

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Safeguarding:

Top tips for managing screen time:



Wellbeing and Mental Health:

Every parent and carer can have free access to My Happy Mind resources to use at home.

Click on the QR code below or follow this link to log in. [myHappymind Parent Resources](https://myhappymind.org.uk/parent-resources)



When you log in, you will be asked for our school number. **Our number is: 110807.** Please contact the office in the first instance if you require any further information.

The Rackham C of E Pre-School contact details:



If parents or carers wish to contact the pre-school, please use The Rackham Primary School phone number 01353 662436 to speak to the office who will take your message. Alternatively, please email either the school office: office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk or pre-school@rackham.cambs.sch.uk

RSE curriculum:

Here at The Rackham, we subscribe to the Cambridgeshire Personal Development programme, which shapes our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. This curriculum includes statutory Relationships and Health Education.

One of the topics we cover is Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), this is usually taught in the summer term. The attached leaflet gives you some excellent information about what will be covered in this topic as your child progresses through the school and also some great ways you can support your child's development as they learn about relationships.

We are sending this leaflet now, as you will see from the leaflet that the best approach to speaking with your child about sex and relationships, is in a gradual and also quite casual way and we know that most of the children's learning about relationships will take place at home.

We hope you find the leaflet helpful, please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Reception and Year 1 phonics sessions:

We will be holding stay and play phonics sessions for Reception and Year 1 parents. Please look out for the separate letter with details and booking information that will be sent out later today.

Christmas Cards:

For homework this week, we will be sending home Artwork sheets for the children to design their own Christmas Card. Please return these by Wednesday 9th October. Completed sheets will be sent to MyChildsArt to be turned into Christmas cards and other gifts. We will advise parents when they are available to order. Pre-school children will complete these during their sessions next week.

Please see the instructions below and be aware that artwork that doesn't follow the guidelines will not be printed.

Christmas Artwork Guidelines

For the best printed results, we recommend full coverage designs that use bold coloured felt-tip pens.

Do Use...

- ✓ Felt-Tip Pens
- ✓ Poster Paint
- ✓ Bold Colours
- ✓ Your Imagination

Don't Use...

- ✗ Light Colours
- ✗ Crayons
- ✗ Pencils
- ✗ Metallic Pens
- ✗ Collage
- ✗ Glitter

Examples to help you avoid disappointing results!

Pencils: Problem: Both coloured and graphite pencils give variable results and are often barely visible on the printed product. Solution: For line-drawings we recommend thick felt-tips, but for the best results you will still achieve designs using bold-colours.

Light Colours: Problem: Most based production processes lighten the appearance of pastel colours, producing a poor quality finished result. Solution: Stick to colours from a bold palette - this problem is particularly visible with light blues and yellows so avoid these where possible.

Crayons: Problem: The slippery surface of the crayon often causes it to smudge during the roller bed scanning process. Solution: Use the paper on either side for stronger children using paint, choose poster paint over watercolours and pastel paints with a sticky texture.

Glitter: Problem: Scanning the artwork into our system causes the colour to change due to the reflection. Solution: Do not use reflective materials such as glitter, shiny stickers and sequins as this ruins the look of the artwork.

All of our products (including cards) are set up to work with portrait designs only on the original artwork sheets provided. Please DO NOT distort any drawings; we are happy to send you extra if needed.

Please encourage the children to keep their drawings within the provided artwork area. Any part of the drawing that spills over onto the black border or blue edges will not be included on the final printed design.

The sheets are processed using a high speed roller-bed scanner, so please DO NOT stick anything onto the artwork sheet as this will not feed through the scanner properly and may damage the artwork.

If you are using paint, please ensure this is not applied too thickly and that the sheets are completely dry before packing. If not, quite often they get stuck together to each other or whilst going through the scanner which tears the artwork sheet - spoiling the child's picture and all their hard work!

Year 5 parent meal:

We would like to invite Year 5 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 17th October. 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 11th October please.**

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

<https://forms.office.com/e/5GfdNEvPnR>

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 5 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.

Please can parents and carers of Year 5 children arrive for school dinner at 12.25pm.

Harvest Festival:

This year our Harvest Festival will be on Friday 11th October.

We will be collecting donations of tins and dried foods such as rice and pasta to pass to Ely Food Bank.



Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils are now available from Sigma. [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

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

October half term holiday camp:



OCTOBER Holiday Camps

28th October - 1st November 2024
SPRING MEADOW INFANT SCHOOL

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

PARENT TESTIMONIAL:
"EACH DAY IS FILLED WITH A MIX OF ACTIVITIES SO THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING SHE LINES FROM ARTS AND CRAFTS TO HERF GUNS TO FOREST SCHOOL!"
CAROLINE BUCKLEY

Book Via Website or Scan the QR Code

active play education

AGE RECEPTION - YEAR 6
9 am - 4pm £26.00
8 am - 5.30pm £34.00

Happy Birthday to us!

The Rackham C of E Primary School was founded in 1844, we are 180 years old this year.



To mark this phenomenal birthday, we would like all pupils and adults working at school (and parents too if they wish) to dress in Victorian style clothes for the last day of this half term, Friday 25th October 2024. Do you have any memories of The Rackham? We would love to share them. Please jot down your memories and hand in at the school office or email office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk

Thank you.

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: 96.5%

**ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

W/c 7 th October	Scholastic Book Fair – Thursday 10 th – Tuesday 15 th October in the school hall. 3.20 - 4.15pm
11 th October	Harvest Festival
14 th October	Y6 Ravenstor depart 14.10.2024; return 18.10.2024
17 th October	Y5 Parent or carer school dinner invitation
21 st – 23 rd October	Year 1 parents - classroom phonics session 8.30 - 9.15am (booking required)
25 th October	Year 1 Phonics parent meeting 8.30am (booking required)
25 th October	Dress in Victorian style clothes
	HALF TERM
4 th – 7 th November	Reception parents – Phonics stay and play sessions 8.30am (booking required)
8 th November	Reception parents – Phonics meeting 8.30am (booking required)
11 th November	Parent’s Evening Week
	Anti-Bullying Week
15 th November	Children in Need
20 th November	Y4 Burwell information evening
20 th November	Vision screening for Reception children
28 th November	Y4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation
2 nd December	Christmas performances this week
12 th December	Christmas Dinner – Reception and KS1
13 th December	Christmas Dinner – KS2
19 th December	Last day of term