

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

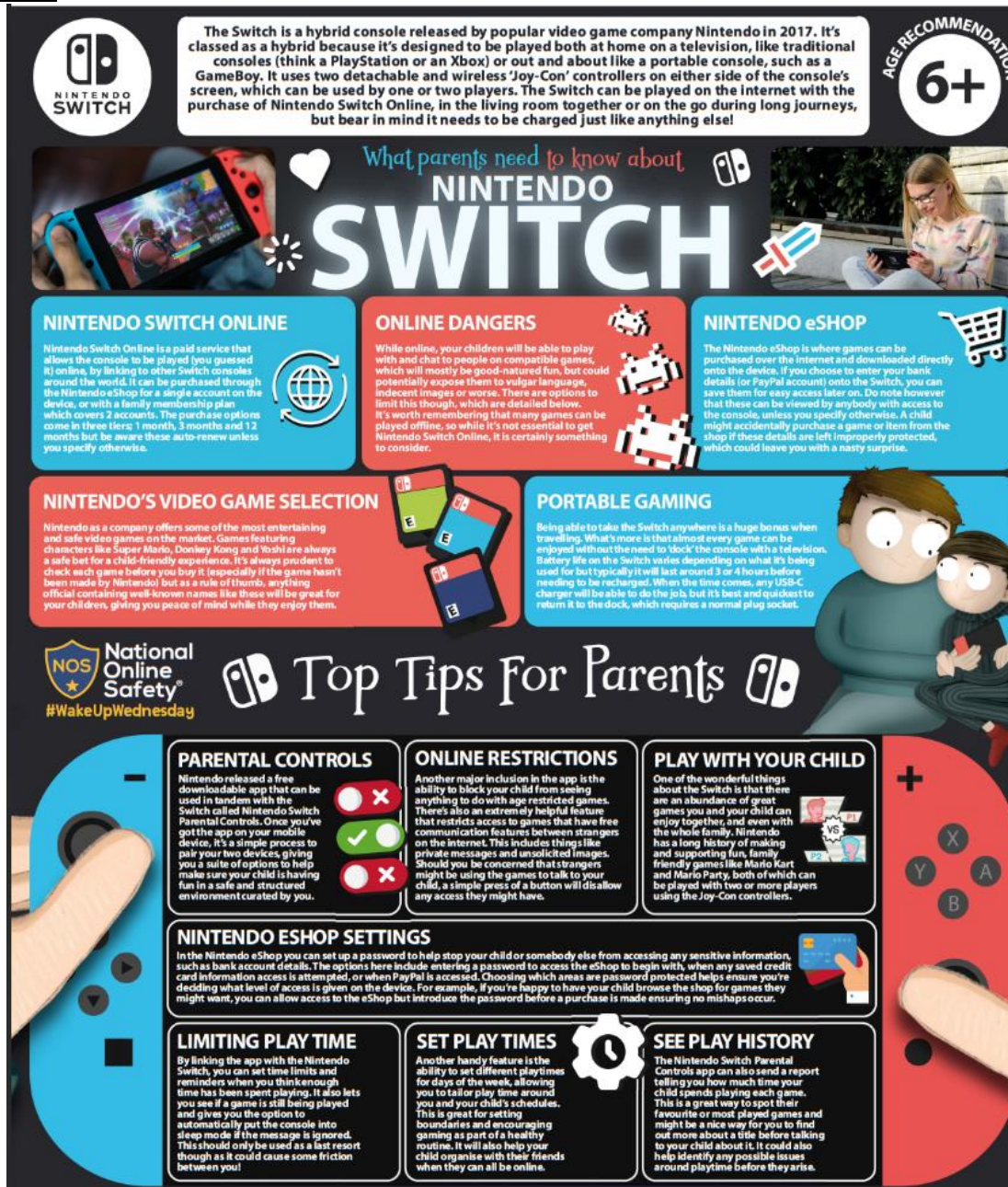
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4.13

16th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Year 6 pupils have taken part in statutory tests. Well done everyone, we are very proud of you all. We thank our wonderful FWR for supplying all pupils in Year 6 with a delicious doughnut to celebrate! Thank you!

Safeguarding:



NINTENDO SWITCH

The Switch is a hybrid console released by popular video game company Nintendo in 2017. It's classed as a hybrid because it's designed to be played both at home on a television, like traditional consoles (think a PlayStation or an Xbox) or out and about like a portable console, such as a GameBoy. It uses two detachable and wireless 'Joy-Con' controllers on either side of the console's screen, which can be used by one or two players. The Switch can be played on the internet with the purchase of Nintendo Switch Online, in the living room together or on the go during long journeys, but bear in mind it needs to be charged just like anything else!

