



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner  
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Telephone: 01353 662436



Main Street,  
Witchford,  
Ely,  
Cambridgeshire  
CB6 2HQ

**Working together to be the best we can possibly be.**

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

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the end of the Spring Term, we wish to thank all parents, carers and volunteers for your continued support for our pupils and school.

**Safeguarding:**

**If you think a child or an adult with care and support needs is in immediate danger, phone 999.**

**Make a referral to Children's Services:**

[Make a referral to Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Services - Instructions and Data Protection - Cambridgeshire County Council website \(\[achieveservice.com\]\(https://achieveservice.com\)\)](#)

**NSPCC website:**

[NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

**NSPCC website for information about child protection:**

[Child protection system in the UK | NSPCC Learning](#)

**Reporting a crime:**

[Contact us | Police.uk \(\[www.police.uk\]\(http://www.police.uk\)\)](#)

**Wellbeing and mental health:**

[Free activities to do in Cambridgeshire this Easter | Ely Standard](#)

**Make the most of free museums**

Surround your little explorers with wonders from the past and around the world with a trip to one of the UK's many museums offering free entry. [Easter Holidays at Ely Cathedral - Learning & Families - Ely Cathedral](#)

**Have a movie night**

Transform your living room into a cinema for a cosy family night in. Add some cosy touches with blankets, cushions, and even a play-pretend ticket booth for fun.

**Free workshops for kids**

Keep an eye out for free workshops happening in your local area. [Easter Holiday Ideas - Explore East Cambs](#)

**Kids eat free**

Eating out doesn't have to be expensive if you take advantage of "Kids Eat Free" deals offered by many restaurants during the school holidays. [Places Kids Eat Free \(or for £1\) In School Holidays 2025](#)

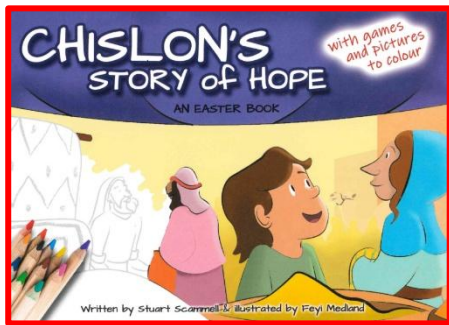
**Visit your local library**

Libraries are treasure troves of free entertainment.

**Get crafty**

Let your kids unleash their creativity with some DIY crafting fun.

### An Easter gift for each of our pupils:



Following the popularity of Stuart Scammell's Christmas story, we are thrilled to share with you that Stuart has very kindly donated copies of his Easter story 'Chislon's Story of Hope' to The Rackham. Every child will bring home their very own book today. Thank you, Stuart and Mrs Jessop, for organising delivery of this wonderful Easter gift!

### Thank you to St Andrew's Church:



This year Palm Sunday is on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Our pupils have been learning about the Easter story this term. Our sincere thanks to St Andrew's Church, Witchford for their kind donation of a palm cross for each of our pupils to mark this important day in the Christian calendar.

### Results from the trial of emailing office to pass messages to teachers:

We thank our parent and carer community for working with us when contacting school and using the office email address.

As shared previously, this initiative was to support the wellbeing of our teachers.

Having surveyed our teachers this week, we have received 100% positive feedback and so will be continuing with this contact method for the long term.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing:



**Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents**

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner. Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

**\*\*JUNE/JULY 2025\*\***

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your partner to support your children (Arguing Better). Online Via Teams Monday 2nd June and Wednesday 4th June- Midday - 1pm

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children (Getting it Right for Children). Online Via Teams, Monday 16th June and Wednesday 18th June -Midday to 1pm

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your partner to support your children (Arguing Better). Online Via Teams Wednesday 26th June and Wednesday 2nd July, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children (Getting it Right for Children). Online Via Teams Wednesday 9th July and Wednesday 16th July, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Although the Arguing Better course is most beneficial when attending as a couple, there's no requirement to both attend.

**\*\*Please note these courses are not suitable if there has been any historic or current domestic abuse. If this is your situation and you would like help on where to find domestic abuse support, please contact [rpleads@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:rpleads@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) \*\***

2025 workshop booking form



# Year 4

**Year 4 Parent Information Evening – 30<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm** Please complete this form to register for the Year 4 Multiplication Table Check (MTC) Parent Information Evening. The event will place virtually and will begin at 6pm.

