



Rush Common School Newsletter

Friday 9th May 2025



Dream, Aspire, Succeed

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday was the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, and in school we marked this occasion with a range of activities in class related to VE Day. We also held a two minute silence to remember and thank those who fought for our freedom during World War Two. Children really understood the significance of the occasion and learnt a little more about this important moment in history.

Last week we had an author visit from Greg James (Radio 1 Presenter), who has co-written a series of books with Chris Smith. It was a thoroughly entertaining talk, and it was great to have such a well known personality presenting in our hall. Children from Thomas Reade and Dunmore primary schools also came to the event, and a fantastic selection of questions were asked. We certainly have some budding authors of the future!

Across the last two weeks, each of our Year 2 classes have been out visiting Abingdon Museum. It was lovely for our children to visit a local attraction, and meant we were able to walk from school. They gained a huge amount of knowledge about the Anglo-Saxons and really enjoyed the workshop provided by the museum. As always we received great praise for the impeccable behaviour of all our children on the trip.

Last week, Year 4 delivered a fantastic Curriculum Assembly to parents, showcasing much of their learning from this Term. The way the children delivered their lines and carried out their roles in the assembly showed such confidence, and the depth of learning was clear for all to see. As part of the assembly, a hugely memorable recital of Macavity the Mystery Cat was delivered with impressive accuracy and gusto!

Speaking of performance poetry, in last week's Celebration Assembly, Year 1 gave a wonderful recital of the poem 'The Great Fire of London' by Paul Perro. The way they all kept to the rhythm of the poem and were articulate was very impressive, and the poem was hugely enjoyed by everyone in the hall.

On Wednesday 7th May Year 3 and 4 competed in the Abingdon Schools Red Tennis Competition. The whole team performed brilliantly, showing determination and talent in equal measure. They came second out of eight teams and should be hugely proud of their performances. Congratulations to you all!

Pupil Leadership roles are important at Rush Common and this term our Year 5 Play Leaders are supporting younger children at lunchtimes. The children take their roles very seriously, and take great care in setting up games and activities on the field for children in KS1. It is lovely to see the confidence of the Year 5 children blossoming in this role!

Today Year 4 have been visiting Abbey Fishponds, to understand the positive impact humans can have on the environment. This involved observing wildlife in action, and it was a very enjoyable trip for all of the children.

Next week we wish all of our Year 6 children good luck as they complete the SATs. They have been well prepared and we know they are going into the week with confidence. They are particularly looking forward to the SATs breakfast!

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supported our FoRC Second Hand Book Sale. An impressive amount of sales were made, and I will let you know the total raised next time. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards

Kristen Fawcett
Headteacher



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School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is **£2.65** per day. Payment for school dinners can be made via ParentMail. Meal choices must be made at least 3 days in advance.



Calling all gardeners!



We will be holding a plant sale one day after school in May and are looking for plants to sell!

If you're growing plants from seed, or splitting plants you already have could we have a couple?!

Any fruit or veg plants or flowers would be wonderful!

We will be collecting a few days before the sale (date TBC!) but if you have any questions or would like to tell us what you're growing please email us on...

rushcommon.forc@gmail.com

We would love to hear from you!



Homework Champions

Olivia 3LA
Jules 3LA
Molly 3LG
Arthur 4CM
Kaitlyn 4CM
Lena 4CM
Jessica 4CM

Violet 4TJ
Harry 4TJ
Emily 4TJ
Lino 4TJ
Huniya 6JN
Ada 6JN
Neve 6EW

Musical Performance

Congratulations to Freya in Year 5 who has recently starred in the Little Stars Musical production of Matilda. Freya's hard work also rewarded her with the Newcomer Achievement Award. Well done Freya!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 28-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS
ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from speaking up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Dates for your diary 2025

