

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.

1 Thessalonians 5.11

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

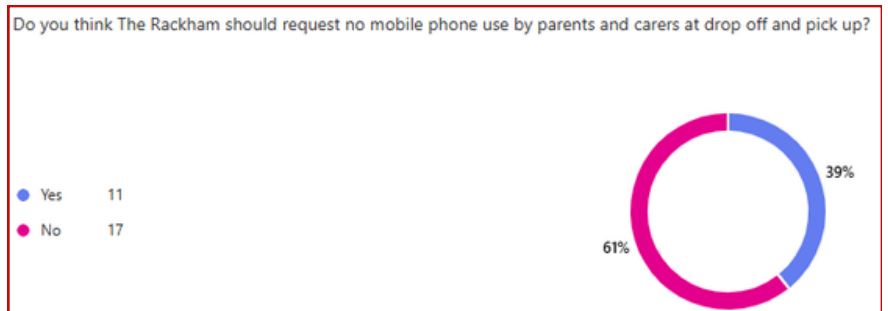
Message from Miss Turner

2nd October 2026

Another busy week at The Rackham! We are so pleased about our new netball club for Key Stage Two developed with help from Ely College. We will share the outcome of our recent SIAMS Inspection with the community once the final report has been published.

Safeguarding:

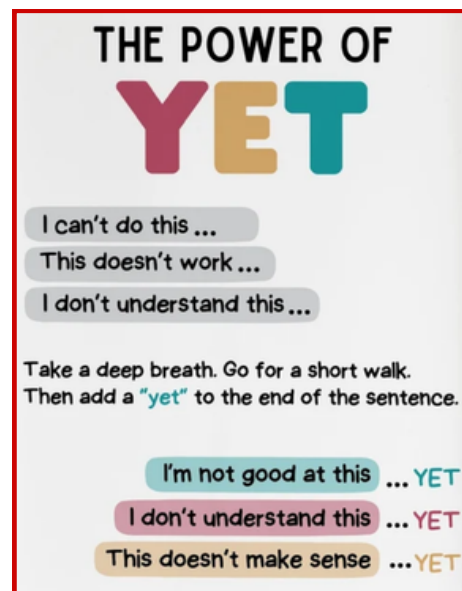
We thank parents and carers for engaging in our question about mobile phone use at drop off and collection. Many parents and carers said responsible use and trusting phones and cameras are being used safely was most important.



Wellbeing & Mental Health

When children find something difficult, it can be easy for them to say, "I can't do it" or "I don't understand." By encouraging them to add "yet", we help them remember that learning takes time, practice and perseverance.

Together, we can help children see mistakes as part of learning and give them the confidence to keep trying: Sometimes, the smallest word can make the biggest difference.



Attendance

This week's attendance: 96.07%

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

NHS guidance on how to determine if your child is too ill for school

[https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?es_c=AC82DB7E96BFD9AC5E67432445C9813A&es_cl=0D3BE8C5CF33C9EC1AA46E767A80DD1E&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1)

[es_c=AC82DB7E96BFD9AC5E67432445C9813A&es_cl=0D3BE8C5CF33C9EC1AA46E767A80DD1E&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?es_c=AC82DB7E96BFD9AC5E67432445C9813A&es_cl=0D3BE8C5CF33C9EC1AA46E767A80DD1E&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1)

SEND Reforms and the White Paper

If you wish to find out more about the SEND reforms, the most update advice from the DFE can be found here for parents and carers:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a831cfe03b4fe14b1e7df28/What_parents_of_children_and_young_people_with_SEND_need_to_know.pdf

Opportunity to become a school Governor

[Governor Vacancy | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

Clubs

Club	Day	Time	Year group	Dates
Colouring Club	Monday	12.45 - 1.15pm	Year 1/2	14 th September to 19 th October
Ukelele Club	Monday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 3-6	14 th September to 23 rd November
Needlework Club	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 6	15 th September to 24 th November
NEW - Netball Club - Run by Sports Leaders from Ely College	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 3 -6	6 th October to 24 th November
Ukelele Club	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 1/2	16 th September to 25 th November
Intro to Netball Club	Thursday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 1/2	24 th September to 22 nd October
Tag Rugby (run by qualified coach)	Thursday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 1	24th September to 22nd October
Picture book Club	Friday	12.45 - 1.15pm	Year 1/2	18 th September to 23 rd October

Club booking is available through the Clubs and Trips tab of your MCAS account

Early Years: Reception Stay and Play

We would like to remind you of the opportunity to come into school and spend some time with your child next week. We will be running four morning sessions between Monday 5th October and Thursday 8th October. Each session will run between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. You will be able to come into class with your child in the morning and join in a phonics session before having the chance to play together in the classroom.

