



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner  
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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***

6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another purposeful week at The Rackham! Pupils in Key Stage Two have enjoyed coaching sessions led by Cambridge United Football Club apprentices.

**Attendance:**

This week's attendance: 93.9%

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.

**Safeguarding: Attendance**

**Did you know?**

**90% Attendance**

for one year = 4 weeks of learning missed, this is called persistent absence.

Wellbeing and Mental Health:

We will NOT tolerate behaviour that is:

- 🚫 thre@tening,
- 🚫 abu\$ive or
- 🚫 vi\*lent

# NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

We strive to create a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff alike.  
And we **WILL** take action when necessary.

Wellbeing and Mental Health: East Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centre



### Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner.  
Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

2026 workshop booking form



**\*\*SPRING TERM 2026\*\***

**Improve the communication with your partner to support your children**

**Face to Face Littleport:**  
Littleport Child and Family Centre, Littleport, Ely  
Cambridge CB6 1JT. Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 9:30 - 11:30am

**Online via Teams:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February  
Midday - 1 pm

**Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children**

**Face to Face Soham:** Soham Child and Family Centre, The Weatheralls  
Primary School, Pratt Street, Soham, Ely, CB7 5BH. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March,  
12:45pm - 2:45pm

**Online via Teams:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February,  
Midday - 1 pm





**Using the zebra crossing safely:** We have received reports from drivers that pedestrians are using the zebra crossing in a dangerous manner. Pedestrians are reported to be walking out to the zebra crossing from other entry points rather than the path at either end of the zebra crossing. We have received reports of a near miss where this has happened. We politely request all pedestrians enter the zebra crossing from the path at either end of the zebra crossing and refrain from entering

from other locations where drivers are not expecting.

	<b>Save the date!</b>	<b>FWR events:</b>
	<p>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026</p>	<p><b>Film Night:</b> We are excited to announce our next Film Night! It will take place straight after school on Wednesday 11th February, finishing at 4.00pm for Reception and KS1 and 5pm for KS2. The cost will be £3.00 which includes crisps and a drink. If your child has a special dietary need, please let the office know via <a href="mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk">office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk</a> .</p> <p>The films being shown are:</p> <p>Reception – The Smeds and The Smoos (U)</p> <p>Years 1 - 2 – Wallace and Gromit – A Close Shave (U)</p> <p>Years 3 – 6 – Children can choose between Dog Man (U) or The Lorax (U) – please select their preferred film when making payment on MCAS.</p> <p><b>To book a place for your child, please login to your MCAS account where you will find the payment option under Products and Trips.</b></p> <p><b>Bookings must be made by 9am on Monday 9th February.</b> This is so we can comply with Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Fire regulations. No bookings will be accepted after this time.</p> <p>We hope the children will enjoy the evening and thank you for your continued support in fundraising for the school.</p> <p>FWR committee</p>
	<p>27<sup>th</sup> March</p>	<p><b>Doughnut Day – more information available soon.</b></p>

# CONTACT US

**Contacting staff at The Rackham C of E Primary School and Pre-School:** Where parents and carers wish to contact staff to update or pass on a message, please email [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk) or speak

to a member of the Office Team.



**Bins:** Please avoid using the recycling bins at the front of school for general rubbish.



**Year 3/4 Art:** Please would each child bring a shoebox into school for their art lesson next week. Shoe boxes are needed for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February please.



### **Reception - Craft and Cake sessions**

To mark Mother's Day, we would like to invite **one** special person, from each child's family to join us for a 'Craft and Cake' session on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm to 3pm. During this time, we plan to have a class story and some time to join in with some craft activities.

To book your place for this wonderful opportunity, please login to the Products and Trips page of your MCAS account. Bookings will close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to accommodate siblings as we do not have the space within our classrooms to do this safely.



### **Year 1 Phonics Screening Information Evening (online)**

Please use this link to book for the online Year 1 Phonics Screening Information Evening on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm:



### **Parent's Evenings for Primary School and Pre-School pupils:**

Parent's Evenings will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Bookings for Reception to Year 6 will open via MCAS on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 9am and will close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8am.

If you wish to book a meeting with your Pre-School child's keyworker, please contact the office to book a time.



### **A message from Kate, Series Producer at Love Productions; the production company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down**

I am contacting you to let you know that we have recently opened applications for the 12<sup>th</sup> series of **Junior Bake off**, a Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent! We are looking for young budding bakers between **9-15 years old** and interested bakers can apply online at - [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk) Email: [applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk](mailto:applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk) Filming would take place from July 2026, but our **applications close on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. Please do feel

free to contact us on **0207 067 4833**, should you have any questions regarding the above.

Best wishes,

The Junior Bake Off Team



### **Pre-School Craft and Cake:**

To mark Mother's Day, we would like to invite **one** special person, from each child's family to join us for 'Craft and Cake' on either Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March or Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March between 11am and 12pm or Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March between 2 – 3pm depending on when your child is in session. If your child attends more than one of these sessions, please only book one. During this time, we plan to have a class story and some time to join in with some craft activities.

