



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner
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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*

5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



We are looking so festive in school for the start of Advent. Pre-school and classrooms have their own trees; the offices and main reception area; plus, the spectacular tree for the school hall provided by FWR. We are marking each day of Advent with our Mary and Joseph figures, travelling from class to class along with Jesse tree decorations.

St Andrew's Church:



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

Safeguarding:

Good attendance matters and links directly with good educational outcomes.



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

A reminder about parking at drop off and pick up:

We politely request considerate parking from our parent and carer community.

A reminder that the pub car park is not an appropriate place to park. There is no informal or formal agreement with the landlord.

Parking in nearby streets and roads poses challenges for those who live locally when driveways are blocked or parking is dangerous.

Thank you in anticipation of your help.



No Nuts: A reminder that packed lunches and snacks **must not** contain nuts. Please do not bring any products containing nuts onto the school site.



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 would parents and carers of Year 3 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.



Christmas Countdown on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire: Listen out for children from The Rackham on the Christmas Countdown on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on Thursday 18th December at 6.25am and 8.25am.

Ways to listen:

- 95.7FM / 96FM
- DAB Digital Radio
- On your smart speaker, just say "Play BBC Radio Cambridgeshire"
- On the BBC Sounds app



Pre-School Mingle and Jingle: We would like to invite all pre-school parents and carers to our Pre-School Mingle and Jingle event on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm in the school hall.

Children who usually attend on a Wednesday afternoon will be brought to the hall by the Pre-School staff and will meet you there at 2pm. Tickets can be reserved via the Products and Trips tab on your MCAS account.

If your child doesn't attend Pre-school on a Wednesday afternoon, please do book a ticket for yourself (via MCAS) and bring them at 2pm to join in the fun.

A snack and drink will be provided for everyone and we are hoping there may be a special Christmas visitor! We expect the event to last no longer than half an hour. If your child is in session on a Wednesday afternoon, you are welcome to take them home at the end of the event if you prefer. Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this event.



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



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:

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

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.

	<u>Save the date!</u>	<u>FWR events:</u>										
 	Monday 15 th December	<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 (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> <p>Thank you in advance for your support, it really is very much appreciated.</p>	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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 	Tuesday 16 th December	Uniform sale before and after school
	Wednesday 17 th December	<p>Christmas Disco – booking open via MCAS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The disco cost is £3.50 per child and includes entry, a drink and a glo-stick.</p> <p>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.</p>
	Tuesday 6 th January	FWR Meeting at 7.30pm – all welcome
	Friday 30 th January	FWR Bingo – save the date!

Activities and Events:



Cambridgeshire County Council

DECEMBER 2025

The following Child and Family Centres will remain open (on days which are not Bank Holidays 10am to 3pm) to families over the Holiday period.

- Ely Child and Family Centre, East Cambridgeshire High Barns, Ely, CB7 4RB
- Cambourne Child and Family Centre, South Cambridgeshire Sackville Way, Cambourne, CB23 6HL
- The Fields Child and Family Centre, Cambridge Galfrid Road, Cambridge, CB5 8ND
- Oasis Child and Family Centre, Fenland St. Michaels Avenue, Wisbech, PE13 3NR
- Eaton Socon Child and Family Centre, Huntingdonshire Bushmead Road, St Neots, PE19 8BT

Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres



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



FOOTBALL
DEVELOPMENT

CALLING ALL Y5 PLAYERS!

WE ARE CURRENTLY
RECRUITING TALENTED YR5
PLAYERS TO JOIN OUR
WITCHFORD CENTRE

Please contact
guy.habbin@canaries.co.uk for
further information

Norwich City Football Development to let you know that we are currently seeking talented **Year 5 boys** to join our **Development Centre at Witchford Village College**.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CAMPS

Study, Train, Play, Achieve



NORWICH CITY FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Christmas Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) camps, taking place this December at **King's Ely School** and **St Neots Football Club**, running on **Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December**.

Fully funded HAF places are available for eligible children, with each day offering structured, engaging activities alongside a nutritious meal. Our camps provide a positive and supportive environment, helping children stay active and connected during the school holidays.

Please find the booking link [here!](#)

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



BEAT THE JANUARY BLUES

BINGO



★ Save the Date ★
30 January 2026



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!**



**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



**Trolls
WORKSHOP**

MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER
9:00AM-15:00PM
WITCHFORD SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

**AGES 6-14
£35**

ABOUT WORKSHOP:
Join us for a fun-filled Trolls Workshop where kids can sing, dance, and act their hearts out! Inspired by the colourful world of Trolls, this high-energy session is packed with music, movement, and creative play. Children will learn catchy songs, vibrant dance routines, and take part in exciting drama activities — all while building confidence and having a blast with friends. Perfect for little performers who love to sparkle and shine!

Scan me



**THE
GREATEST
SHOWMAN
WORKSHOP**

Step right up and join the magic of our Greatest Showman Musical Workshop! Children will sing, dance, and shine as they bring the hit musical to life through exciting routines and upbeat songs. This fun-filled workshop is all about building confidence, expressing creativity, and celebrating individuality — just like in the film! Along the way, kids will make new friends, learn teamwork, and experience the joy of performing together in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Tuesday 2nd January
9:00AM-15:00PM
Witchford Sports & Social Club

**AGES 6-14
£35**

Scan me

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: 94.35%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
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	
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 2pm	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		

22 nd December to 2 nd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
5 th January	Children return
15 th January	Y5/6 Wonder Dome experience
19 th January	
29 th January	Year 3 Parent or carer school dinner invitation - booking now open.