

Abingdon Learning Trust
Rush Common School
Guide for Parents



“....Pupils are terrific advocates for their school, enthusing about a whole host of different aspects.”

Ofsted January 2017

Rush Common School

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Registered in England and Wales. Company no 7931886.
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Headteacher: Mrs Jacque Stevenson

Chair of Rush Common Board of Directors: Mr Robert Parsonson

Guide for Parents
05/05/2017

Introduction

Welcome to Rush Common School

We are a lively and happy school which is well valued and supported by our local community. Our learning environment is enriched by the talents, skills and expertise of all our staff, parents and the community. We have high expectations for all of our pupils and are very proud of their achievements across the curriculum. Success at Rush Common is measured by looking at the whole person. We want our children to be responsible and caring citizens of the world, people who contribute to society and have the will and determination to work hard and who are not afraid to speak out if they see injustice. Our Values based education underpins everything we do, enabling children to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment which is based on mutual respect, trust and the nurturing of their self-confidence, curiosity and imagination.

At Rush Common we encourage our children to have big dreams and aspirations for the future, safe in the knowledge that we will support them and believe in them one hundred per cent. We also teach them that big dreams are built on hard work, determination and perseverance.

We are supported in all we do by our Board of Directors, the School Parliament, our families and our terrific Friends of Rush Common (FoRC).

The best way of getting to know the school is to visit us. You will be very warmly welcomed. Please call the school office where one of the school administrators will make the arrangements for you.

“...Pupils are terrific advocates for the school....they enjoy schooland say that learning is fun. They appreciate the breadth of the curriculum and the additional activities on offer.”

“...Pupils talk proudly about how their teachers help them learn well.”

“During the inspection, inspectors noted the warmth of relationships between older and younger pupils.”

“Pupils are well prepared for their future lives and are truly inspired by the possibilities that lie ahead.”

Ofsted January 2017

Jacquie Stevenson
Headteacher

How is the school organised?

Introduction

Rush Common School was built in 1968 and the name derives from Rush Common Field, which was part of Northcourt Farm towards the end of the 19th century. The school badge incorporating the stag and crown indicates our earlier connection with the Royal County of Berkshire. In 2012 the school converted to an academy 'The Abingdon Learning Trust' (ALT). We are now self-governing, funded directly from Government (the Department for Education) and independent from local authority control. As such, we have greater freedoms on how we run, enabling us to focus on the needs and priorities of our children and our community. There are currently 405 pupils on roll, with fourteen classes from Foundation Stage (FS) to Year 6 and 57 staff members.

The school has many facilities including its own football pitch, tennis and netball courts, playgrounds, an outdoor classroom, a pond and an adventure playground. In 2016 a performance area was added and a new sensory garden was also built to provide was also built to provide an area for quiet reflection, reading, growing vegetables and enjoyment of music. The library was moved into a purpose built room in the heart of the school in September 2016 and the old library has been transformed into a music room. Additionally, there is a very popular Before and After School Club facility (BASC).

Rush Common prides itself on having a positive inclusive ethos for children with special educational needs.

Classroom organisation

Our school is organised as follows:

Year Group	Ages	Phase
Foundation Stage	4–5 years	Early Years Foundation Stage
Year 1	5–6 years	Key Stage 1 (Lower School)
Year 2	6–7 years	Key Stage 1 (Lower School)
Year 3	7–8 years	Key Stage 2 (Middle School)
Year 4	8–9 years	Key Stage 2 (Middle School)
Year 5	9–10 years	Key Stage 2 (Upper School)
Year 6	10–11 years	Key Stage 2 (Upper School)

Year 6 children have an opportunity to become School Parliament Ministers, Sports Captains, House Captains, Librarians, Anti Bullying Ambassadors, Play-leaders, Prefects, and Digital Leaders with varied duties and responsibilities. The prefects are managed by an elected Head Boy and Head Girl along with their deputies.

Coming to and from School

Many children walk or ride to school (a cycle or scooter pass will need to be obtained), which minimises traffic and improves overall safety. The school can be entered via the front main entrance off Hendred Way or through the Norman Avenue entrance. The school has two car parks, both are potentially high-risk areas for pedestrians and they are **out of bounds**. Pedestrians are asked to keep to the footpath or walkways to gain

access to the classrooms. Parents and children are asked not to gain access to school via the side gate onto the staff car park at any time during the school day. Should you travel to school by car, please note that:

- Locked electronic gates are in operation during school hours and entrance to the school must be obtained by contacting the School Office.
- Car park entrances must be kept clear as they serve as our emergency access points.
- The front entrance should not be used as a turning circle.
- There should be no parking on the double yellow and/or zigzag lines (at either entrance).

Should you need to come into school during the day you must report to the School Office at the front of the building in the first instance. (Access to different parts of the school is via the outside of the building and not through the school.)

School Security

A high level of site security is maintained at all times. Adherence to these points is very much appreciated as it ensures the on-going safety of the children and staff.

Locking and unlocking:

- The school building is unlocked at 8.30am and locked at 3.20pm.
- The main front gate is opened at 8.30am and shut at 8.45am. The main front gate will be opened just prior to the end of the school day and then closed at 3.20pm.
- Norman Avenue gate is opened just prior to 8.30am and locked at 8.55am. This gate is then opened just prior to the end of the school day and locked again at 3.30pm.
- After 3.20pm everyone coming into or out of the school – including children, staff and parents will need to go via the main school entrance/school reception. ***There will be no other entry or exit after 3.20pm for anyone.***
- If your child attends an after school club/activity s/he will be escorted to the main front gate via the main entrance to the school. Children going to the BASC after attending clubs/activities will be escorted via the main school gate.

Entry and exit:

- The main school gate is opened by a staff member at 8.30am and opened just before 3.00pm.
- Parents of children in Years 1, 2 and 3 are welcome to accompany their children into school ***on reading mornings only***. Parents are requested not to come into the classroom areas for any other reason unless they have permission to do so.
- Pick-up points for those parents/carers collecting the children at the end of the school day are as follows:
 - FS: fire exit doors into FS garden
 - Year 1: exit door by Year 2 area
 - Year 2: exit door by ramped area
 - Year 3: exit doors onto main playground
 - Year 4/5 and 6: fire exit doors in respective classrooms and walk around to main playground.
- After school, no parents or children should re-enter the building unless they are accompanied by a staff member. Parents of BASC children will not be permitted to come into school before or after they have picked up their child(ren).

- The meeting point for **before** school clubs/activities is the main school gate. A staff member will collect the children just prior to the start of the club.
- The meeting point for **after** school clubs/activities is the main school gate. A staff member will bring the children to this meeting point.
- All children arriving after 8.40am should report to reception to be registered and then go to their classroom. This is still the case if a parent is accompanying a child, as parents should not be in the classroom areas.

Procedures for FS in the mornings:

- Children and parents may come into the school building after 8.30am via the FS entrance that overlooks the car park. A staff member will be located at this entrance as well as TAs outside each classroom door for additional security.
- Parents are invited to encourage their children to independently hang up coats, put lunch boxes onto the trolley and/or change books.
- Children need to be in class ready for 8.40am registration (although whilst children are settling this is flexible.)
- The exit for all parents is via the same door as the entrance.

