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15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

How lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school this week for our Meet the Teacher events.

**Safeguarding:**

What is safeguarding? Safeguarding ensures that every child, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, has a right to equal protection from harm. Safeguarding is the steps that people take to protect children and vulnerable people from harm.

Please see the attached poster that explains further. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please alert Miss Turner (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Lowes (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Miss Smith (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead). Alternatively, you can email: [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)

**Sad farewell:**

We are extremely sad to be saying farewell to Mrs Coney after 12 years at The Rackham. Mrs Coney has been an invaluable member of our staff, and we sincerely thank her for all she has done supporting so many of our pupils, past and present.

**PE and Games kit:**

Thank you to all parents and carers who supported and completed our questionnaire last week about the way forward for us as a school and changing for PE and Games lessons in school or not.

The result of the parent and carer survey was an overwhelming yes to 'Children continue to arrive at school in kit that they wear for the whole day. Children to bring a change of footwear for Outdoor Games', at 92.3% of parents who responded identified this as their preference.

With this response and clear answer, we will continue children arriving to school in kit on Games and PE days. On the days that your child has outdoor Games, would you please send them to school with a change of footwear so on days when on the field or when it is damp, they can change out of dirty trainers to come back into school to ensure we keep our school floors clean.

**Clubs:**

Please see MCAS for details of our clubs for this half term.

**Uniform policy:**

It seems sensible to remind parents and carers of our uniform policy, please find attached.

Parents and carers are requested to send their child into school in school uniform colours for PE and Games. Football shirts and branded, designer trainers such as a Jordan's Air Max are actively discouraged. If you would like to buy uniform from our pre-loved uniform shop, please contact the school office.

**Footwear:**

Footwear for school and PE or Games lessons should be appropriate. We have noticed some very expensive trainers being worn in school and request parents avoid sending children in designer trainers.

**Year 5/6 Outdoor Games day is changing:**

Year 5 and 6 will move their Outdoor Games afternoon to Tuesday starting next week, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Work Hard, Dream Big:**

Would you be willing to speak to our pupils about your current job, the steps you took and associated work ethic you drew on to attain it?

Please contact the office in the first instance to express your interest: [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)

**My Happy Mind:**

Our children are utilising the My Happy Mind resources during one lesson a week.

Accounts for our parents and carers are free. Our children would benefit hugely from accessing the materials when at home as well as in school.

Log in link here: <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code (110807).

**Join your child for a school dinner:**

Each year group will have their turn to invite one parent or carer over the course of this academic year to join them for a school dinner. Year 5 parents and carers will be invited to join us for school dinner on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The meal will be our extremely popular (and very delicious) roast dinner.

Parents and carers are asked to purchase their school dinner at the same cost as a child's school dinner, £2.40 through MCAS under the Products and Trips tab.

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

<https://forms.office.com/e/7v1KxhAQK9> **Meals and payment must be made by 12<sup>th</sup> October.**

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 5 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.

Parents and carers of Year 5 children will arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm for a 12.30pm meal time.

**Christmas cards:**

This year we are trialling a new approach for designing Christmas cards. This week's homework is to design a Christmas card. Please see the attached instruction sheet. Your child will bring home a template for their design which needs to be returned to school by Wednesday please. Reception children will bring theirs home on Monday.

**CGP books:**

CGP books for homework will be sent home next week.

**Meet the Teacher:**

Thank you to all those parents that were able to attend the Meet the Teacher sessions. For those who were unable to attend please follow this link to our website: <https://rackhamprimaryschool.com/> You will find the slides under the year group in the Class Information tab. If you have any questions, please email the class teacher.

**Emily Norman is our Education Inclusion Family Advisor:**

Emily's role is to offer advice and support for parents and carers on issues that may be affecting their child. These might be things like establishing routines, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour, worries, sleep issues or aggression.

Parents and carers can contact Emily directly on [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Please see attached leaflet for more details.

**OPAL update:**

This academic year, our school development plan has curriculum as a main focus. In light of this, we have decided to delay the relaunch of OPAL until next academic year. This decision will be returned to during the review period next year.

**Year 6 Ravenstor Meeting:**

Families are invited to attend a meeting in the school hall on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm to discuss details of the week long residential. Children who are booked on the visit are also invited to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,



Miss Turner  
Headteacher

| <b>Dates for your diary</b> |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| WC 18.09.23                 | Clubs begin this week   |
| 20.09.2023                  | Ravenstor parent and child information evening 6pm  |
| 21.09.2023                  | Open Evening for Year 6 Witchford Village College   |
| 26.09.2023                  | Open Evening Ely College 5:30pm – 7:30pm tickets can be booked here:<br><a href="https://ElyCollege2023.eventbrite.co.uk">https://ElyCollege2023.eventbrite.co.uk</a> |
| 26.09.2023                  | FWR AGM in the school hall 7.45pm start   |
| 28.09.2023                  | Open Evening for Year 6 Soham Village College 6 - 8pm   |
| WE 13.10.2023               | Clubs finish  |
| 16 – 20.10.2023             | Ravenstor residential Year 6  |
| 19.10.2023                  | Year 5 'Invite your parent or carer for school dinner'  |
| 20.10.2023                  | Last school day of half term  |
| <b>Half term</b>            |   |
| 30.10.2023                  | Children return to school   |
| WC 06.11.2023               | Parent's Evening this week dates TBC  |
| 11.12.2023                  | Flu vaccination day whole school  |
| 14.12.2023                  | Reception and KS1 Christmas lunch   |
| 15.12.2023                  | KS2 Christmas lunch   |
| 19.12.2023                  | Last school day for children before the Christmas holidays commence   |
| 20.12.2023                  | Professional Development Day for staff  |
| 21.12.2023                  | Christmas holiday commences for staff   |
| <b>Christmas Holiday</b>    |   |
| 04.01.2024                  | Professional Development Day for staff  |
| 05.01.2024                  | Professional Development Day for staff  |
| 08.01.2024                  | Children return to school   |