

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a joy to welcome back our pupils this week to school.

Safeguarding:

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LEGO FORTNITE

Each fortnite (the weekly introduction) these have game modes by Fortnite: Rocket League, Fortnite Festival and, finally, LEGO Fortnite. It's a survival game using different game mechanics. There are lots of great features to look out for, especially in children, but – as with any online game – it's important to stay aware of the potential risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MONETISATION

ONLINE PLAY

FEAR FACTOR

COMPLEX GAMEPLAY

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEGO IS FRIENDLY

SET LITTLE CHALLENGES

PLAY TOGETHER

MONITOR SPENDING

Meet Our Expert

WakeUp Wednesday The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 500 million active players. It's a popular game for its competitive nature of its players to 'battle royales'. The top ranked players and its relatively stable map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new season of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these is further 'seasons'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

IN-GAME COSTS

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

FREQUENT UPDATES

Advice for Parents & Educators

MATCH GAMING TIMES

SET SPENDING LIMITS

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

BE WARAY OF SCAMS

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

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Wellbeing and Mental Health:

Emotional Intelligence

Emotional intelligence helps people to perceive emotions in themselves and others, take control of stress and overwhelming emotions and build and maintain better relationships, so how can we help our pupils to become more emotionally intelligent and manage exam stress, conflict and promote good mental health?

- 1. DEVELOP SELF-AWARENESS THROUGH THE CURRICULUM**
Provide opportunities through the curriculum to help pupils understand their own emotions and how they affect their behaviour. Encourage them to reflect on their feelings and how they can manage them.
- 2. DEVELOP SELF-AWARENESS THROUGH PSHE**
Regularly teach pupils to identify and understand their own emotions and how they affect their behaviour. Encourage them to reflect on their feelings and how they can manage them.
- 3. DEVELOP SELF-AWARENESS IN THE MOMENT**
When pupils display a particular emotion, help them to identify it. When you can name it, you can manage it.
- 4. MODEL HEALTHY SELF-REGULATION**
Self-awareness leads to regulation. Pupils should be encouraged to identify their own emotions and how they affect their behaviour. Encourage them to reflect on their feelings and how they can manage them.
- 5. HELP PUPILS TO PROBLEM SOLVE**
Encourage pupils to identify their own emotions and how they affect their behaviour. Encourage them to reflect on their feelings and how they can manage them.
- 6. APPLY TO CONFLICT SITUATIONS**
Encourage pupils to identify their own emotions and how they affect their behaviour. Encourage them to reflect on their feelings and how they can manage them.

The National College

Meet Our Expert: Anna Boleman
Anna Boleman, subject leader for PSHE and wellbeing and school improvement adviser.

Free bicycle events to help you prepare for winter:

In partnership with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, there are four organised '[Winter Wheelers](#)' events, designed to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to stay safe and keep cycling throughout the colder months.

Each event will include free bike checks, cycle maps and cycling advice, bike light giveaways, and much more.

Join at any of the following events from 4pm to 7pm:

- Monday 4 November at Huntingdon station
- Tuesday 5 November at Cambridge main station (outside Gail's)
- Wednesday 6 November at March station
- Thursday 7 November at Ely station

Book your bike servicing time slot using the [Winter Wheelers form](#)

Water bottles and what pupils bring to school:

At The Rackham Pre-School and Primary School we follow Government guidance on drinks in water bottles.

"Provide only fresh tap water and plain milk for children to drink. Fruit juice, smoothies, squash, fizzy drinks and flavoured milk, even when diluted, contain lots of sugar and can cause tooth decay. Diet or reduced-sugar drinks are not recommended for babies and toddlers either. For older children, these drinks can fill children up so they're not hungry for healthier food."

Please only send water for your child to drink during the school day.

What is my child learning this half term?

At the start of each half term, we publish on our website a summary of the teaching and learning for the half term. You can find out more here: [Curriculum Topic Webs | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School \(rackhamprimaryschool.com\)](#)

Year 5 parent meal – 21st November:

The Year 5 parent meal has been rescheduled for Thursday 21st November. If you have already booked and are unable to attend on the new date, please let us know.

If you weren't able to make the original date but would like to book, please login to your MCAS account to pay for your meal. This can be found under the Products and Trips tab. The meal will cost £3.60.

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

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

Meal choice and payment must be made by Thursday 14th November please.

Please can parents and carers of Year 5 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.

Year 4 parent meal – 28th November:

We would like to invite Year 4 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 28th November. 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 22nd November please.**

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

<https://forms.office.com/e/g5MtSCiDM1>

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.

Please can parents and carers of Year 4 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.

Anti-bullying Week and Children in Need:

Next week is Anti-bullying Week. The theme this year is, 'Choose Respect'. Our teachers are busy planning activities to empower children to not resort to bullying when we disagree and to always value others. Children seeing adults showing respectful behaviour is the best way for them to learn these skills.