Procedures for Years 1, 2 and 3 on reading mornings:

- Children and parents may come into the school building after 8.30am:
 - Year 1 children via their cloakroom door
 - Year 2 children via their cloakroom door
 - Year 3 children via the ramp area opposite the BASC
- Parents are invited to encourage their children to independently hang up coats/change books.
- Children need to be in class ready for 8.40am registration.
- The exit for Year 1 and 2 parents is via the exit opposite the quiet garden/adventure playground.
- The exit for Year 3 parents is via the ramped area.

School Reception:

- Parents/Carers should see Ms Clark at the main school reception for any school business or queries, although forms may be returned to the class teacher via the children or posted in the box outside reception.
- If you wish to see Mrs Bratt concerning any financial queries, go the main school reception in the first instance.
- Access to the school reception should be via the main entrance only and not through the school.
- All volunteers or visitors should firstly sign themselves in and collect a Visitor Pass from reception. All those working on the school site in whatever capacity are required to wear official identification.
- Anyone in school who is not wearing a Visitor Pass will be stopped and asked to return to Reception.

Who's who?

Leadership and Management 2016-17

The Leadership Team ensures that the School Improvement and School Development Plans are implemented and that the day-to-day operational running of the school is of a high standard. Each Leadership Team member has a specific leadership role as well as their main responsibilities:

Role	Staff member
Headteacher	Jacquie Stevenson
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Head of Pupil Support and Welfare and Pupil Premium Leader	Michelle Ainscough
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	
Assistant Headteacher/ TA	Emma Putt
Leader/Middle School Leader (Yrs 3&4)	
Acting Assistant Headteacher	Beth Davies
Upper School Leader (Yrs 5&6) /CPD Leader/ ITT Leader/ NQT Leader	
EYFS Leader	Laura Richardson
Lower School Leader (Yrs 1&2)	Syka Akram
Head of Business and Finance	Zoe Bratt
BASC Manager	Sue Bennett
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	

Subject Co-ordination

Subject	Staff Member(s)
English	Reading – Laura Roberts Writing, SPAG and Handwriting – Kirsty Wallis Phonics – Syka Akram and Linda Audas
Maths	Catherine Guiver
Science	Jo Brown
Computing + On Line Safety	Syka Akram
RE	Lorna Dicken
Humanities	Lucinda Ramm
Primary Languages and International Links	Emily Fawcett
The Arts – Art, DT, Music, Drama	Art/DT + Drama - Jackie Mortland Music - Sandy Wallis and Emily Fawcett Orchestra + Recorders - Sandy Wallis
PE, Sport and Healthy Lifestyles	Sarah Barnes
PSHE/ SMSC	Nicky Drew (shadow Chloe Lambert)
Assemblies	Emma Putt
MAGT	Laura Roberts
School Parliament	Jacquie Stevenson

Outdoor Learning /Eco School/Forest School	Bethan Lipp
Senior Teaching Assistants	
Anti-Bullying Lead + Senco Support and Learning display co-ordinator	Anita Orford
Reading and Homework Champion	Sarah Donovan
MAGT Champion	Suzanne Burgess
Reading Resource Manager	Lynda Atyeo
Educational Visits Co-ordinator	Michelle Harrop

Class Teachers

Our teaching staff list is as follows (2016-17)

Mrs Nicky Drew Mrs Bethan Lipp Mrs Sandy Wallis Miss Laura Richardson (from April 2017)	FS	Miss Catherine Guiver Miss Emily Fawcett	Yr 4
Miss Chloe Lambert Mrs Linda Audas	Yr 1	Mrs Emma Putt Dr Kirsty Wallis Leah Kendry	Yr 5
Miss Jackie Mortland Miss Syka Akram	Yr 2	Ms Laura Roberts Mrs Beth Davies	Yr 6
Mrs Lorna Dicken Mrs Jo Brown Mrs Lucinda Ramm	Yr 3	Mrs Sarah Barnes (PE Specialist Teacher) Mrs Khi Joyner (Maternity Leave) Mrs Leah Kendry (Maternity Leave)	

Support Staff

Our support staff have a vital role working with class teachers to support pupil learning. Many of our staff are very well qualified and experienced and work with classes during teacher's Planning, Preparing and Assessment (PPA) release time. Additionally, some of the support staff are trained in First Aid and/or are lunchtime supervisors. There are also a number of staff who work closely with specific children and/also provide specialised activities for small groups of children.

Mrs Lynda Atyeo	Senior Teaching Assistant
Mrs Suzanne Burgess	Senior Teaching Assistant
Mrs Sarah Donovan	Senior Teaching Assistant
Mrs Michelle Harrop	Senior Teaching Assistant
Miss Anita Orford	Senior Teaching Assistant
Mrs Eleanor Clear	Teaching Assistant and BASC Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Melanie Cleaves	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Louise Harper	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Charlie Leech	Teaching Assistant

Mrs Jane Newton	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Tracey Watson	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Julie Furlonger	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs Gillian Guntert	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs Cate Jordan	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs Trudi Rowland	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs Victoria Jackson	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs Elizabeth Elward	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mr Jeroen Mulders	Pupil Premium Teaching Assistant
Mrs Tracy Dudman	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs Morena Maccacaro	SEN Teaching Assistant

Operations Staff

Mrs Zoe Bratt	Head of Business and Finance
Mrs Rhian Wyatt	School Operations Manager
Ms Sue Bennett	BASC Manager
Mr Dan Latimer	Site Manager
Ms Karen Clark	School Administrator
Mrs Joanne Ahier	Administration Assistant
Mrs Rhian Hutchins	PA to Headteacher

Abingdon Learning Trust Trustees

Mr Jonathan Dennett	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Debbie Lymn	Chair
Mrs Ruth Hawkins	Vice-Chair
Mr Michael Nga	
Mr Chris Wilmshurst	

Rush Common Academy Board

Mr Robert Parsonson
 Mrs Katharine de Villiers
 Mr Chris Wilmshurst
 Mrs Leah Kendry
 Mrs Sally Goodger
 Mrs Joanne Haggas
 Mr Gareth Simpson
 Mrs Jacquie Stevenson
 Mrs Jessica Burns
 Mrs Vanessa Case

Starting School

Foundation Stage (FS) children

“...Children get off to a good start in the Reception classes. The classrooms are a hubbub of activity.”

Ofsted January 2017

The successful education of pupils comes from a strong partnership between parents/carers and the school. Before starting school all new children and their families are invited to take a school tour and to meet with the Headteacher. There will also be a meeting with the child's class teacher and the opportunity to speak to us about your child's likes, dislikes, abilities and any relevant details about home life that will help us settle your child into school. It is very useful to have reports and profiles from the preschool and/or nursery settings. We would be grateful if you could pass these to the class teacher at the start of the academic year.

