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CB6 2HQ

## 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> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,



I am sure you will join with me in thanking our amazing kitchen team, Mrs Pluck, Mrs Kassem and Mrs Billimore, for preparing such a delicious Christmas Dinner for our pupils this week. The dining hall tables looked spectacular with decorations our pupils made, tablecloths, napkins and Christmas crackers. Your child may have also mentioned an extremely special visitor dressed in red, who handed out a Christmas present to each one of our pupils assisted by two elves, courtesy of our fabulous FWR.

Thank you sincerely for making this event so special for everyone at The Rackham.

### **Safeguarding, Wellbeing and Mental Health:**



This week we are urging all parents and carers to watch *Swiped: The School that Banned Smartphones* on Channel 4 catch up, My4 [Watch Swiped: The School That Banned Smartphones | Stream free on Channel 4](#) Matt and Emma Willis investigate the impact of mobile phone use on our children's wellbeing, mental health and how using phones directly impacts their safety.

### **Learn to ride cycle training:**

We have been offered the opportunity to provide a fully funded course for children in Years 1 – 6 who cannot yet ride a bike but would like support to learn.

If your child has a bike and you would like them to take part in this training, please email the office. We do require a minimum number of children to be able to run the course.

### **Road Safety:**

This week a concerned member of the community told us about pupils from The Rackham scooting into the middle of a main road ahead of adults.

We fully appreciate children can scoot faster than adults walk however we were concerned to hear of this near miss that thankfully did not result in injury.

While the mornings and evenings are so dark, pupils would possibly benefit from a reminder of the challenge this poses for drivers.

### **Sleeps 'til Santa:**

If you listen to Star radio on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December you will hear some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils on Sleeps 'til Santa at 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30am.

**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.



**Sophie's Snaps:**

As you will remember, our extremely talented Miss Housden took a photograph of the whole Primary School to mark the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Rackham just before half term. Next week we will have a copy of the photograph for parents and carers to see with a view to taking orders.


Miss Housden does offer her photographic skills outside of school if you have a special event coming up. Please see contact details below:

Cambridgeshire  
Sophie.snaps94  
housden.sophie4@gmail.com  
Sophie's Snaps

**Children's Christmas Party at Witchford Village Hall:**



**Melissa Moor – School of Dance**




**Melissa Moor**  
SCHOOL OF DANCE

City of Ely Bowls Club  
Nutholt Lane, CB7 4PL

**Monday:**  
9:30 - 10:00am - Parents & Toddler (18 months +)  
10:15 - 11:15am - Silver Swans (over 55's)



**Saturday:**  
9:00 - 9:30am - Parents & Toddler (18 months +)  
9:35 - 10:05am - Pre-School Ballet (Age 3-4)  
10:10 - 10:55am - RAD Pre-Primary (Age 4-6)  
11:00 - 11:45am - RAD Primary (Age 6-8)

*If the class you're interested in is not listed, please feel free to register your interest, and we will do our best to accommodate you.*



**Enrolling now for January 2025**

**CONTACT US**  
www.moordance.com  
info@moordance.com  
077132 32143

**Christmaths at Ely Library:**



**CHRISTMATHS**  
@ ELY LIBRARY

ENJOY AN INFORMAL SESSION OF XMAS THEMED MATHS ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR CHILD! WORK TOGETHER TO USE MEASURING, ESTIMATION AND CALCULATION SKILLS TO CREATE:

- A FESTIVE CRACKER
- YOUR OWN ADVENT CALENDAR
- A PAPER STAR DECORATION

**MONDAY**  
23/12/24  
10AM - MIDDAY



TO BOOK SCAN QR CODE

CONTACT US ON 01553 613013 OR EMAIL CAMBSALS@CAMBRIDGESHIRE.GOV.UK




**Barracudas Activity Camps:**

**BARRACUDAS**  
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!

**AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2025!**  
EARLY BOOKING OFFER!

LOWEST RATES GUARANTEED BOOK BY 31ST JANUARY

SAVE UP TO £100!

- 4½ to 14 year olds!
- 80+ Activities!
- Choice each session!
- Specialist Courses!
- Flexible bookings!

OFSTED REGISTERED

barracudas.co.uk  
01480 467 567






### Earrings and school uniform, a reminder:

Health and Safety regulations about wearing jewellery in school state: 'earrings, ear studs and other jewellery (metal or plastic) must not be worn during sporting activities, P.E., swimming, design technology or food technology lessons'.

Pupils should not wear jewellery in PE lessons. Children with recently pierced ears should not wear tape over the studs as de-gloving injuries can still occur. As PE lessons are relatively short, studs should still be removed during the 6 weeks after piercing unless the parent or carer has advised in writing that they cannot be removed due to a medical condition. Adults will not be able to help children with either removing or putting in stud earrings children should be taught at home how to do this independently.

**Pupils with pierced ears may wear one pair of simple studs.** Nose studs or any other body studs are not permitted.

### 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.

### 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>

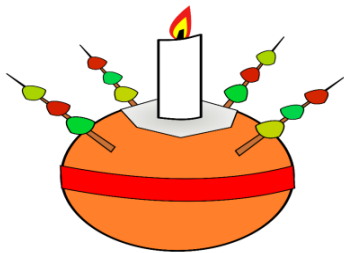
St Andrew's Church, Witchford notices:

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

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

Led by: Rev Canon Stephen Leeke

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH WITCHFORD



## 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: 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:**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> December     | Last day of term   |
|                               | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY<br>23.12.2024 – 03.01.2025                           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025  | First day of term.   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January       | Year 4 Burwell Parent Meeting 6pm                                      |
| 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 after Christmas)    |
| 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 <sup>th</sup> February) |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February     | Safer Internet Day   |
| W\C 17 <sup>th</sup> February | HALF TERM  |