

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4.13

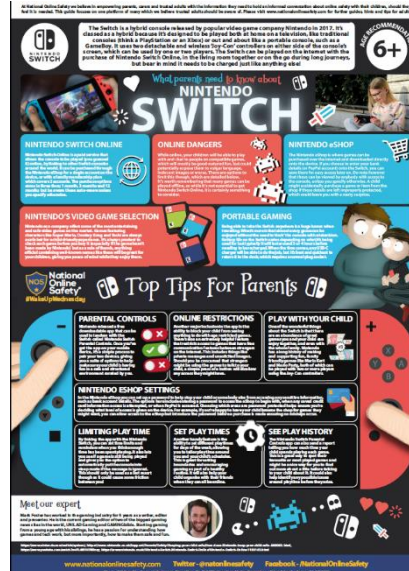
22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas rehearsals are in full swing this week!

Safeguarding:

Leading up to Christmas, we will be sharing guides related to presents you may be considering.



Wellbeing and Mental Health:

Why our children are vulnerable online in relation to social pressures linked to appearance.



The school community:

The Rackham makes a conscious effort to consider questions, suggestions and concerns of parents and carers. [You suggested, we listened | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

All our parents and carers whose children attend pre-school and primary school are actively encouraged to get in touch to discuss any suggestions, questions or concerns. We will identify a mutually convenient time to meet so working together for the benefit of everyone.

If you have any suggestions or ideas you would like to share, please use the link below. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/7DMNAQVqsR>

Apply now for a Primary School place in September 2025:

If you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, you need to apply for their Primary School place before 15th January 2025. This also applies to children at The Rackham Pre-school for admission to The Rackham Primary School.

The link to the application page can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/primary-reception-junior-or-middle-school>

Christmas dinner and Christmas jumpers:

Christmas dinner will take place on Thursday 12th December for Reception and KS1 classes and on Friday 13th December for KS2. Please ensure you have booked your child's meal on MCAS by Friday 6th December. School packed lunch options will be available for KS2 children on Thursday 12th December and for Reception and KS1 children on Friday 13th December.

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on their Christmas dinner day if they wish. Please see below for details of FWR's Christmas jumper swap.

Christmas table decorations:

The Rackham kitchen team are working hard to make the children's Christmas dinner tables look extra festive this year, and we would love your help. We are running a competition for the best table decoration.

There are only 3 rules to the competition:

1. Must be homemade.
2. Not too big.
3. Be clearly named.

If your child would like to enter they should bring their entry in on their Christmas Dinner day (Reception and KS1 on Thursday 12th and KS2 on Friday 13th). Entries should be brought to the hall in the morning and placed on their class table (they will be named).

Each class entry will be judged by the kitchen team, and there will be a prize for the best one in each class. The decorations will then be used for the tables. Decorations can be taken home on Friday 13th December.



FWR Christmas jumper swap: Children will be able to wear a Christmas jumper if they wish on their Christmas Dinner day this year. FWR have kindly offered to organise a jumper swap where parents will be able to purchase a jumper for a suggested donation of £2.00.

The jumper swap will take place next week on Wednesday 27th November 2024

Christmas Performance dates:



Christmas performances will take place as follows. Attendance at the performances will require a ticket. Bookings opened on Friday 15th November. **Tickets can be booked through MCAS and will appear under the Products and Trips tab – please use the website rather than the app.** Tickets will initially be limited to 2 per family. If you would like extra tickets, please contact the office to be added to the waiting list.

Monday 2 nd December	Years 1 and 2 at 9.30am in the school hall	Reception at 2pm in the school hall
Tuesday 3 rd December	Reception at 9.30am in the school hall. Younger children welcome to this performance.	Years 1 and 2 at 2pm in the school hall
Wednesday 4 th December	Years 1 and 2 at 9.30am in the school hall. Younger children welcome to this performance.	Mingle and Jingle – Pre-School Christmas event
Thursday 5 th December	Years 5 and 6 at 10am in St Andrew’s Church. Younger children welcome to this performance.	Years 3 and 4 at 2pm in St Andrew’s Church
Friday 6 th December	Years 3 and 4 at 10am in St Andrew’s Church. Younger children welcome to this performance.	Years 5 and 6 at 2pm in St Andrew’s Church

Pre-School Christmas performance – Mingle and Jingle:

We would like to invite all pre-school parents and carers to our Pre-school Mingle and Jingle event on Wednesday 4th December at 2pm in the school hall.

Children who usually attend on a Wednesday afternoon will be brought to the hall by the Pre-school staff and will meet you there at 2pm. Please do ensure you have a booked a ticket.

If your child doesn't attend Pre-school on a Wednesday afternoon, please do book a ticket for yourself and bring them at 2pm to join in the fun.

A snack and drink will be provided for everyone and we are hoping there may be a special Christmas visitor! We expect the event to last no longer than half an hour. If your child is in session on a Wednesday afternoon, you are welcome to take them home at the end of the event if you prefer.

Tickets can be booked through your MCAS account and can be found under the Products and Trips tab.

FWR Christmas Bingo:

A reminder that FWR are busy planning Christmas Bingo for Friday 29th November.

Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm. No booking is required for this event so please do join us for a fabulous evening of bingo!