AGE RECOMMENDATION
6+

What parents need to know about NINTENDO SWITCH

NINTENDO SWITCH ONLINE
Nintendo Switch Online is a paid service that allows the console to be played (you guessed it!) online, by linking to other Switch consoles around the world. It can be purchased through the Nintendo eShop for a single account on the device, or with a family membership plan which covers 2 accounts. The purchase options come in three tiers: 1 month, 3 months and 12 months but be aware these auto-renew unless you specify otherwise.

ONLINE DANGERS
While online, your children will be able to play with and chat to people on compatible games, which will mostly be good-natured fun, but could potentially expose them to vulgar language, indecent images or worse. There are options to limit this though, which are detailed below. It's worth remembering that many games can be played offline, so while it's not essential to get Nintendo Switch Online, it is certainly something to consider.

NINTENDO eSHOP
The Nintendo eShop is where games can be purchased over the internet and downloaded directly onto the device. If you choose to enter your bank details (or PayPal account) onto the Switch, you can save them for easy access later on. Do note however that these can be viewed by anybody with access to the console, unless you specify otherwise. A child might accidentally purchase a game or item from the shop if these details are left improperly protected, which could leave you with a nasty surprise.

NINTENDO'S VIDEO GAME SELECTION
Nintendo as a company offers some of the most entertaining and safe video games on the market. Games featuring characters like Super Mario, Donkey Kong and Yoshi are always a safe bet for a child-friendly experience. It's always prudent to check each game before you buy it (especially if the game hasn't been made by Nintendo) but as a rule of thumb, anything official containing well-known names like these will be great for your children, giving you peace of mind while they enjoy them.

PORTABLE GAMING
Being able to take the Switch anywhere is a huge bonus when travelling. What's more is that almost every game can be enjoyed without the need to hook the console up to a television. Battery life on the Switch varies depending on what it's being used for but typically it will last around 3 or 4 hours before needing to be recharged. When the time comes, any USB-C charger will be able to do the job, but it's best and quickest to return it to the dock, which requires a normal plug socket.

Top Tips For Parents

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

PARENTAL CONTROLS
Nintendo released a free downloadable app that can be used in tandem with the Switch called Nintendo Switch Parental Controls. Once you've got the app on your mobile device, it's a simple process to pair your two devices, giving you a suite of options to help make sure your child is having fun in a safe and structured environment curated by you.

ONLINE RESTRICTIONS
Another major inclusion in the app is the ability to block your child from seeing anything to do with age-restricted games. There's also an extremely helpful feature that restricts access to games that have free communication features between strangers on the internet. This includes things like private messages and unsolicited images. Should you be concerned that strangers might be using the games to talk to your child, a simple press of a button will disallow any access they might have.

PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD
One of the wonderful things about the Switch is that there are an abundance of great games you and your child can enjoy together, and even with the whole family. Nintendo has a long history of making and supporting fun, family-friendly games like Mario Kart and Mario Party, both of which can be played with two or more players using the Joy-Con controllers.

NINTENDO ESHOP SETTINGS
In the Nintendo eShop you can set up a password to help stop your child or somebody else from accessing any sensitive information, such as bank account details. The options here include: entering a password to access the eShop to begin with, when any saved credit card information access is attempted, or when PayPal is accessed. Choosing which areas are password protected helps ensure you're deciding what level of access is given on the device. For example, if you're happy to have your child browse the shop for games they might want, you can allow access to the eShop but introduce the password before a purchase is made ensuring no mishaps occur.

LIMITING PLAY TIME
By linking the app with the Nintendo Switch, you can set time limits and reminders when you think enough time has been spent playing. It also lets you see if a game is still being played and gives you the option to automatically put the console into sleep mode if the message is ignored. This should only be used as a last resort though as it could cause some friction between you!

SET PLAY TIMES
Another handy feature is the ability to set different playtimes for days of the week, allowing you to tailor play time around you and your child's schedules. This is great for setting boundaries and encouraging gaming as part of a healthy routine. It will also help your child organise their friends when they can all be online.

SEE PLAY HISTORY
The Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app can also send a report telling you how much time your child spends playing each game. This is a great way to spot their favourite or most played games and might be a nice way for you to find out more about a title before talking to your child about it. It could also help identify any possible issues around playtime before they arise.

Wellbeing and mental health:



Reception Parent meal:

We would like to invite Reception parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 5th June. 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 9am Monday 2nd June 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. This will be an annual event moving forwards so will be repeated next academic year.

Children in Reception 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 Reception children arrive for school dinner at 11.35am.

Drop off/collection:



We request that children are not allowed to run around behind staff cars, the container or the bike/scooter sheds. These areas are high risk as children cannot be seen by parents/carers and any damage incurred on staff cars will be investigated. Thank you for your support with this.

Request for items for Design Technology:



We would be grateful for any donations of fabric, felt or wool should any families have these items at home they no longer use. Thank you so much.

