



The Rackham NEWSLETTER



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

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

3rd July 2026

Message from Miss Turner

What super disco events this week, thank you FWR for your generosity of time helping arrange, set up and run two discos. A great time was had by all!

Pupils will bring home booklets this afternoon with the name of their class and teacher for September. This is in preparation for Move Up Day next Wednesday 8th July.

Attendance

This week's attendance: 90.6%

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

Safeguarding

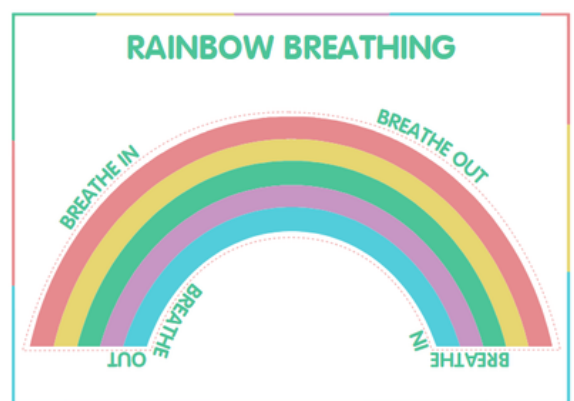
There is an increasing trend for teenagers and young people to request their parents take down images shared of them when they were younger on social media. Features like tagging and resharing can bypass protections, allowing content to spread beyond the intended audience, even from 'private' accounts. This link takes you to the report summary giving further information:

<https://care.org.uk/news/2025/09/children-at-risk-of-online-harm-from-parents-sharing-photos-study-finds>

Wellbeing & Mental Health



Parents can log in for free:
<https://myhappy.mind.org/>



Move Up Day - Wednesday 8th July

Teachers have advised children and all pupils will bring home new class information this afternoon, Friday 3rd July.

Current Year 6 pupils who are starting at Witchford Village College (WVC) in September will go straight to WVC and not come to The Rackham on Wednesday. Year 6 pupils who are not going to WVC will be in school as usual.

Reception to Year 5 will spend the day in their new class with their new teacher.

Current Pre-School pupils who are due to commence Reception in September will attend school with a parent or carer from 1.30 - 2.30pm.

Children who are due to start at The Rackham Pre-School in September will be invited to a taster session on Wednesday 8th July.

Please note that Pre-School will close at 12.00 for current pupils on Wednesday 8th July.

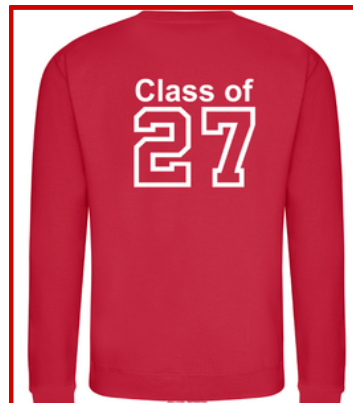
If you have any questions, please contact the office in the first instance. Thank you.

Current Year 5: How to order your Year 6 sweatshirt

2026 – 2027 Year 6 attending The Rackham in September, did you know orders can be placed now ready for the first day of term? Year 6 sweatshirts can be ordered for pupils attending The Rackham in September via Sigma directly:

[Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents or carers. Orders placed by 3rd July will be delivered to school for collection before the end of term. Orders placed after 3rd July can be collected from Sigma Embroidery on Sedgeway Business Park, Witchford but may not be ready for the start of term.



Changes to the swimming timetable for next week

Class	Swimming
Rowan	Thursday
Ash	Thursday
Chestnut	Friday
Beech	Thursday
Larch	Friday
Hazel	Tuesday
Sycamore	Tuesday
Elm	Monday
Willow	Monday - Girls Friday - Boys
Cedar	Friday - Boys Monday - Girls
Oak	Monday - Girls Friday - Boys

Hot weather

Please can we remind parents and carers that children should have the following in school each day:

1. Having a sun hat in school every day.
2. Ensuring the children have sun lotion applied before school, even if it is cloudy at 7am.
3. Requesting parents ensure that, on swimming days, they have applied lotion on chests and full arms, not just where school tops and dresses don't cover.
4. Hair is tied back on swimming and PE days.
5. All children have a water bottle every day.