Our aim for these sessions is to give you a first hand experience of how phonics is taught in Reception and to also have fun!

We hope you will be able to attend one of the sessions, please book your space using the link below using the password **PLAY26**. Please note that due to the space in our classrooms we are only able to offer one adult to attend per child for this event and younger siblings will not be able to come along.

www.ticketsource.com/the-rackham-primary-school

On **Friday 9th October at 8:50 a.m.** we are holding a meeting in the hall for all of our Reception parents. We will give you further information about our phonics scheme and how you can support your child at home and also answer any questions you may have following your session in school with your child.

Please follow [this link](#) to let us know if you are able to attend.

Early Years: Pre-School weekly update

Next week we are changing our Big Question to “What is changing around us?”. We will start by asking “What is happening to the trees?” We hope to explore how trees change in Autumn, with leaves changing colour and falling from the trees. If you have a familiar tree in your garden or that you see on the way to school, perhaps you can observe and record the changes that are happening to it over the next few months and share them with us through Tapestry, drawings, collages or a diary. You could also collect some of the beautiful fallen leaves you might find on a walk and bring them in to show us.

Early Years: Pre-School Parenting course free of charge

An exciting new parenting course for families. The course starts on Wednesday 4th November and will run for 14 weeks giving parents/carers a chance to get to know each other in a safe space and to share parenting challenges and tips. The Incredible Years course is engaging and interactive with lots of short video snippets to watch together and then discuss. Feedback from past deliveries has been that the course has been both enjoyable and helpful. Families can self-refer by emailing the address on the poster.

ccc.parenting@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

INCREDIBLE YEARS
PRE SCHOOL

Best Start Family Hub -
Ely
Spring Meadow Infant
and Nursery school site
High Barns, Ely,
CB7 4RB

14 weekly sessions
starting Wednesday
4 November
9.30am - 11.30am

The Incredible Years Pre-School programme supports parents and carers to build warm, positive relationships with their children, creating strong foundations for learning and development. It promotes nurturing and consistent approaches that help children feel secure, confident, and ready to learn.

Delivered over 14 sessions, the programme equips parents and carers with practical skills to encourage social, emotional and language development, use positive and effective behaviour strategies, support children to manage their emotions and build confidence, develop school readiness skills, and work in partnership with early years settings.

Who is it for?

- ✓ Parents of children up to 6 years
- ✓ Parents need to be able to commit to all 14 sessions
- ✉ For enquires, please email ccc.parenting@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire County Council | BEST START IN LIFE | FAMILY HUBS

Year 5 Parent meal

We would like to invite Year 5 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 22nd October. 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 £3.80. Meal choice and payment must be made by Friday 16th October please.

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

Unfortunately, we can only offer for one parent or carer to attend on this occasion.

Children in Year 5 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 can parents and carers of Year 5 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.

Scholastic book fair

Scholastic book fair will be open in the school hall from 3.30pm to 4.15pm from 8th to 13th October. Card payments preferred please. All purchases contribute to free books for our school so please do come and support the book fair.

FWR School lottery

A colorful poster for the FWR School Lottery. At the top, there's a row of school-related icons: a ruler, a magnifying glass, scissors, a pushpin, a paperclip, a yellow ball, and a person icon with the text 'YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY'. Below this is a large red rounded rectangle with the text 'WELCOME BACK! SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL PLAY OUR LOTTERY' in white. Surrounding this central text are various school items: a pencil, a paperclip, a globe, a compass, a pencil sharpener, a book, an apple, a pen, and a backpack. Below the central text is a list of bullet points: 'Join the lottery to support our school', 'Win weekly cash prizes up to £25,000', 'Tickets from just £1 a week', and 'Free entry into the bonus Super Draw!'. At the bottom, there's a purple section with the text 'BUY TICKETS: Go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk And search for: Rackham Or scan the QR code!'. To the right of this text is a QR code. In the bottom left corner, there's a small logo for 'GambleAware'.