KS2 SATs Week	Week of the 12th May
Parent Forum – Personal Development	Monday 19th May at 3.30pm (online)
Year 1 Curriculum Assembly	Wednesday 21st May 9.00am
John Mason visiting Year 6 Transition Pupils	Thursday 22nd May
Whole School Picnic and Open Afternoon	Friday 23rd May
End of Term 3a	Friday 23rd May
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 2nd June
Start of Term 3b	Tuesday 3rd June
Larkmead visiting Year 6 Transition Pupils	Wednesday 4th June
Reception Trip to Farmer Gow's	Wednesday 4th June
Class Photos	Thursday 5th June
Online Author Visit	Wednesday 11th June
Year 3 Hill End Trip	Thursday 12th June
Vision Screening (Reception Only)	Monday 16th June (Date Change)
Fitzharrys visiting Year 6 Transition Pupils	Wednesday 18th June (Date Change)
Reception and KS1 Sports Day	Friday 20th June
Reception and KS1 Back Up Sports Day	Tuesday 24th June
Summer Fete	Saturday 21st June 12.00pm - 2.00pm
Year 6 Call of The Wild Residential	Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July
Inset Day (Children Not in School)	Monday 7th July
'Move Up' morning	Wednesday 9th July
KS2 Sports Day (Tilsley Park)	Thursday 10th July 9.30am -1.30pm
Year 6 Production	Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th July 6.00pm
KS2 Back Up Sports Day (Tilsley Park)	Wednesday 16th July 9.30am -1.30pm
Year 6 Leaver's Party	Thursday 17th July
End of Term 3b	Monday 21st 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



CREATE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE!



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
3:00PM TO 4:10PM
24TH APRIL TO 17TH JULY

 YEARS 1-6

BOOK
NOW
AT



SCAN ME



www.house-of-fun.co.uk



SCIENCE & SPORT
Week!

FUN FILLED MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP WITH A
SCIENCE & SPORT TWIST. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

HANDS ON SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

SPORTS

ARTS & CRAFTS

COOKERY

CHILD CARE
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED

**MAY HALF TERM
MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP**

Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th May, 2025
open from 8.30am to 6pm each day!



RUSH COMMON
PRIMARY SCHOOL
HENDRED WAY
ABINGDON
OX14 2AW

Scan the QR code to book now!
or visit house-of-fun.co.uk
or call 07762 944204





Wildlife Gardening Talk: Growing vegetables in containers and small spaces

Thursday 8 May; 6-8pm

How to make the most of small spaces to grow delicious organic vegetables with expert Robert Longstaff. Suggested donation £4

Wildlife Gardening Talk: Know your soil and no dig gardening

Thursday 29 May; 6-8pm

Discover the secrets of your soil and principles of no dig gardening with organic gardening expert Robert Longstaff. Suggested donation £4

Wildlife Gardening Talk: Low input gardening and wildlife ponds

Sunday 8 June; 10am-1pm

Learn how "less" can be "more" in gardening with our expert. Find out the benefits a pond offers in your garden. £10 per head.

Visit our website to book or for more info:

- bbowt.org.uk/events
- 01235 862024 or sceec@bbowt.org.uk

bbowt.org.uk

More nature everywhere

Registered charity no. 204330



**SHEENCROFT
FARM
BLEWBURY
OX11 9ED**

**SATURDAY
17 MAY
9.30AM-5.30PM**

**ADULTS £12
10-16YRS £6
U10S FREE
PRE-BOOK ONLINE
FOR DISCOUNT**

**VINTAGE TRACTORS SHOW CATTLE
STEAM ENGINES OLD BERKS HUNT
YFC COMPETITIONS TRADE STANDS
CRAFT STALLS MOTOR BIKE DISPLAY
CHILDREN'S ATTRACTIONS DOG SHOW
KALEB COOPER CONTRACTING AND MORE**



More info: oxfordshireyfccountyshow.org.uk
Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/oxfordshirecountyshow
or scan QR code

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Oxfordshire Young Farmers County Show



@oxyfcsow

Dogs welcome on leads and to Dog show

HALF-TERM
NETBALL CAMP

OXFORD

TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY
EST. 2024

SKILLS - FUN - GAME PLAY

LEARN FROM PROFESSIONAL NETBALL PLAYERS AND
GROW YOUR SKILLS!! WITH A SURPRISE GUEST!!