Thank you for your support with this.

Staffing update

We are delighted to welcome Miss Lauren Gardiner to our teaching team from September. Miss Gardiner will be visiting school on move up day to meet her new class.

Football

Congratulations to England for reaching the last 16. We will be opening at our normal time of 8.30am on Monday. We are unable to authorise absence due to the World Cup match, however we will be showing the highlights of the England versus Mexico game for any children who wish to watch it.

Pre-School

Please could we also remind you that Pre-School will be closed to current pupils from 12.00 on Wednesday 8th July for Move Up day (see Move Up day section above)

Pre-School: Potty training

The way the nation helps children learn how to use the toilet is changing. There is a new approach across education, care, health and family services.

Children need to be out of nappies between 18-30 months, research shows this is what is best for their bowel and bladder health. Potty training can be introduced from 6 months, when a baby can sit up, they can sit on the potty or on a toilet with the right seat and foot support. There's no need to wait for signs of readiness. Learn more here: <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/toilet-training>

Year 3/4 request

Year 3/4 team would be grateful if children could bring in a cereal box, toilet roll inners or kitchen roll inners on Monday for a DT lesson.

Class and Year 6 leaver photos

Earlier this week, children brought home a photo card with the ordering information for the class and year 6 leaver photos.

Orders will need to be placed by Sunday 5th July for free delivery to school before the end of term.

Orders placed on Monday 6th July onwards will incur a postage charge but can be delivered to a home address.

Year 6 Leavers events

Booking is now open for the Leaver's BBQ on Thursday 16th July. The event will take place straight after school and finish at 5.30pm. Children will be able to swim so please provide swimming kit and towel. Please complete this form to book. Bookings must be made by Friday 10th July.

The Year 6 Leaver's assembly will take place at 10.30am on Friday 17th July followed by a buffet lunch. We expect the event to finish by 12.30pm. Please book your child's meal via MCAS and complete this form to book for up to two adults (adults are free of charge).

Free family cycle training sessions

This summer, Cambridgeshire County Council will be offering free cycle training sessions to help families across Cambridgeshire develop the skills, confidence and road awareness needed to enjoy cycling together.

From beginner sessions for children to adult confidence training, the programme is designed to support safer journeys and healthier lifestyles and are perfect for beginners or families wanting to get more active this summer.

- Improve road safety awareness
- Build cycling confidence
- Support healthier travel choices
- Gain practical skills for everyday journeys
- Sessions are available across Cambridgeshire.

[Book your cycling session](#) link

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge returns to Cambridgeshire Libraries this summer! Sign-up opens on Saturday 4th July, it's free and open to pre-school and primary school-aged children of all reading abilities.

The theme for 2026 is **Read to the Beat** - an adventure in stories, music and sound. Children are invited to read six books over the holidays, collecting rewards along the way - they will also receive a certificate and medal when they complete the challenge. Link here:

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library/children-and-young-people-in-libraries/summer-reading-challenge#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=a6568659-1084-4d69-9d7c-234f7da80100

Vacancy: Site Officer

About this Role

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, dedicated and highly motivated Site Officer to help us maintain a clean, safe and secure school premises.

Hours of work will be from 6am to 8am and then 1pm to 6pm Monday to Friday (there may also be locking up after lettings during the evening - 30 minutes per week). The timing of hours during the school holidays can be adapted so the shift is not split. We will also consider a job share option (working 1pm to 6pm - 25 hours per week contract). More details and application form here:

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/110807/EDV-2026-RCEPSAP-89745>

A message from the Children's Commissioner



Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England



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For the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election at age 16, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century – yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them.

That's why I'm doing my final survey, *The Big Future*, to talk to a million children, to listen to them. And to find out about what it's like to be a child today.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like, now and in the future.