Before starting in September all new FS children join us for three visits. It is an opportunity to work with and get to know their Teacher and Teaching Assistant and are with the rest of the children in their class. They are introduced to the routines and learn where key parts of the school are. Additionally, there is an Initial Parents Meeting where the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is explained as well as ideas to best support your child at home. In Terms 2 and 4 you will be able to book individual meetings with the class teacher to discuss your child's progress. Should additional meetings be required an appointment with the class teacher can be made via the office.

Staffing

Whilst the children are divided into two Foundation Classes, they will become familiar with, and work with, all of the FS team. Each child will be assigned a Key Worker, who will be the main contact for any questions and information sharing. Pupils from both classes will have lots of opportunity to play and interact together, using both inside and outside spaces and resources.

Security and Safety

The doors to the FS area have double handles for security. Whenever you come into the building, please ensure that all doors are closed behind you. For safety reasons please refrain from walking through the staff car park at all times.

All staff wear Rush Common security badges to help you identify them. If you need to come into school during the day you must report to the main School Office at the front of the building in the first instance. Access to different parts of the school is via the outside of the building and not through the school.

School Times

Arrival

Parents should bring their children to the FS entrance door for 8.30am. Please do not allow children and/or siblings to play on the adventure playground or to enter the FS outside play area as it will have been set up for the day's learning. Younger siblings are welcome within the classrooms, but buggies and prams must be left outside. As this is a very busy time, younger accompanying children should not come onto the school grounds with trikes, bikes or scooters. After organising themselves pupils should come into classrooms and stay inside.

Home Time

Please wait in the FS outside area, close to the classroom doors so that you are visible to your child and to the member of staff releasing pupils. If your child is to be collected by anyone other than the usual named individual, you must provide written permission, informing us of their name plus a photograph. Children will not be released unless this permission is provided.

If you are delayed please call the main office. Should you be more than 10 minutes late to collect your child, they will wait for you in the front office reception.

In the event that a child is not collected by a parent or carer, this will be brought to the attention of the Headteacher or person with designated responsibility for child protection. The Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead will then make every effort to contact the parent or carer or named alternative carer(s) as per the child's school records.

If the child has not been collected and no contact has been made with the child's parent(s) or carer(s) or named alternative carer(s) within 30 minutes of the end of the **school day or school club**, the Head Teacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead will telephone the police. If the child is known to the assessment team, contact will also be made with the child's allocated social worker or the emergency duty social worker if it is out of normal office hours.

Break Time

Pupils have a fruit/vegetable snack and a drink at morning break. Fruit will be provided by the school for KS1 pupils, but a preferred fruit or vegetable snack may be provided for your child, clearly named and placed in the class labelled container. Pupils are encouraged to drink from their water bottle throughout the day and particularly at snack time. Water bottles are sent home every day for washing and refilling.

Lunch Time

Lunchtime is between 12 noon and 1.00pm. Pupils are supervised and supported by Lunchtime Supervisors. If your child is not having a school lunch, please provide a healthy, balanced packed lunch and a separate drink (no nut products, fizzy drinks, chocolate or sweets) please.

Absences

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school for any other reason, you must telephone the office or send a message via another familiar adult on the first day of absence before 9.00am.

From 1st September 2013 Headteachers are not allowed to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances.

Uniform

In addition to the required school uniform (as per the school Uniform Policy), your child will need a book bag, a PE bag and a water bottle. For outdoor play children will also need a pair of waterproof trousers and a pair of wellingtons. Please ensure there is a loop in the trousers so that they can be hung in the storage area and write the name clearly on the loop so that your child can read it.

Please ensure your child wears practical warm clothing for winter and has a lightweight raincoat and hat for summer. This will ensure that your child is kept warm and dry as they play and learn outside in all weathers. Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled.

PE

Between September to April pupils will have PE lessons in the school hall. Indoor PE kit is a white round neck t-shirt with the school emblem and a pair of navy shorts, pupils work in bare feet. During Terms 5 and 6 children will require a pair of plimsolls/plain trainers, white socks and navy tracksuit for outdoor games. A House t-shirt is also required for internal house sports events. Parents are informed of children's houses in Foundation Stage by Term 3.

Information

All information relating to the Foundation Classes and EYFS will be on the main big board between the two classrooms. Please ensure you check information regularly.

Transition into a New Year Group

Preparation

Parents and children are informed of their class teacher for the new academic year towards the end of Term 6. For FS, we arrange for the children to visit their new classes three times during July. Here they find out about new routines and expectations, helping them to settle quickly in September.

In July, children in years 1 to 6 will spend **one day** in their new classes. The children will be provided with tasks they might like to complete during the summer break.

During Term 6 staff meet formally during staff meeting time to handover pupil files and information/assessment data to the new class teacher.

Initial Parents Meetings

In preparation for the new academic year parents are invited to an Initial Parents Meeting.

At these meetings staff introduce key aspects of the curriculum, routines, timetables, homework and activities for the year. Details of where and how belongings should be stored are explained.

Your attendance at these important meetings is encouraged as they provide information, which will help you to understand the organisation and routines of the new year group and to support your child during the year.

Data forms

At the beginning of each academic year you will be asked to confirm that the school holds the correct contact details for you and your child. It is essential that, in the event of an emergency, we hold accurate details and should any details change, particularly mobile telephone numbers and email addresses please inform the office at the earliest opportunity. If possible, parents should also provide the school with the contact details of at least two other relatives/carers who can be called when the parent/carer cannot be contacted or in the event of an emergency. The school will endeavour to keep this record up to date by reminding parents of the need to notify the school of any changes.

The School Day

Timings and breaks

FS, Year 1, 2 and 3 children

Gates open	8.30am
Registration	8.40am
Lesson time	8.45am – 10.10am
Break	10.10am – 10.30am
Lesson time	10.30am – 12.00pm
Lunch	12.00pm – 1.00pm
Lesson time	1.00pm – 3.00pm
Break	2.00pm – 2.15pm (FS, Yrs 1 & 2)
Home time	3.00pm

Parents are welcome to join their child for the designated morning parent and child learning activity, when we expect parents to work with their children on the activity or reading, thus supporting us in creating a calm, quiet working environment. Younger siblings should be fully supervised and encouraged to stay away from equipment and/or resources.

Year 4, 5 and 6 children

Gates open	8.30am
Registration	8.40am
Lesson time	8.45am – 10.30am
Break	10.30am – 10.50am
Lesson time	10.50am – 12.00pm
Lunch	12.00pm – 1.00pm
Lesson time	1.00pm – 3.00pm
Home time	3.00pm

Unless they are involved in a pre-school club/activity, children are not expected to arrive at school before 8.30am, as they will be unsupervised.

Supporting School Work

Homework/Home Learning

Homework can be any work or activity which pupils are asked to do either on their own or with parents/carers outside of classroom time. Parental involvement and support helps children to develop the skills of independent working.

Purposes of Home Activity

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to enjoy learning experiences together.
- To extend and embed learning in school.
- To encourage pupils to develop confidence and self-discipline in preparation for secondary school.

