

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.

1 Thessalonians 5.11

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

Message from Miss Turner

10th July 2026

We thoroughly enjoyed Move Up Day on Wednesday. Our pupils managed the change magnificently and we are so excited for September. We also congratulate our pupils who attended the Big Camp. What a credit to our school you all are! Reports go home today. Please expect to receive by 6pm.

Attendance

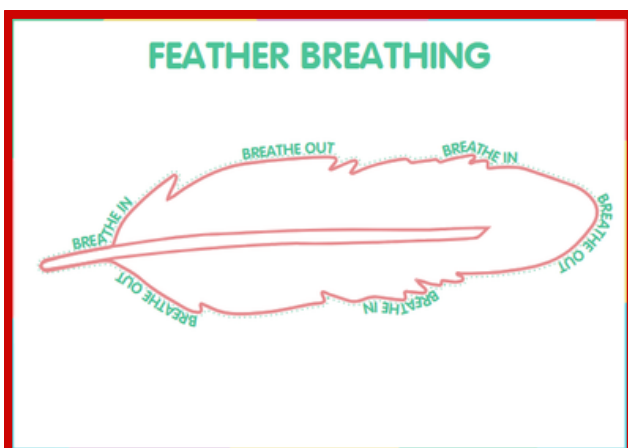
This week's attendance: 89.1%

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

Safeguarding

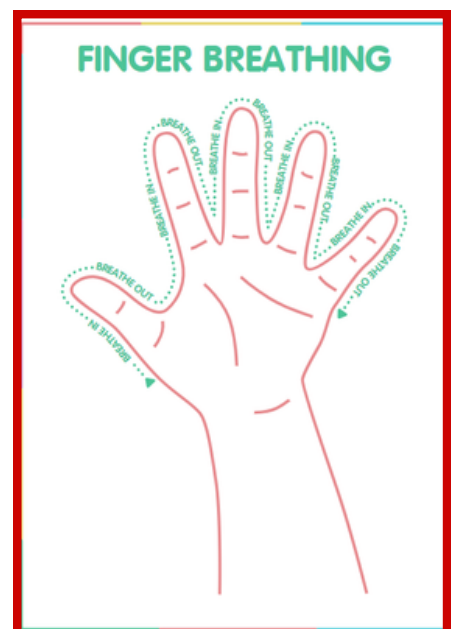
One of the latest tech innovations is 'Smart Glasses', eyewear that looks like ordinary spectacles but can include built-in cameras, microphones, and internet connectivity. Products such as Ray-Ban Meta Glasses highlight how accessible and affordable this technology has now become. While these developments are exciting, they also raise important questions about privacy and safety in a school environment. In response to this, and to ensure our community remains a safe and secure place, the use of smart glasses will not be permitted on school grounds by pupils, parents, visitors or staff.

Wellbeing & Mental Health



Parents can log
in for free:

<https://myhappymind.org/>



FWR - Uniform giveaway

FWR will be opening their uniform stall on Wednesday at drop off and pick up time. Although donations would be welcome, FWR are keen to provide pre-loved uniform to as many families as possible so please come and have a look for any items you may require for September.

Outstanding payments

As we come to the end of term, we would be grateful if you could check your MCAS account for any outstanding payments for dinners or wraparound care and clear the balances by the end of term. If this is not possible for any reason, please contact the office.

Pre-School - Potty training

The way the nation helps children learn how to use the toilet is changing. There is a new approach across education, care, health and family services.

Children need to be out of nappies between 18-30 months, research shows this is what is best for their bowel and bladder health. Potty training can be introduced from 6 months, when a baby can sit up, they can sit on the potty or on a toilet with the right seat and foot support. There's no need to wait for signs of readiness. Learn more here: <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/toilet-training>

Pre-School and Reception

Toothbrushes and toothpaste will be sent home this week to all the children that have signed up for the scheme. These brushes have been provided to use over the summer holidays.

Current Year 5: How to order your Year 6 sweatshirt

2026 – 2027 Year 6 attending The Rackham in September, did you know orders can be placed now ready for the first day of term? Year 6 sweatshirts can be ordered for pupils attending The Rackham in September via Sigma directly: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents or carers. Orders placed by 3rd July will be delivered to school for collection before the end of term. Orders placed after 3rd July can be collected from Sigma Embroidery on Sedgeway Business Park, Witchford but may not be ready for the start of term.

