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Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our pupils have demonstrated our Christian theme of the week, 'excellence', in very many ways this week. We are so proud of them all and their overwhelming desire to learn.

Safeguarding:

Deciding what's appropriate for children to see online.

The online world gives us access to a huge amount of information and services, but the scale of information available also means that there is content that is inappropriate for children. What is or isn't appropriate is up to individual parents and carers to decide, and could be based on things like age, ability, beliefs and family values.

What are parental controls?

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- manage the content different family members can see.

Click on this link for further advice from the NSPCC on how to set up parental controls: [Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

Ely Children and Family Centre:

Please see attached list of courses available at the Ely Children and Family Centre. Parents and carers can contact the centre directly by email or phone.

Email: childandfamilycentre.east@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Phone: 01353 612770

FWR Doughnut Day:

Please see the attached letter from FWR regarding Doughnut Day on Friday 6th October.

Attendance:

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.

This week our attendance figure as a school is: 95.4%

Secure your bike!

Secure your bike! Join in on Saturday, October 7th, at Ely's Market Square, where the police will be marking bikes from 10am to 3pm.

By getting your bike marked, you're taking a proactive step to protect it. In case of theft, this marking allows the police to quickly reunite stolen bikes with their rightful owner.

Don't miss this opportunity to safeguard your wheels!

Covid - Current guidance from the NHS:

The NHS as of 1st September 2023 stated:

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you or your child have symptoms and either:

- *have a high temperature*
- *do not feel well enough to go to work, school, childcare, or do your normal activities*

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare.

FAQ

Q: Should I test for Covid if I feel unwell?

A: No.

Q: What should I do if I feel unwell? Should I come to work/go to school?

A: The above guidance gives two pieces of advice, if you have a high temperature or if you do not feel well enough to come to work, stay at home.

Q: What if I test for Covid?

A: The guidance states that three days is the period to be at home. However, in this time, if you do not have a temperature or do not feel so unwell you cannot come to work, please continue to come to work.

Q: Does this also apply to children?

A: If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare.

Parking:

Please ensure when dropping children to school by car, members of the school community continue to be mindful and considerate when parking in surrounding roads. Please also ensure the double yellow lines and associated regulations are honoured when parking near the school. Thank you in advance of your help.

World Mental Health Day

Here at The Rackham, we strive to support the mental health of our community every day. On Tuesday 10th October, we will be promoting ITV's landmark Mental Wellness campaign, Britain Get Talking. In school we will share a video, where Ant and Dec set the children a homework challenge to write down what is on their mind and to get talking. Please look out for the leaflet coming home to support you with this.

The campaign encourages us all to keep connected and to improve the quality of conversations, which in turn supports everyone's mental health. I hope you take up this wonderful opportunity to get talking.

Guidance for Parents and Carers on hearing your child read:

At The Rackham our English scheme is Pathways to Literacy. The publisher has compiled some guidance for parents and carers when hearing their child read. Please find attached.

If you have any questions about hearing your child read, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Last call to Year 5 parents, 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 19th 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. Meals must be booked and paid for by 12th October.

Please complete this form to book your meal and tell us the name of the person attending.

[Microsoft Forms](#)

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.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,



Miss Turner
Headteacher

Dates for your diary	
6.10.23	FWR Doughnut Day
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' Open Evening for prospective parents and carers at 7pm (starting in Reception September 2024).
20.10.2023	Last school day of half term
Half term	
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
13.12.2023	Christmas Treat for pupils thanks to our wonderful FWR.
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
Christmas Holiday	
04.01.2024	Professional Development Day for staff
05.01.2024	Professional Development Day for staff
08.01.2024	Children return to school