



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner
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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*

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who supported the FWR Christmas Market last Sunday. What a fabulous time had by all! Most sincere thanks to the hugely talented FWR volunteers for such a spectacular event.

What an amazing kitchen team we have!

Some of you may know, however I would suspect Mrs Pluck, Mrs Kassem and Mrs Billimore have been super modest about the tremendous achievement they experienced last week when Environmental Health arrived for an unannounced visit.

It will come as no surprise to learn The Rackham has a FIVE STAR kitchen. Huge **congratulations** to our incredible kitchen team! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Safeguarding:

We have revised our attendance policy that includes a change in time when all 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 negatively impacts learning time in school.



New After School Club coming to The Rackham!!

MiniMe Mindfulness
Resilience, Relaxation & Fun

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

Wellbeing and Mental Health:

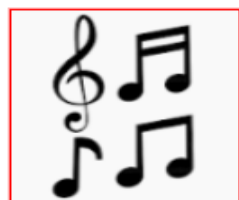
We are delighted to welcome MiniMeMindfulness after school club to The Rackham. **Places available.** Bookings are made directly on this link: cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk



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](#)



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 next 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 by 9am on Tuesday 2nd December via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/B17F8jqavy>

Christmas Performances:








Christmas performances will take place as detailed in Diary dates below. Attendance at the performances will require a ticket. Bookings opened on Friday 21st November and several performances are already sold out. If you haven't booked, please do so as soon as possible. Please note that tickets are limited to 2 per family - these can be split across performances, 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. **Tickets can be booked through MCAS and will appear under the**

Products and Trips tab.



No Nuts: A reminder that packed lunches and snacks **must not** contain nuts.

	Save the date!	FWR events:										
    	Monday 15 th December	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: <table><tr><td>Year group</td><td>Laps</td></tr><tr><td>EYFS (including pre-school)</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 (including pre-school)	5-7	Year 1 and 2	8	Year 3 and 4	10	Year 5 and 6	12
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Year 5 and 6	12											
	Tuesday 16 th December	Uniform sale before and after school										
	Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Disco – booking open via MCAS Our FWR Christmas disco will be taking place on Wednesday 17th December. This event is for Reception to Year 6. The Reception and KS1 (Year 1&2) disco will be held from 3.25 – 4.00pm. If you would like your child to get changed in their classroom, please send in their disco clothes in a named bag. Children will be collected from the red gates as usual at the 4pm. The KS2 disco (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be held from 4.10 – 5.00pm. Year 3 and 4 will be collected from the KS1 red gates and year 5 and 6 from the hall door at 5pm. The disco cost is £3.50 per child and includes entry, a drink and a glo-stick. To book a place for your child at the disco, please login to your MCAS account where you will find the payment option under Products and Trips. Bookings must be made by 3pm on Monday 15th December please. We will not be able to take payment after this time.										



Year 3 Parent meal: We would like to invite Year 3 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 29th January. 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 22nd January.**

Please complete this form to book your meal or let us know that you will be bringing a packed lunch 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 3 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 note that we are not able to accommodate younger siblings at this event. Please can parents and carers of Year 3 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.

St Andrew's Church:

	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



Piano lessons: If your child is interested in starting piano lessons with Mr Wheatley in January 2026, please contact him directly: lwheatley@rackham.cambs.sch.uk



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% of 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

Activities and Events:

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

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 Drive, Soham, CB7 6EE

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

St Andrew's Church, Witchford

"THE LIGHTING OF THE STAR"



SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 6PM

MULLED WINE
MINCE PIES
HOT CHOCOLATE FOR THE CHILDREN



SPECIAL RAFFLE TO WIN
NATIVITY SCENE AND
A "CAROLINE" CHRISTMAS CAKE

SEARCH, FIND AND KEEP ONE OF THESE LUCKY STARS



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




WADSV
PRESENTS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

CHICAGO
TEEN EDITION

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

TICKETS ON SALE AT WWW.WADSVYOUTH.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



JNR MAKERS MARKET

Witchford
Social Club
Village Hall
30th Nov 25
10am-2pm





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: 94.6%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
4 th December	Piano concert – booking closes Tuesday 2 nd December at 9am
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		