The Rackham NEWSLETTER

THE RACKHAM C OF E PRE-SCHOOL

THE RACKHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.
1 Thessalonians 5.11

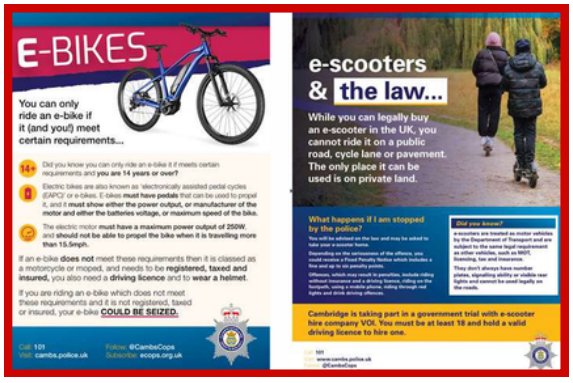
Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

6th November 2026

Message from Miss Turner

How wonderful to welcome everyone back to school after half term. Thank you to all families who contributed so generously tinned and dried food for our Harvest Festival yesterday. We thoroughly enjoyed our first visit of many we hope, from Rev'd Chris Hollingshurst. All donations of food are being given to St. Andrew's Food Bank in Witchford for the benefit of the local community.

Safeguarding:



As e-bikes and e-scooters become increasingly popular, it is important that young people and their families understand the rules governing their safe and legal use.

E-Bikes
Electric bikes, also known as **Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs)**, can be used on roads and cycle routes provided they meet legal requirements. Riders must be aged **14 or over**, the bike must have working pedals, and the motor must stop providing assistance when the bike reaches **15.5mph (25km/h)**.
Any e-bike that exceeds these limits may be classed as a motorcycle or moped and require registration, insurance and the appropriate licence.

E-Scooters
Although privately owned e-scooters can be purchased legally, they **cannot be used on public roads, pavements or cycle paths**.

They may only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Using a privately owned e-scooter in public could result in police enforcement action.

Wellbeing & Mental Health: EIFA workshops for November

The EIFA team would like to present our workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for November.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form. If you don't receive the booking link, please check your spam/junk folder. A reminder email will also be sent to you an hour before the workshop.

Managing Challenging Behaviour	Tuesday, 10 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing Challenging Behaviour or
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Thursday, 12 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting with Angry Feelings or
Supporting Your Child with Sleep	Tuesday, 17 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting Your Child with Sleep or
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Thursday, 19 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting with Feelings of Worry or
Managing Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 24 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing Sibling Rivalry or
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Thursday 26 November 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting with Angry Feelings or

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

Attendance

This week's attendance: 94.1 %

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/?es_c=AC82DB7E96BFD9AC5E67432445C9813A&es_cl=0D3BE8C5CF33C9EC1AA46E767A80DD1E&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1

Early Years: Pre-School weekly update

Next week, we will be exploring where light comes from, discovering things that shine and investigating what happens when light passes through different materials. At home, why not go on a little light hunt together? Look for lamps, torches, streetlights and the moon. You can have fun shining a torch through coloured material, plastic, tissue paper or a clear container to see what happens. As we are also learning about Armistice Day, you might want to look out for poppies when you are out and about and talk about why people wear them. You could even share a quiet moment together, thinking about kindness, peace and the people who help others. We would love for you to share what your child discovers!

Pre-School Christmas Celebration

We would like to invite all pre-school parents and carers to our Pre-School Christmas Celebration event on Thursday 10th December at 2pm in the school hall.

Children who usually attend on a Thursday afternoon will be brought to the hall by the Pre-School staff and will meet you there at 2pm. **Bookings will open on Monday 9th November via the Products and Trips tab on your MCAS account and close on 2nd December.**

If your child doesn't attend Pre-school on a Thursday afternoon, please do book a ticket for yourself (via MCAS) and bring them at 2pm to join in the fun.

A snack and drink will be provided for everyone and we are hoping there may be a special Christmas visitor! We expect the event to last no longer than half an hour. If your child is in session on a Thursday afternoon, you are welcome to take them home at the end of the event if you prefer.

Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this event.

Parent's Evening's: Pre-School to Year 6

Parent's Evening will take place on Wednesday 11th November (3.30pm - 7pm) and Thursday 12th November (3.30pm - 5.30pm).

Bookings for Reception to Year 6 closed on Wednesday 4th November.

If you missed the booking window and would like to confirm a time to meet your child's teacher, please contact the main office. If you wish to book a meeting with your Pre-School child's key worker, please contact the office to book a time.

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Poppy Appeal 2026

Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion: Poppies are now on sale. We will marking Armistice Day on Wednesday 11th November.
Pupils who attend Girlguiding or Scouts are welcome to wear their uniform on this date.



Year 4 Parent Meal

We would like to invite Year 4 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 26nd November. 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 20th November 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 4 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 4 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.

Year 4 Big Camp Parent meeting: Wednesday 18th November

We will be holding a meeting for parents and Year 4 children on Wednesday 18th November at 6pm in the school hall. Please complete **this form** to let us know whether or not you will be able to attend.

