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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

15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a truly spectacular week at The Rackham where Christmas really has arrived in full force.

We have been dazzled and delighted by our younger pupils in Reception and Key Stage One who have retold the Christmas story through two truly charming versions of the Nativity.

Our older pupils have wowed with their superb singing in their carol concerts.

We have been so pleased to welcome so many parents, carers and younger siblings to school and the church to share in these events, thank you for rearranging your week to attend.

We are so lucky to work with such incredible children and such talented adult professionals who know how to encourage and support our pupils to take part in these events. These experiences help our pupils progress towards being the best they can possibly be. Thank you everyone!

Safeguarding:

It is never easy to know how to keep our children safe when they aren't with us, and sometimes even when are, if we don't know what's happening in their lives or on their devices.

Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay? Don't despair though, scroll through this page for help or click a button to go straight to a particular topic.

Link here: [Home \(lgfl.net\)](#)

Wellbeing and mental health: Supported self-help: free mental health support for adults

Mind has some outstanding resources on their web page: [Home - Mind](#)

Mind offer something called **Supported Self Help**.

Supported self-help is a free, 6-week guided programme. We give you the materials to understand and manage your feelings. And someone from Mind will call you regularly to give you support.

You don't need a GP referral to sign up for supported self-help.

This is a one-to-one guided self-help service, not a counselling service. But our practitioners do use counselling-based skills in their support. It incorporates some Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) style tools but also provides other kinds of support.

Link here: [Free mental health support - Mind](#)

Mental Health: How to get urgent support for children and young people:

If your children feel extremely distressed and worried that you might not be able to keep them safe, there is lots of urgent support available, including 24/7 NHS mental health helplines in Cambridgeshire. If you're in immediate danger and it's a medical emergency, call 999 straight away.

Link here: [How to get urgent support for children and young people | Good Thinking \(good-thinking.uk\)](https://www.good-thinking.uk/)

The Rackham has a Five Star Kitchen! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We are so delighted to share with you that our amazing kitchen staff, Mrs Pluck, Mrs Kassem and Mrs Billimore, gained a five star rating (the very best standard possible) at a recent inspection by East Cambs District Council.

It is no surprise to us who know first-hand how fabulous and professional our catering team is and this award is totally deserved. Thank you, ladies! What a brilliant example you are to our pupils, showing them how even in our work lives, we work together to be the best we can possibly be.

This week our pupils have been able to join in with a spectacular Christmas Dinner in a beautifully decorated hall which included the Christmas decorations made by pupils. What an amazing team we have in our kitchen.

Illness:

Please can we remind you that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea our policy states they must not return to school for 48 hours after the last bout. Thank you for adhering to this policy which helps to prevent the spread of these illnesses.

Thank you to our wonderful FWR:

What a truly wonderful group of volunteers make up our FWR.

This week FWR has run Film Night, purchased and wrapped a Christmas gift for each child and even arranged for Father Christmas to visit The Rackham! Thank you sincerely for all you do for our school.

Pupil place for Reception at The Rackham in September 2024: deadline 15th January

If you have not already submitted an application for your child for entry into the Reception class at The Rackham C of E Primary School for September 2024, please note that applications must be completed and returned to the Admissions Team by the closing date of 15 January 2024.

The Rackham school hats:

School hats are now available to purchase from Sigma. The hats come in four different styles at varying price points: peaked cap; bucket sun hat; winter hat with a bobble; winter hat without a bobble. Please see the pictures below. These are not part of the uniform policy but if you wish to order, please order them through Sigma's website: https://www.sigmaembroidery.co.uk/clubs-groups-shop?filter_catid=172



The Rackham Primary School -
Baseball Cap

[View details](#)

£9.00



The Rackham Primary School -
Beanie

[View details](#)

£7.95



The Rackham Primary School -
Bobble Beanie

[View details](#)

£8.75

Butterflies Forest School:

Butterflies Forest School are excited to announce the re-location of their popular Thursday after school session to The Rackham Primary School.

Session details:

Day: Thursdays (in line with Rackham term dates)

Time: 3:15-5:15pm

Location: The Rackham - forest school area

Cost: £13/11 per week for first child/siblings. Sessions booked in half termly blocks.

Butterflies Forest School are OFSTED registered - which means you can use your Tax-Free Childcare vouchers to pay for sessions. How to book and ALL DETAILS for what to expect from sessions can be found on our booking pages here: <https://bookwhen.com/butterfliesforestschool>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ButterfliesForestSchool>

Website: <https://www.butterfliesforestschool.co.uk>

We have a few spots opening for Thursdays so please pop on a book (trial tickets available) to secure your space! We can't wait to meet you!

Sarah-Jane, Kerry, Dani and Charlie 🦋

Royal British Legion: Amount raise from sales of poppies

Thank you to all our parents, carers and pupils. This year we collected £207.44 for the Royal British Legion.

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: 94.6%

**ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary	
15.12.2023	7 p.m. for the Carol Service at St Andrew's Church, Witchford
16.12.2023	Christingle at St Andrew's Church, Witchford 4pm
18.12.2023	Year 5/6 - 9.30am performance Year 3/4 - 2pm performance
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