FWR Uniform sales

FWR will be running second hand uniform sales before and after school on the following dates:

- Tuesday 29th September
- Wednesday 14th October
- Friday 20th November
- Wednesday 16th December

School Uniform reminder

We wish to remind parents, carers and pupils about school uniform expectations.

- Hair should be in its natural state without colours from permanent dye or temporary colour.
- Nails should be without nail varnish.
- Stud earrings only.

Children's Commissioner survey

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza would like to hear from children and young people aged between 0 - 18, as part of a national survey called 'The Big Future'. Please help your child(ren) to complete the survey which can be found [here](#)

A Christmas card design competition for the local MP

I'm challenging children from across Ely and East Cambridgeshire to design a festive card that reflects the spirit of the season - joy, kindness, and togetherness.

The winning design will be featured on the front of my official Christmas card, which I send to colleagues, community leaders, and constituents. The two runners-up will also feature on the back of the card. All children will receive a participation certificate, and the three winning entries will receive a small prize.

This year, I'd like the children's designs to be inspired by the theme '**Wildlife in Winter**'.

Further information:

Before the deadline, please send the original artwork only to the following address – no photocopies, please. Once judging has taken place, we will ensure all artwork is returned to you.

Charlotte Cane MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Designs should be created on A4 paper, but will be reduced to A6 size for printing. Please avoid 3D elements such as glitter, stickers, or glue, as these do not reproduce well. On the back of each entry, please include the child's full name, age, school and school year – clearly written.

The winner's name, school and age will be included on the final card and announced through my communication channels including on social media and in my newsletter. If a parent or guardian would prefer certain details, such as a surname, to be omitted, please clearly state this on the back of the artwork.

I would be thrilled to see your creativity and imagination shine through your designs. The deadline for entries is **Monday 2nd November**. Please send the entries with enough time to reach us by then.

Therapy dog Tuesday

We are delighted to welcome Sancho, a trained therapy dog and his handler into school on Tuesday afternoons again this year. We will share with our pupils that they require permission from their parents and carers before they can spend time with Sancho. Sancho is a Shih Tzu which are generally considered to be hypoallergenic or low allergen. Please follow the link here to advise us about your child taking part: [Therapy Dog Tuesday with Sancho](#)

myHappy Mind

All parents and carers have access to the My Happy Mind platform where there are lots of resources and ideas to use at home to support your child free of charge.

Simply go to the My Happy Mind website and log in: <https://myhappymind.org/>

You will be asked for a reference number for The Rackham. The number to type in is:

Please access free of charge all the parent and carer resources. **Huge thanks to our wonderful FWR who pay the subscription.**

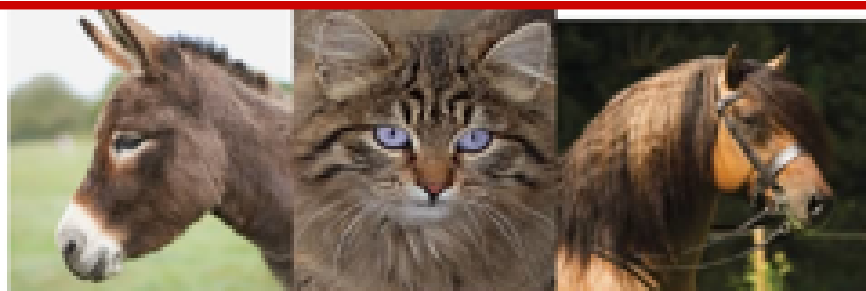
Photographs

Children will be bringing home a card with the photo ordering information on it on Friday or Monday.

Photos can be ordered for free delivery to school through the Kittle website until Sunday 18th October.

After this date, photos can be ordered to a home address which will incur a postage charge.

St Andrew's Church Pet Service Sunday 11th October



PET SERVICE

St Andrew's Church

WITCHFORD

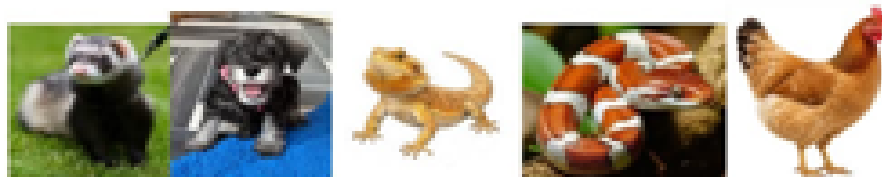
11.00am – 11th October, 2026

Bring along your pets for a blessing.

