

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those families who joined us for Meet the Teachers this week. It was a total pleasure to welcome you into school, and the children were so happy to share their morning with you too! Please follow this link and then select your child's year group to find a copy of the slides used at the meetings this week: [The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#) Select the **Parents** tab then **Class information**.

Safeguarding:

Easy to use guides on how to set up parental controls for apps on iPhone and android.



How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available. Mail, Facetime and Safari for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.

How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
5. Scroll down to Game Centre
6. Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends. Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

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How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS Android Phone

On Android phones, restricting access to particular apps usually requires going onto Google Play. From there, it's fairly easy to navigate your way through the settings to manage the parental controls and authorisations relating to any apps on the device. These features can prevent your child from downloading or buying anything unsuitable for their age. Updated versions of apps or games that your child has already installed may occasionally contain something inappropriate, so we've explained how to stop those too.

How to Block App Downloads (This Also Disables In-app Purchases)

1. Open Google Play Store
2. Tap the profile icon in the top right
3. Tap Settings
4. Scroll down to the Family section and tap Parental controls
5. Toggle 'Parental controls are on' to 'Parental controls are on'
6. Create a PIN and tap OK
7. Confirm your PIN and tap OK again
8. Tap Apps & Games
9. Set the age limit you wish to set
10. Tap Save to apply your changes

How to Stop Auto-updates

1. Open Google Play Store
2. Tap the profile icon in the top right
3. Tap Settings
4. Tap Auto-update apps
5. Select 'Don't auto-update apps and then tap Done

Restricting Apps Through Google Family Link

1. Open Google Play Family Link for parents
2. Tap the three horizontal lines in the top left
3. Select your child's account
4. Tap Manage
5. Tap Controls on Google Play
6. Tap Apps & Games
7. Select the app that you wish to set

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Wellbeing and Mental Health:



We are turning The Rackham yellow for one day, Friday 10th October 2025:



Children and adults can choose which part of their usual school uniform to turn yellow. Thank you in advance for your support. Please donate via this link:

<https://shop.youngminds.org.uk/shop/checkout/make-a-donation>

More than 1 in 4 young people have a probable mental health condition. Many aren't getting the help they need, when they need it. Some don't even know where to turn, who to talk to, or if anyone else feels the same.

By wearing yellow on World Mental Health Day (10th October), and donating what you can, you can show young people that they are not alone and that things can get better.

Composer for this half term:

Until October half term holiday, our focus composer is John Williams, the legend behind the Star Wars soundtrack, Indiana Jones and ET plus many more. Listen here: [BBC Proms - 2025: The Planets and Star Wars at the Proms - BBC iPlayer](#)

Flu vaccinations:

Flu has had a serious impact on the health of England's population over the past two winters.

Vaccinating your child helps reduce the risk of serious illness and plays an important role in protecting vulnerable individuals in your community, friends and family.

Our team will be visiting your child's school soon to offer the flu vaccine. You can choose between the quick, painless nasal spray or a pork gelatine-free injection.

Click here for further information: <https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/cambsandpeterborough>

The form is available in 10 languages— select yours when it opens.

If you do not wish your child to be vaccinated, please submit a decline via the same link to avoid further contact from our team. Note: School aged children cannot receive this vaccination with their GP unless they are clinically vulnerable.

Clubs:



Please see below for details of new clubs that will be running next term.

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Dates
Colouring Club	Monday	Lunchtime: 12.45 – 13.15pm	Y1 and Y2	22 nd September to 20 th October
Christmas Card Club	Monday	Lunchtime: 12.45 – 13.15pm	Y1 and Y2	10 th November to 8 th December
Needlework Club	Tuesday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y5 and Y6	23 rd September to 9 th December
Picture Book Club	Wednesday	Lunchtime: 12.45 – 13.15pm	Y1 and Y2	24 th September to 22 nd October
Construction Club	Thursday	Lunchtime: 12.45 – 13.15pm	Y1 and Y2	25 th September to 23 rd October
Choir	Thursday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y3 to Y6	25 th September to 4 th December
Art Club	Thursday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y3 to Y6	25 th September to 23 rd October
Introduction to Netball	Thursday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y1 and Y2	25 th September to 23 rd October

How to book:

Booking for clubs opens at 6pm on Friday 12th September.

All clubs will begin during WC 22nd September and run to half term. Clubs that are continuing for the second half of the autumn term will begin again during WC 4th November.

All clubs running in the second half of the autumn term will finish during WC 1st December.

Donation requests:

Our KS1 classes will be needing some 2 litre plastic bottles for science in the coming weeks. If you have any that you could donate to us, please bring them to the office.

