



Rush Common School Newsletter



Friday 8th May 2026

Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

This week our Year 3 and 4 Tennis Team competed in the Abingdon Schools Red Tennis Competition. They were absolutely superb in their effort and application of skills, and were highly competitive. They won all of their group games and progressed to the A Finals, where they finished in 3rd place overall. They should be very proud of their achievements. We also had two football matches last week against Dunmore Primary School. Our Girls Team won their match 7-0, with our Boys Team winning 4-3. They should be very proud, and as always they were humble in victory. Our continued success in sports competitions is not a coincidence, and I would like to thank Mrs Barnes for the preparation and organisation that goes into each event to give our children the best chance of competing well.

We have had two school trips this week. The first was on Wednesday, with Reception having a wonderful day at Roves Farm. Activities included a tractor ride, petting the farm animals, forest school activity, a lovely re-telling of The Hungry Caterpillar, and use of the play areas. It is fair to say they had a terrific day and were thoroughly tired by the time they arrived back at school! Our other trip this week was a Year 4 local visit to Abbey Fishponds, in which children were investigating the positive impact humans can have on the environment. The children really enjoyed the trip and gained enhanced knowledge from this hands on approach to understanding this area of the curriculum.

In the celebration assembly last Friday, Year 1 treated us to some fantastic performance poetry as they performed 'The Great Fire of London' by Paul Perro. Today Year 3 are performing 'The Edible Bedroom' by Joshua Seigal. All Year groups have an opportunity to recite a poem at some point during the year, and it provides another opportunity for all children to perform in front of an audience. The clarity, confidence and enjoyment shown by Year 1 last week was impressive and we are sure the same will be shown by Year 3 today.

Our current PSHE topic across the school is Relationships. As always this was introduced by Mrs Harper, our PSHE Lead at the beginning of the half term, and children have been exploring the many aspects of this important topic in an age appropriate and relevant way. For instance, while Reception and Year 1 look at family life, making friends and being a good friend, Year 5 and 6 explore how to build self-esteem, identifying mental health worries and managing feelings (and sources of support) responsible online use and reducing screen time. Please do ask children at home about their learning in PSHE, as it can open up some important conversations, such as the safe use of technology.

On Tuesday, Mrs Kendry held an assembly about playtimes for all children, in which she outlined our revamped approach. This involved the different zones in action on the field, the equipment children can use, how this is organised, and reminding of behaviour expectations and play time rules outside. For instance, understanding how to play chasing games on the field in a safe and gentle way. The new playground markings were also explained, including the various games that can be played using these.

The consultation for the School Zone on Hendred Way has closed and there was a lot of feedback from local residents. This is resulting in some potential adaptations to the proposal. Once this is finalised I will share the design with you all, and let you know how this will affect drop off and pick up.

Finally, we all wish the Year 6 children good luck as they carry out the SATs next week. We know children are well prepared and will go into the tests with confidence.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable weekend ahead.

Kind regards
Kristen Fawcett

Headteacher



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LANGUAGE
FOUNDATION



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Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW

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

Archie	2LG	Rosie	5SC
Harrison	3CM	Ella	5SC
Austin	3CM	Leo	5SC
Josh	3CM	Steffan	5SC
Florence	3CM	Avalyn	5LB
Neev	4TJ	Kitty	5LB
Bea	4TJ	Abbas	6EP
Fred	4TJ	Matilda	6JN
Alex	4TJ	Dylan	6JN
		Charlotte	6JN

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 28 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning videos and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can include videos containing extreme language, racism, sexism, or other hate speech. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate restrictions.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, Tech Radar, TechCrunch, The Evening Standard and The New York Times.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to private or limited so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interactions from strangers.

WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Preventive in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

See full references list on our website

@wake_up_weds

www.thenationalcollege.com

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

These guides do not constitute an offer of insurance. No liability is accepted here. Content as of the date of reference: 22.04.2024

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

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

Dates for your diary 2026

KS2 SATs Week	Week of the 11th May
House Competition	Friday 15th 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
FoRC Summer Fete	Saturday 13th June 12.00pm – 2.00pm
Year 2 Abingdon Museum Trip	Tuesday 16th June (2LG) and Wednesday 17th June (2JB)
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
Year 6 Performance	Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July 6.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day Tilsley Park	Thursday 16th July 9.00am - 2.00pm
Year 6 Leavers Party	Thursday 16th July 4.30pm -6.30pm
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



May half-term holiday camp at our school

The World Cup is coming — and this May half-term, Holiday HQ brings that excitement to life with a **high-energy, multi-activity holiday club** at our school. It's not about standing in lines or repetitive drills. Instead, children take part in a four-day celebration filled with creative challenges, fast-paced games, teamwork and play — all inspired by one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

This May half-term, **Holiday HQ** returns to our school, delivered by **Junior Adventures Group (JAG)**.

Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May

- [Check out What's On!](#)
- [Register/Book Now!](#)

Holiday HQ: World Cup Challenge

During the holidays, children will:

- 👥 Create team names, flags and anthems to kick off the week
- ⚽ Take part in striker, defender and goalkeeper skill challenges
- 🏆 Design and build their own World Cup trophy
- 🧠 Compete in quizzes, team missions and problem-solving games
- 👕 Design football shirts, bottles and flipbooks to take home
- ⚽ Play matches, footgolf and high-energy team games
- 🏆 Finish the week with finals day, celebrations and awards

Every day combines **movement, creativity and teamwork**, with activities tailored so younger children feel supported while older children enjoy greater independence, challenge and leadership.

