



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner  
Email: [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)  
Telephone: 01353 662436



Main Street,  
Witchford,  
Ely,  
Cambridgeshire  
CB6 2HQ

**Working together to be the best we can possibly be.**

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4.13*

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy half term! We thank parents, carers, volunteers and our amazing pupils for making it such a successful one.

**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 \(\[achieveservice.com\]\(https://achieveservice.com\)\)](#)

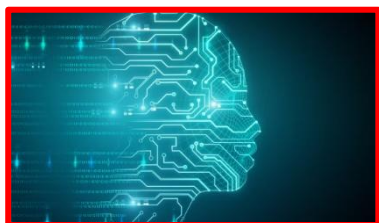
**NSPCC website:**

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

**NSPCC website for information about child protection:**

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

**Wellbeing and mental health:**



We have an increasing number of families who are restricting the use of phones and technology at home. Parents and carers are reporting to us they feel they have their child back as their child can once again engage in conversation and help with daily tasks in the home. Sleep has also been mentioned as being better.

There is a lot of research now about the impact of phones and devices on the development of children's brains affecting their ability to concentrate; sleep; emotional regulation; socialisation; focus and engagement in conversation.

Here are some tips from the Harvard Medical School: [Screen Time and the Brain | Harvard Medical School](#)

- Beware of digital media distraction. Half of all kids and three-quarters of parents feel the other is distracted when talking to each other.
- Have regular sit-downs, screen-free meals with your children.
- Put down your device. Be present with others. Observe the world around you. Let your mind wander.
- Avoid blue light-emitting screen use before bedtime.
- Play online games with your children rather than forbidding them. Learn how to play from them and, as you play, help them think about what they're seeing and doing on screen.
- Help your children plan how to spend their time, focusing on important and favourite activities to avoid sliding into the screen abyss.

### Reception Parent meal:

We would like to invite Reception parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June. The meal will be our extremely popular (and very delicious) roast dinner.

# School 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 9am Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 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. This will be an annual event moving forwards so will be repeated next academic year.

Children in Reception 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 would parents and carers of Reception children arrive for school dinner at 11.35am.



### Clubs:

Please see below for confirmation of clubs for next half term:

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Dates
Eco-Council (continuing)	Tuesday	After school	Y1 to Y6	29 <sup>th</sup> April to 8 <sup>th</sup> July
Football (continuing) NB All pupils must wear shin pads to play; NO football boots, only trainers.	Friday	Lunchtime	Year 5/6	2 <sup>nd</sup> May to 11 <sup>th</sup> July
New - Birthday Card club Arts and crafts club making birthday cards to use to send to friends and family	Monday	Lunchtime	Y1 and Y2	9 <sup>th</sup> June to 7 <sup>th</sup> July
Choir (continuing)	Thursday	After school	Y3 to Y6	1 <sup>st</sup> May to 10 <sup>th</sup> July
Crochet (continuing)	Tuesday	After school	Y5 to Y6	29 <sup>th</sup> April to 8 <sup>th</sup> July
Lane Academy Dance and Acro-Gymnastics (Please click the link <a href="#">here</a> to book)	Monday	After school 4.30pm to 5.45pm £66.50 for 7 sessions)	Reception to Year 4	2 <sup>nd</sup> June to 14 <sup>th</sup> July

### How to book:

Booking for new clubs opens on MCAS at 6pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Waiting lists are available if clubs are fully booked.

All clubs (with the exception of Birthday Card Club) will begin during WC 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**All school led clubs will finish during WC 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

### **Drop off/collection:**



We request that children are not allowed to run around behind staff cars, the container or the bike/scooter sheds. These areas are high risk as children cannot be seen by parents/carers and any damage incurred on staff cars will be investigated. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Request for items for Design Technology:**



We would be grateful for any donations of fabric, felt or wool should any families have these items at home they no longer use. Thank you so much.

### **Carers Week:**



Carers week is 9<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face, and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to

identify as carers and access much-needed support.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, illness, mental health condition, addiction, or who needs extra help as they grow older. It isn't someone who volunteers or is employed to provide support.

More information here: [Home | Carers Week](#)

### **News from the Pre-School:**



#### **Toys from home:**

We are seeing lots of toys from home being brought into pre-school. We have plenty of toys at pre-school for everyone to play with so would be grateful if parents and carers would take any items their child brings on the journey to pre-school away with

them at drop off.

### **Forest School:**

Forest school sessions are taking place on Monday afternoon, Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. Children will need long trousers and t-shirt or long sleeve top with trainers or boots (no open sandals please) Please can you also ensure your child has a sunhat.

### **Spare clothes:**

Please can we ask that children have a change of clothes in their bags each day. Our Pre-School stock of spare clothes is running very low so if you have any clothing to return or donate, we would be very grateful.



#### **Dates for your diary:**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June: Non uniform 'bring a bottle day'

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June: Funday Sunday

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Disco (Reception to Year 6 – booking required nearer the time)

#### **FWR Pre-Loved Uniform Sales Summer Term:**

Sales before and after school, on the following dates:

- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

## The Great Rackham Bake Off: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025



### The Great Rackham Bake Off

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**

**Where: Entries to the hall by 8.30 a.m.**

**Key Stage 2: Three sweet or savoury scones beautifully presented.**

**Key Stage 1: Three homemade decorated cup-cakes. Theme fairy tales.**

**Pre-school/EYFS: Decorate three biscuits. e.g. Rich Tea biscuits.**



### EIFA Newsletter:

Please click [here](#) for the Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter for May 2025.

### Free Parenting Courses:

Please click [here](#) for information on some free online workshops for parents run by the EIFA team. These workshops cover many topics including Sleep, Sibling rivalry and Supporting your child with feelings of anger or worry.