Unforgettable School Residentials | Big School Camp | Onsite Camps

Christmas performance information

Christmas performances will take place as detailed in Dates for your Diary. Attendance at the performances will require a seat to be booked.

Bookings will open on Monday 9th November and close at 9am on Wednesday 25th November.

Tickets can be booked through MCAS and will appear under the Products and Trips tab. **Tickets will initially be limited to two per family (not per performance) – these can be split over two performances but the total booked must not exceed two please.**

If you would like extra tickets, please contact the office to be added to the waiting list for the preferred performance.

Mr Wheatley's Piano concerts

Mr Wheatley's piano concerts will take place on Thursday 10th December for KS1 and Friday 11th December for KS2. We apologise for the incorrect date in Dates for your Diary.

The concerts will begin at 9.30am and are expected to last for approximately an hour.

Bookings will open via your MCAS account on Monday 9th November and close on Monday 7th December.

Governing Body update: Governor elections now closed

The Rackham Remembrance: Wednesday 11th November



Children in Need and Anti-Bullying week

For Children in Need on Friday 13th November we will be holding a non-uniform day. All children can come to school in their own clothes from home and we hope some children would like to join in with the theme 'Dress Loud'. If you child has PE on Friday and their outfit is not suitable, please can they bring in a PE kit.

This could be clashing patterns, bright colours or your own imaginative ideas. This theme has been chosen to get us ready for Anti-Bullying Week beginning on Monday 16th November.

The week's theme is 'Break the Silence'. The children will be taking part in sessions to learn what bullying is and how they can support others and speak up for themselves to be able to get help.

If you would like to donate to Children in Need, please follow this link: **Donate to BBC Children in Need**

If you would like to donate to The Anti-Bullying Alliance, please follow this link: **Consider making a donation**

Games and PE days

Please note the changes to Forest school sessions, outdoor and indoor PE in red.

Class	Outdoor Games	Indoor PE
Rowan	Thursday - Forest School	Friday
Ash	Wednesday - Forest School	Thursday
Beech	Monday	Thursday
Larch	Monday - Forest School until Christmas	Wednesday
Chestnut	Monday	Wednesday
Hazel	Wednesday	Thursday
Sycamore	Thursday - Forest School until Christmas	Friday
Elm	Wednesday	Tuesday
Willow	Thursday	Friday
Cedar	Friday	Tuesday
Oak	Friday	Monday

Forest school sessions for children in Pre-School to Year 4 will take place in all weathers. Please ensure your child has access to:

* Sun hat
* Winter hat/gloves
* A waterproof coat
* Filled in shoes (trainers, boots, wellies) these need to be additional to school shoes
* Waterproof trousers if available
* A spare change of clothes (including socks)

These can be left at school on your child's peg so that they have access to them for every session.

Forest School sessions for Years 1 - 4 will rotate on a half termly basis

Clubs

Club	Day	Time	Year group	Dates
Ukelele Club	Monday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 3-6	14th September to 23rd November
Christmas Card Club	Tuesday (Please note the change of day)	12.45 -1.15pm	Year 1/2	3rd November to 24th November
Needlework Club	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 6	15th September to 24th November
Lego Club	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 1/2	3rd November - 24th November
Netball	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 3-6	3rd November - 24th November
Ukelele Club	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 1/2	16th September to 25th November
Tag Rugby (run by qualified coach)	Thursday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 1	4th November - 25th November

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

My Child's Art Christmas card

The children's artwork is available for adults to buy as Christmas cards and gifts from the company.

The Early Bird discount has been extended until 12th November.

Order information:



A letter from Norwich City FC

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have a great opportunity for female students in Year 3–6 to attend a free trial training session at our Cambourne and Ely Development Centre. If offered a place, players join our programme under a modest participation fee, which grants them the following benefits:

Weekly training sessions delivered by UEFA-qualified coaches — educational, fun, and skill-focused
Training alongside talented peers to push development
Access to the club's full development pathway
Full NCFC training kit
Opportunities to travel on residential training retreats
Competitive fixtures against other development programmes and local clubs
Training schedule:

Cambridgeshire - Cambourne Girls Development Centre
Address: Cambourne Village College, Sheepfold Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6FR
Date: Wednesday 14th of October 2026
Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Age group: U8 - U11 (Year 3 - Year 6)
Outfield and Goalkeeper Centre

Cambridgeshire - Ely Girls Development Centre
Address: The Hive Leisure Centre, Leisure Park, 15 Downham Rd, ELY CB6 2FE
Date: Friday 23rd of October 2026
Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Age group: U9 - U11 (Year 4 - Year 6)
Outfield and Goalkeepers welcome

All sessions take place at our excellent facilities in Cambourne and Ely.
If your daughter would like to attend a free trial session, please sign up via our trial form or please contact me at Phil.turner@canaries.co.uk to arrange as free trial session.