To book your place for this wonderful opportunity, please login to the Products and Trips page of your MCAS account. Bookings will close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to accommodate siblings as we do not have the space within our Pre-School to do this safely.



**Pre-School existing injury form:** If your child has an existing injury that you are aware of, please complete this form before their Pre-School session:



**Clothing:** Please would you ensure that all pre-school children have a change of clothes and suitable closed footwear. If children come to pre-school wearing wellies, please could they bring a suitable pair of shoes to change into.



**Toys from home:** Please could we request no toys from home are brought into pre-school as it can cause upset for children if toys are misplaced.



**Contact us:** If you need to contact the Pre-School, please email or phone the office. Please do not use Tapestry for communication as Pre-School staff may not see it immediately.



### **Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign**

With the growing national conversation around children, social media, and smartphones, you may be aware of the parent led campaign Smartphone Free Childhood.

**Learn More:** Explore the SFC Resources for Parents:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resources-for-parents>

**Watch:** See the Smartphone Dilemma videos for a deeper look at the research:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/the-smartphone-dilemma>

**Connect:** Join our school WhatsApp group for parents who share concerns about the impact of early smartphone use to support one another

[https://chat.whatsapp.com/CcSVWWXB5nN9dIKHoXXHKM?mode=gi\\_t](https://chat.whatsapp.com/CcSVWWXB5nN9dIKHoXXHKM?mode=gi_t)



## Young Artist's Summer Show

This spring The Rackham is, once again, participating in an exciting opportunity for budding young artists. We have registered our school for The Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Exhibition. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the exhibition, which takes place at The Royal Academy of Art in London, and it is the third time that our school has decided to submit entries. The Young Artists' Summer Show is a wonderful opportunity for UK-based artists and schools to engage creatively in the making and sharing of a piece of artwork that truly expresses their own voice. There is no theme and artists aged 4-19 can submit a wide range of works which may include drawing, painting, printing, photography, sculpture, textile, fashion, animation, video, or a surprise for The Academy.

The artworks are judged by a panel of artists and art professionals with selected works displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Please watch the video that you will find within the link below, as it will give you an idea of some of the art works that were submitted in 2025. You may even recognise someone in the video!

[Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy](#)

Attached to this email is guidance for submissions.

For guidance on how to photograph your art work, please see the FAQ section here:

[Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy](#)

If you would like art work to be submitted, please complete the attached permission form when you send the photographed and real art work to school.

If your child would like to produce a piece of art to submit to the exhibition, please do the following:

1. Create the artwork
2. Photograph the artwork, using the guidelines as above
3. Email the image to school along with your child's **name**, the art **medium** used to create the art and a **short description** of the art work. This must include a **title** and the **size** of the work.
4. Send to school a completed permission form.
5. Keep the original art work safe. If your child's work is selected for the exhibition we will need to send it to the Royal Academy. We will also want to display the art works in school, to celebrate the children's creativity, even if no work is selected for the exhibition.
6. Send all of the above between now and **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February** at the latest.

We hope that lots of children from our school will be inspired to submit their work and look forward with great excitement to seeing their submissions! If you have any questions please contact school.

**Activities and Events:**

# SANDRINGHAM FOREST SCHOOL

## FEBRUARY HALF TERM

- Den building
- Campfire cooking
- Nature crafts

For more information visit  
[SANDRINGHAM.EMSTATE.CO.UK](http://SANDRINGHAM.EMSTATE.CO.UK)

## BOOST YOUR CHILD'S SWIMMING THIS HOLIDAY

AGES 4-16 YEARS

Weekday holiday courses are the perfect power-up for regular swimmers or a great taster to Better Swim School swimming lessons.

Speak to a member of staff or scan the QR code to find out more.

**BETTER**

Children are welcome from age 4 (at school) to 12

# February Holiday Club

Join us this February half term for a week full of fun, games, crafts and adventures! Our Holiday Club offers action-packed days designed to keep children happy, active and inspired.

- ✓ Games & Sports
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Creative Baking
- ✓ Forest School

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

8:00 AM - 5:45 PM £35  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM £27

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

**BOOK NOW**

Scan the QR code for bookings or email [info@activeplayeducation.co.uk](mailto:info@activeplayeducation.co.uk)

## Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner. Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

2026 workshop booking form

**\*\* SPRING TERM 2026 \*\***

### Improve the communication with your partner to support your children

**Face to Face Littleport:** Littleport Child and Family Centre, Littleport, Ely Cambridge CB6 1UT. Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 9:50 - 11:30am

**Online via Teams:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, Midday - 1pm

### Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children

**Face to Face Soham:** Soham Child and Family Centre, The Weatheralls Primary School, Pratt Street, Soham, Ely, CB7 5BH. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 12:45pm - 2:45pm

**Online via Teams:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Midday - 1pm

# WADSY PERFORMING ARTS

## NEW CLASSES STARTING JAN

MONDAYS 4:30 - 5:45

AGES 6-12

ARKENSTALL CENTRE

HADDENHAM

Book at: [Wadsyouth.com/workshops](http://Wadsyouth.com/workshops)

# ELY MUSEUM

## Whirling Windmills!

Children's STEM Workshop  
Suitable for ages 7 - 11 years  
Thursday 19th February  
11am - 1pm or 2pm - 4pm

Tickets: £9.50 per child (adults are free)

Build a working model windmill using LEGO® Technic cogs and axels to make the crank that rotates the sail! Then use your creative skills to make it your own.