Free family cycle training sessions

This summer, Cambridgeshire County Council will be offering free cycle training sessions to help families across Cambridgeshire develop the skills, confidence and road awareness needed to enjoy cycling together.

From beginner sessions for children to adult confidence training, the programme is designed to support safer journeys and healthier lifestyles and are perfect for beginners or families wanting to get more active this summer.

- Improve road safety awareness
- Build cycling confidence
- Support healthier travel choices
- Gain practical skills for everyday journeys
- Sessions are available across Cambridgeshire.

[Book your cycling session](#) link

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge returns to Cambridgeshire Libraries this summer! Sign-up opens on Saturday 4th July, it's free and open to pre-school and primary school-aged children of all reading abilities.

The theme for 2026 is ***Read to the Beat*** - an adventure in stories, music and sound. Children are invited to read six books over the holidays, collecting rewards along the way - they will also receive a certificate and medal when they complete the challenge. Link here:

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library/children-and-young-people-in-libraries/summer-reading-challenge#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=a6568659-1084-4d69-9d7c-234f7da80100

Vacancy: Site Officer

About this Role

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, dedicated and highly motivated Site Officer to help us maintain a clean, safe and secure school premises.

Hours of work will be from 6am to 8am and then 1pm to 6pm Monday to Friday (there may also be locking up after lettings during the evening - 30 minutes per week). The timing of hours during the school holidays can be adapted so the shift is not split. We will also consider a job share option (working 1pm to 6pm - 25 hours per week contract). More details and application form here:

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/110807/EDV-2026-RCEPSAP-89745>

A message from the Children's Commissioner



Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England



For the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election at age 16, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century – yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them.

That's why I'm doing my final survey, *The Big Future*, to talk to a million children, to listen to them. And to find out about what it's like to be a child today.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like, now and in the future.



How children and young people can take part

The survey is open now. Full URL:

childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

The RED Mile, Mile a day in May



Mile a Day in May



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



AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR
£1,717

Please use the link below to add to our Just Giving page.

We understand there were some technical difficulties but the page is now once more accepting donations. Thank you for your support.

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

Competition time

Sustainable Witchford is a new community-led network, which aims to highlight and support the amazing work individuals, groups, organisations and businesses are already doing to make Witchford a more sustainable community, and to encourage and nurture anything else with that goal in the future. We need the help of the community - including children at The Rackham - in designing a logo this summer! If you would like to take part in the competition, please visit <https://sustainable-witchford.co.uk> for further details.

Focus for next week in Collective Worship

The Rackham's school vision and guiding principle.



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.

Prayer For This Week

A decorative prayer card with a red border. It features a central pink rounded rectangle containing the prayer text. The card is adorned with floral and vine borders in the corners. The school logo is in the top right corner, and a hand-drawn cross and heart symbol is in the bottom left corner.

Dear God,

Thank You for our school.
Help us to encourage one another and build each other up.

Guide us as we work together to be the best we can possibly be in our learning, friendships and community.

Fill our hearts with faith,
strengthen our spirits with hope,
and guide us to live each day in love.

Amen

Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Activities and Events



BARRACUDAS
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2026!

EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE **SCHOOL26** FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

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

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567

OPTED REGISTERED

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Tax Credits & Childcare Vouchers Accepted

GET 6% OFF

MONDAY 20TH JULY - FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 2026

Use code **PSV16149** to claim discount

8:00 AM - 5:45 PM £35
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM £27

BOOK NOW

<https://www.activeplayeducation.co.uk/>

ELY MUSEUM
JOIN US FOR A SUMMER OF MEDIEVAL MYTHS

There Be Dragons
Craft workshop - book online
27th July, 10am - 12.30pm

Myths and Legends
Drop-in family event
24th July, 10.30am - 4pm

Knights School
Drop-in family event
17th - 18th August, 10.30am - 4pm

Jousting Knights
Craft workshop - book online
24th August, 10am - 12.30pm

Birds of Prey
Drop-in event with The Raptor Foundation
24th August, 10.30am - 4pm

Curious CREATURES
EXPLORE THE WONDERFUL CREATIONS OF OUR CATHEDRAL THROUGH A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

