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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*

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start the final month of 2023, Christians will be looking forward to the start of Advent. Advent always starts four Sundays before Christmas. This year, in 2023, Advent starts Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Advent always ends on Christmas Eve, the day before Christmas Day. Advent ends Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

### **Safeguarding: Online Gaming**

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow young people to chat with others whilst they play.

For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of 'in-game chat' and measures you can take to help protect your child, watch this short video: [In - game chat: A guide for parents and carers - YouTube](#)

### **Mental Health: Good Thinking website**

Good Thinking is a Digital Mental Wellbeing website that has various support for young people, parents and carers, employers, and employees. You will find help on topics such as sleep, anxiety low mood and stress. There are podcasts, apps, workbooks, and guides together with self-assessments that you can take. Click link below for more information:

[Parents and carers | Good Thinking \(good-thinking.uk\)](#)

### **Exploring interest in a Forest School Club at The Rackham:**

We are considering ways to offer Forest School to our pupils as a club that will run for two hours after school possibly on a Monday. We would be grateful for any feedback from parents and carers to support this venture. The club would come at a cost of around £10 per session and would run from 3.15 - 5.15pm with places for 18 pupils each term.

Please email the school office [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk) with any thoughts you have about this.

### **FWR Family Christmas quiz:**

Please support FWR at their Family Christmas quiz (poster attached) on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please book through MCAS or via [fwr@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:fwr@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)

**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: 93.7%



**We are moving from twitter to Facebook:**

After careful consideration, we are going to move our school social media from twitter (X) to Facebook.

Please look out for further updates via email.

**FWR: Thank you:**

Thank you to our fabulous FWR for organising a stunning Christmas tree for our school.

We are so excited to mark the start of Advent with such a beautiful gift, thank you.

**Christmas dinner and Christmas jumpers:**

The dinner menu for w\c 11<sup>th</sup> December has been amended to include Christmas dinner for Reception and KS1 on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December and KS2 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please can you ensure you book your child’s Christmas meal by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper with their usual school uniform, on the day of their Christmas meal.

**Christmas performance dates and booking link for tickets:**

Please note:

Reception and Key Stage One performances at The Rackham.

Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 performances at St Andrew’s Church, Witchford.

In response to parental requests, one performance for each age group will be open to younger children and babies. Please check your booking to ensure you have selected the performance that suits you best.

Due to fire regulations and seating capacity in the hall, we do need to limit tickets to two adults per family per year group production.

Tickets will be available to reserve from 10am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November via this link:

Reception classes	<b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b> 2pm performance – Adults only <b>12<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9.30am performance – baby/toddler tickets available (Dress rehearsal to school 8 <sup>th</sup> )
Year 1 and 2	<b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b> 2pm performance – Adults only <b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9.30am performance – baby/toddler tickets available <b>12<sup>th</sup> December</b> 2pm performance – Adults only (Dress rehearsal to school 7 <sup>th</sup> )
Year 3 and 4	<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:</b> Year 3/4 9.30am performance – baby/toddler tickets available <b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> December:</b> Year 3/4 2pm performance – Adults only
Year 5 and 6	<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:</b> Year 5/6 2pm performance – Adults only <b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> December:</b> Year 5/6 9.30am performance – baby/toddler tickets available

Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

<b>Dates for your diary</b>	
08.12.2023	Key Stage One Christmas 2pm performance
11.12.2023	Flu vaccination day whole school Key Stage One Christmas 9.30am performance Reception Christmas 2pm performance
WC 11.12.2023	Christmas Treat for pupils thanks to our wonderful FWR.
12.12.2023	Reception Christmas 9.30am performance Key Stage One 2pm performance
13.12.2023	FWR Film Night
14.12.2023	Reception and KS1 Christmas dinner Year 3/4 9.30am performance Year 5/6 2pm performance
15.12.2023	KS2 Christmas dinner FWR Family Quiz Night
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
<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