This week will end with Children in Need day on Friday 15th November, so we thought we would tie the two together. We would like to invite all children to dress up as something beginning with 'R' on Friday 15th November. 'R' stands for respect and will help us all to keep respect at the forefront of our minds. If your child would prefer to wear non-uniform this is also o.k.

We will have buckets on the gate to collect your coin donations as the children arrive to school in the morning.

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking about some great 'R' outfits:

Robber	Robin Hood	Rock Star	Rapper
Red Riding Hood	Rabbit	Referee	Robot

Christmas Performance dates:

Please see the table below for Christmas performance dates. Attendance at the performances will require a ticket. Bookings will open at 4pm on Friday 15th November and details of how to book will be in the newsletter next week. Tickets will initially be limited to 2 per family.

Monday 2 nd December	Years 1 and 2 at 9.30am in the school hall	Reception at 2pm in the school hall
Tuesday 3 rd December	Reception at 9.30am in the school hall	Years 1 and 2 at 2pm in the school hall
Wednesday 4 th December	Years 1 and 2 at 9.30am in the school hall	
Thursday 5 th December	Years 5 and 6 at 10am in St Andrew's Church	Years 3 and 4 at 2pm in St Andrew's Church
Friday 6 th December	Years 3 and 4 at 10am in St Andrew's Church	Years 5 and 6 at 2pm in St Andrew's Church

Information regarding the Pre-School Christmas performances will be in the newsletter next week.

FWR Christmas jumper swap:

Children will be able to wear a Christmas jumper if they wish on their Christmas Dinner day this year. FWR have kindly offered to organise a jumper swap where parents will be able to purchase a jumper for a suggested donation of £2.00. If you have any Christmas jumpers you would like to donate, please drop them into the office between now and 20th November.

The jumper swap will take place on Wednesday 27th November 2024

Parents Evenings Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th November 2024:

Bookings for Parents Evenings opened at 9am last Monday. Please log in to your MCAS account after this time to book your ten minute appointment with your child's class teacher. Appointments will be available from 3.30 - 7pm on Wednesday 13th and 3.30 - 5pm on Thursday 14th. Bookings will close at 9am on Monday 11th November.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal:

We still have poppies and other related merchandise available at both the pre-school and primary school (cash only please).

On Monday 11th November, The Rackham will be marking Remembrance with our own silence to respect those who have served.

If your child attends Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers or Squirrels they are welcome to attend school in uniform on Monday 11th November.


St Andrew's Church, Witchford notices:

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 4p.m.

Led by: Rev Canon Stephen Leeke

**ST. ANDREW'S
CHURCH
WITCHFORD**



**SWITCHING ON THE
ADVENT STAR**

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
WITCHFORD

St. Andrew's Day
Saturday 30th November 6p.m.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
All Welcome



CAROL CONCERT

TUESDAY
10TH DECEMBER 7 p.m.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL,
WITCHFORD

with THE ISLE
SINGERS



REFRESHMENTS
RETIRING COLLECTION
ALL WELCOME

**CAROL
SERVICE**

CAROLS and READINGS
SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER
6 p.m.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
WITCHFORD
ALL WELCOME



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.

Anglia Ruskin University:

We are delighted to announce that we are working with Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge to support their Bachelor of Education training programme. We hope to welcome some trainee teachers to work alongside our teaching team during the summer term.



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: 94.3%

**ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing everyone next week.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

11 th November	Parent's Evening Week – Bookings close on MCAS at 9am on Monday 11 th November
	Anti-Bullying Week
15 th November	Children in Need
20 th November	Y4 Burwell information evening
20 th November	Vision screening for Reception children
21 st November	Year 5 Parent meal (booking required)
27 th November	FWR Christmas jumper swap
28 th November	Y4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation (booking required)
29 th November	FWR Christmas Bingo – Doors open at 6.30pm
2 nd December	KS1 – 9.30am Reception at 2pm
3 rd December	Reception at 9.30am KS1 at 2pm
4 th December	KS1 at 9.30am
5 th December	Year 5/6 at 10am (St Andrew's Church) Year 3/4 at 2pm (St Andrew's Church)
6 th December	Year 3/4 at 10am (St Andrew's Church) Year 5/5 at 2pm (St Andrew's Church)
9 th December	Rocksteady Christmas Concert 9.30am (booking required)
11 th December	FWR Christmas disco
12 th December	Christmas Dinner – Reception and KS1
13 th December	Christmas Dinner – KS2
19 th December	Last day of term
23.12.2024	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 23.12.2024 – 03.01.2025
6 th January 2025	First day of term.
W/C 20 th January	SEND Coffee Morning date tbc
30 th January	Y3 Parent or carer school dinner (booking required)
3 rd February	Children's Mental Health Week
10 th February	Year 4 to Burwell House (10 th – 12 February)
11 th February	Safer Internet Day
W\C 17 th February	HALF TERM