



**RACKHAM**  
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is Mental Health Awareness week. Our children have been taking part, please see @RackhamPrimary on twitter for some photos of activities in classrooms.

### **Mental Health support in Ely**

Please see the attached information from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) who are part of a new Government initiative to support the mental health of our students. Referrals to MHST are via school so please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance if you feel it would be beneficial to access this service.

### **Safeguarding: our children and the internet**

Unfortunately, not all programmes that are online are suitable for our children, even if they say they are. This week we have dealt with children who are extremely scared about watching the Poppy Playtime online series. It is also possible to purchase figures from the series which are highly inappropriate for young children.

Unfortunately, letting your child watch online programmes, including Kids YouTube, means there is no guarantee that inappropriate language or images will be removed. **Monitoring what our children are watching remains the responsibility of parents**, please ensure you monitor what your child is watching online.

### **School dinners**

The new menu for next half term is attached. Please ensure you have booked meals for your child(ren) in advance.

### **Clubs**

Clubs beginning or continuing w\c 20<sup>th</sup> February are available to book on your child's MCAS account. After school and lunchtime football clubs will also begin again after half term. If your child no longer wishes to attend a club, please let the office know.

### **New date for Film Night**

Film Night is moving from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. Look out for more details coming soon.

### **FREE storytelling workshops**

**[Free Online Storytelling Workshops – Open to all Reception and Nursery Class staff and parents - 20th February and 8th March!](#)**

Cassandra Wye's online workshop will explore the range of storytelling techniques that can be used to enable storytelling to be accessible to every audience, including children who are learning to speak more than one language and children with special educational needs or disabilities. This "Making Storytelling Open To All" workshop on Monday 20th February and Wednesday 8th March from 7pm. Events will last 1hour.

**[Free Online Storytelling Sessions – Open to all Reception and Nursery Classes, parents and children aged 2 to 5 – 11th March and 17th March!](#)**

This online "Take A Little Walk Little Bear" interactive storytelling session will be held on Saturday 11th March from 10.30am and Friday 17th March from 9.45am. This is a sensory storytelling adventure told through sign, movement, sound and story together with especially made props and lots of audience participation. These 30-minute sessions are free for families and carers of children aged 2-5 years old, childminders, play-groups, pre-schools, nurseries, reception classes, and home-schoolers to attend.

**Help Cambridge University with research**

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are supporting the University of Cambridge with a study into the appetites of Primary School-aged children. To support this work, they are kindly asking Primary Schools to invite parents to take part in a short (10- 15 minute) online survey led by the University of Cambridge. The findings will help health professionals to identify and support children with unusually high or low appetites and to create new guidance on healthy patterns of eating and weight gain. For more information and to take part, please see link below:

[Appetypes: Survey of Appetite Types in Primary School Children - MRC Epidemiology Unit \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

**FREE half day awareness training from the Fatherhood Institute around Engaging Fathers**

The Dad Factor - Engaging Fathers in Education Settings

This course will help school staff to explore the social, emotional and educational benefits of involving fathers in children's learning; mobilise fathers as a resource; evaluate the school's father-engagement, and devise strategies to build father-inclusive learning environments. Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 10:00 to 12:30.

Online. Free. To book email: [rpctraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:rpctraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Easter holiday swimming courses**

Ely Aqua swim school is offering a four day Easter Intensive Course from April 3<sup>rd</sup> - April 6<sup>th</sup> at The Empress Pool in Chatteris. Class sizes of 2 to 3 swimmers in each lesson and are ideal for children that do not cope well in larger groups and also support children with SEND. The pool offers a small team of highly qualified ASA Swim England teachers who are DBS checked.

Wishing you all a restful half term break.

Best wishes,



Miss Turner  
Headteacher

