



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner  
 Email: [office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)  
 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***

6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers to our Parent's Evenings this week. Thank you for your continued support in the progress of your wonderful children. We have also enjoyed a wonderful World Book Day today and our book sale. Your generosity devoting time for costumes and book donations is so very kind. Thank you. We will update you on how much we have managed to raise to buy books for our pupils.

**Attendance:**

This week's attendance: 88.04%

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:**

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP**

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES:** Group chats enable multiple users to message. It's easy to share, but it's easy to be pressured into sending something you don't want to. Consider using people you know and trust. Remember that group chats can be used to spread rumors, bully, and young people may feel pressure to respond even if they're not interested or don't want to be involved.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS:** Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information, downloading malware, or making payments. They often use convincing messages that look like they're from a friend or family member.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES:** WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and "View Once", which are great for privacy but can also be used to hide evidence of abuse or harassment. Be aware of these features and discuss them with your child.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS:** WhatsApp's "Open Channels" feature that allows users to share updates, photos, videos, or audio clips on a public page. There is no way to block or delete content from channels. Be aware of your child's privacy settings and discuss them with your child.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING:** WhatsApp users can share their location with others in a group chat. Be aware of your child's privacy settings and discuss them with your child.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT:** WhatsApp now includes ads in the "Updates" and "Channels" sections. Be aware of these ads and discuss them with your child. AI-generated content is also being used to create convincing messages.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER:** Encourage parents and educators to review their child's privacy settings together. Discuss what they mean and how to use them. Encourage your child to be open about hidden chats.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS:** Encourage parents and educators to teach their child how to spot scams, especially those that involve sharing personal information or making payments. Encourage your child to be open about hidden chats.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI:** Discuss how WhatsApp now includes ads and AI-generated content. Encourage your child to be open about hidden chats.

**Meet Our Expert**

Dr. Nicola B. is a leading expert in digital literacy, education and technology who has developed and delivered top-quality and cyber-related courses for schools. She has been a regular speaker at national and international events for the National Government, including the National Cyber Security Centre and the National Cyber Security Centre.

**Wake Up Wednesday** The National College

Twitter: @wake\_up\_weds Facebook: @wakeupnationalcollege Instagram: @wakeupwednesday YouTube: @wakeupweds

### Wellbeing and mental health:

It is interesting how society's perception of wellbeing and mental health often focusses on when wellbeing and mental health is poor.

Just like when our general health can be poor when we have a cold for example we also have days when we are in full health.

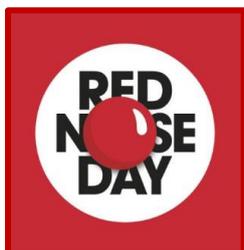
This is the same also with our mental health.



### School Uniform: Footwear a reminder:

Branded and coloured trainers and boots are beginning to appear in school again. Branded and coloured footwear is inappropriate for school. Our school policy does include trainers however our Uniform Policy states the following: **Black shoes or completely black trainers (no coloured logos) worn with white / grey / black / red socks or tights (not leggings).** [Policy Library | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

We politely request parents and carers to support the school and the uniform policy and send pupils into school wearing only completely black shoes or trainers. Thank you.



**Red Nose Day:** The School Council are thrilled to announce that they will be hosting 'The Rackham's Funniest Class Competition', to celebrate Red Nose Day. Each class will be holding a mini joke competition to find their funniest joke to bring to a very special Red Nose Day Joke Competition, where one of our classes will win the accolade of being 'The Rackham's Funniest Class!' We can't wait to laugh our socks off, so we would love your support at home to help your child prepare their funniest joke.

We will also be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 20th March**, where every child is invited to 'dress as funny as you feel'! If you would like to make an online donation to Comic Relief, please follow this link:

[Donate | Comic Relief](#)



### Overture and Piano concert:

For the families of those children who take part in Overture or who have piano lessons with Mr Wheatley, we will be holding our end of term concert on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am. Please book your tickets via this link: [Piano and Overture concert booking form - March 2026](#)



### Pre-School Forest School sessions:

Starting next week on a Tuesday morning, Pre-School will be taking part in Forest School sessions. Please can you ensure that children have suitable shoes (wellies if needed), layers, and a coat. We also need the children to wear trousers and long sleeves. Please can you ensure these items are available each Tuesday.

# Year 2

## Year 2 Parent meal:

We would like to invite Year 2 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. 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 19<sup>th</sup> March.**

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 2 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 2 children arrive for school dinner at 11.50am.



