



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner  
Email: [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)  
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*

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to all our parents, friends, families, carers, the Church, volunteers, Governors, FWR and all staff who work inside The Rackham supporting and educating our incredible pupils.

### **Safeguarding: A hugely concerning update from the Police**

The Police have released new figures showing that in England and Wales more than half of child sexual abuse offences recorded in 2022 were committed by other children.

Police say the rise of child-on-child abuse in England and Wales is fuelled by access to violent pornography and smart phones.

Data from 42 police forces in England and Wales shows that a total of 106,984 child sexual abuse offences were reported in 2022, up 7.6% on the previous year and more than five times the 20,000 recorded in 2013.

Check your child's devices are set up to ensure they cannot access inappropriate content and to keep them safe.

Use this link to ensure your child's phone is as safe as it can be: [Setting up devices for kids: Parental controls, avoiding in-app purchases and online safety - Own It - BBC](#)

### **Wellbeing and mental health: My Happy Mind**

All our Parents and Carers have free access to My Happy Mind.

Our pupils use My Happy Mind during weekly lessons to learn about emotional literacy and how to understand emotions and learn strategies to manage them.

Families can now log into My Happy Mind. Log in link here: <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code (110807).

If you log in but do not receive an email with your log in details, then request a password reset and to enable you to log in. If you need any help, please contact school.

There is an app that you can download for your phone as well as using the software online.

### **East Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centre:**

Please see attached for our latest What's On guide for further information about programmes and how to get in touch with the team.

Places are very limited so please get in touch via e-mail or phone to book onto these sessions.

Telephone: 01353 612770 or email: [childandfamilycentre.east@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:childandfamilycentre.east@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### **Pupil place for Reception at The Rackham in September 2024: deadline 15<sup>th</sup> January**

If you have not already submitted an application for your child for entry into the Reception class at The Rackham C of E Primary School for September 2024, please note that applications must be completed online and submitted to the Admissions Team by the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### **St Andrew's Church Poetry Competition:**

Poetry Competition for the Tedora Cup: FREE to enter. Poetry competition for all ages: up to 12, 13-17, 18 and over. Poems on the theme 'The Aftermath'. Please send your entries to [rjwestwell@hotmail.com](mailto:rjwestwell@hotmail.com) or post to: St Andrew's Church Witchford, 73A Main St., Witchford, Ely, Cambs. CB6 2HQ by 11th May.

Please include your name, address including post code, phone, email address and age (or 'adult').

Entrants keep copyright of their poems but agree to publicity and to the church using them for church activities in the future.

Winners will be announced at a concert in the church on Tuesday 11th June at 7pm.

### **Parking: A polite reminder**

Several cars are parking on double yellow lines and also parking on the zigzags. Families that have a blue badge are politely requested to display their badge clearly. As a community we must consider everyone's safe access in and out of school.

Vehicles that are parked on the double yellow lines or zig zag lines are parking illegally.

### **Update of Charging and Remissions Policy: Paying for school dinners:**

Please find a reviewed copy of our Charging and Remissions Policy that has been ratified by the Governing Board on our website. Link here: [Policy Library | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School \(rackhamprimaryschool.com\)](https://www.rackhamprimaryschool.com)

There is one new section about payment of school dinner money:

*Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 all qualify for Universal Free School meals, so no payment is necessary for any midday meal provided by the school. For children in Key Stage 2, meals are chargeable at £2.40 (except for exceptional meals such as Christmas dinner whereby the cost will be made clear at the time) unless the child qualifies for means tested free school meals. Meals should be booked and paid for in advance where required.*

Hard copies of this policy can be obtained from the school office on request.

### **Clubs:**

Clubs for this term begin next week (w\c 15<sup>th</sup> January) and are available to book via your child's MCAS account from 3pm today. If your child is enrolled in Art or Choir and no longer wishes to attend, please let us know so we can offer the place to the next on the waiting list.

### **The Big Ambition: A message from the Children's Commissioner**

I hope everyone at The Rackham Church of England Primary School enjoyed the much-needed Christmas break. I just wanted to offer my thanks again for your support with my national campaign 'The Big Ambition' which will be **closing on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

I have been overwhelmed by the response the survey has received so far. More than 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers have participated, making it one of the largest surveys of its kind, but I want to give even more people the chance to have their say.

This is the final push before the survey closes, so please do share it as widely as possible to help make sure that every child in England has an opportunity to share their views with policy makers ahead of the General Election.

By sharing my survey with your pupils and parents or carers, you can make sure that the children and young people of Ely are fairly represented in the results.

Children and parents or carers can complete the survey here:

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

I am so very grateful for your support, and I am beyond excited to share the findings.

Very best,



**Dame Rachel De Souza**  
**Children's Commissioner for England**

### **Attendance:**

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.

This week our attendance figure as a school is: 96.1%

**ATTEND TODAY**  
**ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

<b>Dates for your diary</b>	
15.01.2024	Last date for applications for Reception places in September 2024 Rock Steady concert for invited parents and carers 9.30am (please contact the office if you need the ticket booking link).
23.01.2024	Vision Screening - Reception pupils only
24.01.2024	Year 5/6 Dodgeball Event morning only
31.01.2024	Babylon Art exhibition with some submissions from The Rackham
05.02.2024 - 07.02.2024	Burwell House residential Year 4
19.02.2024 - 23.02.2024	Half Term holiday
01.03.2024	Year 4/5/6 Girls Play Football event
04.03.2024	Parent's Evening days and times tbc
22.03.2024	Height and weight Reception only Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Netball Tournament morning
25.03.2024	Rocksteady concert time tbc
28.03.2024	Last day of school for pupils and staff
29.03.2024	Good Friday Start of Easter holiday
15.04.2024	First day of summer term Pupils return to school