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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

26th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the second week of this term now complete, our pupils should be extremely proud of themselves for the positive engagement and desire to learn they are demonstrating in school.

Safeguarding: Encouraging open conversations at home

Having open conversations is an important way to develop trust so making it easier to talk about sensitive subjects openly and honestly as our children get older.

Please see the attached leaflet with 10 tips on encouraging open conversations at home.

Wellbeing and Mental Health: Anxiety Workshop 8th May 2024 in the school hall

This workshop is aimed at parents and carers who would like to learn more about causes of anxiety, what anxiety is, how to help as a parent, tools, calming techniques, and key strategies.

The session will be on Wednesday 8th May starting at 2.05pm and ending at 3.15pm. Poster attached.

Book your place here: <https://forms.office.com/e/ThDhZ8sDND>

Mountain Warehouse – Ely:

Please see the attached poster from Mountain Warehouse in Ely who are offering families from The Rackham a discount of 20% on Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April.

Year 2 Parent Meal:

We would like to invite Year 2 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 2nd May. 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 26th March please.**

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

<https://forms.office.com/e/DhRTR5VRzr>

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 2 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.

Parents and carers of Year 2 children will arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm for a 12.30pm meal time.

Is my child too ill for school?

You might have noticed that there is currently a big push by the Government, with support from the NHS, to decrease avoidable absence in schools.

The NHS has a useful page that helps parents and carers decide whether a child is well enough to attend school.

Along with the Chief Medical Officer, the NHS say it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. Without an accompanying high temperature, a child would be expected to attend school.

Have a look at the website for more information using this link: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/when-is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

FWR Funday Sunday: Sunday 30th June 2024: Call for volunteers

FWR are seeking volunteers to help at Funday Sunday. Would you be able to help?

Parents, carers, Grandparents are welcome!

Register your interest here: <https://forms.office.com/e/zraXrFXxus>

Reading book amnesty:

When you find a reading book from school at home, please do send it into school with your child.

If you would rather, we have set up a book amnesty box in the main reception to school, simply drop off any school reading books you may have.

Thank you so much for your help.

Book bag volunteers:

Do any parents and carers have a spare 10 minutes at drop off to help our teachers in Reception and Key Stage One to remove books that have been read at home from book bags and compile a list of children who need a new book?

If you think you could offer even one morning when you could help, please let the office know or your child's class teacher. Thank you so much.

Tapestry updates for teachers:

Some of our younger children have weekly digital texts sent home via Tapestry that aligns with their learning in class.

Please remember to spend some time reading these texts with your child and posting an update and how things went onto your child's Tapestry account.

Reading newsletter

Learning to read is the most important element of your child's time at school. Reading opens the door to all other curriculum areas and improves life chances. We aim to inspire a love of reading in all our children and give them the skills to read with independence and enjoyment.

Working in partnership with home to achieve this goal is hugely important and we appreciate your support in this most crucial part of your child's development.

Below we will outline what to expect in terms of reading at home for your child.

	Reception and Year 1	Year 2	Years 3-6
Phonics Readers	Each week, a digital copy of the class shared reader, linked to the week's phonics teaching, will be posted on Tapestry. Please read this book more than once over the week. Research shows that repeated reading helps children gain confidence and fluency.	Some children will still be practising their phonics and so a phonics book may be posted on Tapestry aligned with the phonics sounds that they are practising in school. Please read more than once over the week.	Some children will still be practising their phonics and so a phonics book may be posted on Tapestry aligned with the phonics sounds that they are practising in school. Please read more than once over the week.
Individual Readers	Each week your child will bring home a phonics book that is aligned with their stage of phonics learning. This can be changed when it is returned to school so you are able to get more than one book a week. However, it is still important to reread these books, so ideally read no more than 2 per week.	Each week your child will bring home a Little Wandle Fluency reading book. This will be changed when finished and returned to school.	Some children may bring home a reading scheme book/ book chosen by their teacher, to help support their developing fluency. Please support your child to read these books and return to school when finished.
Reading for Pleasure	All children can choose a book from their class book area to share at home. This is a book for you to read and enjoy with your child as they are unlikely to be able to read it independently.	All children can choose a book from their class book area to share at home. This is a book for you to read and enjoy with your child, as they may not yet be able to read it independently.	All children can choose a book from their class book area to share at home. This is a book for your child to read independently but also to you. It is still important for your child to read aloud, even if they are a fluent reader.
Reading records	All children have a reading record book. Please write the date, book title and a comment for any reading done at home. This can be any of the above reading experiences. Please return to school daily in your child's book bag.	All children have a reading record book. Please write the date, book title and a comment for any reading done at home. This can be any of the above reading experiences. Please return to school daily in your child's book bag.	All children have a reading record book. This should move between home and school every day. When they read, your child must make a note of the date, title of book read and any comments.

Piano lessons:

Please see the attached information regarding piano lessons. If you would like more information please contact Mr Wheatley directly via his email: lwheatley@rackham.cambs.sch.uk

What's On Guide: Children and Family Centre:

Please find the latest guide here: [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School \(rackhamprimaryschool.com\)](#)

Funday Sunday:

Preparations are well underway for Funday Sunday on Sunday 30th June. If you have any contacts who may be able to make a donation towards The Grand Prize draw, please email fwr@rackham.cambs.sch.uk Thank you in advance for your support.

Ely Hockey Camp:

Please see the attached poster regarding Hockey Camp in Ely on 31st May.

St Andrew’s Church: Can you help?

St Andrew’s Church is seeking volunteers to help with a variety of Committee roles. Do you have some spare time to offer to help?

If so, please contact Rosemary Westwell by email for further details: rjwestwell@hotmail.com

Church newsletter:

Please find a copy of St Andrew’s Church newsletter on the Community page of our website. [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School \(rackhamprimaryschool.com\)](http://Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E (VC) Primary School (rackhamprimaryschool.com))

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: 94.95%

**ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary	
26 – 28.04.2024	Mountain Warehouse Ely – discount weekend
01.05.2024	Year 4 Bikeability (we apologise – this was incorrect last week)
02.05.2024	Year 2 Parent meal
03.05.2024	Year 3/4 Ely Tennis Club coaching sessions
06.05.2024	May Day Bank Holiday
13.05.2024	SATs week Year 6
23.05.2024	Year 1 Parent meal
27 – 31.05.2024	Half term holiday
WC 03.06.2024	Year 6 Bikeability
06.06.2024	Year 3/4 trip to West Stow
13.06.2024	Class photos
25.06.2024	Transition day
WC 01.07.2024	Olympic Week including Sports Days