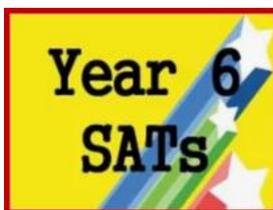
See The Rackham website for further information. [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

# Year 1

## 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:

Bookings will close on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March



**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: Booking will close on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

# 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.

<p><b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b></p>	<p>Pre-loved uniform sale</p>
<p><b><u>Doughnut Day!</u></b> <b><u>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</u></b></p> 	<p>FWR are excited to be holding a Doughnut Day fundraiser on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Doughnuts will be on sale to the primary school children after lunch for £1 each. Pre-School parents will be able to purchase doughnuts after school if they wish to do so.</p> <p>Please note that this is optional.</p> <p>Due to School Food Standards guidance, if your child does not have £1 we are unable to provide a doughnut during school hours. If children forget their money on the day, FWR will be selling doughnuts after school with payment by cash or card.</p> <p>Please complete this form if either of the following statements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You DO NOT want your child to have a doughnut or</li> <li>• Your child cannot have these doughnuts due to special dietary needs.</li> </ul> <p>The form must be completed by 9am on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. We hope to be able to provide an alternative if made aware of dietary requirements. Nutritional and allergy information: Suitable for vegetarian: Yes Suitable for vegans: No Contains: Gluten (Wheat), Soya and Milk. Please use the following link to access full nutritional information: <a href="https://www.sainsbury's.co.uk/white-iced-ring-doughnuts">Sainsbury's White Iced Ring Doughnuts x4   Sainsbury's (sainsburys.co.uk)</a></p> <p>Thank you for your ongoing support.</p>



**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.



**Bonnie Johnson is running the Cambridge Half Marathon** on Sunday 8 March 2026 to raise money for patients and staff at Royal Papworth Hospital – the UK's leading centre for heart and lung disease.

Please show your support by donating to their fundraising page.

Registered Charity No. 1043031 England & Wales

Please click on this link to sponsor Bonnie:

[Bonnie Johnson is fundraising for Royal Papworth Hospital Charity](#)

**Activities and Events:**

**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)**

**Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents**

*All these courses have been specially designed for parents who are regularly arguing in front of their children. It will have positive and lasting consequences. Why? Because the course is supported by professionals in Haddesham and Sandy. You will receive the support you need to control the relationship with your partner and help you to control the relationship with your children.*

**\*\*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 - 1pm

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

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

**Online via Teams:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Midday - 1pm

**Weekly RECREATIONAL SESSIONS**

**THE VAULT, UNIT 3, HADDENHAM BUSINESS PARK, SUTTON ROAD, HADDENHAM, CB6 3PT**

**TUESDAY**

- 12:00-12:45 - Xtreme Tots (ages 0-4) £3
- 13:00-14:00 - EduCheer (all ages) £3
- 18:30-19:15 - Recreational Cheer (ages 3-11) £8
- 19:15-19:00 - Recreational Cheer (ages 7-12) £8
- 18:00-18:45 - Recreational Cheer (ages 13+) £8

**WEDNESDAY**

- 18:30-19:30 - Revive Tumble (ages 7+) £9

**FRIDAY**

- 17:30-18:00 - Pom Domo (all ages) £5
- 18:00-19:00 - Adult Cheer (ages 18+) £8

All sessions are pay-as-you-attend and there is no commitment. Please contact us if you are interested in participating in any classes listed above.

**Contact Details**

Email: [revive\\_xtreme@gmail.com](mailto:revive_xtreme@gmail.com)  
 WhatsApp: 07481450214  
 Facebook: Revive Xtreme  
 Instagram: [revive\\_xtreme](https://www.instagram.com/revive_xtreme)

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.

**DARRACUDAS**  
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2025!  
EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE SCHOOL20 FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

- 🕒 4 to 14 year olds!
- 🎯 80+ Activities!
- 🍽️ Choice each session!
- 👨‍🎓 Specialist courses!
- 📅 Flexible bookings!

barracudas.co.uk  
01480 467 567

OFSTED REGISTERED

Trustpilot

# Easter

HAF  
Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Your child could enjoy fun, exciting activities, make new friends, and receive a tasty meal and snacks – all completely free

Children who receive benefits-related free school meals are eligible and can book for up to 16 hours of holiday fun this Easter.

Find out more  
Scan the QR Code or visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf)  
Questions: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

FULLY FUNDED

Department for Education  
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME  
Cambridgeshire County Council

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

9 <sup>th</sup> March	FWR pre-loved uniform sale both and after school
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Craft and Cake session – 2pm – 3pm – booking closed
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Phonics screening - online parent information evening – booking closes Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 11am – 12pm – booking closed
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 11am – 12pm - booking closed
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 2pm – 3pm - booking closed
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 SATs - online parent information evening – booking closes on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Overture and Piano concert (Mr Wheatley) - booking now open
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Parent meal – booking now open
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Doughnut Day
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term
<b>Easter holiday</b>	