FWR Christmas Disco:

Our FWR Christmas disco will be taking place on Wednesday 11th December. This event is for children in Reception to Year 6. The Reception and KS1 (Year 1&2) disco will be held from 3.25 – 4.25pm. If you would like your child to get changed in their classroom, please send in their disco clothes in a named bag. Children will be collected from the red gates as usual at the end.

The KS2 disco (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be held from 4.45 – 5.45pm. Year 3 and 4 will be collected from the KS1 red gates and year 5 and 6 from the hall door.

The disco cost is £3.50 per child and includes entry, a drink and a glo-stick.

To book a place for your child, please login to your MCAS account where you will find the payment option under Products and Trips. **Bookings must be made by 3pm on Monday 2nd December please.** We will not be able to take payment after this time.

Year 4 parent meal – 28th November:

We would like to invite Year 4 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 28th November. The meal will be our extremely popular (and very delicious) roast dinner.

Parents and carers are asked to purchase their school dinner through MCAS under the Products and Trips tab. The meal will cost £3.60. **Meal choice and payment must be made by today, Friday 22nd November please.**

Please complete this form to book your meal once payment has been made on MCAS:

<https://forms.office.com/e/g5MtSCiDM1>

Unfortunately, we can only offer for one parent or carer to attend. This will be an annual event moving forwards so will be repeated next academic year.

Children in Year 4 who prefer to have a home packed lunch will still have opportunity for their parent or carer to join them. Adults can still order a school dinner or bring a packed lunch from home to sit to eat with their child.

Please would parents and carers of Year 4 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.

Cambridgeshire Music instrumental lessons:

We recently wrote to parents and carers regarding instrumental lessons from Cambridgeshire music. The original letter is attached. Please note that the deadline for completing the form in the attached letter is 29th November.

Timelines for external referrals within the Local Authority:

Parents and Carers may already be aware that schools in Cambridgeshire are facing lengthy waiting lists for referrals to external services.

If you would like an update on the progress of a referral for your child, please contact the office in the first instance. Thank you.



The Mini London Marathon

Have you heard of the Mini London Marathon? Do you attend The Rackham and love running? Would you like to take part in this amazing event in London? Further information here:

<https://www.tcslondonmarathon.com/the-event/tcs-mini-london-marathon> Applications must be made by

The Rackham so if your child would like to take part,

please log your interest [here](#), we then register your place. We can apply for up to 50 children.

FWR Festive wreath making workshop:



Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils (including jumpers) are now available from Sigma. [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents and carers and can be collected from Sigma Embroidery on Sedgeway.

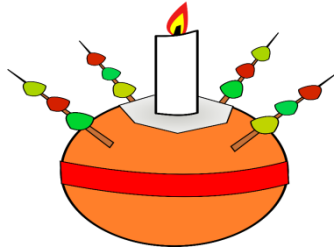
St Andrew's Church, Witchford notices:

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 4p.m.

Led by: Rev Canon Stephen Leeke

**ST. ANDREW'S
CHURCH
WITCHFORD**

A colorful illustration of a Christingle, a round orange fruit with a red band, a lit white candle on top, and four sticks of colorful sweets (red, green, yellow, and orange) protruding from the sides.

**SWITCHING ON THE
ADVENT STAR**

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
WITCHFORD**

St. Andrew's Day

Saturday 30th November 6p.m.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

All Welcome

A nighttime photograph of St Andrew's Church in Witchford, illuminated with warm yellow lights. A blue and white archway of lights is visible in the foreground.

CAROL CONCERT
TUESDAY
10TH DECEMBER 7 p.m.
ST. ANDREW'S HALL,
WITCHFORD
with THE ISLE
SINGERS



REFRESHMENTS
RETIRING COLLECTION
ALL WELCOME

CAROL SERVICE

CAROLS and READINGS
SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER
6 p.m.
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
WITCHFORD
ALL WELCOME



Attendance:

The Rackham has an updated policy on Attendance. Please follow this [link](#) to read the policy on the school website.

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 of absence.

This week's attendance: 93.9%

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing everyone next week.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

27 th November	FWR Christmas jumper swap
28 th November	Y4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation (booking required)
29 th November	FWR Christmas Bingo – Doors open at 6.30pm
2 nd December	KS1 at 9.30am Reception at 2pm
3 rd December	Reception at 9.30am KS1 at 2pm
4 th December	KS1 at 9.30am Pre-school Mingle and Jingle
5 th December	Year 5/6 at 10am (St Andrew’s Church) Year 3/4 at 2pm (St Andrew’s Church)
6 th December	FWR Festival wreath making workshop (booking required) Year 3/4 at 10am (St Andrew’s Church) Year 5/5 at 2pm (St Andrew’s Church)
9 th December	Rocksteady Christmas Concert 9.30am (booking required)
11 th December	FWR Christmas disco (booking required)
12 th December	Christmas Dinner – Reception and KS1
13 th December	Christmas Dinner – KS2
19 th December	Last day of term
23.12.2024	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 23.12.2024 – 03.01.2025
6 th January 2025	First day of term.
W/C 20 th January	SEND Coffee Morning date tbc
30 th January	Y3 Parent or carer school dinner (booking required)
3 rd February	Children’s Mental Health Week
10 th February	Year 4 to Burwell House (10 th – 12 February)
11 th February	Safer Internet Day
W\C 17 th February	HALF TERM