£60
PP

28th MAY 2025

10-4PM

7-14yrs

LED BY Charlotte Dunkley + a
Surprise guest
OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL
targetnetballacademy@gmail.com
07469196478
SIBLING DISCOUNTS - 10%

Spaces are limited
— reserve your
place today and
improve your play!

BODY POLITIC

BACKED BY THE NORTH WALL ARTS CENTRE
& OXFORD PRESENTS:

FAMILY
DANCE
PARTY

JOIN US FOR A 'HIP-HOPPING, TOE-TAPPING' DAYTIME DISCO FOR
ALL OF THE FAMILY

DATES AND TIMES:

SPRING FAMILY DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY 8TH MARCH | 10:30AM & 1PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KIDLINGTON, OX5 1DD

MAY FAMILY DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY 10TH MAY | 10:30AM & 1PM
CUTTESLOWE PAVILLION, CUTTESLOWE PARK, OX2 8ES

SUMMER FAMILY DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY 5TH JULY | 10:30AM & 1PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KIDLINGTON, OX5 1DD

BOOKING INFO:

Pay what you can, under 2yrs go free!
01865 319450
www.thenorthwall.com
contact@thenorthwall.com

National Smile Month Story / Poem Competition



Celebrate with us this National Smile Month,
12th May – 12th June 2025
and help raise awareness of the importance of good oral health.

We are asking children aged between 6 to 11 across Oxfordshire, to write a short story (up to 400 words) or a poem promoting the importance of looking after our teeth. Whether it's about brushing, eating tooth friendly foods and drinks, the tooth fairy - it is entirely up to you, as long as it is about teeth!



Enter for a chance to win!

The winner will have their story or poem turned into a video with their voiceover, plus receive an electric toothbrush and a book voucher.

Please send your entries in by 5pm 12th June 2025 via email at
ohimp.oxfordshire@cds-cic.nhs.uk

Winner will be announced on 1st July 2025. Please ensure you provide the child's name, school they attend or parents contact on the back of the submission or in the email.

The winner will be expected to take part in post-competition publicity for CDS. This may mean their name and image being used on the internet, in publications, on TV and Radio, along with an image/video of their winning entry.

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National Smile Month Story / Poem Competition



RULES OF ENTRY

CDS's National Smile Month Story/Poem Competition is open to residents aged between 6 and 11 years on the closing date of 12th June 2025. We welcome entries from children of all abilities and needs.

To enter the competition, entrants must:

1. Write a short story or poem (up to 400 words) that can be anything about teeth.
 2. Ideas must be the entrant's own work.
 3. Have parent / guardian's permission to enter the competition.
 4. Entries must be received by 5pm on Thursday 12th June 2025.
 5. Late entries will be not be included.
 6. Only one entry per person to be submitted.
- If multiples are received, we will accept the first and disregard others.
7. Winner will be announced on our social media channels and contacted on 1st July 2025 to arrange a convenient date for CDS to record them reading their entry.
 8. If CDS is unable to contact the winner after a reasonable number of attempts have been made, we reserve the right to offer the prize to the next best entry.
 9. The prize is as stated and cannot be transferred. There is no cash alternative.
 10. Winner will be expected to take part in post-competition publicity for CDS. The winner's name and image may be used on the internet, in publications, on TV and Radio, along with a copy of their winning entry.
 11. The parent / guardian of an entrant is deemed to have accepted these rules when giving permission to the entrant to submit their entry.

Any questions please contact the OHI team on:
oralhealthimprovement@cds-cic.nhs.uk

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