Overview of Home Activities for Each Year Group

	Activity
Foundation Stage	Book talk
Year 1 and 2	Book talk Spelling activity Number facts and tables Occasional homework tasks Holidays – non-compulsory, self-initiated research and/or pre-learning
Year 3 – Year 6	Book talk Spelling activity Number facts and tables Set weekly Maths and English homework tasks* (see over) Other occasional set work to support subject and/or project work Holidays – non-compulsory, self-initiated research and/or pre-learning

*Homework tasks are aimed at encouraging children to extend their learning of a topic being studied in school. Such tasks should encourage independence, self-discipline and an enthusiasm for out of school learning. Work will be set on a defined day and will need to be handed in on or before a pre-defined set day. Information regarding the homework timetable will be provided prior to the start of each academic year. Children should spend around 20/30minutes (Years 3 and 4) and 30/40minutes (Years 5 and 6) on each set task and should be encouraged to take responsibility for remembering and completing homework tasks.

Trips and visiting experts

Trips and Visits are vitally important to reinforce, extend and develop learning. We ensure that children have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of trips, visits and residential during their time at Rush Common. Parents may be asked to support such activity through voluntary contributions and/or supporting as an adult helper.

Lunch times

Children may have either a freshly prepared school dinner or a healthy packed lunch (no nut products, fizzy drinks or chocolates/sweets). Children are fully supervised throughout the lunchtime period, and during lunchtime play have access to the Adventure Playground plus a number of supervised activities and games.

School prepared dinners cost £2.10 per day, £10.50 per week. **Payment should be made in advance** on the first day of a new term. However, if this is not possible payment may only be made on Monday mornings in an envelope clearly marked 'School Dinner Money', with your child's name, class and days for which a school dinner is required. ***This should be handed to the class teacher.*** Cheques should be made payable to 'Rush Common School' please.

Should your child have any dietary requirements and/or allergies please ensure that the information is included on the registration form or inform the School Office in writing.

In some circumstances children are entitled to free school meals. Under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Policy, all four to seven-year-olds are entitled to a free meal at lunchtime each day. A hot school meal is recommended although a packed lunch option is available. The school actively encourages as many children as possible to have school meals each day. For all other year groups (years 3-6), please check with the School Office should you think you are eligible, who will provide the relevant form for completion.

Extended services

Child-care: Before and After School Club (BASC)

Rush Common has an extremely popular and often oversubscribed Ofsted Registered Before and After School Club. The BASC is available for Rush Common School children and exists to offer a wrap-around child care service to extend the school day.

The BASC runs between 7.45am – 8.30am and 3.00pm – 5.00pm on each school day apart from the last day of each term. Extended sessions are available until 6.00pm at an additional cost. The club is run by a well-qualified team of play workers who provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children.

Each session provides flexible opportunities for play, activities and relaxation in a friendly, cooperative and supportive atmosphere. The emphasis is on leisure activities to ensure the children do not see the club as an extension of their working day.

On arriving at the BASC at the end of a school day children are offered a healthy snack and a drink of milk or water. Children may also attend other school based clubs and activities before going to the BASC (subject to parental consent).

A copy of the Information Guide, Registration and Booking Forms are available from the BASC Manager – Ms Sue Bennett (Designated Safeguarding Lead for BASC). Please contact her via the School Office, at the BASC during opening times or on 07530 003315.

Clubs and activities

There are a wide range of clubs and activities for the children to attend at various times during the year, either after school or during the lunchtime break. These **may** include:

- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Debating Club
- Athletics
- Eco Club/Gardening
- Premier Soccer Club
- High 5s/ Netball Club
- Running Club
- Tag Rugby
- Gymnastics
- Orchestra
- Giggle Grooves
- GEMs Maths Club
- Reading Club
- Running Club
- Judo

Most of the clubs are run by staff members although some are offered by independent organisations or volunteers. Occasionally, children themselves run clubs, where a staff member is available for supervision. Children may participate in an extra-curricular activity with the written consent of a parent/carer. A firm commitment needs to be made to retain a place as clubs are often over-subscribed. A register is taken at each meeting. For some clubs, such as choir, children are required to make a commitment for the academic year due to preparations for concerts, festivals and competitions.

Clubs and activities taking place after school are in a variety of locations across the school. The 'pick-up' point for after school clubs will always be at the main entrance gate (by Mr Latimer's house). Staff bring children to this location to meet parents/carers after the club has finished. No parents/carers should enter the school or wait anywhere other than the designated area.

Community links:

Rush Common Parent Representative Group

The aim of this group is to aid communication between parents, Trust Governors and the school. For each class, one or two parents volunteer their services to the Parent Representative Group and are identified at the start of the academic year in the Initial Parents Meetings. If you require the contact details for your class representative please contact the school office via email office@rushcommonschoo.org .

The group role is as follows:

- To liaise with the class teacher/teaching assistant and the parents
- To contribute to Parent Representative activities
- To be actively involved in class activities
- To attend a meeting with the Headteacher once per Term to discuss and work on whole school issues and feedback to parents.

SEND Parent Forum

This forum provides the opportunity for parents and carers to meet with our Home Pupil Support Worker SENCO, Mrs Ainscough, to discuss and learn about different types of Special Educational Needs. A question and answer session is also included in order that parents and carers can raise any issues, queries or share positive feedback. A fortnightly update about the work of this forum is included on the newsletters.

Anti-Bullying Forum

Each term a group of parents meet to discuss the school's approaches to preventing and tackling bullying. This year parents, Governors and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (Y5 pupils) have been involved in reviewing the Anti-Bullying Policy and are taking a proactive lead in supporting this area of the schools' work.

Friends of Rush Common

The school has a very active events committee, which raises funds for the school in a variety of ways, such as raffles, discos, quiz nights, bazaars, fetes and family fun evenings. Proceeds from these events are used to purchase items from a 'wish list' and/or contribute towards other expenditure related to the school development plan. The group also runs a coffee morning every Friday, where staff and/or children present information related to key projects, curriculum activities or our approaches to teaching and learning. For more information and to join this active team please contact the Friends of Rush Common. rushcommon.forc@gmail.com

School uniform and lost property

School uniform (please see Uniform Policy) may be purchased online at www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com. However we do hold a small amount of stock in school. School ties, jumpers, cardigans, T-shirts, dresses, PE bags, book bags and rucksacks all with the school logo along with water bottles and swimming hats are available for purchase. Other items of school uniform can be obtained in department stores. The recommended supplier for House t-shirts is Fruit of the Loom from whom t-shirts should be purchased directly. Order forms may be obtained from the School Office. Your order will be made up and can then be collected directly from the School Office.

Lost property is located in the Ramp area and named items will be sorted by Year 6 and returned to the owner at the earliest opportunity. After 3 months un-named and unclaimed items will be disposed of. To ensure lost property items are returned please clearly label all items belonging to your child(ren). Please contact the office should you require access to the lost property box.

Hiring premises

There are a number of groups and organisations which hire the School Hall for community activities and the school may also be hired for 'one-off' events. Should you wish to hire the premises, booking and conditions of hire forms are available from Mrs Wyatt, Schools Operations Manager.