Pre-book Online

[www.elymuseum.org.uk](http://www.elymuseum.org.uk)  
Charity number 115 6024

# FAMILY ARCHERY SESSIONS

## HALF TERM



**BOOK NOW at**  
**SANDRINGHAM**  
**ESTATE.CO.UK**

## 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 **February**.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings – Evening session	Monday, 2 February 2026, 18:00-19:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry – Evening session	Thursday, 5 February 2026, 18:00-19:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
An Introduction to Family Wellbeing	Tuesday, 10 February 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Managing Challenging Behaviours	Tuesday, 17 February 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Managing Sibling Rivalry	Thursday, 19 February 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 

## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter February 2026

**A Bit About Me**

Hi, my name is Emily, I'm your school's link EIFA. As an EIFA I offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a Primary School aged child that may be experiencing some challenges. These challenges might include difficulties with routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour, worries or self-esteem. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, just contact me on the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

**Parenting Top Tip**

Parents and carers often prioritise the needs of others and place their own wellbeing last, which can increase the risk of stress and burnout. Children learn by example, and when they see adults acknowledging their feelings and taking steps to care for themselves, they develop the skills to recognise and manage their own wellbeing.

Ahead of half term, our EIFA workshop will focus on family wellbeing, exploring practical ways to support self-care and introducing simple tools to help build and maintain healthy routines for the whole family.

Please join us for the Family Wellbeing session on Tuesday 10th February at 12.00. To book a place, please click this link: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

**Activity Idea – Create a paper lantern**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February is Chinese New Year and 2026 is the year of the fire horse, symbolising growth mindset in the form of independence, creativity, ambition and energy to name only a few.

Why not create a paper lantern to celebrate.

- Take a piece of A4 paper or thin card.
- Fold it in half lengthways and make equally spaced cuts along the length of the paper/card (using scissors) - Make sure you leave a 3cm gap at the top and bottom and both ends of the paper/card.
- Open the paper/card and fold it round into a cylinder shape.
- Glue or sticky tape the ends together and decorate your lantern with paints, pens, sequins or sticky gems.

**Another Resource**

Children's Mental health week is taking place between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February. This year's theme is 'This is my place' and is around creating an environment that gives our children and young people a sense of belonging.

Place2Be have a whole range of resources and activities available to download for free. [Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site](#)

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? **Pinpoint** ([www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk)) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer)

Contact me directly on ☎ 07879 426 947 or  
✉ [Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# DEAR EVAN HANSEN



WITCHFORD AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

## DEAR EVAN HANSEN

**THE AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL**  
BOOK BY STEVEN LEVENSON  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BENJ PASEK & JUSTIN PAUL

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (EUROPE)  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH WITCHFORD AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY YOUTH (WADSY)  
ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY  
MTI EUROPE [WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK](http://WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK)

DIRECTOR **TIM MEIKLE**  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR **NAOMI D'CUNHA**

**PERFORMANCES**  
THURSDAY 26 MARCH 7:30 • FRIDAY 27 MARCH 7:30 • SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2:30 & 7:30

ARKENSTALL VILLAGE CENTRE, HADDENHAM

TICKETS: £18.00 ADULTS • £14.00 CONCESSIONS  
AVAILABLE FROM SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY AT [WADSYOUTH.COM](http://WADSYOUTH.COM) (SCAN QR CODE)

 WITCHFORD AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

9 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health week
11 <sup>th</sup> February	FWR Film Night – booking now open. Booking closes on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February at 9am
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term
<b>Half term</b>	
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent's Evening 3.30pm - 7pm – booking opens 13 <sup>th</sup> February
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent's Evening 3.30pm - 5.30pm – booking opens 13 <sup>th</sup> February
6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day at The Rackham
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Craft and Cake session – 2pm – 3pm – booking now open via MCAS
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Phonics screening - online parent information evening – booking required
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 11am – 12pm – booking now open via MCAS
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 11am – 12pm - booking now open via MCAS
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 2pm – 3pm - booking now open via MCAS
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 SATs - online parent information evening – booking required nearer the time
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief – more information coming soon
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Parent meal – booking required nearer the time
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Doughnut Day – more information coming soon
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term
<b>Easter holiday</b>	