

**Working together to be the best we can possibly be.**

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

24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a terrific week at The Rackham. Pupils have demonstrated consistent positive engagement with their education from Pre-School to Year 6. Well done everyone!

**Safeguarding:**

## What Parents and Carers Need to Know about APPLE GUIDED ACCESS

IPhones and iPads don't offer separate user accounts. So when you hand your Apple device to a child to play a game or watch a video, you're also handing them access to your email, the web, messaging and numerous other apps through which they could accidentally do something regrettable.

Apple Guided Access solves this potential problem by letting you restrict the iPhone or iPad to one particular app whenever your child uses the device. If they try and leave that app, they will be asked for a password or Face ID, meaning they can't access anything they shouldn't elsewhere on the device. Here, we show you how to find and set up the Guided Access feature, so you can confidently let your child borrow your iPhone or iPad.

### How to set it up...

**Step 1**  
To switch on Guided Access, open your Apple device's settings – that's the one with the cog icon, normally found on the first of your home screens.

**Step 2**  
In the Settings menu, scroll down and select Accessibility, then scroll down and select Guided Access.

**Step 3**  
Enable Guided Access by tapping the toggle at the top. It should turn green, and a new series of options will appear.

**Step 4**  
You can now customise Guided Access. Under Passcode Settings, for example, you can set a six-digit passcode that must be entered to turn Guided Access back off. You'll also find an option to quit Guided Access using Face ID if your device has that feature.

**Step 5**  
There are audio options, such as scheduling an alert if you decide to set a time limit on Guided Access – to restrict gaming sessions to an hour, say. You can also set an alarm or spoken warning for when the time is almost up, so your child isn't suddenly kicked out of the app. It's a good way to avoid tantrums!

**Step 6**  
Finally, you can alter the length of time before the device auto-locks. If your child is reading on the device's Kindle app, for example, you might want to stop the screen locking after only two minutes of nobody touching it – so they can read happily without interruption. You can select from pre-set time periods or disable the lock function altogether.

### How to switch it on...

**Step 1**  
When you need to start a Guided Access session, open the app your child wishes to use and then press the home/power button or side button on your device three times in quick succession.

**Step 2**  
You can now select parts of the screen that you'd like to lock. If your child's reading on your Kindle app, for example, you could disable the icon that takes them to the main Kindle library – so they don't stumble across books written for an adult audience.


**Step 3**  
The Options menu in the bottom right allows you to set a time limit for the session. Use the scrollable menu to specify the time limit in minutes or hours.


**Step 4**  
Other options in this menu let you control access to settings such as the volume. So if your child's listening to music, you could lock the volume buttons (once it's set to a suitable level) so they can't damage their hearing by playing it too loud.

**Step 5**  
When everything is set up how you want it, click Start. Your child will now not be able to leave that app. If they press the home button to exit, as usual, it will do nothing.

**Step 6**  
The only way to leave Guided Access is to triple-click the home/power or side button (or double-click if you set up the option to exit via Face ID). Without Face ID, you'll need the six-digit passcode to return to your home screen. Obviously, don't forget that code or let your child find out what it is!

**Meet Our Expert**  
Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has writes regularly about internet safety issues.





**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday





### **Notices from the Pre-School:**



Parents and carers with children who need nappies or pull ups are requested to provide these and send in with their child to pre-school. A reminder for all children in session to bring a coat, hat and gloves for outside play. A reminder too for children to wear warm indoor clothes to session while it is so cold outside. Sometimes when children at Pre-School have an accident, spare clothes are used. We politely request and remind parents and carers to wash and return any spare clothes to pre-school.

We completely understand that some pre-school children want to bring in a favourite toy from home to pre-school however we are finding the number and size of toys currently being brought into session is becoming a challenge. We would be extremely grateful if parents and carers would take home toys brought to pre-school. Thank you for your help.

Guidance at The Rackham for drinks brought to school is only to bring water. If this poses a challenge for you or your child, please speak with the school office in the first instance.

### **Items from home coming into school:**

We have noticed an increased number of cuddly toys; pencil cases and fidgets being brought into school by our pupils.

We would prefer these items to remain at home so if your child mentions a need for a toy or fidget toy please contact us first so we have better understanding of the reasons why.

Without contact from parents or carers, we request items to stay at home. Thank you for your support on this.

### **You suggested, we listened: Trackit Lights:**



We have considered the suggestion from parents and carers to see the orange and yellow Trackit Lights that indicate warnings given to pupils for anti-social behaviours and agree it is a really good idea. Please keep checking your Trackit Light app and the orange and yellow Trackits should soon be visible. If you would like some help downloading the app, please speak to the office in the first instance.

