



# Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this newsletter with the terrific Orchestra Day that took place on Monday of this week. This is an extraordinary event in which many musicians from across local primary and secondary schools come together at Radley College to create an incredible orchestral performance. There were over 300 children involved and all have individualised pieces of music to learn during the day that contributed to the final performance. Our children were impeccably behaved and immensely enjoyed the opportunity to play alongside peers and learn from some of the older musicians. It was inspiring for our children to be part of it and we look forward to the next one!

Sticking with the theme of performance, last Friday the children absolutely loved the visit of M&M Productions for their pantomime of Sleeping Beauty. The pantomime is an annual event, funded by FoRC, in which all children from all year groups (including Preschool) get to experience a magical production in our school hall. They especially enjoyed seeing some of the staff dancing at the front! A huge thank you to FoRC for this memorable event.

Last week we hosted our popular 'Books at Bedtime' events for children in Preschool and Reception, and then those in Year 1 and 2. The children came to school in onesies, pyjamas and dressing gowns to get cosy in the school hall and enjoy reading stories. There was a roaring fire (on the screen!) and milk for all the children. A huge thank you to Mrs Harrison and Mrs Neal for organising the event and a special mention to Mrs Lipp and Mrs McLardie who read the children stories at each event. We know how much the children and parents appreciate this lovely event.

This week, Year 5 treated us to their Curriculum Assembly, which demonstrated such broad indepth knowledge from across the curriculum. There was something from almost every curriculum subject and some of the writing examples were quite incredible. Thank you to all the parents who came to the Assembly in huge numbers!

I am pleased to let you know that we have arranged for Junior Adventures Group to run their Holiday Camp from our school. They have replaced House of Fun who finished at the end of the last academic year. This is great news for many of our families and it launches during the February half term holiday. Please visit their website to find out more and check availability.

Last week we sent out our progress updates for those pupils with SEND. We hope parents found it useful and informative to see how pupils were progressing against targets, and teachers are looking forward to explaining this in greater depth at the next parents evenings. These parents evenings for all children will take place during the week beginning 16th March and a letter will be sent out in due course about how to sign up.

Last week FoRC held a Second Hand Uniform sale. Despite the weather, there was plenty of interest, and we hope this is really useful for parents (the items for sale are almost as good as new). A huge thank you to those carrying out the sale and all members of FoRC for the continual, highly important, fundraising throughout the year.

Please may I ask all parents to keep a watchful eye out for pupil behaviour when walking to and from school. Unfortunately, a tiny minority of pupils have not been respectful towards residents' gardens. Please remind your children not to go into anyone's front gardens, and do let the school know if you see this happening.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents for their continual support of the school in so many ways, including supporting children with their learning at home, volunteering, attending performances/assemblies, getting involved in fundraising, providing donations, and so much more. It makes a huge difference to our school!

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.



## Poetry Competition

Congratulations to Florence in Year 3 who has come second in The Shepton Snowdrops Poetry Competition for under 11s. It is an international poetry competition with entries from all over the world. Well done!

## Homework Champions

Belle	2LG	Lottie	4EG
Isabelle	3HC	Albert	4EG
Teddy	3HC	Ella	5SC
Charlotte	3CM	Beatrix	5SC
Amella	3CM	Jake	6JN
Lexi	3CM	Charlotte	6JN
Ethan	3CM	George	6EP
Demilade	4TJ	Adam	6EP
Isla	4TJ	Libby	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.



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# AI TOYS

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When using toys with AI, it will collect data such as voice recordings, interactions, and biographical details. This information is used to create profiles, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be shared indefinitely or shared with third parties.

#### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have in-app purchases or consume data on an as-needed basis, when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

#### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may be one of the first voices they interact with, regularly. Using that voice to train the AI to be empathetic, or suddenly over-share keep-a-child-beans-to-consumers. If it needs to switch, then part of what it learned is lost and it must re-learn.

#### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repetition or track usage patterns, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare their toy's patterns, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

#### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that track a child's preferences may lead that child to future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

#### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour are used to create "idealized" people. They become part of a machine learning system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain what some toys have been doing that may not do. Help them understand that some different technologies should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is key, and it is important to trust.

#### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that are offline or store data locally. Check for a free or short version so you can test functionality. Some privacy practices for children's data should be understood, where it goes, and who else it's shared with others.

#### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off AI on Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Turn off notifications for things you don't need; they should be monitored, updated, and restricted as necessary.

#### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies will or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requires access to and limit these permissions whenever possible.

#### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. When you check privacy settings, reading books, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. When there is no question, technology is a healthy way.

#### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

All toys can be fun and valuable, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage children to play technology-free activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

#### Meet Our Expert

Grace Horsfall is Executive Director of Kappex Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and management, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, well-being, and the digital futures of children.



The  
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X @wake\_up\_weds

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g @wake.up.wednesday

t @wakeupweds

Years of this guide do not reflect its current status. No liability is assumed for any changes or errors in the data at the time of release (23.3.2022).

This poster and others can also be viewed on the link below:

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

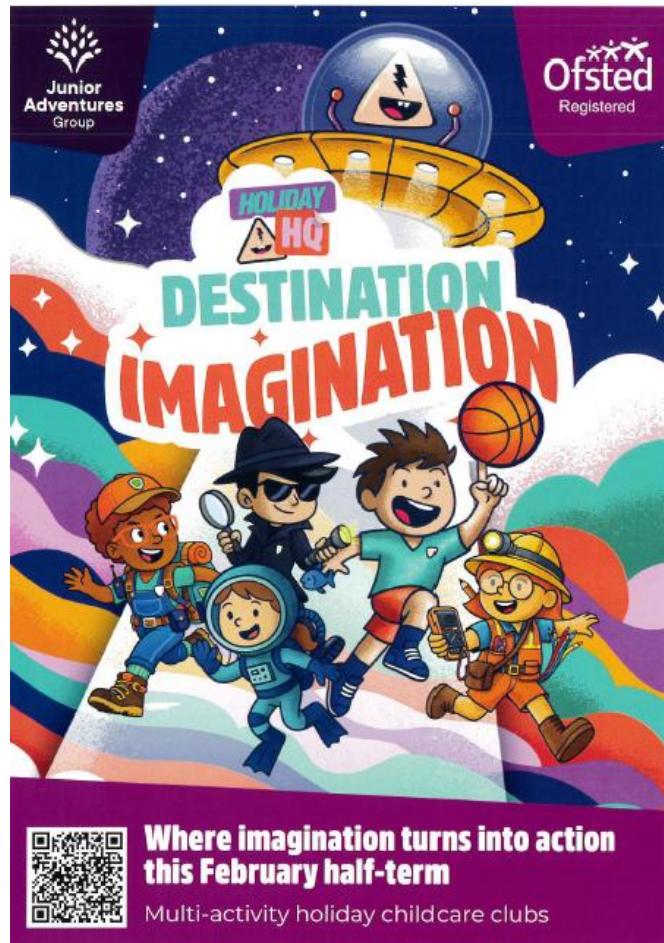
## Dates for your diary 2026

<b>End of Term 2a</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Start of Term 2b</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>
<b>Travelling Book Fair</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Crocodiles of The World Year 1</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>
<b>World Book Day</b>	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 2 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Parents' Evening</b>	<b>Week of the 16<sup>th</sup> March (Days and times tbc)</b>
<b>Year 1 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am</b>
<b>Weight and Measure Programme (Reception And Year 6 Children Only)</b>	<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Red Nose Day</b>	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 2 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm</b>
<b>Year 3 Curriculum Assembly</b>	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am</b>
<b>FoRC Second Hand Book Sale</b>	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm</b>
<b>Science Fair</b>	<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>End of Term 2b</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 3a</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Year 5 Liddington Residential</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Year 6 SATs Information Evening</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00pm</b>
<b>May Bank Holiday (children not in school)</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Reception Trip to Roves Farm</b>	<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>KS2 SATs Week</b>	<b>Week of the 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon</b>	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>
<b>End of Term 3a</b>	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>
<b>Inset Day (Children Not in School)</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>
<b>Start of Term 3b</b>	<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>
<b>Class Photos</b>	<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Phonics Screening</b>	<b>Week of the 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Vision Screening (Reception Children Only)</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Reception and KS1 Sports Day</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 9.00am – 12.00pm</b>
<b>Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 9.00am - 12.00pm</b>

Year 6 Call of the Wild Residential	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July
Reception Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July at 2.15pm
Move Up Morning	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July
KS2 Sports Day Tilsley Park	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 9.00am - 2.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day Tilsley Park	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 9.00am - 2.00pm
End of Term 3b	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> 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*



