



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***

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half of the Spring Term, all staff and Governors wish to thank our parents and carers for their continued support. We make a great team!

**Attendance:**

This week's attendance: 94.03%

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:**

**If you think a child or an adult with care and support needs is in immediate danger, phone 999.**

**Make a referral to Children's Services:**

[Make a referral to Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Services - Instructions and Data Protection - Cambridgeshire County Council website \(achieveservice.com\)](#)

**NSPCC website:**

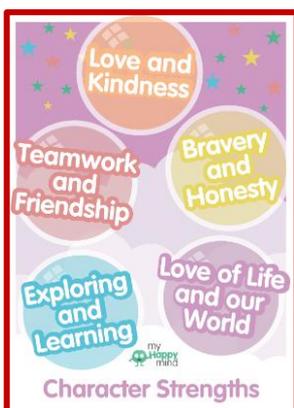
[NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

**NSPCC website for information about child protection:**

[Child protection system in the UK | NSPCC Learning](#)

**Reporting a crime:**

[Contact us | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)



**Wellbeing and Mental Health:** Why not have a go at spotting and acknowledging every time you and your child use your character strengths during the half term holiday? The My Happy Mind character strengths are **love and kindness; bravery and honesty; teamwork and friendship; love of life and our world; exploring and learning.** Find out more by logging into My Happy Mind.

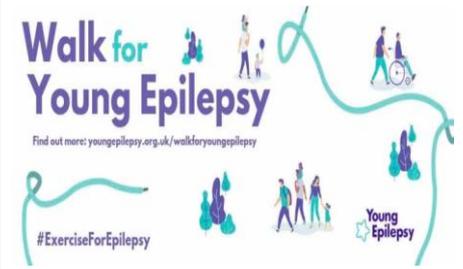
**Charity fundraising:**

	<b>Save the date!</b>	<b>FWR events:</b>
	27 <sup>th</sup> March	Doughnut Day – more information available soon.

**Do you have a moment to support a local charity?** One of our parents, Edd Hancock, is about to start a series of fundraising events throughout March this year to raise funds for a couple of charities close to his family. One being Addenbrookes and the other a smaller local one set up in name of his wife. The Katy Hancock foundation. [Katy Hancock Foundation](#)  
 Mr Hancock is also trying to raise funds for a running track for The Rackham and has made this part of his fundraising. Mr Hancock is devising a separate page for these donations. Mr Hancock aims to run a total of 262 miles throughout the month of March including organised half marathon events as well as local runs around the village.



**Young Epilepsy awareness fundraiser:**  
 Help Shaan, one of our pupils at The Rackham, raise awareness and life-changing funds by supporting him in walking 50 miles in February and donating to young epilepsy.  
 Nearly every hour, a child or young person is diagnosed with epilepsy in the UK.  
 #EpilepsySupport  
 #EpilepsyAwareness



# YOUNG MINDS

Parents and carers are often the first place young people go when they're struggling – whether that's relationships, school or their mental health. However experienced you are, it can be hard to know the right thing to say when someone you love is hurting, or what next steps to take.

Young Minds offer a **Parents Helpline** advisors are just a click or phone call away with free, expert, confidential, 1-1 advice. And we have hundreds of **online guides** and **real stories** from parents who get it.



**Children's Mental Health Week 2026** Small, everyday habits can make a real difference:

- Keeping familiar routines like a steady bedtime, regular mealtimes or calm moments after school, can help children feel more secure and reduce stress.
- Predictable routines can be a simple way to support children's emotional wellbeing. Talking openly about feelings helps too.
- Many children find it easier to talk when it's linked to a story - rather than a direct question.

**YOUnited** Offers support to children and young people aged 5 to 17 with their emotional wellbeing and mental health.

**Centre 33** Offer free and confidential support for young people across Cambridgeshire. A safe, welcoming place to talk about anything that's on their minds, whether it's worries, feeling overwhelmed or needing someone to listen. People can just drop in to access the self-help resources, or speak with the counselling and support teams. Supporting young people up to 25 years old with emotional and practical needs, the centre helps navigate life's challenges.

