



The Rackham NEWSLETTER



Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.
1 Thessalonians 5.11

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

5th June 2026

Message from Miss Turner

It hardly seems possible we have now started the final half term of the school academic year. We are so proud of our pupils in Year 4 who are preparing to take part in the statutory Multiplication Tables Check. Thank you also to parents and carers for your support in nurturing the children with your care, love, encouragement and support. Hugely looking forward to seeing everyone at Funday Sunday!

Attendance

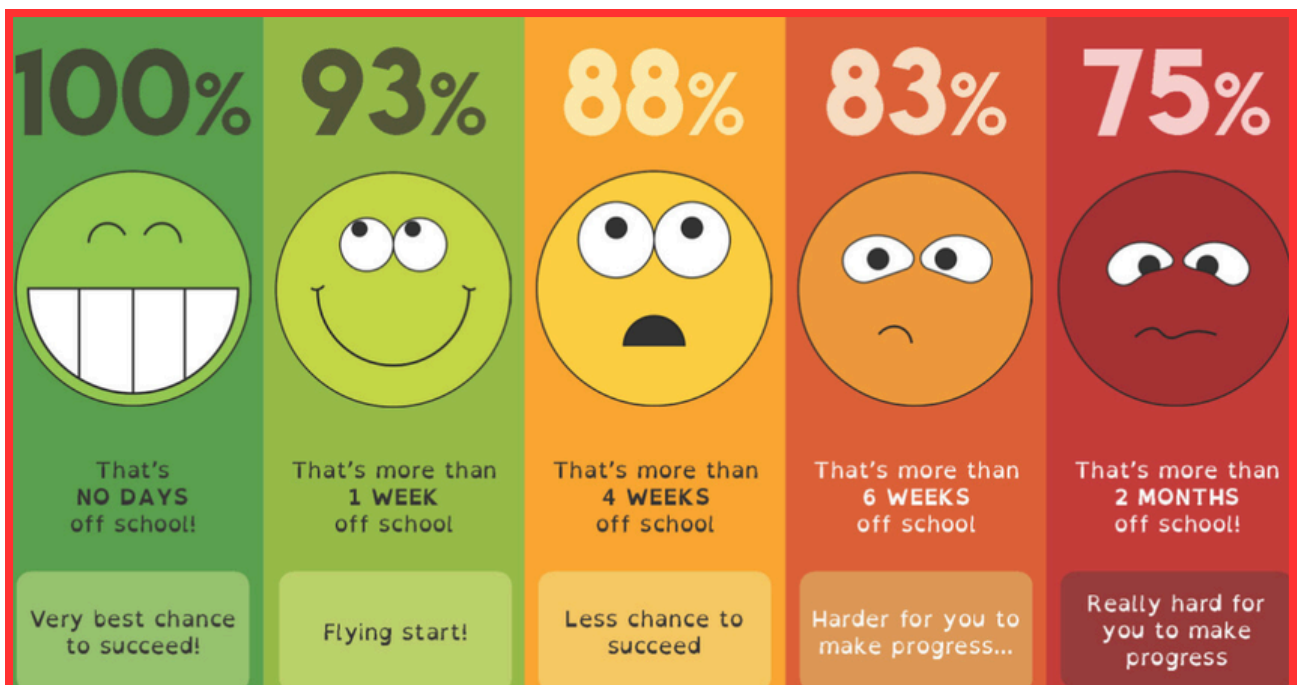
This week's attendance: **93.9%**

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

Reminder for considerate parking

The Village Inn has asked we remind parents and carers not to park in the pub car park at pick up. Thank you for your cooperation and avoiding this area.

Safeguarding



Wellbeing & Mental Health

Your Education Inclusion Family Advisor



Emily Norman

Education Inclusion Family Advisors offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence

As Education Inclusion Family Advisors, we offer support in various ways:

- Up to six 1:1 sessions with parents/carers (virtually, or face to face in your child's school if required)
- Workshops on specific topics (currently held virtually)
- Signposting to other services such as parenting courses and support services

For more information, please speak to your school's office, or contact me directly on ☎ 07879 426 947 /

✉ Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by using this link or QR code to request support:

<https://forms.office.com/e/WEiiqqr7G>



cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The RED Mile, Mile a day in May

THE R.E.D MILE **Mile a Day in May** **RUN EVERY DAY**

Will you walk/jog/run/skip one mile each day throughout May?