Children come home **happily tired**, proud of what they've achieved — often already asking about the next day.

What this means for families

- ✓ Safe, structured days delivered by experienced, DBS-checked staff
- ✓ Ofsted-registered holiday childcare you can trust
- ✓ A convenient, familiar school setting
- ✓ Full and half-day options — book only the days you need
- ✓ 48-hour cancellation policy if plans change
- ✓ Tax-Free Childcare accepted

For parents, it means dependable holiday cover and a calmer, more organised half-term — without disrupting work or existing routines.

Book early and save

🐦 **Early bird discount – Save 10%**

Book by Sunday May 10 using code **JOININ10** at checkout

👨👩 **Sibling discount – Save 10%**

Automatically applied when booking more than one child

📅 **Multi-day booking discount – Save 4%**

Applied when booking four days or more within the same week. All eligible discounts are combined automatically at checkout.

Parents can view session times, prices and availability online.

👉 [Find our school club](#)

Active days for them. An easier week for you.

🗨️ **Have any questions?**

☎️ 0333 577 1533

✉️ hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk

Oxford Summer Space Course

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SUMMER 2026

Dare to reach for the stars. Dive deep into space science & engineering, learn from NASA engineers and astronauts — and launch your future at one of the world's most prestigious universities. Join students from around the globe for an unforgettable summer programme that could help shape your career.

Jesus College, Oxford University, United Kingdom
July & August 2026 | Ages 12-18 | 1 & 2 Week Programmes

- ✓ **LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS**
NASA Engineers - Oxford Professors - Real Astronauts
- ✓ **EXPLORE CUTTING-EDGE TOPICS**
Space Engineering - Physics - AI - Maths - Planetary Science & more
- ✓ **EXPERIENCE OXFORD**
Stay in historic university halls - Visit world-class facilities - Make lifelong connections

Get in touch

Phone Number
+44 755 269 7878

Website
www.spacestore.co/oxford

Places are limited. Register now for early bird discounts. From £999 per week. Residential & Non-residential options available. For full details visit our website or give us a call.

Take the first step. Scan the QR code to register for our free monthly webinar.

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



THE PRIMARY YEARS

Sessions for anyone parenting children aged 5 to 11

Peachcroft Christian Centre
Lindsay Drive Abingdon OX14 2RT
Thursdays, 7.30 - 9:30pm



June 4th June 25th
June 11th July 9th
June 18th July 16th

For more information:
contact Rhoda or Marjorie on
parenting@peachcroftcc.org

Book via peachcroftcc.org
or scan the QR code above



Common-sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



THE PRIMARY YEARS

Time Out for Parents courses from Care for the Family provide common-sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship.

If you have children aged 5 to 11, then *Time Out for Parents – The Primary Years* is for you. Over 6 sessions, you'll increase your skills and confidence as a parent and discover practical tools to make your relationship with your child even better.

The sessions

- Session 1 What being a parent's really like!
- Session 2 Children's needs
- Session 3 Feelings and listening
- Session 4 Parenting styles and boundaries
- Session 5 Keeping children safe
- Session 6 Building strong families



Care for the Family, Tovey House, Cleppa Park, Newport, NP10 8BA.
Tel: 029 2081 0800, cff.org.uk

A registered charity (England and Wales 1066905; Scotland: SC035497)

ATTENTION PARENTS!

BRAND NEW CLASSES LAUNCHING NOW IN ABINGDON!
RADLEY VILLAGE HALL | GOOSEACRE | RADLEY | ABINGDON | OXFORDSHIRE | OX14 3BL

AWARD WINNING PROGRAMS (AS SEEN ON TV)

MONDAY
MINIS 3 - 6 YEARS / 17:00 - 17:45
JUNIORS 7 - 11 YEARS / 18:00 - 18:50
TEENS 12+ YEARS / 19:45 - 20:30

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL NOW!

Our award winning **MINIS** dance programme is specifically designed to support children aged 3 to 6 in developing confidence, coordination, listening skills, and self control. Through fun, structured movement and music, children learn discipline, respect, and positive behaviour while building a strong foundation for learning and self expression.

Our **JUNIORS** dance programme works hand in hand with a child's school life, providing many benefits both physically and mentally. Through fun and consistent training, students are taught the value of dedication, teamwork, and perseverance, learning that with effort and commitment, worthwhile goals are achievable.

Our **TEENS** dance programme is designed to support older children and teenagers in building confidence, discipline, and self belief. Students develop creativity, fitness, and resilience while learning how to express themselves positively, work as part of a team, and challenge themselves in a supportive environment.

WWW.MFDANCE.CO.UK

FREE TRIAL | FREE UNIFORM | MONEY BACK GUARANTEED

May Events

Family Music

Ages 2-7

The Family Folk Show

Sat 9 May 11.30am & 2pm

Award-winning folk duo Megson blend their infectious mix of heavenly vocals and lush harmonies into a gentle, entertaining concert specially for younger children, featuring children's folk songs old and new from their WHEN I WAS A LAD & LITTLE BIRD albums.

Tickets £12 (£8 child, under 2s free)

NW Inventors

Ages 8-11

Improvisation

Tue 26 - Wed 27 May
9am - 12pm

Join us for a playful and brave exploration of thinking on our feet, going with the flow and being faced with the unexpected all whilst we learn the golden rules of improvisation and performance. Expect plenty of games, lots of laughs and heaps of fun!

Tickets £40 / Full bursaries available

The North Wall, South Parade, Oxford OX2 7JN
Book now: thenorthwall.com