Mon 27th July - Sun 2nd August

Mon 10th - Sun 16th August

TERRIBLE TALES OF ELY CATHEDRAL
DISCOVER THE DARKER HISTORY OF OUR CATHEDRAL AS YOU EXPLORE SOME OF THE MOST GORY STORIES OF ITS PAST

Mon 10th - Sun 16th August

SUMMER FUN AT THE STAINED GLASS MUSEUM 2026

Tuesday 28th July **Children's Glass Fusing**
Pre book 11:00-12:30 or 1:30-3:00 £18 each

Wednesday 29th July **Family Glass Fusing**
book 11:00-12:30 or 1:30-3:00 £18 each

Tuesday 4th August **We Are Artists!**
Free fun craft drop in session 10:00-12:00

Wednesday 5th August **SC Minis under 5's**
book £5 per child 10:00-11:30

Tuesday 11th August **Children's Glass Fusing**
Pre book 11:00-12:30 or 1:30-3:00 £18 each

Wednesday 12th August **Story Writing Workshop**
book 1:30-3:00 £5 per child

Monday 17th August **We Are Artists 2!**
Free fun craft drop in session 1:30-3:30

more information and to pre-book visit www.stainedglassmuseum.com/whatson

SUMMER FUN AT OLIVER CROMWELL'S HOUSE

This summer take a trip back in time with Oliver Cromwell's House and discover what family life was like in the 17th century!

Follow our fantastic family-themed Audio Guided Tour

Explore the toys and games of the age, dress up in the clothing of the era and even take a trip to the English Civil War!

Every Day of the Summer Holidays

Discounted Family Tickets Available!

www.olivercromwells.co.uk

Summer Holiday Events in Ely

A PIRATE ADVENTURE!

WITH THE ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PIRATE THEATRE TRUPEES **JEZA GODDARD**

SCAN THE QR CODE

The Viva Theatre, CB7 6EE
Sat 25 July 12pm & 2pm
Tickets: £12, Family Ticket £40

There is another performance of A Pirate Adventure at the Viva Theatre on the 25th July and as a thank you Viva would like to offer The Rackham parents and carers a special discount code which gives them 50% off the cost of a ticket, bringing it down to £6. Use the code: **PIRATE50** to receive 50% off.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMER CAMPS

AVAILABLE IN:
CAMBRIDGE
ST NEOTS
BIGGLESWADE
ELY

→ All summer camps are £25 each

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

SUMMER AT SANDRINGHAM

Join us at Sandringham Estate for an adventurous summer of mini-golf, family archery and forest school!

FOREST SCHOOL

10.30am - 12pm
£12 per child
Adults free.

Tue 4th Aug
Wed 5th Aug
Thur 6th Aug

Tue 11th Aug
Wed 12th Aug
Thur 13th Aug

Tue 25th Aug
Wed 26th Aug
Thur 27th Aug

FAMILY ARCHERY

Sun 2nd Aug
Sun 9th Aug
Sun 16th Aug
Sun 30th Aug

30 minute slots available from 10am - 3.30pm

MINI GOLF

Open daily from 1st July - 21st July then 27th July - 18th August.
Slots available from 10am - 4pm

Adults - £8
Ages 5-15 - £7
Under 5 - £5

HOUSE AND GARDENS TICKETS

£35 for 6 people

All activities are bookable on our website www.sandringhamestate.co.uk

WADSY PERFORMING ARTS
fire chill
FOODIE FRIDAYS
JUNIOR MAKERS MARKET

WADSY Youth and Fire & Chill Youth Group present:

The Big End of Term Party

in collaboration with **Foodie Fridays** and **The JNR Makers Market**

FREE ENTRY!

Friday 17th July, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Witchford Playing Fields, Bedwell Hay Lane
BBQ (Hornwells Burgers & Sausages) • Ice Cream Van
Performances from WADSY Juniors • Face Painting
3 x Giant Inflatables (Wristbands £6.00)

The Jnr Makers Market - 12+ stalls selling arts, crafts and baked goods, made and sold by children and young people

Games, Raffle • Throw a wet sponge at Dan & Banjo in the stocks!

All funds raised go to WADSY Youth and Fire & Chill Youth Group

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

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