The Rackham NEWSLETTER

THE RACKHAM C OF E PRE-SCHOOL

THE RACKHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.
1 Thessalonians 5.11

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

13th November 2026

Message from Miss Turner

We are so proud of all our pupils for marking Armistice Day with an impeccably observed two minute silence. The Rackham was invited to the Remembrance service at Lancaster Way memorial. It was a privilege to share the event with some pupils, parents and service personnel, joining together to mark this important day. Thank you to all parents and carers that attended Parent's Evening this week.

Safeguarding:



Wellbeing & Mental Health: EIFA workshops for November

The EIFA team would like to present our workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for November.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form. If you don't receive the booking link, please check your spam/junk folder. A reminder email will also be sent to you an hour before the workshop.

Managing Challenging Behaviour	Tuesday, 10 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing Challenging Behaviour or
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Thursday, 12 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting with Angry Feelings or
Supporting Your Child with Sleep	Tuesday, 17 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting Your Child with Sleep or
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Thursday, 19 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting with Feelings of Worry or
Managing Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 24 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing Sibling Rivalry or
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Thursday 26 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting with Angry Feelings or

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Attendance

This week's attendance: 94.5 %

The Rackham has a policy on Attendance. Please follow **this link** to read the policy on the school website.

NHS guidance on how to determine if your child is too ill for school
https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?es_c=AC82DB7E96BFD9AC5E67432445C9813A&es_cl=0D3BE8C5CF33C9EC1AA46E767A80DD1E&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1

Early Years: Pre-School weekly update

This week we have been exploring light, next week our Big Question is "Can we make shadows?". We will be having lots of fun exploring shadows through play. Why not have a go at making shadows together at home? You could use a torch to make funny hand shapes on the wall, shine a light behind your child's favourite toys or make a cosy shadow theatre with a sheet and lamp. See if you can make the shadows grow bigger or smaller by moving the toys closer to or further from the light. You might even invent a silly story using your shadow characters. We would love to hear about your family's shadow adventures and any wonderful discoveries you make together.

Pre-School Christmas Celebration

We would like to invite all pre-school parents and carers to our Pre-School Christmas Celebration event on Thursday 10th December at 2pm in the school hall.

Children who usually attend on a Thursday afternoon will be brought to the hall by the Pre-School staff and will meet you there at 2pm. **Booking is via the Products and Trips tab on your MCAS account and closes on 2nd December.**

If your child doesn't attend Pre-school on a Thursday afternoon, please do book a ticket for yourself (via MCAS) and bring them at 2pm to join in the fun.

A snack and drink will be provided for everyone and we are hoping there may be a special Christmas visitor! We expect the event to last no longer than half an hour. If your child is in session on a Thursday afternoon, you are welcome to take them home at the end of the event if you prefer.

Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this event.

Rowan class PE lessons

As we are busy rehearsing for our Christmas performance, Rowan Class will be having their PE session on Thursday 19th November and Thursday 26th November. After this we will return to our usual timetable and continue with PE sessions on a Friday.

Year 4 Big Camp Parent meeting: Wednesday 18th November

We will be holding a meeting for parents and Year 4 children on Wednesday 18th November at 6pm in the school hall. Please complete **this form** to let us know whether or not you will be able to attend.

Unforgettable School Residentials | Big School Camp | Onsite Camps

Mr Wheatley's Piano concerts

Mr Wheatley's piano concerts will take place on Thursday 10th December for KS1 and Friday 11th December for KS2. We apologise for the incorrect date in Dates for your Diary.

The concerts will begin at 9.30am and are expected to last for approximately an hour.

Bookings can be made via your MCAS account until Monday 7th December.

Year 4 Parent Meal

We would like to invite Year 4 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 26nd 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 £3.80. Meal choice and payment must be made by Friday 20th November please.

Please complete **this form** to book your meal once payment has been made on MCAS. Unfortunately, we can only offer for one parent or carer to attend on this occasion.

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.

Christmas performance information

Christmas performances will take place as detailed in Dates for your Diary. Attendance at the performances will require a seat to be booked.

Bookings are now open and close at 9am on Wednesday 25th November.

