

## Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



We mark the second Sunday of Advent this weekend. A reminder that the Carol Concert at St Andrew's is this evening, starting at 7pm. After our superb week welcoming parents and carers into school and church to share in The Nativity and Carol Concerts, the celebration at St Andrew's could be a fitting way to end the week. The Christingle is also this weekend, on Saturday, starting at 4pm.

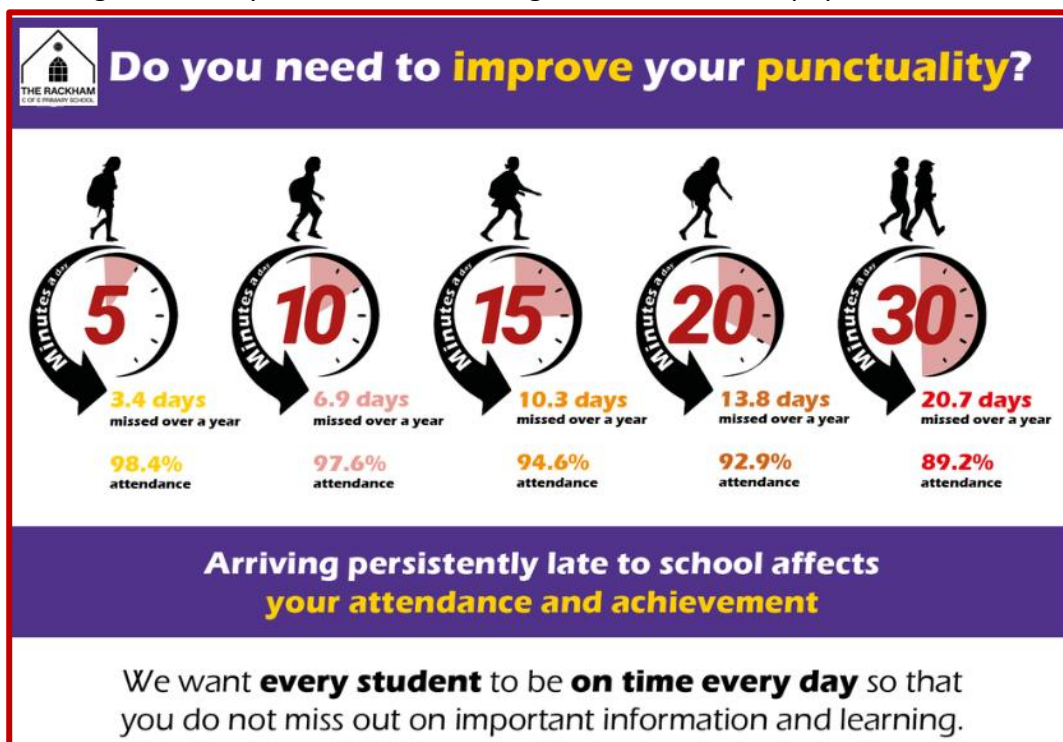
### St Andrew's Church:



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:

Arriving on time, by 8.45am, makes a huge difference to our pupil's attainment.



### **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](https://cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk)



**A reminder about parking at drop off and pick up:** We continue to experience some anti-social parking decisions including parents and carers parking on the zig zag lines near school. This is illegal. We politely request our parent and carer community make considerate parking decisions. Thank you so much 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.



**Christmas Dinner:** Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on their Christmas Dinner day Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December for Reception and Year 1/2 or Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December for Years 3 to 6. Please ensure you have booked your child's Christmas Dinner on MCAS by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December.



**Year 3 Parent meal:** We would like to invite Year 3 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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



**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](mailto:lwheatley@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)



**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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](#)



**Flu Clinics – a message from Vaccination UK:**

Respiratory and flu-like cases are rapidly on the rise. We urge you to ensure your child receives the flu vaccination. You have a choice between the quick and painless nasal spray or the Injection which is porcine & gelatine free. This not only protects your children against being seriously but also protects vulnerable members of your family and community.

We have several community catch-up clinics available this weekend. Please use this link to book an appointment

[Vaccination UK Bedfordshire Immunisation](#)

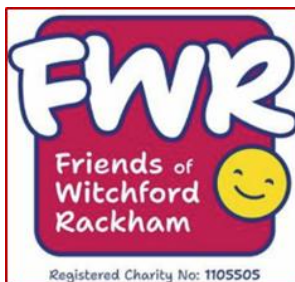



If you previously declined consent for your child when we visited the school, you **CAN CHANGE** your consent. Please call our office on 01480 275422, and we will book a clinic appointment for you.

Thank you for your support.

**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 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Santa Run:</b> We are excited to be holding our very own Santa Run on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> 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><b>EYFS (including pre-school)</b></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	<b>EYFS (including pre-school)</b>	5-7	Year 1 and 2	8	Year 3 and 4	10	Year 5 and 6	12
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	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Uniform sale before and after school										
	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Disco</b> – booking open via MCAS Our FWR Christmas disco will be taking place on Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> 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. <b>Bookings must be made by 3pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December please.</b> We will not be able to take payment after this time.										
		Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>FWR Meeting at 7.30pm – all welcome</b>									
		Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>FWR Bingo – Postponed</b>									



## 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**



**Witchford Village Hall**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**FOOD, FUN & GAMES & DISCO**

**PLUS A GIFT FROM SANTA!**

**SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER 1PM TO 3:30PM**

**Names must be on list by 14th December**

**Price per child £10**



**FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT**

**CALLING ALL U10 PLAYERS!**

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

**Please contact [guy.habbin@canaries.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf)  
Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk




## BEAT THE JANUARY BLUES

# BINGO



**POSTPONED**

» **FWR2** «

# 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<sup>®</sup>  
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**



# Trolls Workshop

**MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 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 set 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<sup>®</sup> WORKSHOP

**A MILLION DREAMS IS ALL IT'S GONNA TAKE**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> January**  
**9:00AM-15:00PM**  
**Witchford Sports & Social Club**

**AGES 6-14**  
**£35**



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**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: 94.9%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

Date	Scheduled events
15 <sup>th</sup> December	FWR Santa Run
16 <sup>th</sup> December	FWR Uniform sale
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner: Reception and KS1
17 <sup>th</sup> December	FWR Christmas Disco (Booking now open via MCAS)
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner: KS2
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

**Dates for Christmas performances and events:**

Date	Morning	Afternoon	
15 <sup>th</sup> December	FWR Christmas Fun Run to raise funds for the school all weather daily mile track.		
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception and KS1 (Year 1/2) Christmas Dinner	Pre-School Christmas celebration afternoon 2pm	FWR Christmas Disco Years R – 6 <b>Booking closes on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 (Year 3 – 6) Christmas Dinner		
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term		

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