### Ely Hero Awards:

**Ely HERO AWARDS 2025**

**NOMINATE YOUR HERO!**

**CATEGORIES INCLUDE**

- ★ The Janet Eisold Smiliest Server Award
- ★ Colleague of the Year
- ★ Caring Companion
- ★ Most Amazing Professional
- ★ Neighbour of the Year
- ★ The Mike Rouse Community Champion
- ★ Environmental Champion
- ★ Best Teacher Award
- ★ Child of Achievement
- ★ Sporting Hero
- ★ The Ely Hero Award

**11 award categories**

**www.elyheroawards.org.uk**



# County Lines in Cambridgeshire

## **What do you know about County Lines? Free training**

**for parents and carers:** The Ivison Trust (formerly known as Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)) are holding two evening seminars specifically for parents and carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a focus on County Lines and

Criminal Exploitation. These seminars will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation, sharing their experiences and advice on responding to risks.

The sessions will share what criminal exploitation is, with a focus on county lines and explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know. They will also cover trends in the local area and where to get advice and support if you are concerned.

For more information and to register a place visit [Parent webinars - county lines and criminal exploitation - Ivison Trust](#)

### What parents will learn

- Learn what county lines is
- Understand what is happening in your local area
- Learn how exploiters groom children
- Understand the signs that your child might be at risk
- Know where to access support and advice if you have concerns

### Upcoming webinars

- Cambridgeshire 17th June 2025 7:00pm – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)
- Peterborough 18th June 2025 7:00 – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)

### Activities and events:



**MYSTICAL CREATURES  
HAVE LANDED AT  
WILLDERLAND FARM**

SUTTON ROAD, HADDENHAM, CB6 3PS

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**  
10am – 11:30am  
12pm – 1:30pm  
2pm – 3:30pm

Join us for:

- Wand Making
- Shortbread Decorating
- Animal Feeding
- Dragon Egg Hunting

Each child will receive a mushroom crochet toy.

**£5 per child**  
(includes one accompanying adult – extra adults charged at £2 each)

This is a booked event, please email:  
**info@willderland.com**



**HADDENHAM  
ARTS  
CENTRE**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

£35 per session  
or  
£60 for both if  
booking both directly  
through the art centre

**FacePaint Like a Pro**  
Florals, Butterflies and Rainbows (10:00-12:30)  
&  
Animals and Nature (1:30-3:00)

Join us at the Haddenham Arts Centre for a day of face painting fun! Taught by Emma Cammack, an industry expert, the course will cover all aspects of face painting health and safety as well as the skills needed to create beautiful designs. Suitable for beginners or those with some experience & ideal for those looking to face paint for fun, have an income sideline or fund raise.

To book please contact the Haddenham Arts Centre  
Phone: 01353 749188  
Email: haddenhamarts@gmail.com



**Seahorse Swim School**  
Intensive swimming lessons  
5 DAY INTENSIVE COURSE  
BOOK NOW!  
SESSION DATES: MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY – FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
KING'S ELY HEATED OUTDOOR POOL  
INDEPENDENT LESSONS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES  
30 MINUTE LESSONS FROM 9-11AM  
FUN SWIMMING LESSONS  
3:1 CLASS RATIO  
£110 PER SWIMMER  
01353 482 492 | www.seahorseswimely.co.uk



**The Sandringham Estate Family Forest School**  
With Woodland Julie  
May Half Term  
Take a walk on the wildside!  
Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th May  
Sandringham Estate  
10.30pm-12.00pm  
Dens, Bugs, Slackline, Hammocks, Tools, Fairies & more  
Booking essential at <https://sandringhamestate.co.uk>  
£10.00 per child (adults free). Suitable for all ages children must be accompanied by an adult

### Term dates for 2025 – 2026:

Term dates for next academic year are now available on the website and can be found [here](#).

### 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.

### 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: 93.2%

**ATTEND TODAY  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

23 <sup>rd</sup> May to 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Professional Development Day for teachers HALF TERM
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Bikeability this week Reception Classes Parent meal (booking required)
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June 9 <sup>th</sup> June 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Bikeability this week EYFS History off the Page event Class photos (Pre-School to Year 6)
19 <sup>th</sup> June 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 trip to Audley End House and Gardens Year 2 trip to Audley End House and Gardens
25 <sup>th</sup> June 27 <sup>th</sup> June 27 <sup>th</sup> June 29 <sup>th</sup> June	FWR Uniform Sale Year 3/4 History off the Page event Non uniform 'bring a bottle day' for FWR Funday Sunday Funday Sunday
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	FWR Disco – Reception to Year 6 (booking required nearer the time)
7 <sup>th</sup> July 10 <sup>th</sup> July 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Move Up Day Pre-School, EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (booking required nearer the time) KS2 Sports Day (booking required nearer the time)
14 <sup>th</sup> July 16 <sup>th</sup> July 17 <sup>th</sup> July 17 <sup>th</sup> July 17 <sup>th</sup> July 18 <sup>th</sup> July	FWR Uniform Sale Parent's Evening (booking required nearer the time) Piano and Choir Concert at 9.30am (booking required nearer the time) Parent's Evening (booking required nearer the time) Reserve Sports Day for Pre-School, EYFS and KS1 Reserve Sports Day for KS2
21 <sup>st</sup> July 22 <sup>nd</sup> July  22 <sup>nd</sup> July 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 Leaver's BBQ (booking required nearer the time) Year 6 Leaver's Assembly to parents and carers (booking required nearer the time)  Year 6 Parent or carer school buffet invitation Last day for children Professional Development Day for teachers
	SUMMER HOLIDAY