Please help us by raising funds for an all weather track for the children at The Rackham C of E Primary School and Pre-School

"The R.E.D Mile, Mile a day in May". We ask for children, parents, families, staff to commit to running / walking / swimming / skipping one mile every day throughout May, and ask them to gain sponsorship from friends, family and colleagues etc.

Just Giving link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/therackhamcofe-primaryschool>

AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR
£1,672

Pre-School

Class photos - Tuesday 16th June:

If your child attends Pre-School but isn't in session on a Tuesday morning and you would like them included, please bring them at 11.50am ready for the photo to be taken at midday.

Class photos

Class and Year 6 leaver group photos will be taken on Tuesday 16th June. Children in Chestnut and Sycamore classes should come in uniform and bring their PE kits with them please.

FWR - Save the Date

Sunday 7th June



This Sunday!

Saturday 27th June



Please follow [this link](#) to book tickets

FWR Disco - Wednesday 1st July

Summer Disco– booking open via MCAS

Our FWR Summer disco will be taking place on Wednesday 1st July. This event is for Reception to Year 6.

The Reception and KS1 (Year 1&2) disco will be held from 3.25 – 4.00pm. If you would like your child to get changed in their classroom, please send in their disco clothes in a named bag. Children will be collected from the red gates as usual at the 4pm.

The KS2 disco (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be held from 4.15 – 5.00pm. Year 3 and 4 will be collected from the KS1 red gates and year 5 and 6 from the hall door at 5pm.

The disco cost is £3.50 per child and includes entry, a drink and a glo-stick.

To book a place for your child at the disco, please login to your MCAS account where you will find the payment option under Products and Trips.

Bookings must be made by 3pm on Monday 29th June please. We will not be able to take payment after this time.

Primary School Swimming Lessons

Swimming began on 1st June. Please see below for the timetable.

For swimming 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 knee-length baggy swimming shorts as these are not appropriate or practical and your child will be unable to enter the pool.

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

Please don't forget 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. **Swimming hats** are available for £1.50 and can be purchased via your MCAS account.

Class	Swimming	Games
Rowan	Thursday	Friday
Ash	Wednesday	Friday
Chestnut	Friday	Tuesday
Beech	Thursday	Monday
Larch	Wednesday	Monday
Hazel	Friday	Wednesday
Sycamore	Thursday	Tuesday
Elm	Monday	Wednesday
Willow	Monday - Girls Tuesday - Boys	Friday
Cedar	Tuesday - Boys Wednesday - Girls	Friday
Oak	Monday - Girls Tuesday - Boys	Friday



Parents and Carers! We Need You!

We are thrilled to let you know that we are applying to become a myHappyMind Accredited School. The accreditation recognises schools that are embedding the myHappyMind curriculum into their whole-school culture and taking real action to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the school community.

If we are successful, we will become a Bronze Accredited myHappyMind School and receive some amazing resources for the children to use.

As part of the application, we are asked to provide feedback from parents, so we would really appreciate your support.

Please click the link below before Friday 3rd July, to provide myHappyMind with feedback on the programme. We would be very grateful for your time.

[Click Here for the Bronze Parent Feedback Form](#)

Want to learn more? Take a look at myHappyMind founder Laura Earnshaw's best-selling book on [Amazon](#).

Thank you for your continued support!



A Message from our Young Carers Champion

This year, Carers Week will be observed from June 8th to 14th, 2026. The theme for this year is “Building Carer Friendly Communities.”

A Young Carer is an individual under 18 who provides unpaid care for a family member or friend facing illness, frailty, disability, or mental health and addiction challenges. Young Carers may also have siblings with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These young individuals often take on both practical and emotional caregiving responsibilities. Current research estimates that there are at least 700,000 Young Carers in the UK, yet many may not recognise themselves as such.

We understand that Young Carers may require additional support to thrive academically and enjoy their school experience.

At The Rackham, we acknowledge that some of our pupils are Young Carers, and we are excited to announce the launch of our Young Carers group. We are dedicated to identifying and effectively supporting all pupils who are Young Carers. Our Young Carers group will offer engaging activities, homework assistance and many more exciting opportunities!

As The Rackham's Young Carers Champion, I share the responsibility of ensuring that all Young Carers receive the support they need to enjoy school and achieve educational success. Rest assured, any information shared with us will be handled sensitively, and no details will be disclosed without your consent.

If you believe your child may be a Young Carer or could be affected by any of the issues mentioned, please contact me via email through the school office. If you prefer not to do so or have further questions, feel free to leave a message with the office and I can call you directly. Alternatively, you could find me on the playground during pick-up time for a chat.

Thank you very much.


Mrs. Taylor




Changes ahead

Parents and Carers may have noticed a change in the choice of Bible verse The Rackham is now using. This has been prompted through discussions with the Diocese of Ely, Foundation Governor, RE Lead and myself as Headteacher.


It has been chosen to represent our philosophy as an inclusive school and offers meaning to everyone within the school community, all faiths and none.



Our School Christian Vision:
**Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up.**
1 Thessalonians 5.11




Our Core Christian Values:
Faith, hope and love.
Our Guiding Principle
**Working together to be the best
we can possibly be.**



Welcome

We are delighted to welcome a Mrs Laura Taylor to our Year 5/6 teaching team from September. Mrs Taylor will be visiting school to meet students and staff.

Collective Worship Council Prayer For This Week




Dear God,

Thank you for our
world.

I wish I could sit next to
you.

God, I love you so
much.

Amen



Looking forward to seeing you all at Funday Sunday!

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Activities and Events



Thank You to FWR for Our New Electronic Notice Board

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt thanks to FWR for their generous contribution of a new electronic notice board. This incredible addition to our community is a testament to our ongoing commitment to enhancing communication and connectivity.

We will NOT tolerate behaviour that is:

- ☞ thre@tening,
- ☞ abusive or
- ☞ vi*lent

NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

We strive to create a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff alike. And we WILL take action when necessary.

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

YOU COULD ENDANGER A CHILD'S LIFE
BE CONSIDERATE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

Family Concert:
In the Hall of the Mountain King

Music:
Sat 27th June
10:00 - 11:00
St Mary's Church
100, Wickham LS

The magical world of the Hall of the Mountain King, Peter Gynn with music by Edward Grieg.

The story takes us on a journey through the Norwegian countryside, a wedding and eventually to the mysterious lair of the Mountain King. Will Peter escape the traps he has set for himself?

Join us from 12.30pm for additional craft activities, taking place in the church prior to the performance.

Music performed by the Wigton's Wind Quintet.
Narration by Owen Watson and Kay Thompson.
Illustrations provided by the UK Art Society.

Book Now!

Hosted by
ELVARTS FESTIVAL

Children's Glass Fusing Workshop -
Perro Negro Glass

What Art? Take part!
Sunday 21st June
10:30am - 11:30am
Centre 'E'
11.50 Ages 4+

Fun, colourful glass fusing workshop for kids! Create unique art, learn new skills, and spark creativity in a safe, hands-on environment. No experience needed—just imagination!

Rob & Sue from Perro Negro Glass will explain some of the science of how fused glass works, the various options you have with this wonderful, versatile medium and the choices you have with different glass colours, frit, stringers etc. You will then be shown which glass is available for you to create your own design.

The glass pieces will have the sharp edges ground off prior to use. Glass frit is safe to handle by hand as the graded pieces have been tumbled which removes sharp edges. The glass pieces, by the nature of their composition can break if dropped and may cause glass splinters. If there is such an occurrence please advise the organisers and they will clear up.

Handling various types, sizes and pieces of glass can cause minor finger cuts. In the unlikely event of a minor cut, primary first aid is available.

There will be first aid kit, and returned to participants at a later stage.

Pages 4+, no unaccompanied children.

Book Tickets

BARRACUDAS
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2026!
EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE SCHOOL20 FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

- 4 to 14 year olds!
- 80+ Activities!
- Choice each session!
- Specialist courses!
- Flexible bookings!

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Choice each session!
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OPSTED REGISTERED

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567

Rainbows
1st Witchford Rainbows

Volunteer with us

We open up a world of possibilities for girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they can do anything. It's totally flexible, you can help as much or as little as you want. Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Rainbow group needs:
An enthusiastic leader, leader in training and unit helpers!

1st Witchford Rainbows meets on Tuesdays in term time, 4.30 - 6.30. Please contact Rosemary Broun, leader, witchfordrainbows@gmail.com, 07957 247088.

Register today

girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Registered charity number: Excepted from registration

Brownies
1st Witchford Brownies

Volunteer with us

We open up a world of possibilities for girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they can do anything. It's totally flexible, you can help as much or as little as you want. Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Brownie group needs:
An enthusiastic leader, leader in training and unit helpers!

1st Witchford Brownies meets on Tuesdays in term time, 4.00 - 7.30. Please contact Rosemary Broun, leader, witchfordbrownies@gmail.com, 07957 247088.

