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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*

13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another super week at The Rackham, please have a look at our page on Twitter (X) @RackhamPrimary to see what our school has been doing.

### **Safeguarding: LEGO Build & Talk:**

The NSPCC has teamed up with LEGO.

LEGO has developed 6 story-style Build & Talk activities, created for children ages 6 to 9, support families with a playful way to engage in otherwise difficult conversations about digital safety topics whilst playing with LEGO® bricks.

Covering six different topics, the activities are designed to help your child navigate the online world safely. You'll also find handy discussion starters to get the conversation going as you Build & Talk together.

Topics covered: Cyberbullying; Screen time; False information online; Online security; Privacy and safe sharing; Digital footprints.

Find the resources here: [Build and talk - Sustainability - LEGO.com](https://www.lego.com/build-and-talk)

### **Immunisations:**

The DFE has asked that we pass on this message to parents and carers:

*Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease. We are asking education settings to share key messages from the NHS about MMR / measles and how to get vaccinated.*

*The [Back to school MMR Guidance](#) from the NHS includes information to share, as well as example social media posts which can be found here: [NHS Vaccine Poster](#) and [NHS MMR Poster](#).*

*Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in a classroom can catch the disease if just one child is infectious.*

**National Sleep Helpline:** We are sending information about this wonderful free resource that can help parents and children to learn more about their sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function, by helping children to sleep better, we can help them to succeed in school.

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

A free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues). Leaflet attached.

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.

You can read more here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>

**Parking at drop off and pick up:**

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.

**Open Evening for prospective parents and carers (starting in Reception September 2024):**

Do you know anyone who is considering primary schools for September 2024 for their child? If parents and carers are considering applying for a place at The Rackham, please come along to our Open Evening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Start time: 7pm.

**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 be advised that absence must be reported to the office by 9am on each day.

This week our attendance figure as a school is: 96.03%

**Request for newspapers and print:**

Would you have any spare copies of any magazines or children's newspapers listed below that your child may have read however no longer need? If so, please would you send them into school for Year 3 and 4. Thank you. For example: National Geographic Kids/Little Kids; Whizz Pop Bang; The Week Junior; First News; Match; The Beano

**Parent's Evening 08.11.2023 and 09.11.2023:**

Parent's Evening is in person in the hall, each appointment will last 10 minutes. Your child's books will be available to look at and there will be time with their class teacher to speak. Please note that Choir Club will not be running on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

We use an electronic booking system via MCAS.

Appointment bookings will be open from the first day of next half term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

**Reading Books for Reception and Key Stage One:**

Here at The Rackham, we are always considering ways we can make things even better for our children. We are making changes in the way we use reading books at home to support phonics and early reading in The Early Years and Key Stage One. Every Friday there will be an activity set on Tapestry which has a digital copy of the Shared Reading text your child has been reading in class that week, for them to read at home. Repetition is key to supporting our early readers and reading the same book at home will support children as they develop fluency and confidence in reading.

We also understand how important reading for pleasure is and we want our children to benefit from the opportunity to select their own 'Reading for Pleasure' book from a class selection. The children can take home their chosen book and share it with an adult. This book can be changed as often as they would like, just simply return the book and add a note to your child's Reading Record and they will have time to select a new book.

If your child is in Year Two and working beyond the phonics curriculum, you will continue to have a reading book sent home, as well as their own 'Reading for Pleasure' book.

Many thanks for your continued support as we take these positive steps forward.

**Dogs at the gate:**

We have received some feedback from parents about our furry friends who come along to drop off and pick up.

If you do bring your dog, would you please be mindful of families still entering through the school gate ensuring your position is not blocking entry to the zebra crossing. Thank you.

**Vacancies at The Rackham:**

Are you seeking a new opportunity or know someone who is? We have two vacancies, one for a Teaching Assistant and one for a Midday Supervisor. Please find details here on our website: [Vacancies | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School \(rackhamprimaryschool.com\)](http://rackhamprimaryschool.com)

Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,



Miss Turner  
Headteacher

<b>Dates for your diary</b>	
16 – 20.10.2023	Ravenstor residential Year 6 No Clubs this week
19.10.2023	Year 5 'Invite your parent or carer for school dinner'. Open Evening for prospective parents and carers (starting in Reception September 2024).
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 Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 3.30 - 5.30pm Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 3.30 - 7pm

WC 13.11.2023	Anti-bullying week
17.11.2023	Children in Need (further details to follow)
11.12.2023	Flu vaccination day whole school
WC 11.12.2023	Christmas Treat for pupils thanks to our wonderful FWR.
14.12.2023	Reception and KS1 Christmas dinner
15.12.2023	KS2 Christmas dinner
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