The children in Year 4 will complete this statutory check later in the summer term. Book here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/DGkZ8pDbM6>

## Year 1 Parent meal:

We would like to invite Year 1 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 1st May. The meal will be our extremely popular (and very delicious) roast dinner.

Parents and carers are asked to purchase their school dinner through MCAS under the Products and Trips tab. The meal will cost £3.60. **Meal choice and payment must be made by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April please.** Please complete this form to book your meal once payment has been made on MCAS:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Y7mk1jcikj>

# School Dinner

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 1 who prefer to have a home packed lunch will still have opportunity for their parent/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.

Please would parents and carers of Year 1 children arrive for school dinner at 11.50am.

## Swimming lessons:



We are very much looking forward to our swimming lessons which will begin WC 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**What to wear for swimming:** For these sessions, the children will need to wear a one-piece swimming costume or fitted swimming trunks. UV swimming t-shirts are allowed.

*Please do not send your child with a bikini or long (knee-length) baggy swimming shorts as these are not appropriate or practical for learning*

*how to swim and your child will be unable to enter the pool.*

In line with the Cambridgeshire swimming policy, the children will not wear goggles for their sessions as our focus is on developing water confidence and safety. Earrings **must** be removed for swimming.

Please remember to also send your child with a named towel. All other swimming aids will be provided by school.

Any child with hair that is longer than chin length or a fringe that impedes their vision when wet will be expected to wear their own swimming hat. If you do not have your own swimming hat, these are available to purchase via MCAS for £1.50 and can be collected from the school office.

## Swimming timetable:

<b>Monday</b>	Larch class	Willow – girls only	Oak – girls only
<b>Tuesday</b>	Chestnut	Silver Birch	Year 5/6 - all boys
<b>Wednesday</b>	Cedar – girls only		
<b>Thursday</b>	Beech	<b>Rowan *</b>	<b>Ash *</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Sycamore	Elm	Hazel
<b>* NB Reception PE day will change to Wednesday.</b>			



**Clubs:** Please see below for details of new clubs that will be running next term.

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Dates
<b>Eco-Council</b> Eco-Council will help plan and deliver environmental projects, to help make the school more sustainable.	Tuesday	After school	Y1 to Y6	29 <sup>th</sup> April to 8 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Football</b> Grab a bib and play on the field! <b>NB All pupils must wear shin pads to play; NO football boots, only trainers.</b>	Friday	Lunchtime	Year 5/6	2 <sup>nd</sup> May to 11 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Construction</b> Construction will be mainly based around creating structures and other creations from Lego.	Tuesday	Lunchtime	Year 1/2	29 <sup>th</sup> April to 20 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Colouring</b>	Monday	Lunchtime	Year 1/2	28 <sup>th</sup> April to 19 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Football Club with Ben Isaacsson</b> R & KS1 on a Monday KS2 on a Wednesday Cost: £5 per week. Spaces available. <i>If Ben's football club shows as full, please do put your child's name on the waiting list as spaces may become available.</i>				28 <sup>th</sup> April to 7 <sup>th</sup> July 30 <sup>th</sup> April to 9 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Choir (continuing)</b>	Thursday	After school	Y3 to Y6	1 <sup>st</sup> May to 10 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Crochet (continuing)</b>	Tuesday	After school	Y5 to Y6	29 <sup>th</sup> April to 8 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Art (continuing)</b>	Thursday	After school	Y3 to Y6	1 <sup>st</sup> May to 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
<b>How to book:</b> Booking for new clubs opens at 6pm on Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April. All clubs will begin during WC 28 <sup>th</sup> April and run to half term. Clubs that are continuing for the second half of the summer term will begin again during WC 2 <sup>nd</sup> June. <b>All clubs running in the second half of the summer term will finish during WC 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025.</b>				

#### **Cricket opportunities:**



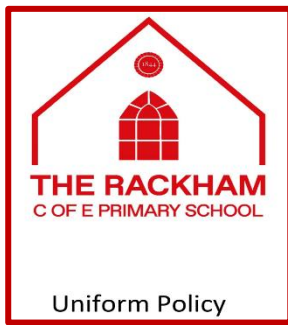
During this half term, Year 3 and 4 children have been lucky enough to have had their cricket lessons taught by the 'Chance to Shine' cricket program. It has been a pleasure to watch the children develop so many skills and begin to enjoy a new sport.

We would like to direct you to two club opportunities for cricket:

All Stars Cricket (KS1) - <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

Dynamos Cricket (KS2) - <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos-cricket>





### **School Uniform: Footwear a reminder:**

Branded and coloured trainers and boots are beginning to appear in school again. Branded and coloured footwear is inappropriate for school. We adapted our school policy to include trainers however our Uniform Policy states the following: ***Black shoes or completely black trainers (no coloured logos) worn with white / grey / black / red socks or tights (not leggings).*** [Policy Library | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

We politely request parents and carers to support the school and the uniform policy and send pupils into school wearing only completely black shoes or trainers. Thank you.



### **Dates for your diary:**

Today: Early Years Smarties Challenge (further information below)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: Yard Sale

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June: Funday Sunday

### **FWR Pre-Loved Uniform Sales Summer Term:**

Sales before and after school, on the following dates:

- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June

### **FWR Smartie Fundraiser for Early Years:**



Children in Pre-School and Reception will be bringing home a pack of Smarties this week. These have been provided by FWR who would love to see the packs returned full of coins after Easter! Thank you for your support with this fundraiser.

### **The Rackham Pre-School:**



The Pre-School has spaces available from September 2025. We can accept children from the age of 2 years 6 months. Please contact the school office for more information via [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)

### **Bringing in toys and other items from home to pre-school:**

We are seeing lots of toys and superhero snap band type bracelets brought into pre-school. Children are also bringing in purses and bags with money.

We have plenty of toys at pre-school for everyone to play with so would be grateful if parents and carers would take any items their child brings on the journey to pre-school away with them at drop off. Thank you.

### **Phonics:**

Our pre-school children do not need to learn phonics, this will happen as soon as they start in Reception. If parents and carers have any questions about this, please contact the office in the first instance: [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk) Thank you.



**Suncream:** The UV rays are becoming greater in intensity and have been recorded at 4 this week. The recommendation for applying suncream from the Government and Cancer Research UK is when the UV levels are 3+.



**The Rackham Photographer of the Year competition:** This Easter we are holding our second annual 'Photographer of the Year' competition. This year, the theme is 'Light and Shadows'. Please encourage your child to look at the world around them and notice the changing light within a day. Look carefully at how light casts interesting shadows of different shapes and sizes. Take photographs of light and shadows that interest your child. They may also want to set up a 'scene' using toys or interesting objects. Shine light from different directions using an angle poise lamp or torch. Take photographs and see what effects they can create. Support your child to take the photographs. You may want to show them how they can change the light and shadows using the editing tools on your digital device. When your child is happy with their image, please upload to Tapestry.

**There will be prizes in the following categories:**

- Pre-School
- Reception
- Year 1 and 2
- Year 3 and 4
- Year 5 and 6

The winners will be announced after the Easter holiday. One of these winners will be our new Photographer of the Year!

We hope that you have fun creating some exciting photographs!

### **East Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres March 2025 What's On is here!**

Please see the latest What's On guide and social media posts for further information about programmes and how to get in touch with the team. Link here: [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

### **Uniform orders:**

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils (**including jumpers and cardigans**) are now available from Sigma.

Pre-School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Primary School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents and carers and can be collected from Sigma Embroidery on Sedgeway Business Park, Witchford.

## Education Inclusion Family Advisor team workshops:





# Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

## Over the Easter Holidays

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues, running over the Easter Holidays.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Anger	Wednesday 9 April 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Tuesday 15 April 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

 cambridgeshire.gov.uk

## Term dates for 2025 – 2026:

Term dates for next academic year are now available on the website and can be found [here](#).

## Easter holiday activities:







**EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB**  
**SPRING MEADOW**

MON 7TH APRIL - THURS 17TH APRIL

8.00 - 5.45 pm - £35  
9.00 - 4.00 pm - £27

Open to R - 7

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BOOKINGS

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

info@activeplayeducation.co.uk



**WICKED**  
**Performance Workshop**  
**SHOWCASE IN A DAY!**

15th, 16th & 17th April  
9am-3pm parents welcome to watch the showcase at 2:30pm  
Reception to year 6  
£35 (£10 discount on early bird tickets, use the code WICKED10 at checkout - expires 15th March)

Taught by a Wicked Pink or Green Witch and professional Performer  
Isle of Ely Primary School, School Rd, Ely CB6 2FG  
07927206108  
www.bigupthesky.co.uk

## The Sandringham Estate Heads Up for SPRING

Family Seed Planting Workshops  
April 15th 16th 17th



Join the Sandringham Education Team this Easter for a celebration of Spring and Growing.  
Choose from a range of resources and ideas to make your own growing head.