**This weekend: Great Garden Bird Watch:** To take part is easy, sign up here: [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) The RSPB is asking homeowners, gardeners and renters around the UK to take part in its Big Garden Birdwatch. The world's largest garden wildlife survey is returning for 2025 with the goal of helping to understand the garden bird population. The Big Garden Birdwatch takes place on 24th, 25th and 26th January this year. To take part you just need to spend an hour watching and counting the birds in your garden, local park or balcony and sending your results to the RSPB.



**Year 3 Parent and Carer School Dinner: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025:** We

would like to invite Year 3 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January. The meal will be our extremely popular (and very delicious) roast dinner.

**School 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 today, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January please.**

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

<https://forms.office.com/e/VB1gSULyN2>

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 3 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 3 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.


**Parent view: Would you be interested?**



We may have the opportunity to offer after school Spanish workshops where pupils would learn Spanish. The workshops would be a fun way to learn a language. We would like to find out if this offer would be of interest. The workshops would run for one hour a week and will cost £12 a session on a Tuesday after school. Please let us know if you would be interested in finding out more about this potential offer by completing this form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/fByxKZ4J2W>

**FWR – Dates for your diary:**

	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Film Night for Reception to Year 6 (booking required nearer the time)
	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Doughnut Day and Easter Bingo
	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Disco for Reception to Year 6 (booking required nearer the time)
	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Yard Sale

**FREE: Family First magazine:**



Proudly supporting  in improving the physical & mental wellbeing of families living in England

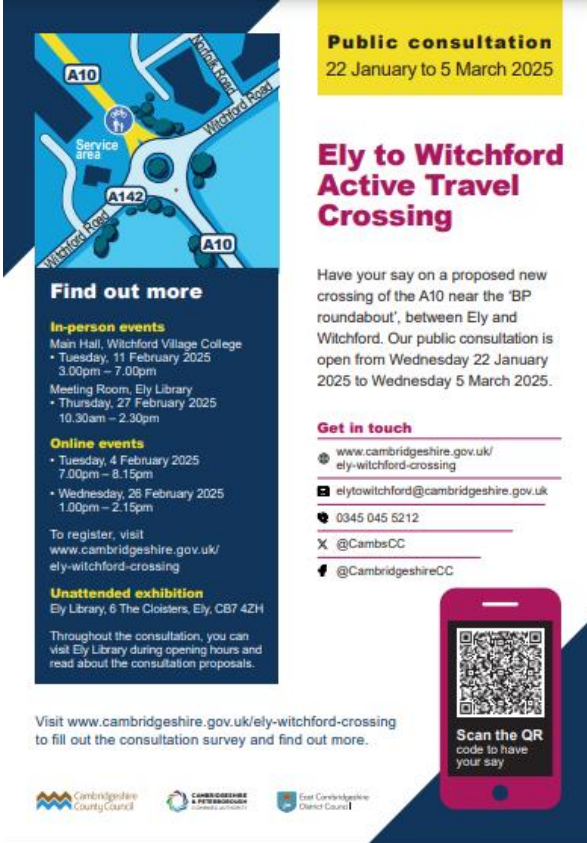
Use this link to download your free copy: <https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue1-25>

**Term dates for 2025 – 2026:**

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



## Ely to Witchford Active Travel Crossing Project Team:



**Public consultation**  
22 January to 5 March 2025

### Ely to Witchford Active Travel Crossing

Have your say on a proposed new crossing of the A10 near the 'BP roundabout', between Ely and Witchford. Our public consultation is open from Wednesday 22 January 2025 to Wednesday 5 March 2025.

**Find out more**

**In-person events**

- Main Hall, Witchford Village College  
• Tuesday, 11 February 2025  
3.00pm – 7.00pm
- Meeting Room, Ely Library  
• Thursday, 27 February 2025  
10.30am – 2.30pm

**Online events**

- Tuesday, 4 February 2025  
7.00pm – 8.15pm
- Wednesday, 26 February 2025  
1.00pm – 2.15pm

To register, visit  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing)

**Unattended exhibition**  
Ely Library, 6 The Cloisters, Ely, CB7 4ZH

Throughout the consultation, you can visit Ely Library during opening hours and read about the consultation proposals.

**Get in touch**

- [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing)
- [elytowitchford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:elytowitchford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)
- 0345 045 5212
- @CamsCC
- @CambridgeshireCC

Visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing) to fill out the consultation survey and find out more.

Cambridgeshire County Council | Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Partnership | East Cambridgeshire District Council

### Public Consultation Details

The public consultation is open from 12.00pm Wednesday 22 January and closes 11.59pm on Wednesday 5 March.

