



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner
Email: 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

14th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we find ourselves halfway through this second half of Spring Term, both pupils and adults are enjoying the first blossom appearing on trees in our beautiful school grounds.

Safeguarding: Put yourself in control

We strongly urge all families to set parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. Contact your broadband provider for instructions on how to set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that younger children can't access them by accident.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

As you will be aware, as a school, we have signed up to the DFE Education Staff Wellbeing Charter. This means we are always looking for ways to foster greater wellbeing for all our staff.

We are currently reviewing class emails and the impact they have on teacher wellbeing. With this in mind, we are going to trial an alternative method for parents and carers to contact class teachers by email.

From the end of school today, class emails will no longer accept incoming emails from parents and carers. If you do wish to contact your child's class teacher by email, please email the office in the first instance: office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk The office will then forward messages to class teachers.


Teachers will continue to send emails from their class email address if they need to share information with you.

The trial period for this new system is until the end of the Spring Term, so for the next three weeks.

As always, we welcome any feedback on this system that we anticipate will improve our teacher's wellbeing. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Friends of Witchford Rackham: Easter Family Bingo – Friday 28th March at 6.30pm



	Friday 28 th March	Doughnut Day and Easter Bingo
	Wednesday 2 nd April	Disco for Reception to Year 6 (booking required nearer the time)
	Sunday 18 th May	Yard Sale

Preloved uniform sales:

FWR will be holding their preloved uniform sales before and after school, on the following dates:

Tuesday 18th March

Friday 25th April

Friday 16th May

Thursday 26th June

Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day and Down Syndrome Awareness Day:



School Council would like to invite all the children to come to school in their PE kits on Red Nose Day – Friday 21st March for a 'Fun-ny Run'. They would like children to add a funny accessory if they would like e.g. sweat bands, funny glasses, funny badge.

Each class will go outside and do their 'Fun-ny Run' and School Council are going to learn some funny warm up moves to do on the day. As we are also marking Down Syndrome Awareness on 21st March, please make sure you

wear your odd socks too!

There will be a donation collection point on the gates as the children arrive for school.

Year 2 Parent meal:

We would like to invite Year 2 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 27th March. 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 £3.60. **Meal choice and payment must be made by Friday 21st March please.**

Please complete this form to book your meal once payment has been made on MCAS:

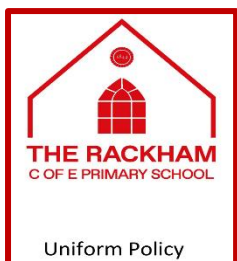
<https://forms.office.com/e/ggZaiQi7hb>

Unfortunately, we can only offer for one parent or carer to attend. This will be an annual event moving forwards so will be repeated next academic year.

Children in Year 2 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 would parents and carers of Year 2 children arrive for school dinner at 11.50am.

School Uniform: Footwear a reminder:



Branded and coloured trainers and boots are beginning to appear in school again. Branded and coloured footwear is inappropriate for school. We adapted our school policy to include trainers however our Uniform Policy states the following: **Black shoes or completely black trainers (no coloured logos) worn with white / grey / black / red socks or tights (not leggings).** [Policy Library | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

We politely request parents and carers to support the school and the uniform policy and send pupils into school wearing only completely black shoes or trainers. Thank you.

East Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres March 2025 What's On is here!

Please see the latest What's On guide and social media posts for further information about programmes and how to get in touch with the team. Link here: [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

Education Inclusion Family Advisor team newsletter:

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter
March 2025

A Message From Me
My name is Emily, I'm your school's link EIFA. As an EIFA I offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a Primary School aged child that may be experiencing some challenges such as routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour, worries or self-esteem. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, just contact me on the details below.

Parenting Top Tip - Low Demand
Low-demand parenting can help create a less stressful or less anxiety-inducing environment for children. This type of home environment can be especially critical for neurodivergent children who do not respond well to demands. It's based on trust, flexibility, and collaboration, and involves adapting the environment to the child's needs, but it may also be helpful for other families seeking to minimize stress and anxiety. Here are some principles of low-demand parenting:
Consider your language to reduce the perception of demands. Phrases like "I wonder whether..." and "Let's see if..." incorporate an element of choice.
Limit demands: Use declarative statements and be mindful of your language to reduce implicit demands, for example: "There are a lot of toys out and I'm worried about breaking them or one of us hurting ourselves".
Prioritise connections and emotional safety over traditional parenting techniques that focus on setting boundaries and consequences.

