



# Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## *Dream, Aspire, Succeed*

Dear Parents/Carers

There is so much going on at Rush Common at the moment! Of course, children continue to make great strides in their learning in Reading, Writing, Maths and the other curriculum subjects, but our school offers so much more and the last fortnight typifies this. The rich and varied set of experiences and opportunities children have at our school is something to be very proud of, and this newsletter largely focuses on this.

Last week all children took part in a sponsored walk, run or skip for our Oxtrail project. They absolutely loved taking part and the sponsorship money has flowed in. Our target to be part of the project was to raise £1000 for Sobell House Hospice, and we have already smashed this target! We will receive our mini ox at the end of this month, which we will decorate and return. It will be placed with it's mini herd on the Oxtrail, and you will all find out where it is located in June. We will get it back at Rush Common to keep at the beginning of September. Thank you everyone for supporting this project, and I hope you enjoy the Oxtrail!

Year 6 and Year 4 have both performed to parents in their Curriculum Assemblies over the last two weeks. The enjoyment and deep learning really came across in both Assemblies, but what really stood out was children's English skills. Not only the wonderfully crafted examples of writing, but the way the children delivered lines in their assembly. They were very confident, and presented information clearly and in a way that was engaging for the audience. Thank you to everyone who attended.

On Wednesday, a large group of our KS2 children headed over to Radley College to take part in Orchestra Day with a wide range of other local schools. Children were split into workshops (based on the musical instrument they were playing), and then came together in the afternoon to perform in a mass ensemble to an audience who were totally 'wowed'! I was lucky enough to attend the performance, and it was lovely to see our children engage in such an incredible opportunity!

Forest School for the children in Year 1 was especially exciting this week, as they were using drills to create wooden decorations. We are fortunate to have a great Forest School area on our site and a really passionate Forest School lead in Mrs McLardie. The confidence and independence that is fostered in these sessions and the opportunities to take risks make Forest School so enjoyable and formative for children of this age.

Year 1 and Year 3 received a visit this week from the Mental Health and Well-being co-ordinator from Abingdon School. They had important sessions focussed on 'body boundaries' in an age appropriate way. Year 6 also carried out their IMPS (Injury Minimisation Programme) training this week. This provided an opportunity to gain important first aid skills which they will be able to carry forward in their lives.

Our extra curricular clubs offer is in full swing, and the new (and very popular) Wildlife Club for children in Years 1 and 2 is being hugely enjoyed. This week the children made bird feeders, which fit very nicely with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. One of our other new clubs, Chinese Club in Years 1 and 2, is also gaining momentum, and is a good opportunity for children to have a taste of Mandarin, before starting to learn it in Year 3.

This morning we had our annual pantomime by M&M productions. The performances of Jack and the Beanstalk were a great opportunity for children to enjoy a professional production, and the children particularly enjoyed seeing their teachers being invited to a dance at the front! Thank you to FoRC for funding this memorable experience.

Thank you to all the parents that attended our SEND coffee morning last week. We hope it was useful to explore important concepts regarding SEND and to talk to our SENCo, Mrs Drew.

Finally, may I wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable weekend as we head into the final week of the half term.

Kind regards

*Kristen Fawcett*

Headteacher



大百中基  
教育基金  
SWIRE  
CHINESE  
LANGUAGE  
FOUNDATION



Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.  
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886  
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW

### School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is **£2.60** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail. Meal choices must be made at least 3 days in advance.



## Homework Champions

Emily	2RS	Teodor	5AS
Newton	2RS	Raquel	5AS
Molly	2RS	Emily	5AS
Freddie	2RS	Olivia	5AS
Isobel	4CM	Ollie	5SC
Freya	4CM	Jennifer	5SC
James	4CM	Neve	5SC
Sophie	4CM	Henry	5SC
Jake	4LR	Florence	5SC
Holly	4LR	Shoumyo	6JN
Rowe	4LR	Mabel	6JN
Sophia	4LR	Emily	6JN
		Sam	6EW
		Ethan	6EW

[Please see link below to current job vacancies in Rush Common School and Abingdon Learning Trust](#)

Vacancies - Rush Common School - Dream, Aspire, Succeed

## Smart Phone Safety Tip for Young People:

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, facts and tips for adults.

# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

7

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nifty around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings. Instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety consultant, behaviour and researcher who has developed and implemented on-building and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and worked on research for the Australian government comparing internet use and viewing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.01.2024

# Secondhand Children's Book Sale

Thursday 8th February, 3pm

In the school playground if dry  
or in the hall if wet!

**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 from the 29th Jan - 8th Feb.



## Dates for your diary 2024

4LR Cycling Training	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February
Books At Bedtime	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February Preschool and Reception 4.00pm – 4.40pm Year 1 and Year 2 5.00pm -5.40pm
FoRC Book Sale	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 3.00pm
4CM Cycling Training	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Inside Out Day	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
End of Term 2a	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Start of Term 2b	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>FoRC Non-School Uniform Day</b>	<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (Date changed)</b>
Year 1 Crocodiles of the World	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February

<b>Year 3 Ashmolean Museum Trip</b>	<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Book Fair</b>	<b>Week of the 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>World Book Day</b>	<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 5 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March @ 9.00am</b>
<b>FoRC Second Hand Uniform Sale</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm – 3.30pm</b>
<b>Red Nose Day</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Parents Evening</b>	<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 2 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March @ 9.00am</b>
<b>End of Term 2b</b>	<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March @ 1.30pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 3a</b>	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Year 5 Residential Kingswood</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>
<b>May Bank Holiday (children not in school)</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Year 6 SATs</b>	<b>Week of the 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Year 1 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May @ 2.30pm</b>
<b>End of Term 3a</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Inset Day (Children Not in School)</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>
<b>Start of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Class Photos</b>	<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 3 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June @ 9.00am</b>
<b>Year 2 Abingdon Museum Trip</b>	<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2JM Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2RS</b>
<b>Reception Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June @ 2.15pm</b>
<b>FoRC Summer Fete</b>	<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 6 Residential Call of the Wild</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Year 6 Performance</b>	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July @ 6.00pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July @ 6.00pm</b>
<b>Year 6 Leavers Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July @ 9.00am</b>
<b>End of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July @1.30pm</b>

## Local Community News

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

Parent webinars | Oxford Health CAMHS Oxford Health CAMHS



### FEBRUARY HALF TERM MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMPS

**JOIN US THIS FEBRUARY HALF TERM FOR OUR  
ACTION PACKED MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMPS**

	COOKERY		RUSH COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL, ABINGDON
	ARTS & CRAFTS		5-13 YEAR OLDS
	SPORTS		MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 8.30AM-6.00PM

**BOOK  
NOW  
AT**



HOUSE-OF-FUN.CO.UK



**ibrick**

house  
of fun



JOIN OUR  
LEGO ADVENTURE!  
EXPLORE THE WORLD  
AROUND YOU WITH LEGO



FUN-FILLED AFTER SCHOOL  
STEM CLUBS USING IBRICK  
KITS WITH LEGO® BRICKS  
FOR YEARS 1-6



LED BY EXPERIENCED  
HOUSE OF FUN  
INSTRUCTORS



RUSH COMMON PRIMARY  
SCHOOL



THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL  
FROM 22ND FEBRUARY -  
21ST MARCH



YEARS 1-6

BOOK  
NOW  
AT



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



## HALF TERM WORK AVAILABLE

Cash work available during  
half term and school holidays

Mr Cleal needs staff experienced working  
with children and in schools.

### What to expect

- Locations in Didcot and Abingdon
- Work from 1 to 4 days a week
- Free childcare whilst working
- £87.50 per day

**MR CLEAL'S**  
**Holiday Club**



**APPLY NOW**

[nathan@clealswheels.co.uk](mailto:nathan@clealswheels.co.uk)



## Every half term and school holiday

We entertain, educate and develop skills of every child with sport, crafts, experiments and play all day!