Register today

girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Registered charity number: Excepted from registration

ST MARTIN'S PRESENTS

CAPTURING CAMBRIDGE SHIRE

and beyond, an art exhibition

14:00 - 16:30
13th - 14th JUNE 2026
ST MARTIN'S, THE HIGH ST WITCHAM, CB6 2LQ

An exhibition celebrating the landscape, light and life of Cambridgeshire, the Fens and beyond

PHOTOGRAPHY | DRAWINGS
TEXTILES | PAINTINGS | SCULPTURE

Come and enjoy works in a variety of mediums inspired by the beauty of our local landscapes.

Light refreshments and cakes, plus a raffle and activities for children.

WITCHFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS HEARD

Do you have concerns about anti-social behaviour, disrespectful driving, or any other issues relating to community safety in Witchford?

Would you like to speak face-to-face with representatives from local agencies?

We are working with the East Cambs. Community Safety Partnership to give you this chance in Witchford.

We have scheduled a meeting of the [Witchford Community Safety Forum](#) for:

Monday 13th July 2026 at 7 pm
St Andrews Hall, Main Street, Witchford
Doors open 6:30 pm

Representatives from the **police**, community safety teams, youth team, Witchford Village College, Parish, District and County Councillors will be there in person to take your questions. If you do not want to speak, you can leave a written question too.

The panellists will try to answer your questions at the meeting, but can also take questions away. The Community Safety Partnership will prepare an **action plan for Witchford** based on the key issues arising from the evening, which will be shared with the Parish Council within three months.

Come along to St Andrews Hall on
Monday 13th July – your community,
your questions, your chance to be heard.

St. Andrew's Church



**NEWS from the Parish church of St. Andrew Witchford for the community
June, July 2026**

Church wardens:

**Dr Rosemary Westwell, (01353) 663918 rjwestwell@hotmail.com; mobile: 07432342845
email@ rjwestwell@hotmail.com**

**2nd church warden: Mr Freddie Lawes, tel (01353) 665369 mob: 07799596697 email:
hemlocks42@btinternet.com**

Rector: Rev. Chris Hollingshurst 07534970127

SERVICES: Unless stated otherwise, services take place in the church at 10.00 on Sunday mornings every week. Occasionally, there may be changes to services. These will be on our Facebook page ('St. Andrew's Church Witchford') and on the church notice board. Coffee/tea and biscuits are served at the end of services. All welcome.

If you wish to arrange a baptism, wedding, funeral or home communion please contact the church warden.

SERVICES

June 7th Morning Prayer

June 14th Morning Prayer

June 21st Morning Prayer

June 28th Communion

July 5th Morning Prayer

July 12th Morning Prayer

July 19th Morning Prayer

July 26th Communion

VACANCIES:

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Witchford are seeking new members, Why not join them for fun activities while helping our church stay open and upright? They are also seeking a secretary. Contact Rosemary Westwell

EVENTS:

Sunday 14th June 3-5 afternoon tea with musician the church

Tuesday 23rd June 7 p.,m. An Evening of Music and Poetry in the church If you would like to read your favourite poem, please contact Rosemary Westwell

COFFEE MORNINGS

are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1000 -1130 in St Andrew's Hall Witchford. Cost: minimum £5 for coffee, cake and a raffle strip.

CRAFT MORNINGS:

on the second Thursday of the month.

10.30 -12. a.m. in St Andrew's Hall. contact: susanmaud.sm@gmail.com 07954 178560

VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB

takes place on the first Friday of the month at 12.30 p.m. in the Village Inn. Contact Rosemary Westwell (see above) or Gill Brand (01353) 662073 mobile: 07770932 to pay in advance.

FREE FOOD

is available at the FOODSWAP on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 11.30 a.m. overnight in St Andrew's Hall porch in Witchford. Please feel welcome to bring or take in-date and sealed food. Rosemary Westwell and Susan Maud can be approached for applying to use using Ely Foodbank too.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL

may be hired at £12 per hour for locals, £15 per hour for others. Please contact the Church Hall caretaker, Jan King (01353) 658621 M:07761341325 rule.king.uk@gmail.com

200 CLUB

The Friend's 200 club welcomes new members. It costs £12 a year and you can win £20 a month (£100 in December) while supporting a good cause. In addition, if you would like to join the Friends, contact Dr Westwell 07432342845 or 01363 663918
rjwestwell@hotmail.com