Carers Week:



Carers week is 9th June to 15th June 2025. Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face, and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to

identify as carers and access much-needed support.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, illness, mental health condition, addiction, or who needs extra help as they grow older. It isn't someone who volunteers or is employed to provide support.

More information here: [Home | Carers Week](#)

Parent and Carer feedback:

On the school website you will find a tab called 'You suggested, we listened'. As a school we wholeheartedly see the parent and carer community part of the team 'working together to be the best we can possibly be'. [You suggested, we listened | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

If you have a suggestion for the Senior Leadership Team, do please let us know:

News from the Pre-School:



Toys from home:

We are seeing lots of toys from home being brought into pre-school. We have plenty of toys at pre-school for everyone to play with so would be grateful if parents and carers would take any items their child brings on the journey to pre-school away with them at drop off.

Forest School:

Forest school sessions are taking place on Monday afternoon, Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. Children will need long trousers and t-shirt or long sleeve top with trainers or boots (no open sandals please) Please can you also ensure your child has a sunhat.

Spare clothes:

Please can we ask that children have a change of clothes in their bags each day. Our Pre-School stock of spare clothes is running very low so if you have any clothing to return or donate, we would be very grateful.

Thank you.

The Great Rackham Bake Off: 3rd June 2025



The Great Rackham Bake Off

When: 3rd June 2025
Where: Entries to the hall by 8.30 a.m.

Key Stage 2: Three sweet or savoury scones beautifully presented.
Key Stage 1: Three homemade decorated cup-cakes. Theme fairy tales.
Pre-school/EYFS: Decorate three biscuits. e.g. Rich Tea biscuits.



County Lines in Cambridgeshire

What do you know about County Lines? Free training

for parents and carers: The Ivison Trust (formerly known as Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)) are holding two evening seminars specifically for parents and carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a focus on County Lines and

Criminal Exploitation. These seminars will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation, sharing their experiences and advice on responding to risks.

The sessions will share what criminal exploitation is, with a focus on county lines and explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know. They will also cover trends in the local area and where to get advice and support if you are concerned.

For more information and to register a place visit [Parent webinars - county lines and criminal exploitation - Ivison Trust](#)

What parents will learn

- Learn what county lines is
- Understand what is happening in your local area
- Learn how exploiters groom children
- Understand the signs that your child might be at risk
- Know where to access support and advice if you have concerns

Upcoming webinars

- Cambridgeshire 17th June 2025 7:00pm – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)
- Peterborough 18th June 2025 7:00 – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)



Dates for your diary:

This Sunday 18th May: Yard Sale

Friday 27th June: Non uniform 'bring a bottle day'

Sunday 29th June: Funday Sunday

Wednesday 2nd July: Disco (Reception to Year 6)

FWR Pre-Loved Uniform Sales Summer Term:

Sales before and after school, on the following dates:

- Monday 14th July
- Wednesday 25th June

FWR Yard Sale THIS SUNDAY 18th May:



Sunday 18th May

9am – 12.30pm

£6 per 'yard'

Spaces also available at the school. Scan the QR code to book or pay in cash at the Post Office.

Bookings close midnight Thursday 15th May

Maps £1 on the day from the school.



Suncream: The UV rays are becoming greater in intensity and have recently been recorded at 4. The recommendation for applying suncream from the Government and Cancer Research UK is when the UV levels are 3+. Parents and Carers are reminded to send sun cream into school with their child. Children will be reminded to apply cream at lunchtime. Children should arrive on site already wearing suncream please. We recommend sunscreen sticks or lotions for easy application. Some pupils find the sprays tricky to use.

Girl Guiding in Witchford:

Did you know Girlguiding is active in your community? 1st Witchford Rainbows, 1st Witchford Brownies and 1st Witchford Guides provide a range of extracurricular activities for girls aged 4-7, 7-10 and 10-14. We work through a variety of Girlguiding themes, go on adventures, play games, do crafts, bake, take part in community events, undertake challenges, learn new skills and most importantly, have FUN! Would your daughter like to join us? We meet in Witchford on Tuesdays in term time, 4:30-5:30 for Rainbows, 6:00-7:30 for Brownies, and Guides meet 6:30-8:00. Rainbows is currently at capacity and running a waiting list, but there are spaces available at Brownies and Guides. Please see www.girlguiding.org.uk for more information, or contact us directly using witchfordrainbows@gmail.com / witchfordbrownies@gmail.com / witchfordguides@gmail.com.

Would you like to volunteer with Girlguiding? We help all girls to know they can do anything! Are you curious, adaptable, thoughtful, ambitious? Could your skills compliment Girlguiding in Witchford? Please see www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested for more information.

Your local Girlguiding leaders, Ellen, Robyn, Brown Owl, Arctic Owl, Butterfly and Squirrel.