Communication between home and school

Contact details

Completing the data form at the start of each academic year and ensuring it is returned to the School Office is an important task, to ensure good communication is maintained between home and school. It is essential that the contact details for every child are kept up to date, particularly telephone numbers of contacts and email addresses where possible should there be an emergency. If any aspects of your details change during an academic year, please confirm these changes in writing and hand them in at the School Office.

Medical information

Parents are asked to complete a Medical Form for each child on entry to school. We have members of staff, qualified in First Aid, who are responsible for looking after your child if they are hurt or unwell. You will be contacted, to inform you of any incidents or if your child needs to be collected from school.

An Individual Care Plan is created for any child who has a condition requiring medication to be held permanently in school. This will need to be completed, agreed and signed at the beginning of the year and the medication stored and administered accordingly. It is the parents' responsibility to collect medication at the end of each academic year and return it at the beginning of the next Term and ensure it is still in date. Our First Aiders can only administer prescription medicine, which requires four or more doses a day. Parents bringing medicine for their child must hand it directly to the named First Aider; medicines must always be brought in and collected by an adult. A form must be completed and signed by the parent/carer. Inhalers should be kept in the First Aid box located in your child's classroom. It is essential that if your child requires an inhaler then one is located on the school premises for access should it be required. All classroom First Aid boxes are transported to the School Hall or field during PE and games and to the Medical Room at lunchtime.

We have members of staff qualified in First Aid who are responsible for looking after your child if they are hurt or unwell. You will be contacted if your child needs to be collected from school. It is the parents/carers responsibility to inform the school of their child's medical condition and to inform school of any changes in a condition or medication. It is also the parents/carers responsibility to ensure medication is in date.

Illnesses and accidents

It is essential that parents/carers can be reached quickly should illness or accident occur. We require your telephone number at home, at work, and also the telephone number of your doctor. (See contact details above).

Should your child have sickness and/or diarrhoea then they should not come back to school until **48 hours** after the last episode to limit the spread of infection and for their own comfort. Parents are required to contact the school on the first day of absence before 9.00am if their child is away due to illness. A written letter is then not needed.

Returning forms and money

All forms can be handed directly to the class teacher during morning registration or posted in the mailbox just outside the entrance to the School Office. Any money should be in a sealed envelope with the child's name, class and what the money is for, clearly written on the front of the envelope. No money should be posted in the mailbox; it should be handed to the class teacher or School Administrator.

Changes to routine

It is important for the school to be aware if things that are happening at home might affect your child. This enables staff to put into place the appropriate care, guidance and support to minimise any negative impact on the child's learning. In the first instance, please speak directly with the class teacher, teaching assistant or phase leader.

If your child is being picked up at the end of the school day by anyone other than the usual named individual, you must provide permission, informing us of their name and in the case of Foundation Stage children a photograph of the adult who will be picking up your child. Children will not be released to another adult (even if that person is known by the school), unless permission has been provided.

School Information

Increasingly school information, letters and forms will be sent via InTouch. Newsletters are published fortnightly and sometimes letters may be sent home with your child. It is therefore important to ensure that book-bags/rucksacks are checked regularly.

Complaints

In the event of any kind of query or complaint we would hope that in the first instance it could be resolved by talking to the member of staff concerned. If you are still not satisfied, then contact the Headteacher via the School Office. If your query has not been resolved and you are still unhappy, then you may proceed to write to the Rush Common Academy Board. The Governors will require copies of written material if they are to resolve the query. If these attempts to settle the complaint have failed, the Headteacher will supply you with details of the Secretary of State, together with the relevant documents explaining the arrangements for considering complaints. Please see the Complaints Policy which is available on the website for more details.

If all of the above procedures have failed to settle the complaint, you may then make a complaint directly to Ofsted. They can be contacted via email at enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk or via the helpline telephone number - 08456 40 40 45.

Authorisation Forms

Absence

Amendments to the registration regulations, which came into force on September 1st 2013, removed references to family holidays and extended leave as well as the threshold of ten school days at the discretion of the Headteacher. From September 1st 2013 Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during Term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Cycle and Scooter passes

The school actively encourages children to cycle to school but before doing so an application for a Cycle/Scooter Pass needs to be completed. If you wish your child to cycle then they have to carry the pass and wear a helmet at all times. Parents are also responsible for the safety of the children on the road and must ensure that the bike/scooter is roadworthy. **All bikes/scooters must be pushed from the road along the footpath into school and parked in the cycle sheds provided.**

Mobile Phone Permission Years 5 & 6

If you would like your child to have a mobile phone, for safety reasons when walking to and from school, please fill in a mobile permission form. The phone **must** be switched off as your child enters the school grounds and given to the class teacher for safe keeping during the day. We do not accept any liability for phones that are lost or stolen.

All authorisation and application forms are available from the School Office.

Policies and other school information

Copies of our school policies, latest Ofsted Report, and performance data are all available either from the School Office or via our website.

What does my child need to wear?

School Uniform Policy

We expect a high standard of personal appearance for all of the children. Through our uniform policy we aim to:

- Encourage pride in the school
- Support teaching and learning
- Enable children to be comfortable, safe and secure
- Encourage a sense of equality and cohesion and protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

In this way, the uniform contributes to the overall aims of the school.

Our uniform is as follows:

Winter	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White short/long sleeved poly/cotton shirt • School tie* • School sweater or cardigan with emblem* • Grey pinafore dress/skirt, trousers, tailored shorts (knee length) or culottes • White/grey socks or grey/green tights (not sports socks) • Sturdy black flat/low heeled shoes (not more than 1.5 cm high) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White short sleeved poly/cotton shirt or blouse • School sweater or cardigan with emblem • Grey skirt, trousers, tailored shorts or culottes • Dark green gingham dress* • White/grey socks (not sports socks) • Sturdy black flat/low heeled shoes or black/white sandals (not more than 1.5 cm high)
PE Kit	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy shorts • White round neck t-shirt with school emblem* • White/black trainers/plimsolls • White socks • Navy tracksuits for winter outdoor games • School PE bag* • House T Shirt** 	<p>* purchased from school uniform shop or online ** red/royal blue/Kelly green/yellow. Preferred supplier Fruit of the Loom</p>

Winter Uniform including the school tie should be worn every day during Terms 2, 3 and 4. Summer Uniform for Terms 1, 5 and 6.

Children are not permitted to wear boots and are only able to participate in PE/games with the appropriate clothing.

In addition to this other aspects of our agreed uniform are as follows:

- Children should come to school with a warm, waterproof coat. Hats, gloves and scarves of any colour may be worn.

- Hair should be tied back using a scrunchie, hair band, clip or ribbon that is black, brown or green.
- Unnatural hair colouring and heavily gelled hair styles are not permitted. 'Unnatural' means:
 - A colour that is not found in the natural hair colour spectrum (i.e. bright, extreme or vivid colour)
 - A combination of colours that is easily visible or in stark contrast
- Minimal jewellery should be worn for practical as well as health and safety reasons. A wristwatch and/or single stud earring in each ear lobe are permitted. All jewellery should be removed for PE and games.
- Nail varnish and make-up are not permitted.
- Electronic devices are not permitted. However, mobile phones may be brought into school once permission has been received from the Headteacher. Authorisation forms are available from the School Office. Mobile phones brought into school will be stored securely by the class teacher during the school day. Mobile phones must not be used on the school site.

