKSHOP



30TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL 2026 | 9:30 - 17:00

Europa School, OX14 3DZ

£45 per day or £125 for all 3 days or £125 for all 3 day

BOOK YOUR PLACE AGES 4-18

To book, please contact jenna.hones@pqacademy.com

**PAULINE
QUIRKE
ACADEMY**

OF PERFORMING ARTS

BE YOURSELF BE AMAZING.