Fostering in Cambridgeshire:

Thinking of fostering?

Come along and learn more.

 **FosterEast**

 **Monday 19 May 2025**

 **7.30 - 8.30pm**

 **Main Hall**
The Lighthouse Centre
13 Lynn Road
Ely CB7 4EG



Providing a safe, loving family for a child or young person is a deeply rewarding experience. Many people consider fostering at some point - how about now?

What will be included in this information session:

- The basics of fostering
- Why children in Cambridgeshire need care
- The types of fostering arrangements and how they might be right for you
- Stories from local carers about the difference they've made in children's lives and how fostering has enriched their own lives
- Opportunity for questions and discussion

Get in touch with us:

 **0800 052 0078**  **fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Activities and events:



Under 6 and Under 7 Training/Taster Open Day Saturday 17th May 2025 1100-1200 at Witchford Village College

For children who will be going into the following school years in September 2025:

- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2

Any questions please message:
chairman@witchfordcoltsfc.co.uk

(grass pitch behind 3G)

- We are looking for children, of any ability, to join next seasons Academy and Under 7s team.
- Please come and join us for a supervised fun session!
- Please wear shin pads and trainers (spare shin pads available on the day) and bring a water bottle.

DATES:
TUESDAY 27th MAY - FRIDAY 30th MAY

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

MAY HALF TERM

SPRING MEADOW HOLIDAY CLUB

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

Bookings

SCAN THE QR CODE OR
info@ctiveplayededucation.co.uk

HADDENHAM ARTS CENTRE

Saturday 31st May 2025

£35 per session or £60 for both if booking both directly through the art centre

FacePaint Like a Pro

Florals, Butterflies and Rainbows (10:00-12:30)
&
Animals and Nature (1:30-3:00)

Join us at the Haddenham Arts Centre for a day of face painting fun! Taught by Emma Cammack, an industry expert, the course will cover all aspects of face painting health and safety as well as the skills needed to create beautiful designs. Suitable for beginners or those with some experience & ideal for those looking to face paint for fun, have an income sideline or fund raise.

To book please contact the Haddenham Arts Centre
Phone: 01353 749188
Email: haddenhamarts@gmail.com

SEAHORSE SWIM SCHOOL

5 DAY INTENSIVE COURSE

BOOK NOW!

Intensive swimming lessons

SESSION DATES: **MONDAY 26th MAY - FRIDAY 30th MAY**

5 DAY INTENSIVE COURSE

£110 PER SWIMMER

KING'S ELY HEATED OUTDOOR POOL

INDEPENDENT LESSONS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

30 MINUTES LESSONS FROM 9-11AM

FUN SWIMMING LESSONS

3:1 CLASS RATIO

[01353 482 492](tel:01353482492) www.seahorseswimely.co.uk

woodland Family Forest School

The Sandringham Estate Family Forest School With Woodland Julie May Half Term

Take a walk on the wildside!

Dens, Bugs, Slackline, Hammocks, Tools, Fairies & more

Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th May

Sandringham Estate 10.30pm-12.00pm

Booking essential at <https://sandringhamestate.co.uk>

£10.00 per child (adults free). Suitable for all ages children must be accompanied by an adult

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.

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: 94.3%



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

21 st May 22 nd May 23 rd May	Year 5/6 Colchester Zoo trip Last day of term for pupils Professional Development Day for teachers
26 th May	HALF TERM
2 nd June 5 th June	Year 6 Bikeability this week Reception Classes Parent meal (booking required)
9 th June 12 th June	EYFS History off the Page event Class photos (Pre-School to Year 6)
19 th June 20 th June	Year 1 trip to Audley End House and Gardens Year 2 trip to Audley End House and Gardens
25 th June 27 th June 27 th June 29 th June	FWR Uniform sale Year 3/4 History off the Page event Non uniform 'bring a bottle day' for FWR Funday Sunday Funday Sunday
2 nd July	FWR Disco – Reception to Year 6 (booking required nearer the time)
7 th July 10 th July 11 th July	Move up afternoon Pre-School, EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (booking required nearer the time) KS2 Sports Day (booking required nearer the time)
14 th July 16 th July 17 th July 17 th July 17 th July 18 th July	FWR Uniform sale Parent's Evening (booking required nearer the time) Piano and Choir Concert at 9.30am (booking required nearer the time) Parent's Evening (booking required nearer the time) Reserve Sports Day for Pre-School, EYFS and KS1 Reserve Sports Day for KS2
21 st July 22 nd July 22 nd July 22 nd July 23 rd July	Year 6 Leaver's BBQ (booking required nearer the time) Year 6 Leaver's Assembly to parents and carers (booking required nearer the time) Year 6 Parent or carer school buffet invitation Last day for children Professional Development Day for teachers
	SUMMER HOLIDAY