**Junior Adventures Group**

**Ofsted Registered**

**HOLIDAY HQ**

**DESTINATION IMAGINATION**

Where imagination turns into action this February half-term

Multi-activity holiday childcare clubs



**HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING**

**AT DESTINATION IMAGINATION THIS FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**

Holiday HQ: Destination Imagination offers a mix of activities designed for children aged 4-11, keeping them engaged throughout the day. From **Hero Activities** and hands-on **Make & Take** creations to **Skill Zone** challenges that support confidence and teamwork, every day brings something a little different. Daily themed activities include:

- DEEP-SEA DISCOVERER**
  - ✓ Sunken Treasure Quest
  - ✓ Ocean Creature Cookies
  - ✓ Sea Bottom Mini Golf
- EXPLORER ENGINEER**
  - ✓ Elements Endurance Towers
  - ✓ Static Surge Dance
  - ✓ Electric Paper Circuit
- RAPID RESCUE RESPONDER**
  - ✓ Disaster Dash – Save the Town!
  - ✓ Mini Parachute Buddy
  - ✓ Emergency Airlift Landing Zone
- INTELLIGENCE AGENT**
  - ✓ Operation: Escape Room!
  - ✓ Cipher keypad
  - ✓ Operation: Stealth Trace
- SPORTS STAR**
  - ✓ Super Sports Tournament
  - ✓ Finger Football Frenzy
  - ✓ Slam Dunk Snack Shootout

Holiday HQ by Junior Adventures Group provides trusted, Ofsted-registered holiday childcare. Flexible attendance options and a range of payment methods help families plan February half-term with confidence.

**JUNIORADVENTURESGROUP.CO.UK**

**@JUNIORADVENTURESGROUPUK**



## February half-term childcare at our school

This February half-term, Holiday HQ is coming to our school, delivered by Junior Adventures Group, the same trusted team that provides our wraparound care.

👉👉 Designed for children aged 4–11, with activities adapted across age groups, Holiday HQ offers structured, multi-activity holiday childcare, helping children stay active and engaged while parents manage the working week.

### 🌐 Destination Imagination

This February half-term's theme invites children to step into imaginative roles each day — from underwater explorers and creative engineers to sports stars and intelligence agents — through hands-on activities, team challenges and creative play.

All Holiday HQ days follow a familiar, reassuring structure with themed activities, creative workshops, teamwork challenges and sports-based games.

🛡️ Holiday HQ is Ofsted-registered, with friendly, DBS-checked staff, flexible booking options and a 48-hour cancellation policy if plans change. Sibling discounts and Tax-Free Childcare are available, where eligible.

### 📅 Monday 16 – Friday 20 February

#### 🕒 Times & Prices

Full Day £45 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Short Day £38 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### Special introductory offer:

Save 20% on your booking with code **HOF10**

#### 👉 Rush Common School Club Page

😊 Have any questions?

📞 0333 577 1533 | 📩 [hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk](mailto:hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk)

## 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/>

**ATOM** Festival of Science & Technology

**14th - 25th March 2026**

Inspiring workshops for kids

Tours: History of Science Museum + UKAEA + Harwell

Sun 15th March "Our Place in the Universe" The Peagram Lecture Professor Brian Cox CBE

Tue 17th March "Predators" Professor Tim Coulson

FameLab Academy

FREE Science Market interactive event for all the family Sat 14th March

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE

[atomfestival.org.uk](http://atomfestival.org.uk)





**SCIENCE BAZAAR**

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY  
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

**Saturday 21 February 2026**

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening  
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe



BOOK TICKETS



[www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar)  
[sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk)

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**MORGAN SINDALL**  
CONSTRUCTION

**Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP**

**NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS**



**UNDER 11s CRICKET**

ABINGDON VALE CRICKET CLUB



**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME**

**INDOOR TRAINING**

Indoor winter training sessions take place on Sunday afternoons on 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March and 12th April from 12pm-1.30pm. £5 per session.

@ Larkmead School, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, OX14 1RF

**OUTDOOR CRICKET**

Outdoor training takes place on Friday evenings during May, June & July from 6pm-7.30pm, with games played on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.

@ Abingdon Vale CC, Hales Meadows, Culham Road, Abingdon

For any new or prospective players, please contact:  
Paul White - [juniors@abingdonvaledcc.co.uk](mailto:juniors@abingdonvaledcc.co.uk) or 07764 432720