

## Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

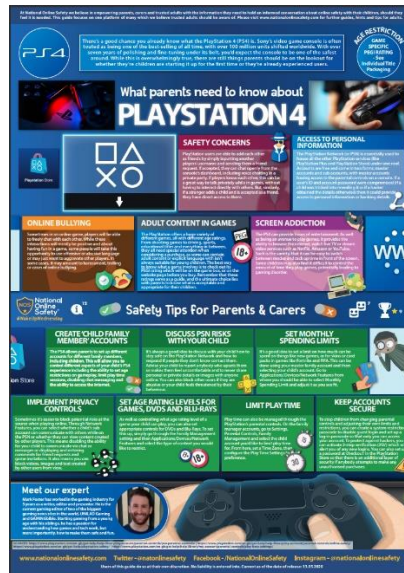
29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to welcoming you either into school or to St Andrew's Church next week to celebrate Christmas with us.

### 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 friends and followers.



### **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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, you need to apply for their Primary School place before 15<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **Ely Children and Family Centre:**

Please see the latest What's On guide on our website.

Link here: [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

### **Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumpers:**



Christmas Dinner will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December for Reception and KS1 classes and on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December for KS2. Please ensure you have booked your child's meal on MCAS by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. School packed lunch options will be available for KS2 children on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and for Reception and KS1 children on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on their Christmas Dinner day if they wish.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> and KS2 on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December).

Their entries should be brought to the hall in the morning and placed on their class table with names clearly written on each entry.

Each 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 over lunchtime. Decorations can be taken home on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### **The Mayor of Cambridge is seeking a Christmas card design, can you help?**

As the festive season approaches, all primary school pupils in the region are invited to take part in a special competition to design the Mayor's Christmas card for this year.

Here's how it works:

- The competition is open to all primary school children across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Pupils are encouraged to draw their best Christmas card design, which celebrates the joy and magic of the holiday season.
- Once complete, scan or take a photo of their designs and email them to [mayoroffice@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:mayoroffice@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk) by Friday, 6th December.

Please download the entry form here: [Mayor's Christmas Card competition form](#). The winning design will be selected and announced on Monday, 11th December, and will proudly feature as the Mayor's official Christmas card for 2024.

### **FREE healthy relationships courses for parents and carers:**

The Family Hubs Team are running courses in January and February 2025 to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner.

Face to Face and online courses are available.

Free of charge. Book here: [Parents Booking Form](#).

### **Pre-School updates:**



Please remember to log existing injuries using the online form. We have copied the QR code for this form below this message to give parents and carers direct access to the online form.



As it is getting colder, and Pre-School Leaders aim to be out in all safe weather, please provide suitable clothing for children including named gloves and hats.

Water bottles should be filled with water rather than squash. This is the current recommendation.

Please find further details on our website: [Healthy Eating | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)



**FWR Christmas jumper swap:** Thank you to everyone who sent in a jumper to swap and thank you to our wonderful FWR for organising this event.

### **FWR Christmas Bingo:**

A reminder that FWR's **Christmas Bingo is TONIGHT!** Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm. 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December please.** We will not be able to take payment after this time.

**FWR Festive wreath making workshop:**



**Cambridgeshire Music instrumental lessons:**



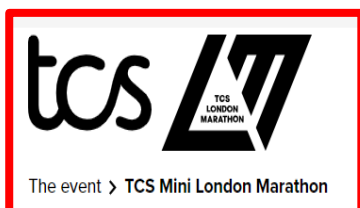
We can now share an offer from Cambridgeshire Music for percussion instrument lessons for children in Rowan and Ash classes. Please speak to the school office for further details.

**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. There are up to 50 spaces.

### Fire&Chill Christmas holiday club:

Fire&Chill is a unique, 'Not for Profit' youth group in Witchford for school years 6 to 9, with a Forest School twist. Led by qualified leaders, regular weekly sessions run Wednesdays 5-7pm in the woods or the village hall.

Due to demand, we're offering a FULL DAY SESSION at Witchford Village Hall this Christmas. Activities will include pizza making, crafts with natural materials, toasting marshmallows, park, games, and a tuck shop (max £3 spend for tuck shop). Led by Sarah-Jane, Kerry, and young leaders Dani and Charlie, it's a perfect fit for older children seeking adventure and a place to hang out. Join us for a day of fun and excitement, socialising and 'chilling'!

**HAF VOUCHERS ACCEPTED!**

To book visit <https://bookwhen.com/butterfliesforestschool>



### Barracudas Activity Camps:



### Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils (**including jumpers**) are now available from Sigma.

Pre-School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Primary School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

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


**St Andrew's Church, Witchford notices:**

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 4p.m.

Led by: Rev Canon Stephen Leeke

**ST. ANDREW'S  
CHURCH  
WITCHFORD**



**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



**CAROL CONCERT**

TUESDAY

10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7 p.m.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL,  
WITCHFORD

with THE ISLE  
SINGERS



REFRESHMENTS  
RETIRING COLLECTION  
ALL WELCOME

**CAROL  
SERVICE**

CAROLS and READINGS  
SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 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: 92.8%

Looking forward to seeing everyone next week.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

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