Cost of uniform

We want to ensure that the cost of uniform does not lead to children feeling socially excluded or families unable to afford other necessities. Parents/carers who are unable to provide a uniform for their child should contact the Headteacher where approaches will be handled sensitively and with discretion. The uniform supplier, quality and costs are reviewed regularly to ensure that the school provides good quality clothing at an affordable price. The Parent Representative Group is consulted on their views regarding school uniform.

Enforcement of the uniform policy

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child comes to school in the correct uniform (see Home School Agreement). All staff have a responsibility for ensuring that children are correctly dressed in class and elsewhere on the school site. In the event of repeated infringements parents/carers will be required to meet with the Headteacher. In the case of accessories the child will be asked to remove the item(s), which may be confiscated. **The Headteacher is the final arbiter in all matters of uniform and dress.**

Issues arising from the policy

Parents should raise any issues related to the school uniform or aspects of appearance with the Headteacher. Requests to vary the uniform requirements for particular reasons (such as medical needs), will be carefully considered.

Children should raise any uniform issues with their class teacher; they may also request that uniform matters (including proposals for change) be put onto the agenda of School Parliament meetings.

Policy review

Our uniform regulations are reviewed regularly, including consideration of uniform items, cost and value for money.

Behaviour and Discipline

“....A whole host of responsibilities encourage pupils to use their skills to influence one another positively. They develop a strong moral compass. Relationships are strong with adults and peers alike.”

“...During the inspection, inspectors noted the warmth of relationships between older and younger pupils.”

Ofsted January 2017

At Rush Common School we ensure that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that everyone is treated fairly. We are a caring, inclusive community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. Everyone has the right to feel happy, safe and secure and this is fundamental for effective teaching and learning. Our policy and school approach to behaviour and discipline is based on four principles: clear, positive expectations; self-awareness and self-esteem; clear responses to negative behaviour and supportive structures for those who find success difficult. At Rush Common School no form of bullying will be accepted (please refer to Anti-bullying policy).

Aims and expectations

- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, staff and visitors to the school.
- To provide an environment where effective teaching and learning can take place.
- To develop a consistent whole school behaviour policy, supported and followed by the whole school community: children, staff, parents/carers and directors.
- To help children grow in a safe and secure environment and to become caring, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community.
- To develop and improve the emotional health and resilience of children, staff and parents/carers.
- To encourage and celebrate effort as well as achievement.
- To understand other people's feelings and show empathy.
- To respond positively to good behaviour and fairly and reasonably to negative behaviour.

Rush Common School follows a positive discipline approach. We aim to pay more attention to what children are doing right rather than what they are doing wrong.

School Code of Behaviour

- Listen to the teacher or responsible adult and to each other.
- Be kind, polite and helpful to others.
- Call everyone by their name in a respectful manner.
- Have respect for ourselves, others and our environment.
- Share with each other.
- Treat others how we would like them to treat us.
- Use kind words and gentle touch at all times.
- Move around the school calmly and quietly.
- Respect differences between ourselves and others.
- Support each other to prevent bullying.

Rewarding positive behaviour

We praise and reward children for appropriate behaviour in a variety of ways:

- House points
- Good News Slips
- Smiley face board
- Gestures of approval
- Humour
- Quiet encouraging talk
- Private verbal praise
- Public verbal praise
- Asking another member of staff to pass on approval
- General praise to the whole class/group
- Praise in front of Governors/visitors
- Special responsibility
- Written and sticker comments on work
- Prominent display of pupils' work around the school
- Visit to Headteacher/senior staff
- Comments via Home School Link Book if appropriate

Use of reasonable penalties in response to negative behaviour

On occasion, when children choose not to follow classroom or school codes, the following penalties/consequences are imposed:

1. Disapproving look; positive reminder; verbal warning - in form of choice/consequence; expectation of compliance.
2. Use of the sad face board.
3. Child moved nearer to the adult responsible/moved to another seat or place in room for thinking time.
4. Time out: child moved away from the group/class (child should always be within adult's sight and should be seated not standing) incident is recorded in the class behaviour book (held by the class teacher).
5. Removal of privileges i.e. appropriate amount of time deducted from playtime/dinnertime.
6. Child sent to Head of Phase or, if appropriate sent to Assistant Headteacher or Headteacher.
7. Recorded in the behaviour book.
8. Meet with parents/carers.

In an instance of severe misbehaviour (e.g. intentional physical violence, extreme defiance of adult, stealing, swearing) the Head of Phase, Assistant Headteacher or Headteacher will be sent for.

In an instance of biting the pupil will go immediately to the Headteacher or member of the Leadership Team if the Headteacher is not available.

ANTI BULLYING

The aim of Rush Common School is for every member of the school community to feel valued and respected, and for all persons to be treated fairly, inside and outside school, on the way to and from school and when it involves our school community. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for each of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a **TELLING** school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell an adult.

As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

We actively promote the role of the “bystander” to encourage pupils to report instances of bullying, in any form, when they witness it or become aware of it.

What is Bullying?

Behaviour by an individual or group usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

We also follow the SEAL definition of bullying with pupils: Bullying means that one child is **deliberately** (usually) using his or her **power** over another to make them feel bad. Bullying is not having a single argument or fight with someone. It isn't saying something bad to someone once when you are angry. Bullying goes on deliberately (on purpose) **over a period of time.**

Procedures - dealing with an incident

1. Report bullying incidents to staff (preferably the pupil's class teacher)
2. The incidents will be recorded by staff using the school's behaviour incident form.
3. Staff use “Checklist for Managing a Bullying Incident” to assist how to respond to an incident.
4. Parents should be informed and may be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
5. If a criminal offence has been committed, school will consider reporting the incident to the police or inform parents of the target that they may want to do so.
6. Consider what additional input is required to support pupils affected.
7. Monitor the situation and review
8. Consider what further action is needed to reassure and meet the needs of those concerned.

The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly. An attempt will be made to help the child who is doing the bullying change their behaviour the complete Anti-Bullying Policy can be obtained, by request, from the School Office.

The role of parents

The school works in partnership with parents, so children receive consistent messages about how to behave at home and at school. If requested parents will be given the opportunity to attend parenting support sessions.

It is vitally important for parents to support their child's learning, and to co-operate with the school, as set out in the Home–School Agreement. Our aim is to build a supportive open dialogue between the home and school, and we inform parents immediately if we have concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour.

If the school has to use reasonable penalties with a child, eg loss of break-time, parents are requested to support the actions of the school. If parents have any concern about the way that their child has been treated, they should initially contact the class teacher. If the concern remains, they should contact the Headteacher and then the school Governors. If these discussions cannot resolve the problem, a formal grievance or appeal process can be implemented.

Fixed-Term and permanent exclusions

This paragraph should be read in conjunction with the school's Exclusion of Pupils Policy.

Only the Headteacher (or the Assistant Headteacher) has the power to exclude a pupil from school. The Headteacher may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year. The Headteacher may also exclude a pupil permanently. It is also possible for the Headteacher to convert a fixed-term exclusion into a permanent exclusion, if the circumstances warrant this.

If the Headteacher excludes a pupil, s/he informs the parents immediately, giving reasons for the exclusion. At the same time, the Headteacher makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the Board of Directors. The school informs the parents how to make any such appeal.

The Headteacher informs the LA and the Board of Directors about any permanent exclusion, and about any fixed-term exclusions beyond five days in any one term.

The Complete Pupil Behaviour and Discipline Policy can be obtained on request from the School Office.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

“...Teaching assistants provide highly skilled support, particularly when working one to one with pupils who have complex special educational needs and/or disabilities. Pupils display high levels of confidence in the adults who support them.”

Ofsted January 2017

Pupils with special educational needs at Rush Common School are entitled to the same opportunities and education as their peers, which is personalised and adapted where necessary, to their particular needs. We are committed to raising achievements and high expectations for all our pupils.

SEN provision at Rush Common School

Children with special educational needs can have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than other children of the same age. Children with SEND may need extra, personalised or different help from that given to other children of the same age.

The Trustees/Governors and staff of Rush Common recognise that all children have a right to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. We aim to create a happy, educationally exciting and positive environment in which all pupils can develop to their full potential and become confident, independent individuals.

The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice lies at the heart of the school's SEN policy and sets out the processes and procedures to meet the needs of children. The Code describes a graduated approach that recognises that children learn in different ways and can have different kinds of SEN.

At Rush Common School class teachers share any concerns regarding a pupil's progress with parents and also the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) if required, reflecting our ethos of working in partnership with parents. Once concerns are raised, information is then gathered and in consultation with parents a pupil may be placed on the school's SEN register as needing SEN support. Children with SEN may receive specific help from their class teachers, the SEN co-ordinator and teaching assistants. Where necessary, the school and parents will consult with and receive advice from various outside agencies, such as Advisory Teachers and Speech and Language Therapist. At all times, the progress of children with SEN is assessed and reviewed and Pupil Profiles are produced accordingly. We have a number of schemes in place to support children with their reading, writing and listening – Early Literacy Support (ELS) Phonics and Maths support.

All staff have responsibility for teaching children with learning difficulties/disabilities and should any specialist advice be required, this will be arranged.

Rush Common School has access for wheelchairs. Suitable toilet facilities are available. Where a child has a disability the SENCo and class teachers make sure that all adults are informed about effective management strategies and that other children are made aware as appropriate.

External Agencies

We liaise with outside agencies and professionals to support SEN pupils and to work alongside agencies to extend and nurture individuals. External services support both individuals and groups of pupils. These services include the Communication and Interaction Services (CIT); Occupational Therapy Service; Physiotherapy Service; Speech & Language. Pupils emotional needs are met by the outside support from PCHAMS, CAMHS & Educational Psychology Services.

Identification, Assessment and Review

The progress of children is assessed at regular intervals by staff as part of the school's assessment tracking process. Where progress is slow, the first response is high quality targeted teaching. Slow progress and low attainment do not necessarily mean that a child has SEN.

When more specific assessment is deemed necessary, this will be carried out by the SENCo, who may involve other professionals from outside school.

When a child is identified as needing SEN support, Rush Common employs a graduated approach of Assess-Plan-Do-Review adopting the recommended model for Special Educational Needs as set out in the Code of Practice (DfE 2014).

Where, despite the school providing SEN support, a child has not made expected progress, school and parents may consider requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment by the local authority.

Provision for more vulnerable pupils

A Vulnerable Register is used and regularly updated to record children whose vulnerability may be a barrier to learning. Pupils may be placed on the Vulnerable Register if they are undergoing a change at home (parents separating/divorce, bereavement, parents on Operations overseas) domestic abuse in the home, drug/alcohol/substance abuse in the home or if parents have poor or restricted parenting skills.

Safeguarding

Rush Common School recognises its responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection. There are five key areas we focus on:

- Safe staff recruitment and selection procedures, ensuring that all staff (including volunteers) who have unsupervised access to children, have been appropriately checked for their suitability through Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). All staff and volunteers are required to have an enhanced DBS.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse.
- Supporting children who have been abused in accordance with his/her child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe and nurturing environment free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

If you have any concerns or issues regarding safeguarding please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Rush Common School (Mrs Michelle Ainscough for school; Ms Sue Bennett for the BASC.) Mrs Jacque Stevenson (Headteacher) Mrs Emma Putt (Assistant Headteacher) are the Deputy Safeguarding Leads and Mrs Eleanor Clear is Deputy Safeguarding Lead for BASC.

The full Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available on request from the School Office.

Preventing Radicalisation

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) and Keeping Children Safe in Education document (July 2015) places responsibility on schools and other agencies to ensure that they have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. School has a duty to identify and report on any issues where someone may be identified as being drawn into terrorism or extremist views (violent or non-violent).

Rush Common uses the government produced Prevent and Safeguarding screening tool or self- assessment tool to help us decide if someone may be on the path to extremism. We work with social care, the police, health services and other services (including Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board) to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead can make a referral about any adult or child who school think may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism via the safeguarding team (MASH) or by calling the police on 101 for non-urgent concerns.

Disability Discrimination Statement

It is unlawful to discriminate against disabled pupils. A person is considered disabled if they have a mental or physical impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

A school discriminates if:

- It treats a disabled pupil or prospective pupil less favourably than another for a reason related to their disability and without justification.
- It fails, without justification to make reasonable adjustments, which require the school to think ahead, anticipate the barriers disabled pupils may face and remove them before a disabled pupil is placed at a substantial disadvantage.

Parent and Carers

Rush Common's school prospectus (guide for parents) shares with parents the expectations of the Disability Discrimination Duty. It outlines our responsibility to make reasonable adjustments and to anticipate the barriers disabled pupils may face. The school liaises with LA support services to ensure information is presented to pupils & parents in an accessible format (large print is available for visually impaired pupils.) Relevant policies and procedures are readily available

Complaints procedure

Access to the Complaints Policy can be found on request from the School Office.

What will my child learn?

“....Pupils say that they enjoy school and learning is fun. They appreciate the breadth of the curriculum and the additional activities on offer.”

“....Pupils relish new experiences and hold high aspirations, wanting to learn and achieve well.”

Ofsted January 2017

School curriculum – Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage covers children’s development from birth to the end of their first year in school. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum covers six key areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Expressive Arts and Design

The purpose of EYFS is to give every child the best start at school because it is firmly recognised how much early experiences impact on children’s future chances. Clear emphasis is given to children learning actively, through play and conversations and that their learning should take place inside and outside.

School curriculum – KS1 and KS2

Children follow the National Curriculum. The subjects covered are the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, alongside the foundation Subjects of Art and Design, Computing, Design and Technology, Languages (Y3-Y6), Geography, History, Music and PE. Topics are creatively planned, with direct reference to the National Curriculum, to be challenging, meaningful and as cross-curricular as possible. The National Curriculum objectives and key skills have been carefully integrated within these topics, and curriculum planning is reviewed on a regular basis. Please see our website for more information.

