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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*

17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week at The Rackham!

Our pupils enjoyed learning how to retell the Diwali story of Rama and Sita through Bollywood style dancing on Tuesday. On Wednesday it was the fabulous FWR Disco and today we have thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as a musician or member of a band for Children in Need as well as running our Reception class Phonics and Early reading meeting.

Safeguarding: What is a safeguarding issue or concern?

A safeguarding issue or concern is anything that might impact on children and young people's safety and welfare, cause them harm, or putting them at risk of harm.

Sometimes, a child or young person might tell someone about (or disclose) abuse or neglect. You might also notice signs of abuse or see something that worries you. Safeguarding issues or concerns also include things that can increase the risk of harm.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999. If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns.

- **Follow The Rackham organisational child protection procedures, contact school:**
DSL: Miss Turner; DDSs Miss Smith and Mrs Lowes
- **Contact the NSPCC Helpline** on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk where trained professionals will talk through your concerns with you and give you expert advice.
- **Contact your local child protection services.** Find details on our school website: [Safeguarding help tools | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School \(rackhamprimaryschool.com\)](#)
- **Contact the police**

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Looking after a child or young person's mental health

As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.

Find out how you can help a child to have good mental health, including knowing how to talk to a child about their mental health, and when to spot signs they might be struggling. Plus get self-care tips for you, to help you look after your mental health while caring for others, and find out how to get more support if you, your child or your family need it.

More details here: [Children's mental health - Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Mental Health: A new way to get advice and support: HEAR 85258

A new local mental health free text messaging support service launched across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on Monday 13 November. HEAR 85258 is being funded by NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, in partnership with the national service SHOUT.

The free to use text service provides real-time support to people who are struggling with their mental health across the county.

When texting the word HEAR to 85258, the person will be connected to a trained volunteer who will offer them calm in a time or place of crisis.

During the confidential and anonymous conversation, the texter will be supported while working on a plan of action and signposted to local and national mental health services. Texting HEAR to 85258 is free, discreet and runs 24/7.

It won't appear on a mobile bill and requires no app, data, password, or registration

The Rudolph Run is coming to The Rackham!

Miss Oliver has sent out details of The Rudolph Run this week. If you have any questions about this, please contact the office in the first instance.

Children in Need:

Thank you to all our families for the fabulous costumes our pupils have worn today. If you would like to make a donation to the charity please do send your donation into school to be collected in buckets on the gate, or alternatively, follow this link:

[Donate to BBC Children in Need](#)

PSHE Questionnaire for Parents:

Thank you so much for the responses we have received so far. The questionnaire remains open, and we welcome all parents to participate and have their views heard.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Pd4-cbwFekeUPvAe4nFjFjwVquRdEtImMx9rrGJm5NUNDIGNkiWQIJMSTBRRkNNVTFUT05CNkZUTy4u>

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: 95.66%

High School Musical:

WADS are preparing a spectacular performance of High School Musical. Please see attached leaflet with details on how to buy tickets.

FWR Family Christmas quiz:

Please support FWR at their Family Christmas quiz (poster attached) on Friday 15th December. Please book through MCAS or via fwr@rackham.cambs.sch.uk

Pre-School Christmas Fayre:

Please see the attached flyer regarding the Pre-school Christmas Fayre on 26th November.

Christmas performance dates:

EYFS	11 th December pm performance, 12 th December morning performance (Dress rehearsal to school 8 th)
KS1	8 th December afternoon performance, 11 th December morning performance, 12 th December afternoon performance. (Dress rehearsal to school 7 th)
KS2	Thursday 14 th Dec: Year 3/4 morning performance, Year 5/6 afternoon performance Mon 18 th December: Year 5/6 morning performance, Year 3/4 afternoon performance

Information about how to book tickets will be in the newsletter next week.

Christmas dinner:

The dinner menu for w\c 11th December has been amended to include Christmas dinner for Reception and KS1 on Thursday 14th December and KS2 on Friday 15th December. Please can you ensure you book your child’s Christmas meal by **Wednesday 6th December**. The Christmas meal menu is attached.

December events at Sandringham:

Please find attached details of the Willow Lantern Making Workshops which we will be offering at Sandringham during December to coincide with Luminate Sandringham.

St Andrew’s Church Newsletter:

Please find attached the newsletter from St Andrew’s from November to the end of January 2024.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary	
WC 20.11.2023	Phonics Stay and Play Open Mornings for Reception children
08.12.2023	Key Stage One Christmas performance afternoon
11.12.2023	Flu vaccination day whole school Key Stage One Christmas performance morning Reception Christmas performance afternoon
WC 11.12.2023	Christmas Treat for pupils thanks to our wonderful FWR.
12.12.2023	Reception Christmas performance morning Key Stage One performance afternoon
13.12.2023	FWR Film Night
14.12.2023	Reception and KS1 Christmas dinner Year 3/4 performance morning Year 5/6 performance afternoon
15.12.2023	KS2 Christmas dinner FWR Family Quiz Night
16.12.2023	Christingle at St Andrew's, Witchford 4pm
18.12.2023	Year 5/6 performance morning Year 3/4 performance afternoon
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