Tickets can be booked through MCAS and will appear under the Products and Trips tab. **Tickets will initially be limited to two per family (not per performance) – these can be split over two performances but the total booked must not exceed two please.**

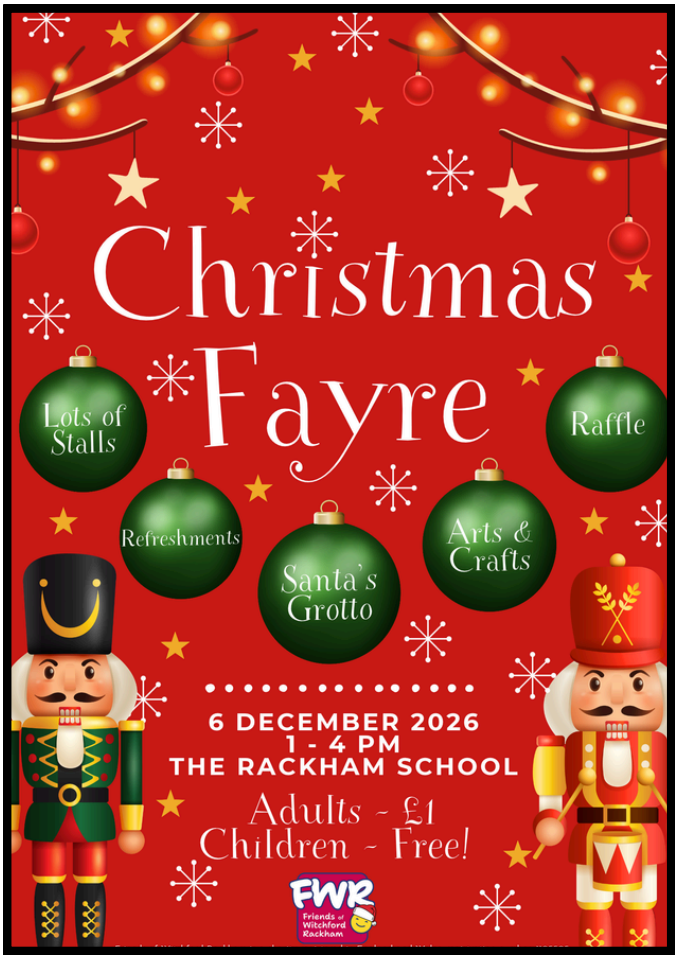
If you would like extra tickets, please contact the office to be added to the waiting list for the preferred performance.

Scholastic book fair

We are delighted to let you know that approximately £500 was raised during the book fair which has enabled us to purchase new books for our classrooms. The photo below shows a selection of the books on display in the hall. Thank you to all parents and carers who supported the book fair.



FWR



*Handmade jewellery

*Handmade stitchwares

*Floral, homeware and christmas gifts

*Cakes and bakes

*Face painting

*Candles, resin, diamond art and cards

*Customised Jellycats

*Beaded decorations, keyring and bag charms, tie dye clothing

*Children's gifts/sensory/squish toys

*3d printing

*Reindeer food

*Toy stall

*Crafts

*Refreshments

*Raffle

FWR Uniform sales

FWR will be running second hand uniform sales before and after school on the following dates:

- Friday 20th November
- Wednesday 16th December

School Uniform reminder

We wish to remind parents, carers and pupils about school uniform expectations.

- Hair should be in its natural state without colours from permanent dye or temporary colour.
- Nails should be without nail varnish.
- Stud earrings only.

School meal booking

Please would parents ensure meals are booked in advance and no later than 8.30am on the day.

Focus for next week in Collective Worship



Composer for this half term

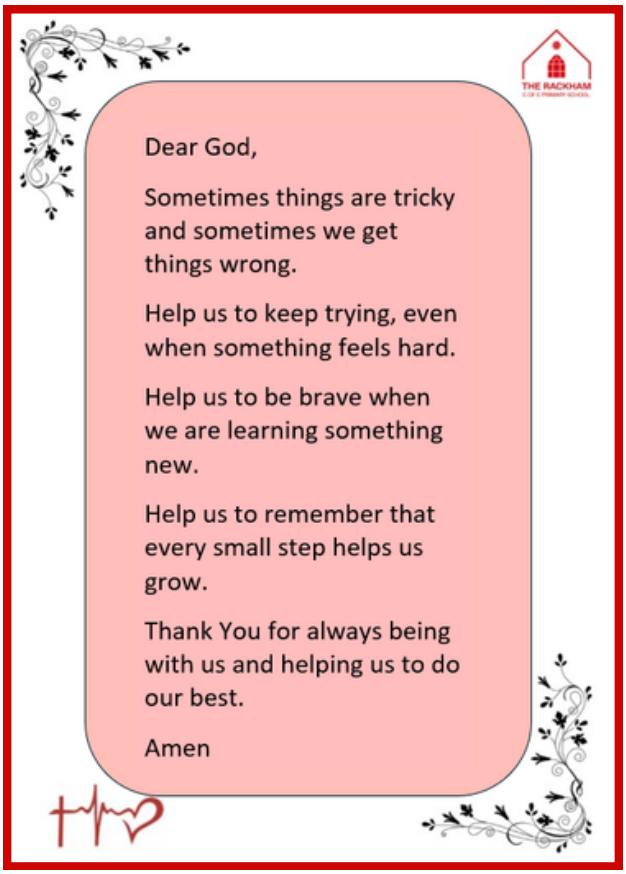
Tchaikovsky

Click these links to listen to the music we are sharing in Collective Worship.





Prayer For This Week



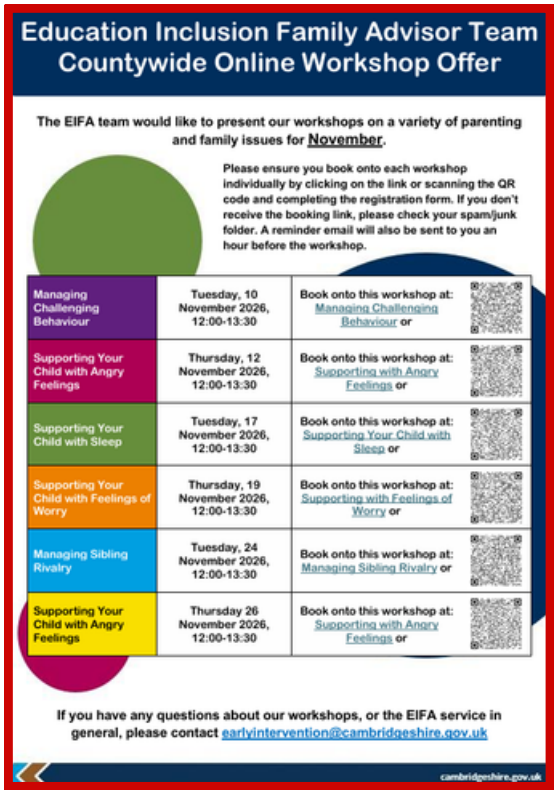
Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Activities and Events

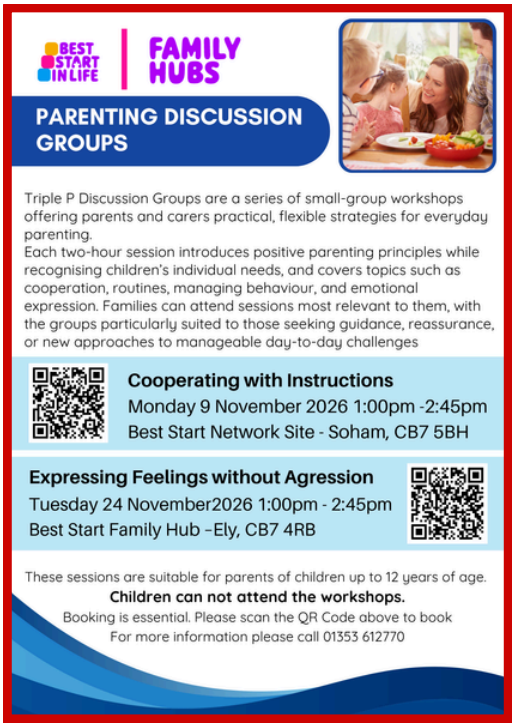


















St. Andrew's Church



NEWS from the Parish church of St. Andrew Witchford for the community
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 11.00 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.





Do you love our village?

Have an hour here and there to spare?

Our village church needs **volunteers** — and **you don't need to be a believer** to get involved.

Spare an hour

Help at an event

Be part of our community

Whether you can spare an hour, lend a hand at an event, help with a bit of gardening, or simply be part of keeping our village church at the heart of our community, we'd love to hear from you.

You don't need to believe.
You just need to care.

We just need you.

If you'd like to help, please get in touch!

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

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