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How children and young people can take part

The survey is open now. Full URL:

childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

The RED Mile, Mile a day in May

THE R.E.D MILE **Mile a Day in May** **RUN EVERY DAY**

Will you walk/jog/run/skip one mile each day throughout May?

Please help us by raising funds for an all weather track for the children at The Rackham C of E Primary School and Pre-School

Please use the link below to add to our Just Giving page.

We understand there were some technical difficulties but the page is now once more accepting donations. Thank you for your support.

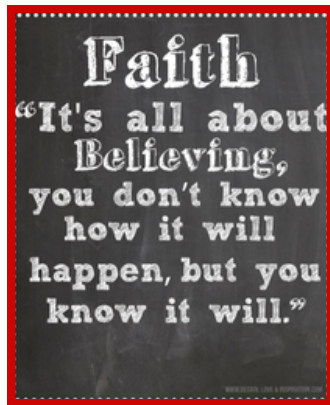
Just Giving link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/herackhamcofe-primaryschool>

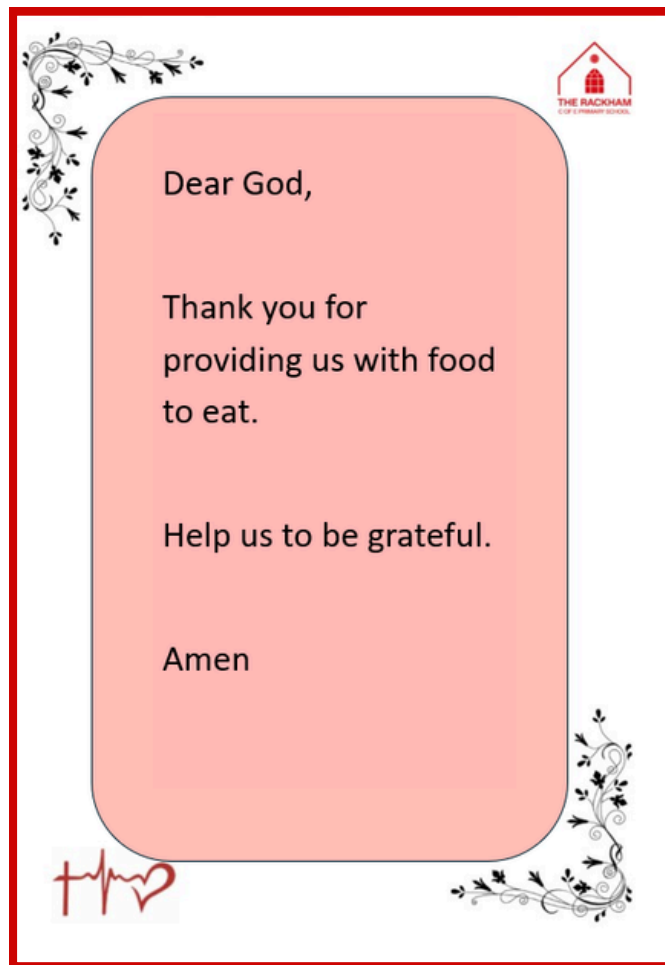
AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR
£1,717

Focus for next week in Collective Worship

Faith



Prayer For This Week



Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Activities and Events



Thank You to FWR for Our New Electronic Notice Board

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt thanks to FWR for their generous contribution of a new electronic notice board. This incredible addition to our community is a testament to our ongoing commitment to enhancing communication and connectivity.

BARRACUDAS ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2026!

EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE **SCHOOL20** FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

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

Use code **PSV16D49** to claim discount

8:00 AM - 5:45PM £35
9:00AM - 4:00PM £27

BOOK NOW

<https://www.activeplayeducation.co.uk/>

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

YOU COULD ENDANGER A CHILD'S LIFE

BE CONSIDERATE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

GET 6% OFF

Tax Credits & Childcare Vouchers Accepted

MONDAY 20TH JULY - FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 2026

Use code **PSV16D49** to claim discount

8:00 AM - 5:45PM £35
9:00AM - 4:00PM £27

BOOK NOW

<https://www.activeplayeducation.co.uk/>

The 53rd World PEASHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 11th July 2026

from 11:30am, Witham Village Green, Ely CB6 2LB

Competitions include:

- The Open - for customised peashooters
- Traditional Peashooter
- Teams - up to 4 people in a team
- Petits Pois - Under 11s
- Youth - Ages 12-16
- Junior Teams - Ages 5-10
- NEW This Year - Best Dressed Team

Plus: BBQ, Bar, Gin Tent, Stalls, Raffle, Tea & Cakes, Ice Cream, Kids Entertainment, Crafts and much more!