**How Are You Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | H.A.Y. Home** An easy place to find something children will enjoy; a great place to start for families wanting to involve children in positive, local activities.



**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 11th 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 and 2 – Fruit and vegetable tasting:**



Next half-term KS1 will be tasting different fruit and vegetables as part of our Science and DT learning. This will be during the first week back after half-term. Please can you advise of any allergies or concerns that your children may have.

### **Year 5 and 6 biscuit tasting in science lessons:**



In Year 5 and 6, we are planning to use some biscuits as part of our science lessons after half term. This will involve the children handling the biscuits (with clean hands following health and safety rules for hygiene). As a treat and so as not to waste, the children will then be able to eat the biscuit afterwards. If you have any questions or do not wish your child to take part, please do let the office know. We have sourced a Gluten Free alternative if

required.

**Indoor PE and outdoor games days for next half term:**

	Indoor PE	Outdoor games
Rowan	Thursday	Forest School (please see below)
Ash	Friday	
Chestnut	Friday	Tuesday
Beech	Thursday	Monday
Larch	Wednesday	Monday
Hazel	Friday	Wednesday
Sycamore	Thursday	Tuesday
Elm	Tuesday	Wednesday
Willow	Wednesday	Friday
Cedar	Tuesday	Friday
Oak	Monday	Friday



**Reception Forest School Sessions:** We will be re-starting our forest sessions each Wednesday, from the first week back. Please could we ask that all children bring their waterproof trousers and jackets, or their waterproof all-in-one back to school by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.



**Reception Baby Photos:** After the half term holiday, we will be thinking about how we have grown and changed since we were babies, linked to our time topic in maths. We would love to share the children's baby photographs to start the conversation! Please upload a photograph of your child as a baby onto Tapestry for us to share with the class.



**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:



**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.



**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 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March or Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March between 11am and 12pm or the afternoon session on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March between 2 – 3pm depending on when your child is in session. 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.



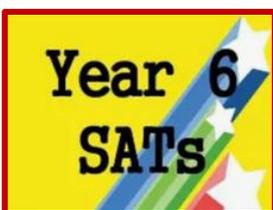
**New menu and meal bookings:** The new school dinner menu is attached and available to book via MCAS. There are some exciting new options chosen by School Council so please do have a look through the menu with your children. Meals should be booked and paid for in advance please, ensuring bookings are made before 8.30am. Please contact the office if you need to add or amend your child's meal booking after this time.



Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Dates
Easter Card Club	Monday	Lunchtime: 12.45 - 1.15pm	Year 1/ 2	23 <sup>rd</sup> February to 16 <sup>th</sup> March
Book Club	Tuesday	Lunchtime: 13.00 – 13.30pm	Y3 – Y6	24 <sup>th</sup> February to 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Needlework Club	Tuesday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y5 and Y6	24 <sup>th</sup> February to 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Netball Club	Thursday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y5 and Y6	26 <sup>th</sup> February to 19 <sup>th</sup> March

**How to book:**

Booking for clubs opens at 6pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February.



**Year 6 SATs online parent information evening:** We will be holding an online information evening about SATs for Year 6 parents on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm. Please complete this form if you would like the link to attend: [Year 6 SAT's online meeting](#)



**Outstanding balances:** We politely request that all parents check their MCAS accounts and clear any outstanding payments for dinners, trips or wraparound care. We would like to remind you that bookings for early and late drop off at Pre-School should be booked and paid for in advance via the wraparound care option on your MCAS account.

# 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.



### 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. Please note that Mrs Deery (Sycamore) and Miss Hollingshurst (Oak) will be online. Please book via MCAS as usual.