Sign up trial link: **https://forms.gle/n6Wu5f1RskpVgD3q6**
We look forward to welcoming any new players to the centre!

Kind regards,

Phil Turner
Norwich City FC
Head of Girls Football



FWR





FWR Uniform sales

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

- 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.

School meal booking

Please would parents ensure meals are booked in advance and no later than 8.30am on the day.

Focus for next week in Collective Worship



Composer for this half term

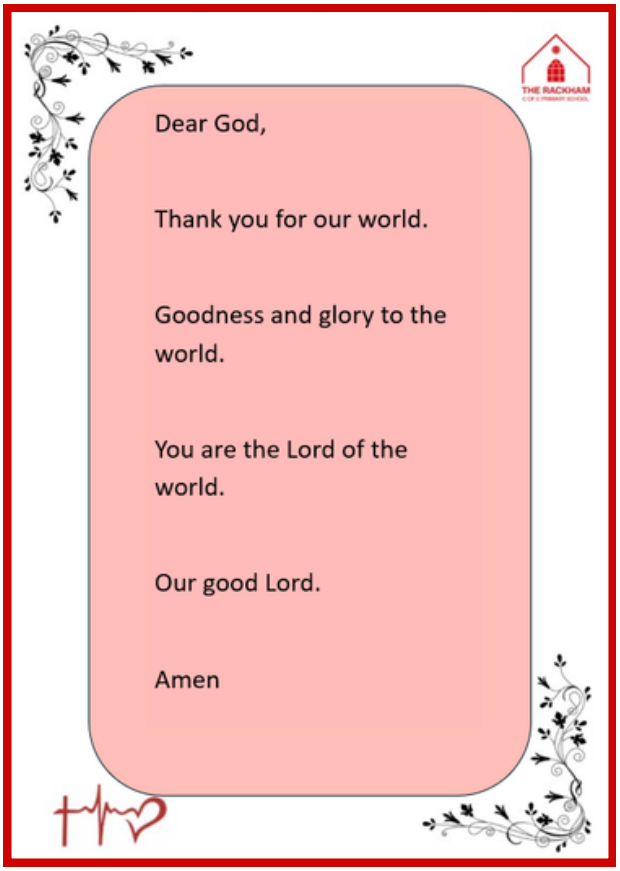
Tchaikovsky

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





Prayer For This Week



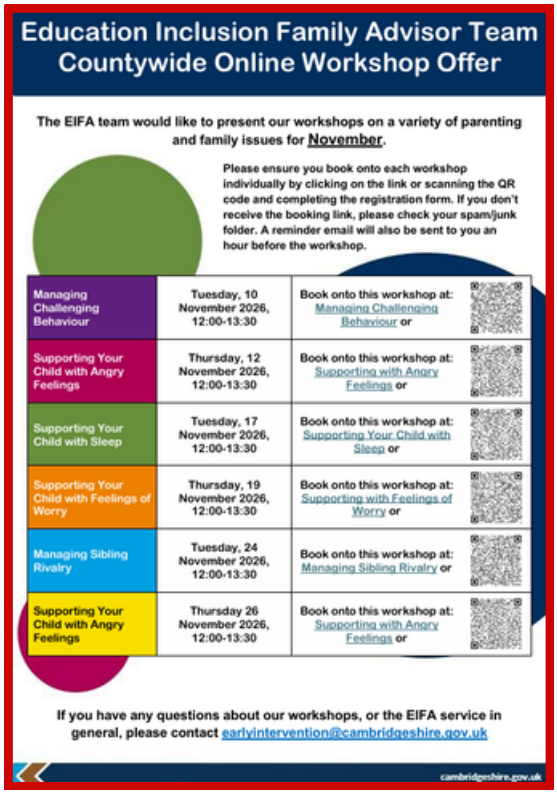
Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

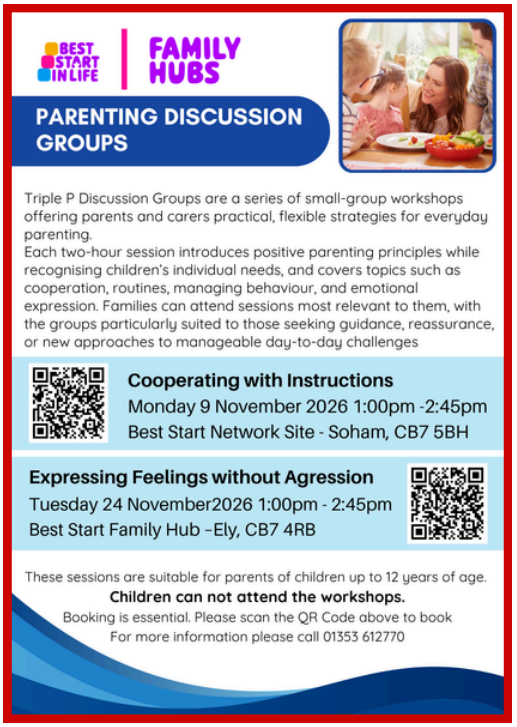
Activities and Events

















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 11.00 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