

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support with the Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion. Pupils at The Rackham impeccably observed a two minute long silence on Armistice Day. We sincerely thank St Andrew's Church for their kindness specially arranging the church bell to be rung at 11am.

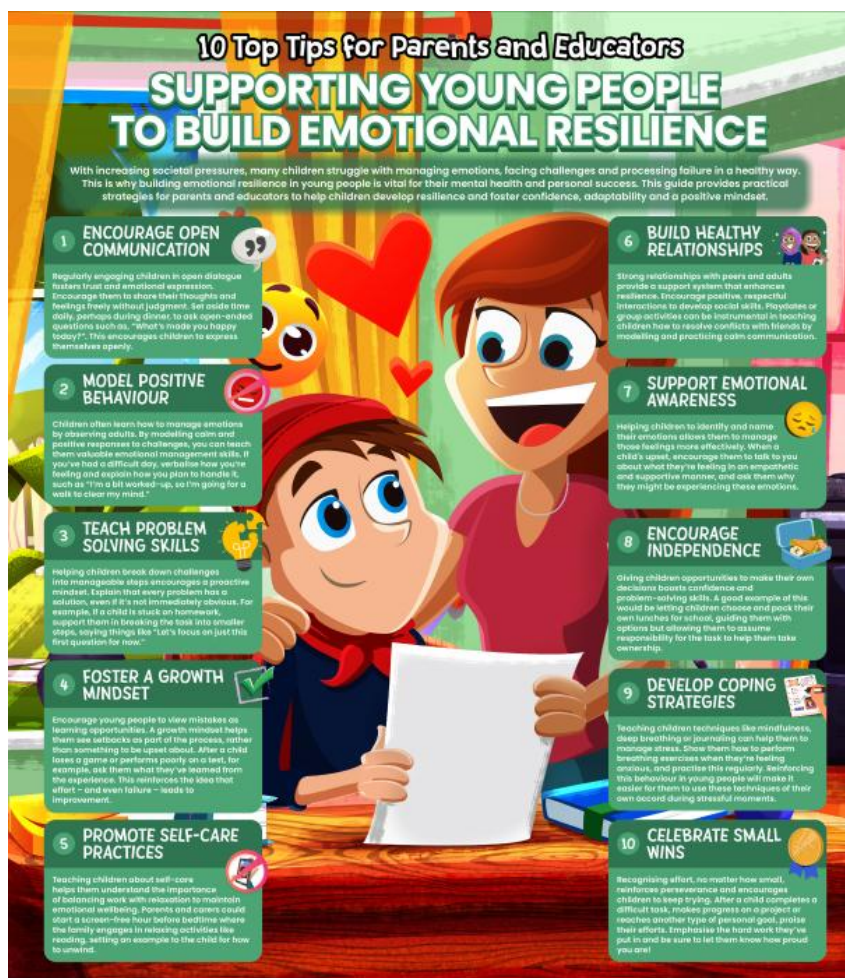
It was a pleasure to welcome parents and carers from pre-school to Year 6 into school for Parent's Evening this week.

Thank you also for the amazing outfits to mark Children in Need today. If you can, please do donate to Children in Need. <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Safeguarding:



Wellbeing and Mental Health:



New After School Club coming to The Rackham!!

MiniMe Mindfulness
 Mindset, Resilience & Skills

5-11 years

Wednesdays
3.30 - 4.30pm
 Starting week after
 October Half term
 5/11/25 - 16/12/25

Booking Link

• GAMES
• STORIES
• MUSIC
• MEDITATION
• TEAM ACTIVITIES
• ARTS & CRAFTS

Build Confidence
Raise Self Awareness
Recognise Emotions
Understand Feelings
Self Regulate Responses
Reduce Stress/Anxiety
Increase Inner Calm & Happiness
Encourage Resilience & Communication
Have FUN & Make Friends

£52.50 for 7 weeks
 (£7.50 per session)

kate@minimemindfulness.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE:
cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk

We are delighted to welcome MiniMeMindfulness after school club to The Rackham. **Places available.** Bookings are made directly on this link:

cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk



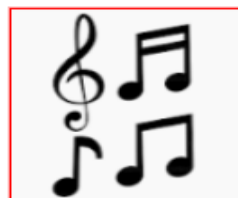
My Child's Art: You should now have received a leaflet with details of how to order your child's artwork. There are over 35 different products to choose from and if you order before Friday 21st November you can get 10% off – details on the leaflet.