ALL WELCOME

Please use appropriate carriers and leashes.

A memory board will be available for photos of deceased pets who will also be blessed – Please bring them with you.



Refreshments will be served after the Service.

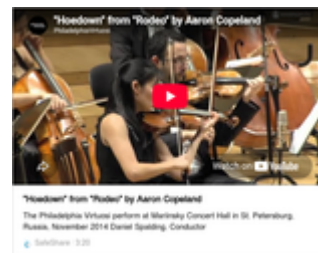
Focus for next week in Collective Worship

REFUGEE

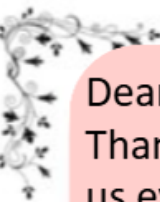
Composer for this half term

Aaron Copland

Click these links to listen to the music we are sharing in Collective Worship.



Prayer For This Week



Dear God,
Thank you for loving
us even when we get
things wrong.
Help us to be honest.
Help us to be fair.
Help us to say sorry
when we need to.
Help us to put things
right and show
kindness to others.
Amen.



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Activities and Events



Unlock the Power of Mandalas

A Half Day Creative Workshop

Open to anyone interested in this holistic and powerful creative healing resource - absolutely no experience necessary. A few hours to make time for yourself, and a bonus might be that you can use any ideas you come away with, to perhaps support others!

Cost: £45.00 (a CPD certificate will be provided on request following the day).

Saturday, October 3rd 2026
Time: 10:00 - 1:30
To be delivered on Zoom

This workshop is led by Emma Most, a skilled counsellor and trainer. She operates in private practice and provides therapy workshops both in the UK and internationally. For more information or to book your place, please email: cambridgecreativecounselling@gmail.com

Launching soon: Best Start Family Hub Ely

From Monday 28 September, Cambridgeshire County Council is launching five new Best Start Family Hubs, which will build on the current Child and Family Centre offer.

We would like to invite you to be part of the launch! Come along to the opening of the new Best Start Family Hub in Ely.

No booking required. Drop in to meet the team, learn about all the support available and enjoy fun activities with your children. You'll find refreshments, information stands and free resources.

Also, we'd love to hear from you about our services and the support you need.

Everyone welcome.

We look forward to seeing you soon at a new Family Hub!

Where and when

- Tuesday 29 September
- 9.30am - 12.00pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm
- Spring Meadow Infant and Nursery School site, High Barns, Ely, CB7 4RB

Taster activities

- 9.45am Baby sing and rhyme
- 10.30am Storycraft with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"
- 11.15am Bookstart corner
- 2.30pm Baby sing and rhyme
- 3.15pm Storycraft with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"

Cambridgeshire County Council Healthy Relationship Courses Autumn 2026

Supporting positive relationships for parents, families and communities.

- 1 Healthy Relationships Course**
Looking to improve your relationship with a family member, friend, neighbour or colleague? Join our 6-week course.
• Virtual Course - Starting Tuesday 6 October
• Face to Face Course - Starting Wednesday 7 October, 10am - 12pm, Best Start Family Hub Huntingdon
- 2 Supporting Co-parenting**
• Improve communication with your partner to support your children. Online via Teams: Monday 12 October and Monday 19 October, Midday - 1pm
• Improve communication with your ex-partner to support your children. Online via Teams: Wednesday 14 October and Wednesday 21 October, Midday - 1pm
- 3 RISE Programme**
A programme for victims/survivors of domestic abuse whether in or out of the relationship.
• Face to Face Course, Thursday 5 November, 9.30am - 11.30am, Fenland
• Face to Face Course, Tuesday 3 November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm, Cambs City
- 4 Parenting with an Abusive Ex-Partner**
If you have experienced an abusive relationship, communicating with an abusive ex-partner about parenting matters can be difficult. We encourage you to read our guidance on parenting with an abusive ex-partner and contact us for support.

Email RPCLead@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to book onto a course or to find out more information.

