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Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. **Philippians 4.13***

2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start the month of February, we are beginning to see the first signs of lighter mornings which are very welcome.

Safeguarding: Find out how to make your devices safer for your child to use

Mr Jon Chiffins is going to lead an online meeting on Tuesday 6th February at 7pm, Safer Internet Day for every parent and carer who has a child at The Rackham.

Please use this link to book your place:

Wellbeing and Mental Health: Children's Mental Health Awareness Week:

Next week, The Rackham will take part in Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters' and the children will be getting involved in lots of worthwhile activities to help raise awareness of their own mental health and this important area of learning.

Please take a look at the 'Top Tips for Families' leaflet, created by Place to Be, to offer you ideas for talking with your children about mental health. There are also some great conversation starters and a link to a fun, creative activity to help your child think about what matters to them.

Welcome:

We are delighted to welcome Mr Hiller to The Rackham. Mr Hiller will be working primarily in KS1.

Teaching and Learning updates:

Did you know we post the curriculum maps for each year group on our website every half term? Link here: [Curriculum Topic Webs | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School \(rackhamprimaryschool.com\)](https://www.rackhamprimaryschool.com/curriculum-topic-webs)

Parent view: Teaching and learning:

We would be delighted to hear your views on Teaching and Learning at The Rackham, Link here:

Reading volunteers:

Do you have time to volunteer to hear our pupils read? Please contact the office if you would like to find out more. Thank you.

PE kit and Uniform:

Please find guidance on school uniform for PE and Games below:

- Plain/school logo red or white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts that must be at least mid-thigh length
- Plain black jogging bottoms/leggings
- Plain red or black sweatshirt/jumper

If your child is doing outdoor PE, we ask that they bring a spare pair of trainers or their school shoes into school to change into after their PE session if their footwear is muddy.

Please find the link to the policy library here: <https://rackhamprimaryschool.com/key-information/policy-library>

Book chat:

Please see the third week of information about reading from Mrs Deery.

We would be very grateful if you could complete this parent reading survey for us:

Pre-loved school uniform:

FWR have regular sales of school uniform however if you cannot wait for the sale, please contact the school office. If you have any PE kit (any age) or any age 6-7 school uniform that your child has outgrown, please do consider donating it to FWR. Donations can be given to the office.

Girl Guiding:

Did you know Girlguiding is active in your community? 1st Witchford Rainbows, 1st Witchford Brownies and 1st Witchford Guides provide a range of extracurricular activities for girls aged 4-7, 7-10 and 10-14. We work through a variety of Girlguiding themes, go on adventures, play games, do crafts, bake, take part in community events, undertake challenges, learn new skills and most importantly, have FUN! Would your daughter like to join us? We meet in Witchford on Tuesdays in term time, 4:30-5:30 for Rainbows, 6:00-7:30 for Brownies. Guides meet 6:30-8:00pm. Please see www.girlguiding.org.uk for more information, or contact us directly using witchfordrainbows@gmail.com / witchfordbrownies@gmail.com / witchford.guides@gmail.com Your local Girlguiding leaders, Ellen, Robyn, Brown Owl, Arctic Owl, Butterfly and Squirrel

Join your child for a school dinner:

Each year group will have their turn to invite one parent or carer over the course of this academic year to join them for a school dinner. Year 4 parents and carers will be invited to join us for school dinner on Thursday 15th February. The meal will be our extremely popular (and very delicious) roast dinner.

Parents and carers are asked to purchase their school dinner at the same cost as a child's school dinner, £2.40 through MCAS under the Products and Trips tab.

Please complete this form to book your meal once payment has been made on MCAS:

Meal choice and payment must be made by Thursday 8th February please .

Unfortunately, we can only offer for one parent or carer to attend. This will be an annual event moving forwards so will be repeated next academic year.

Children in Year 4 who prefer to have a home packed lunch will still have opportunity for their parent or carer to join them. Adults can still order a school dinner or bring a packed lunch from home to sit to eat with their child.

Parents and carers of Year 4 children will arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm for a 12.30pm meal time.

Education Inclusion Family Advisor:

Please see the attached February newsletter from the EIFA.

Meals for a fiver: Would you be interested in sharing recipes?

During the cost-of-living crisis, would you be interested in a recipe share of reasonably priced and healthy meal ideas? We think this sounds a good idea and are keen to know your thoughts.

Attendance:

Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting our drive for improved attendance. The Government has identified a child’s attendance of 96% and above is the key figure to give best chance of academic progress. Please can we remind you that absence must be reported to the office by 9am on each day.

This week our attendance figure as a school is: 95.7%

**ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary	
31.01.2024	Babylon Art exhibition with some submissions from The Rackham
05.02.2024 - 07.02.2024	Burwell House residential Year 4
14.02.2024	FWR Film Night
15.02.2024	Bring your parent or carer to school for school dinner Year 4
19.02.2024 - 23.02.2024	Half Term holiday
01.03.2024	Year 4/5/6 Girls Play Football event
04.03.2024	Parent's Evening days and times tbc
22.03.2024	Height and weight Reception and Year 6 only Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Netball Tournament morning
25.03.2024	Rocksteady concert time tbc
28.03.2024	Last day of school for pupils and staff
29.03.2024	Good Friday Start of Easter holiday
15.04.2024	First day of summer term Pupils return to school