1 day - £30    2 days - £28  
3 days - £26    4 days - £24



# MR CLEAL'S Holiday Club

[www.mrclealsclub.co.uk](http://www.mrclealsclub.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY FOOD SERVICES IN ABINGDON



### ABINGDON FOODBANK

www.abingdon.foodbank.org.uk  
info@abingdon.foodbank.org.uk  
07562 247 443



#### ABINGDON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

**When?**  
Monday 16:00-16:30  
Thursday 13:00-14:00  
Saturday 10:30-11:30

**Where?**  
Hadland Road  
Community Centre,  
Hadland Road,  
Abingdon OX14 3YH

We are not means-tested and not a food bank. IT'S FREE & EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Contact us/ find out more:  
Facebook: @abingdoncommunityfridge  
Twitter: @Abingdonfridge  
Instagram: @abingdoncommunityfridge



#### SOFEA COMMUNITY LARDER

Want to save money on your Food Bills?  
Want to tackle Food Waste?  
Join the Abingdon Community Larder

**When & Where**  
Open Friday's 11:30am - 12:30pm  
Trinity Centre, Conduitt Road,  
Abingdon OX14 1DB.

To find out more and join today go to  
[www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com) or email  
[communitylarder@sofea.uk.com](mailto:communitylarder@sofea.uk.com)



For more information on Food Services including opening time, see map created by GoodFood Oxford

[WWW.FOODMAP.GOODFOODOXFORD.ORG](http://WWW.FOODMAP.GOODFOODOXFORD.ORG)

The Community Food Service Network comprises of Trussell Trust and Independent Food Groups

## COMMUNITY FOOD SERVICES WHICH ONE DO I NEED?

FOODBANK	FOOD LARDERS	COMMUNITY FRIDGES
Provide emergency food to residents in crisis. A short-term option for people facing food poverty.	Membership schemes open to anyone. Members purchase food at reduced prices.	Community food sharing projects focusing on reducing food waste.

### WHO CAN ACCESS?

Anyone referred by a professional agency, such as; Citizens Advice, Health visitor, Local Authority, Job Centre etc can receive emergency food support through a referral process that they can access.	Anyone can become a larder member. Initial one off joining fee of £10.  Individual and Family memberships are available.	Anyone can access food from community fridges.  There are no referrals, joining fees or memberships needed.
---	--	---

### WHO CAN ACCESS?

Each food voucher provides five days worth of nutritionally balanced food in each parcel.	Members receive a weekly amount of non-perishable food items plus fruit and veg.	Visitors can take their fair share of food depending on what stock has been donated.
---	--	--



Good luck to Freya in Year 4 who is going to be playing Tomika in a production of School of Rock at the Amey theatre in half term.



DIY Theatre co. would like to make their upcoming production of **School of Rock** as accessible as possible so they have created a special offer for local primary children – they hope to see you there! Performances are 16th-18th February at the Amey Theatre, Abingdon School , Abingdon OX14 1DE





CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

# OPEN MORNING INVITATION SATURDAY 2 MARCH

## Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form Entry

We warmly invite the families of your current Year 5 pupils, who are considering secondary education in **September 2025** to our **Open Morning** on **Saturday 2 March 2024**.

Christ's Hospital was established 470 years ago as a charitable boarding school and is proud to maintain its founding principles and ethos.

It offers an independent boarding education of the strongest quality to children with academic potential, from all backgrounds in a caring and supportive environment.

Our means-tested bursaries are granted to 650 of our 900 pupils; 11% of those receive a free place with 35% paying less than 10% of the full boarding fee.

To book now sign up here > [Book an open morning at Christ's Hospital](#)

With very best wishes  
Clare, Lucy, Fabia and Becca

## Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of Rush Common School** if they sign up by Saturday 4th May. Parents should quote RUSH040524 when they book their free session by going to [perform.org.uk/try](http://perform.org.uk/try) or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at [perform.org.uk/try](http://perform.org.uk/try). Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to Rush Common School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

<b>Perform Abingdon (Drama for 4-7s)</b> (0.5 miles) Saturdays at 9.30am	The Northcourt Centre Northcourt Rd, OX14 1NS
<b>Perform Abingdon (Drama for 4-7s)</b> (0.5 miles) Thursdays at 4pm	The Northcourt Centre Northcourt Rd, OX14 1NS
<b>Perform Abingdon (Drama for 7-12s)</b> (0.5 miles) Saturdays at 11.15am	The Northcourt Centre Northcourt Rd, OX14 1NS
<b>Perform Abingdon (Drama for 7-12s)</b> (0.5 miles) Thursdays at 5.05pm	The Northcourt Centre Northcourt Rd, OX14 1NS
<b>Perform Oxford (Drama for 4-7s)</b> (5 miles) Wednesdays at 4pm	West Oxford Community Centre Botley Road, OX2 0BT

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest [here](#) or view a list of [all areas](#).