We are also looking for any needlework supplies that are no longer required and would be very grateful for any donations to our needlework club. Many thanks.

Parking:

Please ensure you are parking considerately at all times. Please avoid blocking driveways and parking on the pavements on Main Street and surrounding roads. Parking is not permitted in the pub car park unless you are a customer.

Topic webs:

Please click [here](#) to view our topic webs for each year group for this term.

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils are now available from Sigma. [Home - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents and carers and will then be delivered to school and given to the children to bring home.

PE and Games days:

	Indoor PE	Outdoor Games
Rowan and Ash	Please see below	
Beech	Thursday	Monday
Larch	Wednesday	Monday
Chestnut	Friday	Tuesday
Elm	Tuesday	Wednesday
Hazel	Friday	Wednesday
Sycamore	Thursday	Wednesday
Cedar	Wednesday	Friday
Oak	Monday	Friday
Willow	Tuesday	Thursday

Rowan class will have PE on a Thursday and Ash class on a Friday. These sessions will take place outside as much as possible so please ensure children are dressed for the weather.

Forest school: Will begin when the children are full-time. More information to follow.

Please can all children in the Reception classes bring in a pair of wellies to keep at school as soon as possible. These are for use in the mud kitchen, sand pit and the forest when our sessions start.

FWR events:

Please join FWR for a glass of wine and refreshments at their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 16th September at 7pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

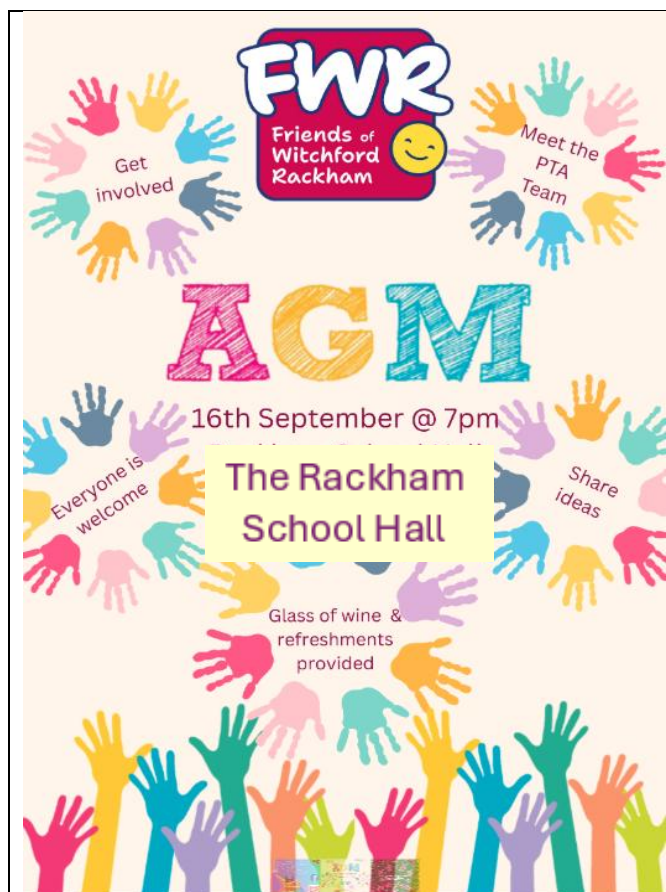
FWR is running a prize draw
To win a hamper with goodies galore
so come take a look
and follow us on Facebook
each follow is an entry for sure...

FWR
Friends of
Witchford
Rackham

f

Scan for link

facebook.com/friendswitchfordrackham
(deadline for entry and winner announcement is 7pm,
Tuesday 16 September at the FWR AGM)



Activities and Events:



Kids and Smartphones

an information evening for parents

Everyone welcome

Guest Speaker: Amy Ruffell,
Cambridgeshire's Lead for
Smartphone Free Childhood

Worried about your child's smartphone use?

Wondering when to give them their first smartphone?

Keen to chat to other parents about phones?

Come along for an open, honest, non-judgmental conversation about the impact of smartphones on childhood

When

7.30pm,
Wednesday 8th
October 2025

Where

Ely St Johns
Community Primary
School
St John's Rd, Ely CB6
3BW

FREE EVENT



Ely

October Half-term Holiday CLUB

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

ST MARYS JR SCHOOL, HIGH BARN, ELY CB7 4RB

8.00 am - 5.45 pm £35
9.00 am - 4.00pm £27

LOOKING FOR EXCITING ACTIVITIES, NEW FRIENDS, AND NON-STOP FUN THIS SCHOOL BREAK?

