



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:

50

things to do

before you're
five

Fun and free ways to support your child to prepare for the next step

Fifty low or no-cost activities, to enjoy with your child, to support their readiness for the next step



Cambridgeshire
County Council

early years childcare and
school readiness service

Developing self-regulation skills to support with turn taking



Developing hand-eye coordination to support with skills later required for writing



Supporting vocabulary development



#45
Wonderful Waiting G...
Waiting for transport, sitting at the doctors or at your table in a restaurant...

#47
Great Eastern Baking
Children love to help with cooking and baking. Cooking together means you...

#38
Show and Tell
Encourage your child to show and tell all of their daily activities so they know...

#18
Dance!
Dancing is a fun way to encourage your child to be active and healthy. Your child...

#10
Sharing Books
Sharing books is a wonderful thing to do with young children. Stories can be...

#22
My Secret Treasures
Toddlers and older children love to collect and store items that excite them...

Strengthening gross motor skills to support readiness to write



Hearing new vocabulary, supporting children to develop language to express their own thoughts and feelings



Experiencing success and failure to support management of feelings





Download the free app to explore all 50 activities

cambspboro.50thingstodo.org



For more information on helping your child get ready for reception visit startingreception.co.uk

New After School Club coming to The Rackham!!



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

5-11 years



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



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.










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.



Cold weather: 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.



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. **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.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------|------|-----|--------------|---|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> | <div><p><u>Save the date!</u></p><p>This Sunday, 23rd November!</p></div> <div><p>Monday 24th November</p><p>Monday 15th December</p></div> | <div><p><u>FWR events:</u></p><div></div></div> <div><p><u>Uniform sale</u></p><p><u>Santa Run:</u></p><p>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.</p><p>On this day, please would all children wear their PE kits to school, suitable for being outside in cold weather.</p><p>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.</p><p>Throughout the day, the children will complete their Santa Run challenge outside:</p><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><p>Thank you in advance for your support, it really is very much appreciated.</p></div> | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | |

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:

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
Farnham Wildlife Reserve

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

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

EXCLUSIVE EVENT
Santa's Day Off
(For Parents!)
SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER
 9.00 am - 4.00pm £25
 10.00 am - 3.00pm £20

Need a few child-free hours to get your Christmas shopping done, wrap gifts in peace, or simply enjoy a quiet cup of coffee while making a festive to-do list? We've got you covered!

Activities will include:
 Christmas Crafts, Baking Cookies, Writing letters to Santa, Making Reindeer food, festive party games, nerf gun and a variety of sports.

Spring Meadow Infant School,
 High Barns, Ely CB7 4RB

Open to all children from 4 (at school) to 12

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



ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 7
CHRISTMAS
Holiday Club

SPRING MEADOW INFANT SCHOOL,
 HIGH BARN, ELY, CB7 4RB

0.00AM - 5.45PM £35
 9.00AM - 4.00PM £27

DATES: MONDAY 22ND AND TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER

JOIN US FOR SOME FESTIVE FUN AT OUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB! KIDS WILL ENJOY GAMES, CRAFTS, SPORTS, MESSY PLAY AND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES - ALL IN A WARM, JOYFUL ATMOSPHERE. AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK... A SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS HIMSELF!

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ARE ACCEPTED

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BOOKINGS OR EMAIL
info@activeplayeducation.co.uk



ELY MUSEUM
 Festive Family Evening
 at the Museum

Saturday 29th November
 4pm - 8pm

Join us for festive family fun after hours at Ely Museum. Enjoy festive story telling, play games in the galleries and make some Christmassy crafts. All included in the ticket price.

Pre-book online
 Tickets: £5 per person (under 2's go free)

www.elymuseum.org.uk
 Charity Number: 1156024



WADSY
 PRESENTS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

CHICAGO
 TEEN EDITION

ARKENFALL CENTRE, HADDENHAM
 7 STATION RD, HADDENHAM, ELY CB6 3XD, UK
 DEC 11-13

TICKETS ON SALE AT WWW.WADSYOUTH.COM



Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree

**Saturday 20th
December
4pm - 6pm
Victoria Green**

Join us for a fun-filled evening around the Christmas Tree!

Father Christmas
Food Vans
Christmas Singalong!

{my}dentist
 helping the nation smile

Accepting new NHS children

- Free NHS dental care
- Friendly experienced dentist
- Friendly child environment
- Preventative care and check ups
- Out of school hours appointments

Contact Us:
 01353 668281
 {my}dentist, Ely
 6 Chequer Lane,
 Chequer Hall
 Ely,
 CB7 4LN

BOOK NOW



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: [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 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 | | |