NEW uniform options: Long sleeve polo shirt daily uniform; short sleeve polo daily uniform plus sports tops for PE days only:

Following up on parental suggestions, we are pleased to share the items below are now available to order at Sigma. Samples available to view at the main office or Sigma. [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)



VILLAGE COMPETITION FOR CHRISTMAS: A community event, 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree' is taking place on Victoria Green, Witchford on Saturday 20th December from 4 –6pm. Pupils at The Rackham are invited to take part in a competition to design the front cover of the song sheet for this event. The winning design will be printed on all copies and the artist will, of course, be credited. To allow time for printing, all entries be submitted by Friday 6th December to the main office at The Rackham.



Piano concert: For the families of those children who have piano lessons with Mr Wheatley, we will be holding our end of term concert on Thursday 4th December at 9.30am. Please book your tickets via this link:

Christmas Performances:



Christmas performances will take place as detailed in Diary dates below. Attendance at the performances will require a ticket. Bookings will open on Friday 21st November and close at 9am on Wednesday 3rd December. **Tickets can be booked through MCAS and will appear under the Products and Trips tab.** Tickets will initially be limited to two per family – these can be split one for each performance 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.

Flu vaccinations:

The School Immunisation Team have completed their visits to The Rackham to offer the flu vaccination. If your child did not receive their vaccination and you would like to book a community clinic appointment, please do so via this link: <https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book> Current clinics are available in Cambridge and Huntingdon, more clinics will be added during November and December. **Booking is essential to be able to attend the clinics**



Declaration of interest for Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone lessons: Would your child be interested in learning to play a woodwind instrument? We have opportunity for pupils at The Rackham to start lessons paid for by parents and carers. Lessons would be delivered by Cambridgeshire Music if we have high enough numbers. Please login or create an account on the Cambridgeshire Music website [here](#) and register your interest in the preferred instrument.

Year 4 Big Camp residential parents meeting:



We will be holding a meeting for parents and Year 4 children on Wednesday 19th November at 6pm in the school hall. Please complete this form to let us know if you whether or not you will be able to attend:

[Unforgettable School Residentials | Big School Camp | Onsite Camps](#)



Year 4 Parent meal: We would like to invite Year 4 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 27th 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 Thursday 20th November**

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.

MyDentist – Ely:



	<u>Save the date!</u>	<u>FWR events:</u>										
	Wednesday 19 th November	Uniform sale before and after school										
	Sunday 23 rd November	Christmas Market. Stalls, Santa's Grotto, Reindeer Food and much, much more!										
	Monday 15 th December	<u>Santa Run:</u> We are excited to be holding our very own Santa Run on Monday 15th December 2025, to raise money for our very own outside running track. On this day, please can all children wear their PE kits to school, suitable for being outside in cold weather. Each child will be given a sponsorship form (attached) to gather sponsorship money to go to FWR. All children will receive their very own Santa hat. Please ensure that as many people as possible tick the Gift Aid box, as it will enable us to claim an extra 25% back on eligible donations. Throughout the day, the children will complete their Santa Run challenge outside: <table><tr><td>Year group</td><td>Laps</td></tr><tr><td>EYFS</td><td>5-7</td></tr><tr><td>Year 1 and 2</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Year 3 and 4</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Year 5 and 6</td><td>12</td></tr></table> Thank you in advance for your support; it really is very much appreciated.	Year group	Laps	EYFS	5-7	Year 1 and 2	8	Year 3 and 4	10	Year 5 and 6	12
		Year group	Laps									
		EYFS	5-7									
Year 1 and 2		8										
Year 3 and 4	10											
Year 5 and 6	12											
Tuesday 16 th December	Uniform sale before and after school											
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Disco											

St Andrew's Church, Witchford: services up to Christmas 2025

	Sunday 30 th November 6 p.m. Lighting of the Star with mince pies and mulled wine
	Friday 12 th December 7 p.m. Carol Concert with a chance to sing some carols in St Andrew's Hall Witchford
	Saturday 13 th December 4 p.m. Christingle in the church
	Sunday 21 st December 6 p.m. 9 Lessons and Carols in the church

Activities and Events:



