



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.

Message from Miss Turner

12th June 2026

We are so proud of pupils taking the Phonics Screening Check. Thank you to parents and carers of our younger children for your love, encouragement and care. We greatly value your support.

Thank you also to our amazing FWR for another fantastic Funday Sunday and our school community for attending! It was wonderful to see you all. We hope to update on the total raised very soon.

Our pupils enjoyed a short play on Thursday afternoon to promote the FWR theatre visit on Saturday 27th June. Please follow [this link](#) to book tickets for your family and friends.

Attendance

This week's attendance: 94.9 %

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

Safeguarding

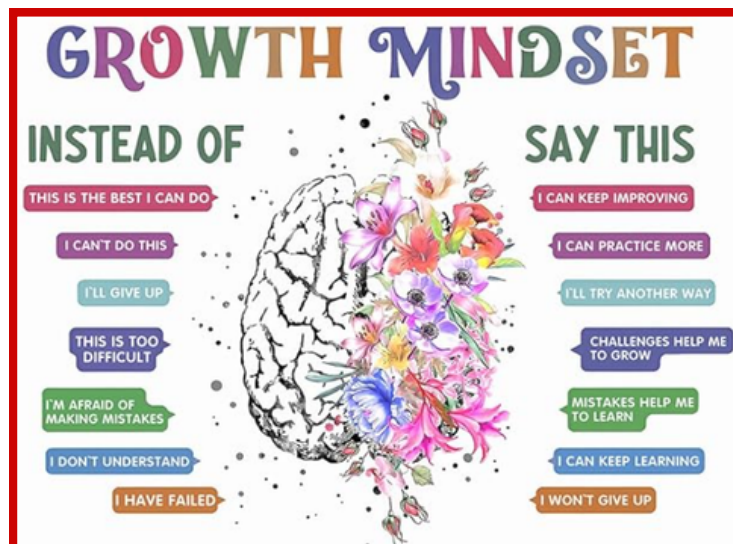
This week we have received some very concerning information about threats other schools have received following images of pupils being taken from their websites and then used to blackmail the school.

As you are aware, at The Rackham we have no images of pupils or adults on our website. Neither do we have any online social media presence. These decisions were taken nearly four years ago to protect our pupils, staff and school from this type of threat.

An audit of our website has been carried out by a third party this week to ensure it continues to provide the necessary protection for our school.

The outcome of the audit: The Rackham website is the best the external agency has evaluated due to the high level of safeguarding protection in place.

Wellbeing & Mental Health



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.

Swimming changes next week

Please note that due to the Year 1 and 2 trips, swimming days for Larch and Chestnut classes will change for next week only. Chestnut class will swim on Wednesday and Larch class on Friday.

FWR - Save the Date

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.



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



2026 - 2027 Year 6 Sweatshirt

2026 – 2027 Year 6 sweatshirts (for current year 5 pupils):

Orders can be placed now ready for the first day of term in September 2026. Year 6 sweatshirts can be ordered 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.



Collective Worship Council Prayer For This Week

A prayer card with a decorative border. The text is as follows:

Dear God,

Praise your name.

May your kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today what we need and please forgive us, like we should to others.

Please let us not want to make bad choices but help us when we struggle.

Amen

The card features a school logo in the top right corner and a decorative floral border. At the bottom left, there is a small red heart symbol.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday.

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.

GRAB YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN AND PERFORM ON A REAL STAGE IN A REAL THEATRE!

viva!

PADDINGTON THE MUSICAL

HALF-TERM WORKSHOP
AT THE VIVA THEATRE

BASED ON THE WEST END MUSICAL

MON 26 - TUE 27 OCTOBER 2026

FOR AGES 5 AND UPWARDS

The Viva Workshop is open to everyone, places will be allocated on a first come basis. The workshop will take place at the Viva Theatre in Soham from 10am - 3pm daily.

The cost of the workshop is £55 per student; this includes a personalised T-Shirt!

TO RESERVE A PLACE PLEASE CONTACT
E: jessicabea76@gmail.com T: 07407 062 961

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

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

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!

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Choice each session!
Specialist Courses!
Flexible bookings!

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 967

OFSTED REGISTERED

The 53rd World PEASHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 11th July 2026

from 11:30am, Witcham Village Green, Ely CB6 2LB

Competitions include:

- The Open - For customised peashooters
- Traditional Peashooter
- TEAMS - Up to 4 people in a team
- Petite Pops - Under 11s
- Youth - Ages 12-16
- JUNIOR TEAMS - Ages 7-16
- NEW This Year - Best Dressed Team

Plus: BBQ, Bar, Gin Tent, Stalls, Raffle, Teas & Cakes, Ice Cream, Kids Entertainment, Crafts and much more!

Register to compete on the day or online at www.worldpeashoot.com

Gold Sponsors: Alica Bank, CHEFFINS

Summer HAF Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Your child could enjoy fun, exciting activities, make new friends, and receive a tasty meal and snacks - all completely free.

Children who receive benefits-related free school meals are eligible and can join us for up to 64 hours of holiday fun this summer.

Find out more
Scan the QR Code or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf
Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

FULLY FUNDED

FROM MONDAY 15TH THROUGH TO FRIDAY 19TH JUNE, YEAR 6 WILL BE RAISING FUNDS AT LUNCHTIME FOR THEIR END OF YEAR CELEBRATION. BRING SOME POCKET MONEY TO SUPPORT THEM IF YOU WISH. THANK YOU ALL.

+ FINISH THE LYRICS	+ BOX BOTS
+ LEMONADE STAND	+ ICED RICE CAKES
+ SPEED STACK	HOW MANY MARBLES IN THE JAR?
+ GIRLY POP (GUESS THE NAME)	LUCKY DIP
	COOKIE STALL
	Sponge Bags

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 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