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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

20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy half term with a wholehearted team effort all round. Our pupils have certainly taken steps forward since returning in September showing great pride in their work and progress.

Safeguarding: How to deal with tantrums

Click this link to learn 5 tips from the NSPCC on how to support your child with any temper tantrums.
[How to cope with tantrums | NSPCC](#)

Parking:

Please respect the yellow lines and zig zag lines outside school. It is against the law to park on these lines during school time. This week we have dealt with lorries and large vehicles travelling down the road outside school. It becomes extremely dangerous for traffic to move past school if vehicles are parked illegally. Please help keep our pupils safe. Please park safely and considerately.

Policies: Communication Policy and Parent Code of Conduct:

As a Headteacher, I am very mindful of ways I can support the workload of my staff. One way some support can be given is to provide some start and end points when they should be available to communicate with parents.

Please find attached the Communication Policy which outlines when staff have a break from email communication with parents and carers: after 6pm at night and recommence at 8am.

To ensure staff take as much of a break as possible over the weekend, they are not expected to respond to emails sent after 6pm on a Friday until 8am on Monday morning. There is no expectation for staff to respond to emails during a school holiday.

If parents and carers do wish to contact school between 6pm and 8am; at the weekend or during the school holiday, please email the school office office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk

Thank you for your support of this Communication Policy and the wellbeing of our staff.

Policies: Parent Code of Conduct:

Please also find attached a copy of the Code of Conduct for Parents. This policy sets out our expectation as a team of how communication should be between school, parents and carers.

YMCA free training opportunity:

The YMCA are hosting a free webinar on the 1st of November 2023 at 7pm for all professionals and parents. Register your place using the link below. If you have any questions get in touch by emailing us at mentalhealthtraining@ymcatrinity.org.uk

Visit the YMCA [training calendar](#) for all other workshops and full day courses.

When: Nov 1, 2023 19:00 – 20:00

Q & A – 20:00 – 20:30

Topic: What is your child telling you? Seeing beyond the behaviour

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xef5VIZvRPWt7ntnsind6A

Ely MHST (Mental Health Support Team):

Please find attached a poster giving information about some one-off children's anxiety workshop for parents and carers that are being held

Please note that parents only need to attend one session, MHST are offering the workshop on different dates and times to give parents the best chance to be able to attend if they feel it will be beneficial.

Please contact the school office for further information and links to the online meetings.

Reception Baseline:

All the Reception Baseline Assessments have now been completed with the Reception children. It has been a true pleasure for the Reception teachers to have some 'one on one' time with every child, getting to know them. Every Reception child will be bringing home their Reception Baseline Report in a named envelope. This report will give you a snapshot of your child's attainment at the time the tasks were completed. Do please speak with someone from the Reception team if you would like clarification on the report at all.

Anti-bullying Week and Children in Need

The week beginning 13th November is Anti-bullying Week, with the theme 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. Each class will take part in a range of activities to support the children understand what bullying means, what can make children bully and, this year, we have a focus on asking for help and everyone playing a part in addressing bullying.

This week ends with the BBC charity campaign Children in Need on **Friday 17th November**. To tie the two things together, we would like to ask the children to come to school dressed as a musician or a member of a music band, to be ready to make lots of noise! 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](#)

Reviewing The Rackham's PSHE Policies:

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) is the umbrella term for the subject we teach in school, which includes statutory Relationships and Health Education. We are now beginning to review our policies and we would like you to play a role in this. Attached to this letter is a useful leaflet provided by the Cambridgeshire PSHE Services Team. The leaflet offers support and information for all primary school families about how to talk about relationships and we hope it will be a good starting point to open up the discussion between school and home about Relationships Education. Please keep an eye out for an online questionnaire coming soon to all families for us to consult with you about this area of the curriculum.

Reception Stay and Play:

On Friday 17th November we will be inviting the parents of Reception children to come into school for a drink and a chat about phonics and early reading in The Foundation Stage. This will take place from 8:30-9:00 in the school hall. Throughout the week of 20th November, one parent per Reception child will have the opportunity to book a morning session between 8:45 and 9:45 when they can join their child's class for their phonics session and then have some time to play together - more details coming soon.

Open Farm:

Raise some money for the GOSH charity and visit the farm at Witcham this Saturday. Details here: [Ely: Vision Learning Therapeutic Farm afternoon tea for GOSH | Cambs Times](#)

Wishing you all a relaxing half term break.

Thank you sincerely for all your support this half term, all of the staff and children at The Rackham truly appreciate all our parent and carer community do for our school.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday 30th October.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner