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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

19th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, please accept our most sincere best wishes and thanks for your continued support and willingness to engage with school.

Our school vision, 'Working together to be the best we can possibly be' is only made possible through a shared desire for teamwork to benefit our pupils.

We are extremely lucky to have such a supportive parent and carer community. Thank you.

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.

Safeguarding:

If you think a child or an adult with care and support needs is in immediate danger, phone 999.

Make a referral to Children's Services:

[Make a referral to Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Services - Instructions and Data Protection - Cambridgeshire County Council website \(achieveservice.com\)](#)

NSPCC website:

[NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

NSPCC website for information about child protection:

[Child protection system in the UK | NSPCC Learning](#)

Reporting a crime:

[Contact us | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

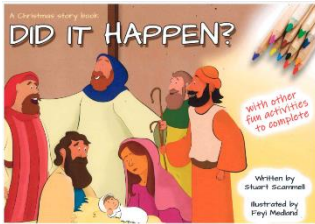
Wellbeing and mental health:

Here are a few suggestions for nurturing your mental health during the Christmas break:

1. **Unplug and Disconnect:** Take a break from emails and work-related tasks. Give yourself permission to disconnect and enjoy time away from the usual routines.
2. **Engage in Activities You Love:** Whether it's reading, walking, gardening or spending time with loved ones, make sure to engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation.
3. **Practice Mindfulness:** Consider incorporating mindfulness practices such as meditation, yoga, or simple breathing exercises into your daily routine to help reduce stress and enhance your overall wellbeing.

4. **Stay Active:** Physical activity is a great way to boost your mood and energy levels. Find an activity you enjoy and make it a regular part of your schedule.
5. **Connect with Loved Ones:** Spend quality time with family and friends. Building and nurturing personal relationships is vital for emotional support and happiness.

A Christmas gift for every pupil at The Rackham:



Thank you to Mrs Jessop who has an author for a friend! Stuart Scammell has kindly donated a copy of Did it happen? for each of our pupils at Christmas. Thank you so much!

Dinner bookings:

Please ensure you have booked meals for your child(ren) on MCAS in advance. When registers are taken in the morning we do check and will book the main meal if a child says they do not have a home packed lunch. If no booking is made by parents or during registration, children will be provided with a ham or cheese sandwich school packed lunch.



Elm class PE: Please note that indoor PE lessons for Elm class will be moving to a Friday after the Christmas holiday. Outdoor lessons will remain on a Wednesday.



Appeal for jigsaw puzzles and board games: If you have a sort through jigsaw puzzles or board games over the Christmas holiday, please consider donating them to school. We would be pleased to receive puzzles up to 200 pieces. Thank you in advance for your kindness and help.

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.



Sophie's Snaps:



As you will remember, our extremely talented Miss Housden took a photograph of the whole primary school to mark the 180th anniversary of The Rackham just before half term. **A copy of the photograph is available in the office, for parents and carers to see and order.** Miss Housden does offer her photographic skills outside of school for a special event coming up.

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils (**including jumpers and cardigans**) 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.

Christmaths at Ely Library:



St Andrew’s Church, Witchford notices:



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: 92.68%

On behalf of all staff and Governors at The Rackham, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 6th January 2025.

Very best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
6 th January 2025	First day of term.
8 th January	Year 4 Burwell Parent Meeting 6pm
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 th February)
11 th February	Safer Internet Day
W\C 17 th February	HALF TERM