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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](#)

24th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we edge closer to the end of November, we are mindful of the darker mornings and drop off along with less daylight at collection times. Please take care when arriving at school and collecting children at the end of the school day.

Safeguarding: Celebrating 10 years of Talk PANTS!

Pantosaurus has helped 1.5 million parents Talk PANTS and keep their children safe from sexual abuse.

Developed in consultation with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help children understand their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

Further information here including the Talk PANTS Pantosaurus song: [Let's talk PANTS | NSPCC](#)

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.

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 two hour session and would potentially run from 3.15 - 5.15pm with places for 18 pupils each term.

Please email the school office office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk with any thoughts you have about this.

Thank you:

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Reception’s Phonics Stay and Play this week. It has been a joy to welcome you into school.

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: 94.15%

High School Musical:

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

The Rackham school hats:

We have requested that Sigma makes hats available for purchase. The hats come in four different styles: peaked cap; bucket sun hat; winter hat with a bobble; winter hat without a bobble. Please see the pictures below for the designs – both hat styles are The Rackham red in colour. 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



Pre-School Christmas Fayre:

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

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 performance.

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

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

The date and time for the Rocksteady concert will be confirmed next week.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary	
08.12.2023	Key Stage One Christmas performance afternoon (Adults only)
11.12.2023	Flu vaccination day whole school Key Stage One Christmas performance morning (Babies and toddlers welcome) Reception Christmas performance afternoon (Adults only)
WC 11.12.2023	Christmas Treat for pupils thanks to our wonderful FWR.
12.12.2023	Reception Christmas performance morning (Babies and toddlers welcome) Key Stage One performance afternoon (Adults only)
13.12.2023	FWR Film Night
14.12.2023	Reception and KS1 Christmas dinner Year 3/4 performance morning (Babies and toddlers welcome) Year 5/6 performance afternoon (Adults only)
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 performance morning (Babies and toddlers welcome) Year 3/4 performance afternoon (Adults only)
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