



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 8th March 2024

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this newsletter by congratulating our Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Team, who competed in the Oxfordshire Finals last week, after winning the Vale Schools Tournament. They competed brilliantly, and used every ounce of effort to finish in the top 6 teams. Given that there are almost 300 primary schools in Oxfordshire, this is a remarkable achievement. Even more impressive, is that the majority of the team are Year 5, and therefore most children have another year to hone their skills while at Rush Common!

Yesterday, there was a fantastic buzz around the school for World Book Day! Everyone dressed up as their favourite book characters, and the day was thoroughly enjoyed. There were plenty of reading opportunities across the day, including 'drop everything and read!' and staff reading stories to mixed age groups across the school. The Preschool children got a lovely surprise, as they had a story read to them by the BFG! There are some good photos on our Facebook page, including some nice mini-me's! A huge thank you to Mrs Neal for organising the day, and to all the parents who supported their children with costumes.

There are always opportunities across the year for children to go out on educational visits and last week we had two such trips. Year 1 had a 'jaw dropping' experience at Crocodiles of the World, while Year 3 had a fantastic trip to the Ashmolean Museum. Both excursions were highly memorable for the children, and have really supported their learning back in school. A huge thank you to those parents that volunteered to attend the trip, which I extend to all parents who have volunteered this year. It would be difficult to put on so many visits without your help!

This week the books have been flying off the shelves at the Book Fair, which is lovely to see. Not only does this inspire children further with their enjoyment of reading, but also makes money for the school to spend on books. Thank you to everyone that has attended the Book Fair this week and purchased a book. I will update on the total amount raised in the next newsletter.

Today, children have been bringing in their STEM projects for the Science Fair on Monday 11th March. It is really exciting for the children to have their work displayed, and there have been some great projects coming in that have clearly taken a lot of effort. The children will all visit our Science Fair on Monday, and there will be an opportunity after school for parents to come and have a look at the projects. Thank you for supporting this event.

We were very excited to receive our mini-ox last week, and we are now asking all children to submit designs for how it should be painted. This is to be completed at home - please can you encourage your child to submit a design. I will keep you updated with the winning design/s.

Today is the next session of our SWIFT course for parents. This is aimed at parents of children with Communication and Interaction needs to help develop parent's approach and strategies in supporting their children. Please do let us know if you are interested in joining these sessions.

We are aware of the on-going safety issues, related to driving and parking at drop off and pick-up. We are looking at this issue in conjunction with creating a travel plan for the school. We will consult with the school community regarding this, and there will be further information in due course. In the mean time, I will send out another reminder to all of our parents about safe driving and parking, and what to do should you witness any unsafe driving behaviour.

Finally, I hope everyone has a lovely weekend ahead, as we look forward to the final weeks of this Spring Term.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher



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Oxfordshire Football Finals Wed 28th February

A fantastic effort from the Year 5 and 6 Girls Team for finishing 6th place overall out of 297 primary schools in Oxfordshire. It is a feat to be proud of! The opposition were tough and the football was fast but we can remain proud of the fact that we won the Vale Competition in order to reach these finals.



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.



Digital Health and Wellbeing Webinar

Wednesday 27th March
8:00 - 9:00pm

As part of our work with Abingdon School Primary Partnerships, we are pleased to offer a webinar about Digital Health and Wellbeing. Please follow this link to sign up:
<https://forms.gle/MBToiJ5qpJ6m2tKp6>

A Zoom link will be emailed to you closer to the webinar date.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and your child.

Preschool Food Bank Collection

As part of our People in the Community and Recycling Topic, the children have been learning about Food Banks. They have brought food in from home and we have just had a couple of staff from the food bank come and collect it all.



World Book Day Thursday 7th March

We love reading at Rush Common School and it was wonderful to see books and reading celebrated on World Book Day. The children and school staff looked fantastic in their costumes and we had a wonderful day enjoying and sharing books together.



Homework Champions

<i>Finley</i>	<i>2RS</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>4LR</i>
<i>Eleni</i>	<i>2RS</i>	<i>Rowe</i>	<i>4LR</i>
<i>Sofia</i>	<i>3LG</i>	<i>Caitlyn</i>	<i>4LR</i>
<i>Eli</i>	<i>3LG</i>	<i>Dylan</i>	<i>4LR</i>
<i>Steffan</i>	<i>3LG</i>	<i>Shreya</i>	<i>4LR</i>
<i>Kaitlyn</i>	<i>3LA</i>	<i>Lucie</i>	<i>5SC</i>
<i>Isaac</i>	<i>3LA</i>	<i>Garreth</i>	<i>5AS</i>
<i>Abhimanyu</i>	<i>3LA</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>5AS</i>
<i>Jesscia</i>	<i>3LA</i>	<i>Julian</i>	<i>5AS</i>
<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>4CM</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	<i>5AS</i>
<i>Roman</i>	<i>4CM</i>	<i>Megan</i>	<i>5AS</i>
<i>Abbas</i>	<i>4CM</i>	<i>Amber</i>	<i>6JN</i>
<i>Raaghav</i>	<i>4CM</i>	<i>Teddy</i>	<i>6JN</i>
		<i>Leela</i>	<i>6JN</i>

Pupil Voice Sustainability Project

Our Year 6 pupils, Felix A and Clara K have been involved in working with pupils and students from John Mason, Fitzharry's School and Abingdon and Witney College. They have attended four meetings with at least two more this academic year. In collaboration with the other students, they agreed that littering and insufficient recycling bins were a major problem in our local area, namely the neighbourhood from Peachcroft Park, across the Oxford Road, along Northcourt Road, past Fitzharry's School and Abingdon & Witney College, down to John Mason School on Wootton Road.

