

Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner Email: 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

21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



We are all so excited about the FWR Christmas Market taking place this Sunday at The Rackham! Starting at 1pm until 4pm. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for sending pupils into school with coats, gloves, scarves and hats. We continue to be outside at breaktime and lunchtime.

Safeguarding:

We are revising our attendance policy that includes a change in time the registers close.

Teachers take the register as early as possible in between 8.30 - 8.45am.

If your child arrives between 8.45am and 9am they will get an L code which will not affect their attendance.

If it is after 9am it is unauthorised and a U code as it affects their learning time in school.



Wellbeing and Mental Health:





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



<u>VILLAGE COMPETITION FOR CHRISTMAS</u>: 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.



<u>Piano concert</u>: 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.



<u>Declaration of interest for Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone lessons:</u> 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.



<u>Cold weather:</u> As the weather has become extremely cold over the last few days, please ensure that your child has a warm coat in school every day.



<u>My Child's Art:</u> 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. The early bird order deadline has been extended to Wednesday 26th November so there is still time to get 10% off your order – details on the leaflet.













Save the date! FWR events:





Monday 24th November

Monday 15th December

Uniform sale

Santa Run:

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.

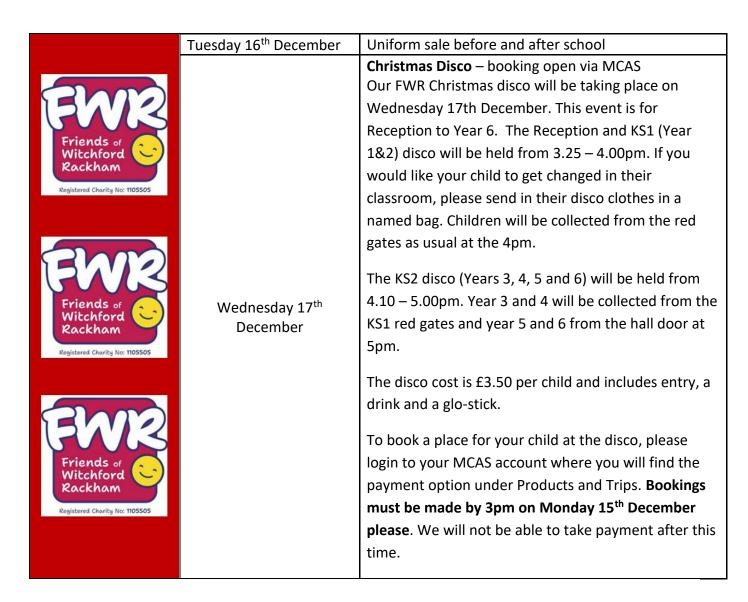
On this day, please would all children wear their PE kits to school, suitable for being outside in cold weather.

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:

Year group	Laps
EYFS	5-7
Year 1 and 2	8
Year 3 and 4	10
Year 5 and 6	12

Thank you in advance for your support, it really is very much appreciated.



Place Planning consultation:

I am writing to you to notify you of the consultation to raise the Published Admission Number (PAN) of The Rackham Church of England Primary School and Pre-School. This is a separate process to the recent Planning consultation to physically expand the school's premises, and is being carried out in line with the Department of Education guidance that states a Local Authority must publicly consult on any changes that are permanent (defined by the DfE as being for more than three years), and increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and more than 25% or the overall capacity.

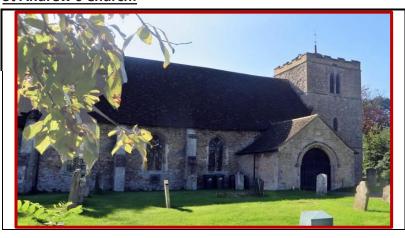
The consultation shall run from 10/11/2025 to 08/12/2025.

Full details of the proposal can be found on our webpage: Rackham Primary School Expansion | Cambridgeshire County Council

If you have any queries, please contact:

- Emma Everitt (Area Education Officer for East Cambridgeshire) emma.everitt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- Alexander Brown (Education Capital & Place Planning Sufficiency Officer) alexander.brown@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

St Andrew's Church:



Sunday 30th November 6 p.m. Lighting of the Star with mince pies and mulled wine

Friday 12th December 7 p.m.
Carol Concert with a chance to sing some carols in St Andrew's Hall
Witchford

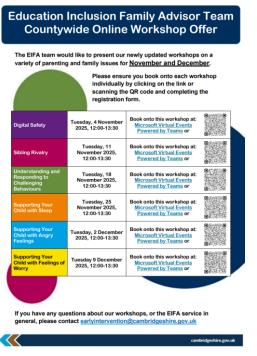
Saturday 13th December 4 p.m. Christingle in the church

Sunday 21st December 6 p.m. 9 Lessons and Carols in the church

Activities and Events:























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:

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils are now available from Sigma. Primary School: <u>Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing</u> Pre-School: <u>Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing</u>
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 could we remind you that absence must be reported to the office by 9am on each day of absence.

This week's attendance: 94.9%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday at FWR's Christmas Market starting at 1pm at The Rackham.

Best wishes, Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events	
Sunday 23 rd November	FWR Christmas Market 1 – 4pm in the school hall	
24 th November	FWR Uniform sale	
27 th November	Year 4 Parent or carer school dinner	
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 now open via MCAS)	
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 – Booking now open via MCAS
18 th December	KS2 (Year 3 – 6) Christmas Dinner		
19 th December	Last day of term		