Let's reclaim childhood

Join the growing movement of parents choosing to wait to give their children smartphones & social media

Sign THE PARENT PACT

- ✓ Delay smartphones & social media
- ✓ Over 135,000 sign ups
- ✓ Takes 30 seconds to sign
- ✓ Reduces peer pressure
- ✓ View live local leaderboards

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

HADDENHAM ARTS CENTRE

TWO DAY young artists' workshops Autumn Half Term

Suitable for Ages 9+

Full and fun days of educational and creative activities run by an experienced and qualified art teacher.

**27-28 October
3-4 November**

For more information & to book:
www.haddenhamartscentre.org.uk
Phone 01353 749188
office@haddenhamartscentre.org.uk

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to invite parents/carers to our workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for **September - October 2026**.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Supporting your child with angry feelings	Tuesday 29/09/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with angry feelings - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Managing behaviours that challenge	Thursday 01/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing Behaviours that Challenge - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Supporting your child with sleep	Monday 05/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with sleep - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Managing sibling rivalry	Wednesday 07/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing sibling rivalry - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Digital safety/internet safety	Tuesday 13/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Digital safety/internet safety - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Supporting your child with feelings of worry	Thursday 15/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with feelings of worry - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Supporting your child with angry feelings	Tuesday 20/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with angry feelings - EIFA core offer workshop or	

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Ely Tigers

Ely Tigers is open to all age groups from U6 (Year 1) right through to the Senior Team. All children are welcome to join, no matter experience or ability. Ely Tigers train from 9am on Sunday mornings. The first 3 sessions are free of charge, no need to book, just turn up and say hello.

We are proud to announce that we are a myHappyMind Bronze Accredited School!

myHappyMind ACCREDITED SCHOOL

This means we have demonstrated our commitment to building a wellbeing culture for our entire school community.

OCTOBER HALF-TERM SWIM INTENSIVE

Build confidence. Improve technique. Make real progress in just 5 days.

5 CONSECUTIVE DAYS

30-MINUTE LESSON EACH DAY

1:1 or 2:1 lessons

DATES: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

VENUE: Indoor pool Hereward House, Witchford

PRICING: 2:1 class £150 & 1:1 classes £240

BOOK YOUR PLACE

www.seahorseswimely.co.uk

St. Andrew's Church



NEWS from the Parish church of St. Andrew Witchford for the community

Church wardens:

**Dr Rosemary Westwell, (01353) 663918 rjwestwell@hotmail.com; mobile: 07432342845
email@ rjwestwell@hotmail.com**

**2nd church warden: Mr Freddie Lawes, tel (01353) 665369 mob: 07799596697 email:
hemlocks42@btinternet.com**

Rector: Rev. Chris Hollingshurst 07534970127

SERVICES: Unless stated otherwise, services take place in the church at 10.00 on Sunday mornings every week. Occasionally, there may be changes to services. These will be on our Facebook page ('St. Andrew's Church Witchford') and on the church notice board. Coffee/tea and biscuits are served at the end of services. All welcome.

If you wish to arrange a baptism, wedding, funeral or home communion please contact the church warden.

VACANCIES:

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Witchford are seeking new members, Why not join them for fun activities while helping our church stay open and upright? They are also seeking a secretary. Contact Rosemary Westwell

COFFEE MORNINGS

are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1000 -1130 in St Andrew's Hall Witchford. Cost: minimum £5 for coffee, cake and a raffle strip.

CRAFT MORNINGS:

on the second Thursday of the month.

10.30 -12. a.m. in St Andrew's Hall. contact: susanmaud.sm@gmail.com 07954 178560

VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB

takes place on the first Friday of the month at 12.30 p.m. in the Village Inn. Contact Rosemary Westwell (see above) or Gill Brand (01353) 662073 mobile: 07770932 to pay in advance.

FREE FOOD

is available at the FOODSWAP on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 11.30 a.m. overnight in St Andrew's Hall porch in Witchford. Please feel welcome to bring or take in-date and sealed food. Rosemary Westwell and Susan Maud can be approached for applying to use using Ely Foodbank too.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL

may be hired at £12 per hour for locals, £15 per hour for others. Please contact the Church Hall caretaker, Jan King (01353) 658621 M:07761341325 rule.king.uk@gmail.com