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

**2026** CAMBRIDGESHIRE MUSIC PRESENTS  
**STAGE & SCREEN HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS**

**FEB HALF TERM**  
A fun-filled three-day Stage & Screen course for ages 5-11, featuring acting, dancing and singing inspired by Rapunzel and the Barbershop Bros. Led by expert tutors and ending with a performance for family and friends. No experience needed—just imagination and enthusiasm!

Dates: Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 February  
Times: 10.00am – 3.00pm daily  
Fee: £120  
Places are limited – early booking is recommended.

**SUMMER HOLS**  
Step into the spotlight this summer with our Stage & Screen Summer Showcase for ages 11-18 – an energetic, week-long production celebrating iconic musical theatre favourites. From performers to behind-the-scenes creatives, there's a role for everyone. A vibrant week of creativity culminating in a live showcase performance for family and friends.

Dates: Monday 10 – Friday 14 August 2026  
Times: 10.00am – 3.00pm  
Fee: £160

**SPECIAL OFFER** Bring a friend and you'll both enjoy 10% off your course fees – twice the fun, less to pay!

For more info, visit our website or call us on 0345 045 1371

### Half Term Stage & Screen three-day course for young performers aged 5-11 led by Cambridge Music

Across the programme children will enjoy acting, dancing and singing, working towards a joyful performance for family and friends at the end of the final day. This year's theme brings to life Rapunzel and the Barbershop Bros, a fresh, colourful and larger-than-life musical adaptation of the classic fairy tale. Throughout the course, children will explore a world of land and sea, secrets and rumours, hairdos and hats, friendship and fun – meeting characters from a reluctant prince to a chaotic hair salon, a high-stakes hat parade, and some banter-loving fishermen along the way.

Over the three days, participants will take part in:

- Acting: Imaginative games, character work and storytelling
- Dancing: Upbeat movement sessions and playful choreography

- Singing: Learning songs from the show in a supportive environment

Experienced tutors will guide everyone through rehearsals as they prepare to share their hard work in a relaxed and welcoming performance on the final afternoon. No previous experience is needed just enthusiasm and imagination! If you would like to book a place or have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

[www.cambridgeshiremusic.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshiremusic.org.uk)



**Witchford Scouts:** 1st Witchford ever growing Scout troop needs you!!

We are on the lookout for vibrant fun loving individuals to join us as adult leaders and helpers across every section.

Joining our team in Witchford will help you hone and share your skill set, make friends and let you experience amazing times with your children.

It will also help strengthen our team giving us an opportunity to open new sections, do essential fund raising towards a new scout hut, provide the children with more trips and overnight stays and generally help Witchford scout group grow in strength providing the children of this village brilliant life changing experiences!

Please email Michelle on michelle.larchet@gmail.com

Or phone Annabel on 07496 069037



**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)

**Activities and Events:**

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 - 5:45PM £35  
8:00AM - 4:00PM £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 1UF, 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

Child and Family Centres

# FAMILY ARCHERY SESSIONS

## HALF TERM

BOOK NOW at [SANDRINGHAM STATE.CO.UK](http://SANDRINGHAMSTATE.CO.UK)

# 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 caps and axels to make the crank that rotates the sails! 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

## 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

We will NOT tolerate behaviour that is:

- ☹️ thre@tening,
- ☹️ abu\$ive or
- ☹️ vi\$ilent

# 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.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR

# JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

2026 CAMBRIDGESHIRE MUSIC PRESENTS

# STAGE & SCREEN HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

## FEB HALF TERM

A fun-filled three-day Stage & Screen course for ages 5-11, featuring acting, dancing and singing inspired by Rapunzel and the Barbershop Boys. Led by expert tutors and ending with a performance for family and friends. No experience needed—just imagination and enthusiasm!

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Dates: Monday 10 - Friday 14 August 2026  
Times: 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Fee: £160

**SPECIAL OFFER** Bring a friend and you'll both enjoy 10% off your course fees - twice the fun, less to pay!

For more info, visit our website or call us on 0345 045 1371

Best wishes for a restful half term. Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

Half term	
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	First day of term
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 now open
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
Easter holiday	