Activity Idea - 50 Things to Do
50 Things to Do Before You're Five in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a joint project between Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire Public Health. What parents do with their children at home makes a big difference to their long-term learning and wellbeing. Every 50 Things to Do activity helps children learn, with a focus on relationships and playing together, supported by their most important teacher - you. Find free or low-cost events near you on the website page or download the free app. Click here to find out more: cambspbooro.50thingstodo.org




Another Resource
March is the month of World Book Day. Click here to find out about interesting ideas to help you celebrate World Book Day with your child: [Families - World Book Day](#)

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint (www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer

Contact me directly on 07879 426 947 or
Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

What are Schemas?

Why do children do things? Have you ever noticed a child paint or draw a lovely picture, then cover it completely in scribble or paint? Have you ever given a present to a child and noticed they are more interested in the box than the toy? Schemas can provide an explanation. Schemas are patterns of repeatable behaviour which can often be noticed in young children's play. By recognising and then extending patterns of behaviour and thinking, parents and practitioners can plan an exciting and challenging learning environment to support children's interests learning.

	<u>Transporting:</u> Children will be fascinated with moving objects and themselves from place to place.
	<u>Trajectory:</u> Children will be interested in how things move and respond
	<u>Enveloping:</u> Children are learning about space and capacity.
	<u>Core and radial:</u> Children experiment with straight and turning movements with their bodies or through mark-making.
	<u>Connecting and Disconnecting:</u> Children are exploring how things join and separate.
	<u>Rotation:</u> Children show fascination with things that rotate.
	<u>Positioning:</u> Children will be interested in placing objects in lines, patterns or rows.
	<u>Enclosing:</u> Children are exploring concepts which relate to size, shape and pattern.
	<u>Orientation:</u> Children will be interested in looking at themselves, objects and the world around them from different angles, places and positions.

Term dates for 2025 – 2026:

Term dates for next academic year are now available on the website and can be found [here](#).

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils (**including jumpers and cardigans**) are now available from Sigma.

Pre-School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Primary School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents and carers and can be collected from Sigma Embroidery on Sedgeway Business Park, Witchford.

Easter holiday activities:



EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB
SPRING MEADOW

MON 7TH APRIL - THURS 17TH APRIL

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

Open to R - 7

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BOOKINGS

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

play

info@activeplayededucation.co.uk



WICKED
Performance Workshop
SHOWCASE IN A DAY!

15th, 16th & 17th April
9am-3pm parents welcome to watch the showcase at 2:30pm
Reception to year 6
£35 (£10 discount on early bird tickets, use the code WICKED10 at checkout - expires 15th March)

Taught by a Wicked Pink or Green Witch and professional Performer
Isle of Ely Primary School, School Rd, Ely CB6 2FG
07927206108
www.bigupthesky.co.uk

World of Performing

The Sandringham Estate Heads Up for SPRING

Family Seed Planting Workshops
April 15th 16th 17th



Join the Sandringham Education Team this Easter for a celebration of Spring and Growing.
Choose from a range of resources and ideas to make your own growing head.

All resources provided.

1.00pm-2.30pm

Located at the School Room in the Stables Courtyard.

£20 per child booking essential.

Suitable from 3 years upwards.

One adult receives admission to the garden with every ticket sold.

Parking extra.

WADSY:



Attendance:

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

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: 95.5%



Looking forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

19 th March	Parent's Information Evening Y6 SATs (booking required for Zoom link)
21 st March	Red Nose Day and Downs Syndrome awareness day
27 th March	Piano and choir concert 9.30am (booking required)
	Y2 Parent or carer school dinner (booking required)
28 th March	FWR Doughnut Day
28 th March	FWR Easter Bingo
2 nd April	Violin concert at 9.30am (booking required nearer the time)
	FWR Disco (booking required nearer the time)
4 th April	Autism awareness (Non uniform – rainbow of colour)
	Last day of term
	EASTER HOLIDAY