OUR HOLIDAY CLUB IS PACKED WITH:

- GAMES & SPORTS
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- FOREST SCHOOL
- CREATIVE BAKING
- NERF CHALLENGES
- SAFE, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

OPEN TO AGE 4 (AT SCHOOL) - YEAR 7

DATES:

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BOOKINGS OR EMAIL INFO@ACTIVEPLAYLEDUCATION.CO.UK

A Night of 50s and 60s Music

Join Dave & Steve
Celebrate with them singing a mix of 1950s and 1960s classics

PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRESSED

Friday 19th September

St Andrews Hall Witchford

Tickets £10
Including Refreshments

Contact: 07761341325

BRING YOUR OWN BOOZE

COME ALONG FOR A FREE TASTER SESSION!

WEEKLY COACHED TRAINING ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

ELY CITY HOCKEY CLUB JUNIOR SECTION

Led by qualified coaches, our weekly training sessions provide a fun, engaging and safe environment for young players to learn and enjoy playing hockey.

All age groups welcome. The following sessions are held during term time:

- QUICKSTICKS - SCHOOL YEARS 1-5 TUESDAYS 5.30-6.30PM
- INZHOKEY - SCHOOL YEARS 6-9 TUESDAYS 6.45-7.45PM
- TEEN HOCKEY - SCHOOL YEARS 8-13 WEDNESDAYS 7.00-8.00PM

FOR MORE INFO: EMAIL ELYJUNIORHOCKEY@GMAIL.COM

You can find us at Ely Outdoor Sports Association (behind Ely Leisure Village) Downham Road, Ely, CB6 2SH

CONTACT US Email: elyjuniorthockey@gmail.com Website: elycityhockey.org

YOUTH FUTSAL CLASSES

25/26 SEASON (MIXED BOYS AND GIRLS)

ELY LIONS FUTSAL CLASSES

TUESDAY'S - WVC
U7/U8/9 - 5:30 PM
10/11/12 - 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY'S - WVC
U6/7/8 - 5 PM
U9/10/11 - 6PM

THURSDAY'S - WVC
U9/10/11/12 - ADVANCED (INVITATION ONLY) - 5PM

SUNDAY'S - LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE
U6/7/8 - 9AM
U9/10 - 10 AM
U11/12/13 - 11AM

BOOK US NOW!

DENIS LACERDA
UEFA LICENSED COACH

CONTACT: ELYLIONS.FC@GMAIL.COM

FUN CYCLE COACHING SESSIONS FOR YOUNG RIDERS

Junior Cycle Coaching

Ely & District Cycling Club - Junior Training Sessions

Tennis Courts, Witchford Village College CB6 2JA

Mondays (Term Time Only) | 6:30-7:30pm | Ages 5 - 16

Learn core cycling skills, build confidence, join the EDCD Junior Race Team, meet new friends and have fun!

Sessions are led by British Cycling qualified, DBS-checked coaches.

- First session FREE, then just £5 pay-as-you-go
- All abilities welcome - from new to cycling to aspiring racers
- Parental consent required to attend

Call Neil: 07393 251 949 or Mark: 07903 333 467

Register online: www.elycyclingclub.com/juniors

Find us on Facebook: Ely & District Cycling Club Juniors

Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner. Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

****OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2025****

Improve the communication with your partner to support your children

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galford Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND, Thursday 16th October, 9:30 - 11:30am

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 9:30 - 11:30am

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Wednesday 19th & Wednesday 26th November, 12:00 - 1 pm

Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galford Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND, Thursday 16th October, 12:45 - 14:45pm

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 12:45 - 14:45 pm

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Tuesday 18th & Tuesday 25th November, 12:00 - 1 pm

Family Hubs

Attendance:

The Rackham has a policy on Attendance. Please follow this link to read the policy on the school website. [Policy Library | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

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: 96.8%



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,
Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
16 th September	FWR AGM 7pm All welcome
17 th September	New intake evening – postponed until 8th October
18 th September	WVC Open evening for Year 6
W/C 22 nd September	Baseline Assessment in Reception
25 th September	Y4 MTC information evening 6pm online – booking required nearer the time
W/C 29 th September	Baseline Assessment in Reception continues
2 nd October	Individual and sibling photos
8 th October	New intake evening for September 2026 at The Rackham 6pm
9 th - 10 th October	Scholastic Book Fair in the hall after school
13 th – 14 th October	Scholastic Book Fair in the hall after school
13 th – 17 th October	Year 6 Horstead residential
16 th October	Year 5 Parent or carer school meal invitation – booking required nearer the time
W/C 20 th October	
W/C 27 th October	HALF TERM
03 rd November	Professional Development Day for teachers
4 th November	Pupils return
11 th November	Armistice Day
12 th November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 7pm - booking required nearer the time
13 th November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 5.30pm - booking required nearer the time