



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.

21st May 2026

Message from Miss Turner

What a busy half term this has been. Thank you to families who adjusted their plans to attend Sports Day. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to school. We welcome any feedback. Wishing everyone a restful half term. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 1st June.

Attendance

This week's attendance: 90.2 %

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

Reminder for considerate parking

The pub has asked we remind parents and carers not to park in the pub car park at pick up. Thank you for your cooperation and avoiding this area.

Safeguarding

If you think a child or an adult with care and support needs is in immediate danger, phone 999.

Make a referral to Children's Services:

[Make a referral to Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Services - Instructions and Data Protection - Cambridgeshire County Council website \(achieveservice.com\)](#)

NSPCC website:

[NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

NSPCC website for information about child protection:

[Child protection system in the UK | NSPCC Learning](#)

Reporting a crime:

[Contact us | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

Wellbeing & Mental Health

Your Education Inclusion Family Advisor



Emily Norman

Education Inclusion Family Advisors offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence

As Education Inclusion Family Advisors, we offer support in various ways:

- Up to six 1:1 sessions with parents/carers (virtually, or face to face in your child's school if required)
- Workshops on specific topics (currently held virtually)
- Signposting to other services such as parenting courses and support services

For more information, please speak to your school's office, or contact me directly on ☎ 07879 426 947 /

✉ Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by using this link or QR code to request support:

<https://forms.office.com/e/WEiiqqr7G>



cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The RED Mile, Mile a day in May

THE R.E.D MILE **Mile a Day in May** **RUN EVERY DAY**

Will you walk/jog/run/skip one mile each day throughout May?

Please help us by raising funds for an all weather track for the children at The Rackham C of E Primary School and Pre-School

THE RACKHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

"The R.E.D Mile, Mile a day in May". We ask for children, parents, families, staff to commit to running / walking / swimming / skipping one mile every day throughout May, and ask them to gain sponsorship from friends, family and colleagues etc.

Just Giving link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/therackhamcofe-primaryschool>

AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR
£1,550

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.

Reception Tennis Festival

On Tuesday 2nd June, Reception children will all have the opportunity to take part in a tennis roadshow at school.

Please could all Reception children come to school in their PE kits on this day. This will replace our Friday PE session for this week only.

Reception Parent Meal

We would like to invite Reception parents or carers to join us for school dinner at **11:45am on Thursday 4th June**.

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 **today, Thursday 21st May**.

Once payment has been made, please complete **this form** to book your meal or let us know that you will be bringing a packed lunch. Children who prefer to have a home packed lunch will still have opportunity for their parent or carer to join them. We can only offer for one parent or carer attend and are not able to accommodate younger siblings.

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.

Request for donations for Funday

Do you have any soft toys that you would be willing to donate? Our Reception classes are looking for good condition soft toys of all shapes and sizes for their stall at Funday. Please bring any donations to the office. Thank you.

Primary School Swimming Lessons

Swimming will begin on 1st June. Please see below for the timetable.

For swimming sessions, the children will need to **wear a one-piece swimming costume** or **fitted swimming trunks**. UV swimming t-shirts are allowed. Please do not send your child with a bikini or knee-length baggy swimming shorts as these are not appropriate or practical and your child will be unable to enter the pool.

In line with the Cambridgeshire swimming policy, children will not wear goggles as our focus is on developing water confidence and safety. **Earrings must be removed** before school on our swimming day.

Please don't forget to also send your child with a **named towel**. All other swimming aids will be provided by school. Any child with hair that is longer than chin length or a fringe that impedes their vision when wet will be expected to wear their own swimming hat. **Swimming hats** are available for £1.50 and can be purchased via your MCAS account.

Class	Swimming	Games
Rowan	Thursday	Friday
Ash	Wednesday	Friday
Chestnut	Friday	Tuesday
Beech	Thursday	Monday
Larch	Wednesday	Monday
Hazel	Friday	Wednesday
Sycamore	Thursday	Tuesday
Elm	Monday	Wednesday
Willow	Monday - Girls Tuesday - Boys	Friday
Cedar	Tuesday - Boys Wednesday - Girls	Friday
Oak	Monday - Girls Tuesday - Boys	Friday

FWR - Save the Date

Sunday 7th June



Saturday 27th June



Please follow [this link](#) to book tickets

Funday Sunday Non-Uniform Day Friday 5th June

On Friday 5th June we will be having a non-uniform day for FWR.

Instead of paying to wear non-uniform, we are asking parents and carers to donate a full in-date bottle.

The bottle could be anything (bubble bath, a bottle of ketchup, a bottle of wine etc).

FWR will use the donated bottles on the Funday Sunday bottle stall.

Funday Sunday 7th June


Children will be bringing home tickets for the Grand Prize Draw which will take place at Funday Sunday on 7th June. Please do sell or buy as many as possible and return the cash and ticket stubs to the office by Monday 1st June. More books are available from the office if you require them.