Religious Education (RE)

In accordance with the Education Reform Act of 1988 all pupils have at least one lesson of Religious Education per week. The emphasis is on Christianity although a range of religions is covered at both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. External speakers and representatives from different faiths often lead assemblies to enhance our provision in this area.

We hold a daily act of worship for all pupils. The whole school meets together twice weekly for an assembly and on the other three days class, phase or year group assemblies are held. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the lessons and from the acts of worship following consultation with the Headteacher. Alternative arrangements are made for these children.

Reflection time is given at the end of the day for children.

Other aspects of the curriculum

Computing

Our aim is to integrate Computing into all areas of school life. Pupils have regular access to computers and ipads in school and are encouraged to use IT to extend learning beyond the school day. Homework Clubs are available for those without internet access at home. Computing is taught alongside Online Safety to ensure all children know how to keep themselves safe.

Modern Foreign Languages

We aim to develop in children an enthusiasm for and interest in foreign language learning, through enjoyable and fun learning activity. In FS and KS1 children experience new languages in story, songs and rhymes, progressing to a short intensive activity for Year 2 children. French is taught across KS2 (Years 3-6) according to our own Scheme of Work.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and British Modern Values

“....Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a strength. The school places a clear emphasis on pupils’ moral development, enabling them to make the right choices.”

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Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education is an important part of all pupils’ education. At Rush Common School, PSHE is taught through a combination of approaches, which include individual lessons based on the SEAL scheme of work, assemblies and our Rush Common ‘Values Education’. Each term the school community focuses on one of the ‘Rush Common’ values. Every member of staff and pupils are expected to demonstrate these values in the way that they treat themselves, each other and the wider community.

British Modern Values are also actively promoted at Rush Common School, for example: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance and understanding of those of different faiths and beliefs. Further information about how Rush Common School integrates these values into the curriculum, can be found on the school website.

Physical Education (PE)

The PE curriculum covers Games, Gymnastics and Dance for KS1/KS2 pupils with the addition of Athletics, Swimming and Outdoor Adventure across KS2. We have a PE specialist teacher who leads provision across the school and supports the CPD of staff in this area. The PE curriculum is enhanced by special events (such as Walk to School Week, Race for Life and Sports Days) through ‘taster sessions’ delivered by specialist coaches and by strong links with both the Healthy Eating and Eco-school curriculum. Further opportunities for PE are offered via clubs, tournaments, matches and festivals within school and with schools across the County. Our Upper School Play Leaders organise and run a variety of sporting activities during lunchtimes to further promote healthy and active lifestyles.

More Able Gifted and Talented (MAGT)

Pupils identified as achieving significantly in advance of the average for their year group, in any subject area, are placed on the school MAGT registers which are reviewed regularly within school. Identified children are given challenging learning experiences which support them in realising their potential.

School Parliament

“....Pupils relish opportunities to take on roles and responsibilities. They talk eloquently about their duties, proud of the important role they play.”

Ofsted January 2017

Pupil representatives, two from each class, attend School Parliament meetings in order to devise and work towards targets for improving our school environment, the curriculum and for promoting healthy life-styles. The children also discuss the school's improvement priorities for the year ahead with the Headteacher and are given an opportunity to contribute to this work. Projects have included the introduction of healthy break-time snacks, charity and fundraising events, walk to school week, anti-bullying week and designing Rush Common values fence boards. This work has enabled us to gain both Healthy School and Green Flag status in previous years.

International links

Our children have the opportunity to make real and meaningful contact with children and adults from different countries and cultures through various projects with schools in other countries. Teachers and pupils gain first-hand knowledge through visiting speakers, email communication and the exchange and sharing of work. Rush Common School is currently involved in a Global Learning Project where children learn about their place in the world and the appreciation of diversity across different countries.

How can I find out how well my child is doing?

Parents/carers are invited to discuss their child's work and progress during twice yearly Parent/Teacher Consultations. The consultations take place during Terms 2 and 4 in the academic year and parents are asked to sign up for meetings in advance. The dates of the meetings are all published prior to the start of an academic year and parents will be able to sign up for slots (via the School Office) two weeks in advance of the first date in each round of meetings.

Consultations run from between 3.20pm – 7.00pm. Each Parent Consultation will be ten minutes in length. Pupil Profile meetings are merged into the Parent Consultations, with a requirement for those meetings to have double time slots booked. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that a double slot is booked for Pupil Profile reviews.

As all Parent Consultations run concurrently, the school is open for the duration of the meeting time. Parents should come directly into the school via the School Office entrance, then make their way to the relevant classroom and sign in outside the classroom. Parents will need to wait outside the classroom until the teacher is ready to see them.

The meeting discussion will include looking at pupil books, discussing relevant assessment information and will cover the following areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Main points of progress
- Next steps for learning (including what home could do to support)
- Noteworthy additional information related to contribution, involvement in the life of the school, awards, and achievements.

During the meetings the class teacher will provide an overview of what the next steps are for ongoing development and progress with their learning. In most instances the teacher will agree what support should be provided at home to reinforce school activity.

A formal progress report is sent to parents in July, which fulfils the legal responsibility to provide parents with an Annual Report.

In some instances you may be invited to a family meeting with our Head of Pupil Support and Welfare. In these discussions additional support for your child including the involvement of other professional agencies will be discussed.

Should you be concerned at any time about the progress of your child, either academically or socially, please contact the class teacher directly to arrange a meeting.

How can I support my child?

There are a number of ways you can support your child's progress at school:

- Encourage and support them to complete their homework – details of homework subjects and days when it is set and expected in are explained at the Initial Parents Meeting.
- Encourage access to the Education City on-line resources, set up by the class teacher to reinforce class based activities.
- Listen to your child read **daily** – talking about the story, discussing the characters, making predictions about what might happen next, checking that they understand what they are reading.
- Practise number facts **daily** – number bonds, times-tables.
- Practise spellings **daily** – using the 'look, say, cover, write, check' method.
- Attending a Parent Consultation twice per year to discuss your child's progress and how you can help them further.

If you are worried or unhappy about any aspect of your child's education then it is essential to contact the class teacher and discuss your concerns at the earliest opportunity. The teacher will arrange to see you at a mutually convenient time at the earliest opportunity. If, after this meeting you remain concerned then either arrange to see the Head of Phase or the Headteacher. It is important that matters are resolved as soon as possible for the well-being of the child.

How can I help the school?

Rush Common is only able to provide such an excellent experience for the children due to the support of a growing number of parents and other voluntary helpers.

There are many ways you can help.

- Join the Friends of Rush Common
- Volunteer as a Parent Representative
- Volunteer as a member of the SEND or Anti-bullying Forums
- Volunteer as a Cycling Proficiency helper
- Join your child's class on a visit or trip
- Offer to listen to children reading
- Ensure you do make a voluntary contribution so we may continue with trips
- Run a club or activity
- Volunteer to help with the gardening
- Attend our money raising events
- Volunteer to help with school productions