**Consultation page:** [Ely to Witchford Active Travel Crossing | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

**Telephone:** 0345 045 5212

**Email:** [elytowitchford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:elytowitchford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Address:** ALC2604, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4YE

#### **In person events:**

- Main Hall, Witchford Village College. Tuesday, 11 February. 3.00pm – 7.00pm
- Meeting Room, Ely Library. Thursday, 27 February. 10.30am – 2.30pm

#### **Online events:**

- Tuesday, 4 February. 7.00pm – 8.15pm. Register here: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- Wednesday, 26 February. 1.00pm – 2.15pm. Register here: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

#### **Unmanned exhibition:**

Throughout the consultation you can visit Ely Library during opening hours and read about the consultation and proposals.








**Education Inclusion Family Advisor team workshops:**



## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

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

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

Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Tuesday, 14 January 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="https://shorturl.at/75sOj">https://shorturl.at/75sOj</a> or	
Digital Safety	Thursday, 16 January 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="https://shorturl.at/J7jT9">https://shorturl.at/J7jT9</a> or	
Supporting Your Child with Sleep	Tuesday, 21 January 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="https://shorturl.at/S2Tcx">https://shorturl.at/S2Tcx</a> or	
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Anger	Thursday, 30 January 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="https://shorturl.at/moV7o">https://shorturl.at/moV7o</a> or	
Introduction to Family Wellbeing	Tuesday, 4 February 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="https://shorturl.at/TGbQ9">https://shorturl.at/TGbQ9</a> or	
Responding to Behaviours that Challenge Us.	Thursday, 6 February 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="https://shorturl.at/zbSrv">https://shorturl.at/zbSrv</a> or	
Managing Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 11 February 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="https://shorturl.at/uf62T">https://shorturl.at/uf62T</a> or	

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

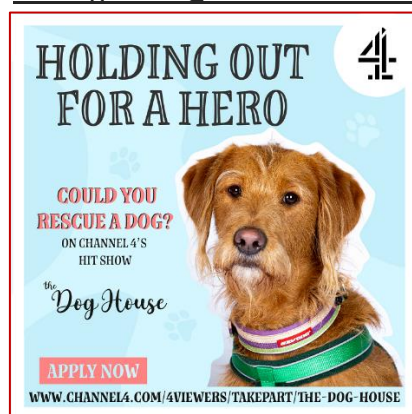


**The Dog House:**

Could you provide a loving home for a rescue dog? The Channel 4 series, The Dog House is looking for couples, individuals, friends and families who are seriously considering bringing a rescue dog into their lives and are willing to share their reasons for doing so.

Please follow this link to apply:

[The Dog House | Channel 4](#) or email [thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk](mailto:thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk)





## Holiday clubs and activities

### The Sandringham Estate Snowdrop Creative Workshops

February Half Term  
Tuesday 18th  
Wednesday 19th  
Thursday 20th  
1-2.30pm  
£20 per person  
Suitable from 3 years upwards.  
One adult receives entry to the garden with every child's ticket purchased. Parking extra.

Join the Sandringham Education Team for an afternoon of creativity. Make your own snowdrop design from a range of ideas and media. All resources provided. Located at the School Room in the Stables Courtyard

**Booking Essential**  
<https://sandringhamestate.co.uk/events/february-half-term>

### Spring Meadow HOLIDAY CLUB

17th Feb - 21st Feb 2025

New Year 7 area with Pool Tables, Just Dance and Computer Consoles!

Open to R - 7

8.00 - 5.45 pm £34  
9.00 - 4.00 pm £26

Bookings  
Scan the QR code OR  
[info@activeplayducaton.co.uk](mailto:info@activeplayducaton.co.uk)

# BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday camps!!!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2025!  
EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE **SCHOOL10** FOR AN EXTRA £10 OFF YOUR BOOKING!  
SAVE UP TO £110!

- 4½ to 14 year olds!
- 80+ Activities!
- Choice each session!
- Specialist Courses!
- Flexible bookings!

Minimum 2 days. \*Not to be used in conjunction with other offer codes

[barracudas.co.uk](http://barracudas.co.uk)  
01480 467 567

OFSTED REGISTERED

Trustpilot ★★★★★

### 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: 94.08%



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner



**Dates for your diary:**

30 <sup>th</sup> January	Y3 Parent or carer school dinner (bookings required)
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4 to Burwell House (10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> February)
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
12 <sup>th</sup> February	FWR Film Night (booking required nearer the time)
	HALF TERM
W\C 24 <sup>th</sup> February	
W\C 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parent's Evenings this week
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent's Information Evening Y6 SATs (booking required nearer the time)
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 Parent or carer school dinner (booking required nearer the time)
28 <sup>th</sup> March	FWR Doughnut Day
28 <sup>th</sup> March	FWR Easter Bingo
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	FWR Disco (booking required nearer the time)
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of term
	EASTER HOLIDAY