Changes ahead


Parents and Carers may have noticed a change in the choice of Bible verse The Rackham is now using.

This has been prompted through discussions with the Diocese of Ely, Foundation Governor, RE Lead and myself as Headteacher.


It has been chosen to represent our philosophy as an inclusive school and offers meaning to everyone within the school community, all faiths and none.



Our School Christian Vision:
**Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up.**
1 Thessalonians 5.11

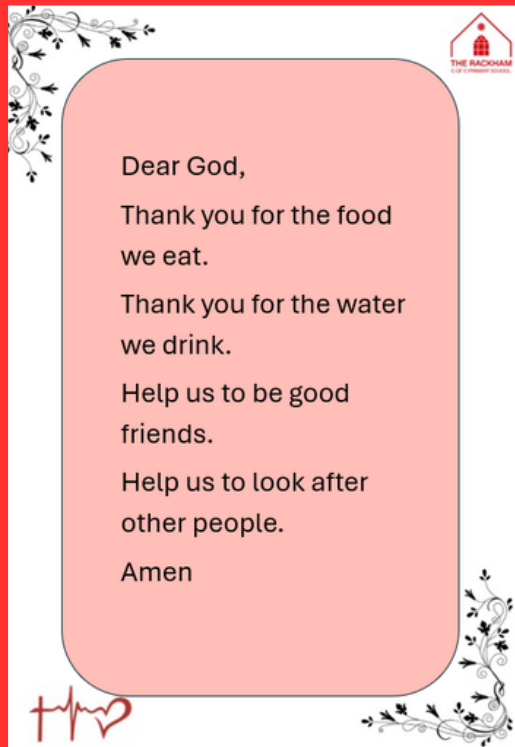


Our Core Christian Values:
Faith, hope and love.




Our Guiding Principle
**Working together to be the best
we can possibly be.**

Collective Worship Council Prayer For This Week



Dear God,
Thank you for the food
we eat.
Thank you for the water
we drink.
Help us to be good
friends.
Help us to look after
other people.
Amen



Wishing everyone a restful half term holiday.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on Monday 1st June.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Activities and Events

We will NOT tolerate behaviour that is:

- ☹ thre@tening,
- ☹ abusive or
- ☹ violent

NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

We strive to create a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff alike. And we WILL take action when necessary.

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

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

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Emily Norman

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Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Transition to Secondary School Workshops

The EFA team would like to present our Transition to Secondary School online workshops for April to June.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Transition to Secondary School Part 1	Thursday, 30 April 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Contact Us Learn More
Transition to Secondary School Part 2	Tuesday, 5 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Contact Us Learn More
Transition to Secondary School Part 1	Tuesday, 12 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Contact Us Learn More
Transition to Secondary School Part 2	Thursday, 14 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Contact Us Learn More
Transition to Secondary School Part 1	Tuesday, 9 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Contact Us Learn More
Transition to Secondary School Part 2	Thursday, 11 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Contact Us Learn More

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

Mile a Day in May

Will you walk/jog/run/skip one mile each day throughout May?

Please help us by raising funds for an all weather track for the children at The Rackham C of E Primary School and Pre-School

THE R.E.D MILE **RUN EVERY DAY**

OPEN TRIALS

TRIALS IN:

- PETERBOROUGH
- CAMBRIDGESHIRE
- HERTFORDSHIRE
- SUFFOLK
- SURREY

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

Rainbows Volunteer with us

1st Witchford Rainbows

We open up a world of possibilities for girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they can do anything.

It's totally flexible, you can help as much or as little as you want.

Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Rainbow group needs: An enthusiastic leader, leader in training and unit helpers!

1st Witchford Rainbows meets on Tuesdays in term time, 4:30 - 5:30. Please contact Rosemary Brown, leader, witchfordrainbows@gmail.com, 07957 247088.

girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Brownies Volunteer with us

1st Witchford Brownies

We open up a world of possibilities for girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they can do anything.

It's totally flexible, you can help as much or as little as you want.

Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Brownie group needs: An enthusiastic leader, leader in training and unit helpers!

1st Witchford Brownies meets on Tuesdays in term time, 6:00 - 7:30. Please contact Rosemary Brown, leader, witchfordbrownies@gmail.com, 07957 247088.

girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

MAY HALF TERM CRASH COURSES

TUESDAY 26 - FRIDAY 29

CLIMBING CRASH COURSE

age 7+ £20 for 4 days

age 4-7 £60 for 4 days

SWIMMING CRASH COURSE

ages 1, 3 & 5 2 - 2:30pm

ages 2, 4 & 6 2:30 - 3pm

£47.84 for 4 days

SUPERVISION AVAILABLE for children attending both climbing and swimming

1-2-1 climbing and swimming coaching also available, contact sportscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for further information

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.



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

May 3 Morning Prayer

May 10th Morning Prayer

May 17th Morning Prayer

May 24 Communion

May 31st Morning prayer/group Communion Haddenham

June 7 Morning Prayer

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 .