After individual researching and identifying problems and needs, we were also able to contact Clara Legallais-Moha, a Waste and Recycling Officer from the waste team at South and Vale. (Felix had previously found this contact during his first task at the start of the project.) Mrs Legallais-Moha gave a talk at Abingdon & Witney College during our meeting on Monday 26th February and answered questions we had about littering and recycling in general. She then suggested each school group took a local map and identified the areas in need of extra bins. However, she also made some suggestions about types of bins which were maybe slightly more appealing to would-be litterers and ways to appeal to our 'audience'. Items and painting of this calibre are not necessarily guaranteed but research shows they work well!



How to prevent litter and fly-tip?

Know your audience

What is the most common litter found in your area?



How to prevent litter and fly-tip?



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often elicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source-artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Bory Henderson is the Director of IT at Orange Boarding schools in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cybersecurity, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



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Source: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/> | <https://generativeai.net/> | <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-exp-lainers/whats-generative-ai>



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Please see link below to current job vacancies in Rush Common School and Abingdon Learning Trust

Vacancies - Rush Common School - Dream, Aspire, Succeed



**Friends of Rush Common
Second Hand Uniform Sale**



Tuesday 12th March
2:30 - 3:30 PM
in the school hall

Prices start from £1

Come along and grab a bargain!

– V-neck Sweatshirts – Sweatshirt Cardigans – Ties – PE T-shirts
– Book Bags – PE Bags – Dresses – Trousers – Shorts – Skirts
– Joggers – Sweatshirts – Hoodies – PE Shorts – House T-shirts

Dates for your diary 2024

Science Fair	Monday 11 th March after school in the hall
Year 5 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 12 th March @ 9.00am
FoRC Second Hand Uniform Sale	Tuesday 12 th March 2.30pm – 3.30pm
FoRC Reception Party	Wednesday 13 th March 4.00pm – 5.15pm
Year 5 Planetarium Workshop	Thursday 14 th March
FoRC School Disco	Friday 15 th March Year 1 & 2 4.00pm – 5.15pm Year 3 & 4 5.30pm – 6.45pm Year 5 & 6 7.00pm – 8.15pm
Red Nose Day	Friday 15 th March
Parents Evening	Tuesday 19 th – Thursday 21 st March
Preschool Parents Evening	Thursday 21 st March 3.30pm – 5.00pm
KS2 Author Visit – Christopher Edge	Wednesday 20 th March
Year 3 Big Sing – Radley College	Monday 25 th March
Year 2 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 26 th March @ 9.00am
Dental Checks for 5 Year Olds (only)	Wednesday 27 th March
End of Term 2b	Thursday 28 th March @ 1.30pm
Start of Term 3a	Monday 15 th April
Year 5 Residential Kingswood	Wednesday 17 th – Friday 19 th April
Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip	Tuesday 23 rd April
May Bank Holiday (children not in school)	Monday 6 th May
Year 6 SATs	Week of the 13 th May
Year 1 Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 22 nd May @ 2.30pm
End of Term 3a	Friday 24 th May
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 3 rd June
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 4 th June
Class Photos	Thursday 6 th June
Year 3 Curriculum Assembly	Tuesday 11 th June @ 9.00am
Year 2 Abingdon Museum Trip	Tuesday 18 th June 2JM Wednesday 19 th June 2RS
Reception Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 19 th June @ 2.15pm
FoRC Summer Fete	Saturday 22 nd June

Year 6 Residential Call of the Wild

Monday 24th – Friday 28th June

Year 6 Performance

Tuesday 16th July @ 6.00pm
Wednesday 17th July @ 6.00pm

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Tuesday 23rd July @ 9.00am

End of Term 3b

Tuesday 23rd July @ 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

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house of fun

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

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

 LED BY EXPERIENCED
HOUSE OF FUN
INSTRUCTORS

 RUSH COMMON PRIMARY
SCHOOL, ABINGDON

 THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL
18TH APRIL TO 23RD MAY
3:00PM - 4:10PM

 AGE YEARS 1-6

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SCAN ME





CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

OPEN MORNING INVITATION SATURDAY 27 APRIL

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 27 April 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 635 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 - Christ's Hospital \(christs-hospital.org.uk\)](https://www.christs-hospital.org.uk)

STRONGER, SAFER SWIMMERS START WITH BETTER

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BETTER