Register to compete on the day or online at www.worldpeashoot.com

Gold Sponsors: Alica Bank, CHEFFINS

Summer HAF Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Your child could enjoy fun, exciting activities, make new friends, and receive a tasty meal and snacks - all completely free.

Children who receive benefits-related free school meals are eligible and can join us for up to 64 hours of holiday fun this summer.

Find out more: Scan the QR Code or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

FULLY FUNDED

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

OPEN TRIALS

TRIALS IN:

PETERBOROUGH
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
SUFFOLK
SURREY

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

Girls trials for Norwich City

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
SUFFOLK
SURREY

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

11th July 2026 | 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Ely

13th July 2026 | 7.30pm
Haddenham Methodist Church, Haddenham

CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

AN EVENING OF MUSIC & FRIENDSHIP

Witchford Voices and Vyshyvanka Voices invite you to join them for a performance of English and Ukrainian songs, plus instrumental pieces performed by our choirs and special guests. In partnership with Convoy4Ukraine, this concert raises funds to send another ambulance to Ukraine.

Гурт Witchford Voices та спеціальні гості Vyshyvanka Voice запрошують вас приєднатися до нас на вечір музики та дружби.

For more information and tickets visit www.ticketsource.com/witchford-voices or scan the QR code below

SPRING MEADOW INFANT SCHOOL

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME FROM AGE 4 (AT SCHOOL) TO 12

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday 20th July - Friday 28th August 2026

Join us for a summer packed with: Arts & crafts, Sports & games, Baking fun, Team activities and Outdoor play. Children will build confidence, creativity, teamwork, and friendships in a safe and exciting environment. Keeping children active, creative, and smiling this summer!

8:00 AM - 5:45PM £35
9:00AM - 4:00PM £27

Scan the QR code for bookings or email info@activeplayeducation.co.uk

Open trials for Norwich City

WITCHFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS HEARD

Do you have concerns about anti-social behaviour, disrespectful driving, or any other issues relating to community safety in Witchford?

Would you like to speak face-to-face with representatives from local agencies?

We are working with the East Cambs. Community Safety Partnership to give you this chance in Witchford.

We have scheduled a meeting of the [Witchford Community Safety Forum](#) for:

Monday 13th July 2026 at 7 pm
St Andrews Hall, Main Street, Witchford
Doors open 6:30 pm

Representatives from the **police**, community safety teams, youth team, Witchford Village College, Parish, District and County Councillors will be there in person to take your questions. If you do not want to speak, you can leave a written question too.

The panellists will try to answer your questions at the meeting, but can also take questions away. The Community Safety Partnership will prepare an **action plan for Witchford** based on the key issues arising from the evening, which will be shared with the Parish Council within three months.

Come along to St Andrews Hall on
Monday 13th July – your community,
your questions, your chance to be heard.

St. Andrew's Church



**NEWS from the Parish church of St. Andrew Witchford for the community
June, July 2026**

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.

SERVICES

July 5th Morning Prayer

July 12th Morning Prayer

July 19th Morning Prayer

July 26th Communion

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

EVENTS:

Sunday 14th June 3-5 afternoon tea with musician the church

Tuesday 23rd June 7 p.m. An Evening of Music and Poetry in the church If you would like to read your favourite poem, please 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

200 CLUB

The Friend's 200 club welcomes new members. It costs £12 a year and you can win £20 a month (£100 in December) while supporting a good cause. In addition, if you would like to join the Friends, contact Dr Westwell 07432342845 or 01363 663918 rjwestwell@hotmail.com