



RACKHAM
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Main Street
Witchford
Ely
Cambridgeshire
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Friday 10th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems hard to believe that we are already half way through this half term.

Red Nose Day:

Friday 17th March is Red Nose Day. Here at The Rackham, we will be on a mission to find the funniest class in our school. Leading up to the day, the children will be sharing their funny jokes in their classes to decide which joke they would like to enter in our whole school joke competition. On Red Nose Day we will then share the funniest jokes from each class and a special V.I.P panel of judges will decide which class should be crowned 'The Rackham's Funniest Class'. We would love you to get involved and support your child with rehearsing a funny children's joke to share. If you would like to make a donation to this great cause please follow this link:

[Donate | Comic Relief](#)

Reminder: World Down Syndrome Day (WSD): Tuesday 21st March 2023:

On Tuesday 21st March 2023, children and adults at The Rackham are invited to come to school dressed in the brightest socks they can find either in pairs or one of each of a favourite pair. The brighter the socks, the better! The suggested donation is £1 for this day. Funds raised will be passed to the WSD charity.

Open morning for Key Stage One:

Key Stage One open morning (Chestnut, Beech and Larch classes) will be on Tuesday 14th March. Parents are invited to come into the hall after drop off for a cup of tea. Mrs RussellCook will then lead a presentation before parents are invited into class to meet their children and work alongside them. The open morning will last approximately 1 hour.

Please complete this form if you would like to attend: <https://forms.office.com/e/LXusb8YbDM>

NEU proposed strike days 15th and 16th March 2023:

At the time of writing, The Rackham will be open on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023. Further updates will be sent to parents and carers on Monday 13th March.

Safeguarding: Small gate onto Main Street

We have ordered a new metal gate to replace the existing wooden one. Would you please ensure the small wooden gate is closed and bolted once used. Thank you for your help.

Safeguarding: Childnet

Parents and carers may find this website useful to seek guidance and information about keeping our children safe online: [Childnet — Online safety for young people](#)

The Child and Family Centre in Ely:

The Child and Family Centre in Ely offers support groups, events, activities, courses and support for families with children aged 0- 19.

Facebook page: [East Cambs Child and Family Centres | Ely | Facebook](#)

Website: [Child and Family Centres - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

We have three local centres: Ely, Littleport, Soham. Details: [Directory of Services \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)

World Autism Acceptance Week 27th March – 2nd April 2023:

We will be marking World Autism Acceptance Week on Friday 31st March 2023. Everyone will be invited to come to school wearing any colour shade of top they wish, to make a rainbow of colour in each classroom. Children will wear school uniform apart from their top. The greater variety of rainbow colours we have, the broader our Rackham spectrum of colour will be.

Parking:

Our PCSO has informed us they will be making drop-ins to monitor parking outside The Rackham and surrounding roads. The PCSO will not give any notice of visits. If you are a blue badge holder, please ensure you are clearly displaying your badge when you park.

We remain grateful to parents and carers for their continued consideration and awareness of local residents when choosing suitable places to park at drop off and pick up. Please also show respect to drivers that are blue badge users near the school site. If parents or carers are blue badge holders, they are welcome to use the two bays on site to park. Please contact the school office if you do feel these bays would be a helpful option to park in and would like to discuss how to access them.

Witchford Scouts:

Are you an aspiring Scout leader? If so, Witchford Scouts really would like to hear from you. Witchford Scouts are seeking an additional leader for Beavers. All groups like Scouts and Beavers rely on volunteers to keep running. Do please let the office know if you would like to find out more. Thank you.

Change in advice from the LA: Earrings in PE and Games lessons:

We have received some updated guidance from the Local Authority on children wearing earrings in PE and Games lessons. This is a change in advice so please be aware that children are no longer allowed to wear earring for PE and Games lessons. Another change is that taping over earrings is no longer allowed. If children do have earrings, they should be removed by the child before each lesson. Children who are unable to remove their own earrings will still take part in an adapted PE lesson within their own space.

The Rackham is a nut free school:

Parents and carers are reminded that The Rackham is a nut free school. Would parents and carers kindly refrain from sending products containing nuts into school as part of packed lunches or mid morning snacks.

Uniform Sale:

FWR will have their next uniform sale after school on 21st March. If you have any uniform to donate, please would you bring it to the office on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

Water bottles:

Please would you ensure your child has a water bottle in school each day. Water bottles are available to purchase from FWR through the Products and Trips tab on your MCAS account.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,



Miss Turner
Headteacher