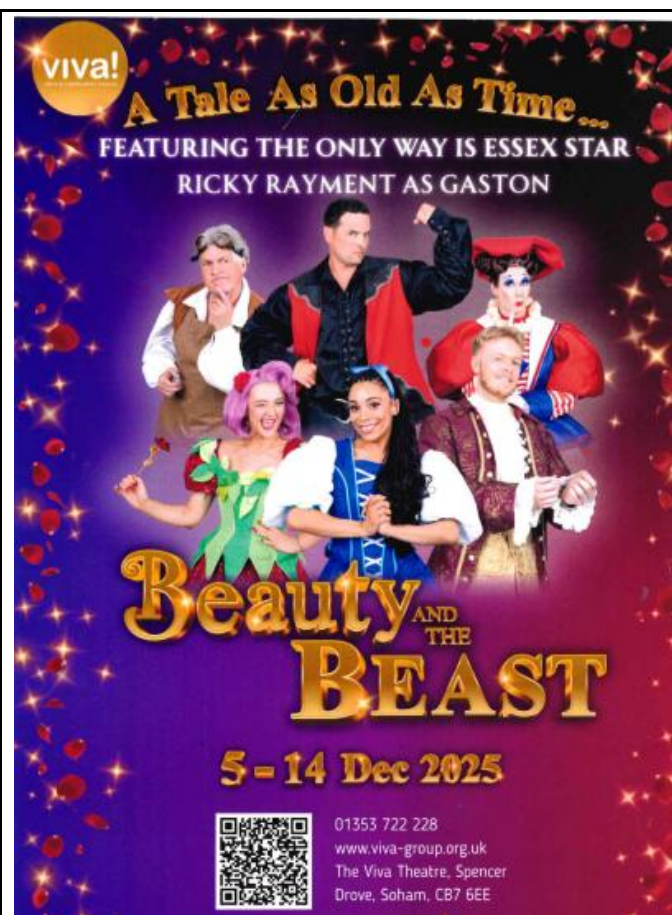
Xmas Market

- Items made from vinyl records
- Printmaker and wooden gifts
- Handmade wooden and stained glass decorations
- 3D layered pictures
- Handmade jewellery
- Handmade ceramics
- Handmade stitchwares
- 5D Diamond art
- Customised Jellycats
- Xmas floral arrangements
- Baked goods
- Home and floral Decor
- Pyrography
- Santa's Grotto
- Reindeer Food
- Children's crafts
- Children's toy stall

23 NOVEMBER 2025
1 - 4 PM
THE RACKHAM SCHOOL

Free Entry for Children!
Adults - £1

FWR
Friends of Widdowson Rackham



viva!

A Tale As Old As Time...

FEATURING THE ONLY WAY IS ESSEX STAR
RICKY RAYMENT AS GASTON

Beauty AND THE BEAST

5 - 14 Dec 2025

01353 722 228
www.viva-group.org.uk
The Viva Theatre, Spencer Drove, Soham, CB7 6EE

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

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

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

Digital Safety	Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 11 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Sleep	Tuesday, 25 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Tuesday, 2 December 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Tuesday 9 December 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 

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

cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Christmas Holiday Scheme Places

FULLY FUNDED ✓

Your child can book onto a fully funded holiday scheme this Christmas with fun experiences and food offered.



Children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals are eligible and can attend for up to 16 hours.

For details and the wider eligibility criteria please scan the QR Code or visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf
Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk





Have you ever considered volunteering at The Rackham? If so, we would love to hear from you as we have many opportunities. Some employers have initiatives that include voluntary work. If you think you could help us with some projects e.g. painting, gardening, hearing readers or something else, please complete this form: [Volunteering](#)



CPR training: A huge thank you to East Anglian Air Ambulance for leading our first session of CPR training this week. We look forward to part two.

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils are now available from Sigma. Primary School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#) Pre-School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents and carers and will then be delivered to school and given to the children to bring home.

Attendance:

The Rackham has a policy on Attendance. Please follow this link to read the policy on the school website. [Policy Library | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

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: 95.4%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,
Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
19 th November	FWR Uniform sale
19 th November	Vision screening for Reception children
19 th November	Y4 residential / experience week information evening 6pm – booking now open
Sunday 23 rd November	FWR Christmas Market
27 th November	Year 4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation – booking now open
4 th December	Piano concert – booking now open
8 th December	Christmas performance week: Please see below for days and times
15 th December	FWR Santa Run
16 th December	FWR Uniform sale
17 th December	Christmas Dinner: Reception and KS1
17 th December	FWR Christmas Disco (Booking required)
18 th December	Christmas Dinner: KS2
19 th December	Last day of term

Dates for Christmas performances:

Date	Morning	Afternoon	
4 th December	9.30am Piano concert		
8 th December	9.15am Reception	2pm KS1 (Year 1/2)	
9 th December	9.15am KS1 (younger siblings in audience)	2pm Reception (younger siblings in audience)	
10 th December	9.15am KS1		
11 th December	9.30am Y3/4 at St Andrew's	2pm Y5/6 at St Andrew's	
12 th December	9.30am Y5/6 at St Andrew's	2pm Y3/4 at St Andrew's	
15 th December	FWR Christmas Fun Run to raise funds for the school all weather daily mile track.		
17 th December	Reception and KS1 (Year 1/2) Christmas Dinner	Pre-School Christmas celebration afternoon	FWR Christmas Disco Years R – 6
18 th December	KS2 (Year 3 – 6) Christmas Dinner		
19 th December	Last day of term		