All resources provided.

1.00pm-2.30pm

Located at the School Room in the Stables Courtyard.

**£20 per child booking essential.**

Suitable from 3 years upwards.

One adult receives admission to the garden with every ticket sold.

Parking extra.

### Healing Through Story

Using Myths & Movies to Support Children's Mental Health

A new and exciting online creative workshop - open to all!

Unlock the power of story to support children's mental health! Join our hands-on creative workshop and discover how archetypes from films and fairytales can help children navigate emotions, build resilience, and express themselves. Perfect for parents, teachers, and anyone passionate about children's well-being, this session blends psychology and storytelling in an engaging, practical way. No prior experience needed—just a love for stories and a desire to make a difference! We will explore the characters of Elsa, Superman, the Hulk and Cinderella!

**TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SIGN UP!**

**SATURDAY MAY 10TH 10.00-3.00 AND REPEATED ON FRIDAY 13TH JUNE**

To reserve your place please email: [cambridgecreativecounselling@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgecreativecounselling@gmail.com)  
This workshop will take place via Zoom, and you will only require a few basic creative materials.

£50 - payable a week before the course (instalments available on request)

Emma Moat is an experienced play therapist, counsellor, and trainer with 20 years of expertise across the UK and Europe. She has led highly successful workshops, earning excellent feedback for her engaging and transformative approach to supporting children's well-being through creativity and storytelling.







APRIL

# EASTER ARCHERY

APRIL 12TH 13TH 19TH 20TH 21ST

£30 per 30 minute session  
for up to 6 people age 5 and upwards.  
Various sessions throughout the day.  
Please arrive promptly.



At The Sandringham Estate Forest School.  
Booking Essential/ Parking Extra.  
<https://sandringhamestate.co.uk/events/>



Dens, trees, mud,  
crafts, fire,  
bugs, tools,  
hammocks, archery  
(Tues only).  
Suitable for all ages.



## Easter

at the

Sandringham Estate  
Traditional Family  
Forest School.

15th, 16th, 17th April.  
£10 per child.



All children must be accompanied

10. 30am-12 noon.



Bookings: [www.sandringhamestate.co.uk/events](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk/events)

Minimum  
£3 donation

 Sutton Community  
Fire & Rescue Station

**EASTER  
EGG  
HUNT**



Join us for  
Egg Hunt • Games • Activities  
Friday 18th April  
1pm - 4pm

 Sutton Fire  
Station



## EASTER CAMPS

ISAACSON COACHING

Wednesday 16th April



Fun games, team building, tournaments, futsal, prizes,  
drills and skills

Contact me on  
07842967720 to book  
your slot.

10am - 2pm

£25 a child

Sibling discount available

Haddenham,  
Cambridgeshire  
CB6 3SR

**AGES 5-12**

### **Ely Museum:**

Join an Easter trail around Ely Museum and make an Easter decoration! Hunt for the paper Easter eggs and turn them into a fun Easter decoration to take home. This trail and craft is free with your admission ticket or annual pass.

Remember once you have paid your admission, the ticket acts as your pass for a whole year, you can visit the museum as often as you'd like!

On 10th April there is a pre-bookable children's craft workshop, where children can make a 3D lighthouse and light it up, learning how to make an electrical circuit. It's suitable for children aged 7-11 years and the cost includes all materials and step-by-step instructions and guidance.

These 90 minutes sessions are just £8.50 per child and adults are free.

There are 2 sessions to choose from:

10:30am – 12pm or 1:30pm – 3pm

Maximum 2 children to 1 adult.

**Spaces are limited so book now to avoid disappointment!**

<https://www.elymuseum.org.uk/>

### **Attendance:**

The Rackham has an updated policy on Attendance. Please follow this [link](#) to read the policy on the school website.

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 of absence.

This week's attendance: 90.49%



Looking forward to seeing you all again Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

	EASTER HOLIDAY
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Pupils return
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Bikeability for Year 4
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Y4 Parent's Information Evening MTC 6pm (booking required)
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Y1 Parent Meal (booking required)
5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday Monday
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs week
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Last day of term for pupils
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Professional Development Day for teachers
26 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM