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Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school grounds are starting to come back to life with leaves appearing on trees and glorious blossom too. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful school site.

Attendance:

This week's attendance: 92.4%

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 & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself. From on-demand content apps, the catch-up TV or streaming services such as Netflix, to web-connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet-enabled, so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home-entertainment system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
 Many kids' channels on prime video, there is a presence of advertising for products which could be more appealing to younger viewers. They also promote specific mature positions. If you don't have parental controls set up and your child has access to the TV, they themselves being exposed to those and products with bad language, using language and violence.
- INCREASED SCREEN TIME**
 The array of content available through smart TV opens up a new world of entertainment for your child. However, it's important to be aware that only a part of the screen time is spent on educational activities, but it's also important to ensure that you're aware of the time your child spends watching TV. If you're not aware of the time your child spends watching TV, you may be unaware of the time your child spends watching TV. If you're not aware of the time your child spends watching TV, you may be unaware of the time your child spends watching TV.
- REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL**
 Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate the purchase of goods. Buying a new app on the latest television is a simple thing to do, but it's also important to be aware that your child may be able to purchase goods on the TV. If you're not aware of the time your child spends watching TV, you may be unaware of the time your child spends watching TV.
- UNCONVINING SECURITY**
 As a form of digital (DT) services, smart TVs can be uniquely susceptible to attacks. They're often able to download and install software to support high-level security. They're often able to download and install software to support high-level security. They're often able to download and install software to support high-level security.
- A SILENT SPY?**
 Some smart TVs already collect data on user viewing habits and they display for personal advertising based on that data. Some smart TVs also collect data on user viewing habits and they display for personal advertising based on that data. Some smart TVs also collect data on user viewing habits and they display for personal advertising based on that data.
- CONTACT FROM STRANGERS**
 Many smart TVs can be used for video chatting, social media and other streaming. So, if you're not aware of the time your child spends watching TV, you may be unaware of the time your child spends watching TV.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- MAKE IT A FAMILY THING**
 Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology. If you're not aware of the time your child spends watching TV, you may be unaware of the time your child spends watching TV.
- CREATE CHILD PROFILES**
 Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs from the content providers such as BBC iPlayer to provide services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has appropriate restrictions on their viewing content.
- SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS**
 It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which can be used to restrict what your child can watch. If you're not aware of the time your child spends watching TV, you may be unaware of the time your child spends watching TV.
- CONSIDER THE LOCATION**
 If you're concerned about the online safety aspects that a smart TV might pose, you may want to consider the location of your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space so that you can be aware of the time your child spends watching TV.

Meet Our Expert
 Josh, High Tech Innovation Technology Specialist with a track record of over 10 years in the industry. He's the author of 'The Smart TV Handbook' and 'The Smart TV Handbook'.

National Online Safety
 #WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.11.2023

Wellbeing and mental health:

Our school EIFA is Emily Norman.

Emily can offer advice on:

- Challenging behaviours
- Sibling rivalry
- Routines
- Sleep
- Strategies for supporting emotionally based school avoidance
- Building resilience and confidence
- Worries
- School transitions: pre-school to primary and primary to secondary
- Signposting to partner agencies such as Emotional Well-being Service, School Nursing team, Centre 33, Pinpoint, SENDIASS, MHST for further support
- Virtual county wide core offer workshops delivered each week during term time
- Virtual workshops delivered in individual schools on request, as needs arise
- Delivery of an evidence-based parenting programme such as Incredible Years, in collaboration with Targeted Support Family Workers or virtually one to one with parents

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter March 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. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these, just contact me on the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Top Tip Parenting Top Tip – What to do When Children Argue

Children often argue because they haven't yet learned emotional regulation skills. Helping them practise calm-down techniques during non-stressful times makes it more likely they'll use them during conflicts. **Examples to teach:** taking a deep breath; stepping away from the argument briefly, using a "calm voice", saying what they need instead of blaming. If appropriate think about allowing for some negotiation and choice. For example: "Would you like to do your homework before or after tea?" "You can tidy up by yourself or I can help you." "Would you like to have your screentime in the morning or the afternoon?" Children do get told what to do quite a lot, and some (especially those who are strong willed) like to feel that they have some control and offering choices helps with that. (This information comes from Incredible Years – click the book to learn more)

Activity Idea

We have had a lot of rain lately! Adults often see it as an inconvenience but looked at through a child's eyes it can be fun. So next time it's raining why not put your waterproofs on and head outdoors. Here's an idea that might appeal to your little ones.

Start a raindrop orchestra

Take some different objects outside to see what sounds the rain makes when it falls on them. Try different-sized saucepans or raid your recycling for foil containers and empty tin cans. Can you hear heavy drumming, a soft pitter-patter or tinkling sounds? Try to create as many different sounds as possible and make some raindrop music.

Check out some more ideas here: [50 things to do before you're 11½ | Kids | National Trust](#)

Pinpoint Cambridgeshire's Annual Conference

Tuesday 10th March at The Burgess Hall, St Ives (9:30am–2:15pm).

The free event is open to parent carers, parents, guardians and relatives of children and young people with SEND or additional needs (diagnosed or not), as well as professionals supporting SEND families.

Created by parent carers, for parent carers, the conference offers a calm, inclusive and flexible programme, with short workshops on topics including sleep, autism, sensory needs, benefits, education, trauma-informed practice and employment. A Marketplace of local services will be open for most of the day, alongside sensory workshops running throughout. The event is designed to help families feel supported, informed and less alone. **Free booking:** [Pinpoint Annual Conference - Pinpoint](#)

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

Contact me directly on ☎ 07879 426 947 or
✉ Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Thank you for your kind donations towards The Rackham book sale. We managed to raise £468 to purchase new books for the library. Thank you!



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.



Reception Garden In Ash and Rowan, we have been busy thinking about what salad, vegetables and plants we would like to grow this year. If you have any seeds or compost that you would be happy to donate, please send them in with your child next week. We would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you!



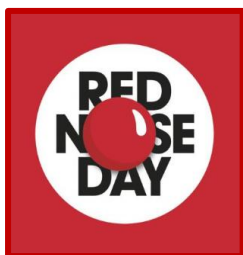
Swimming lessons after Easter We are very much looking forward to our swimming lessons which will take place weekly for every child in school soon after the Easter holidays. For these sessions, the children will need to wear a one-piece swimming costume or fitted swimming trunks. UV swimming t-shirts are allowed. Please do not send your child with a bikini or long (knee-length) baggy swimming shorts as these are not appropriate or practical for learning how to swim and your child will be unable to enter the pool.

In line with the Cambridgeshire swimming policy, the children will not wear goggles for their sessions as our focus is on developing water confidence and safety.

Earrings **must** be removed before school on our swimming day. Please don't forget to also send your child with a named towel. All other swimming aids will be provided by school.

Any child with hair that is longer than chin length or a fringe that impedes their vision when wet will be expected to wear their own swimming hat. Swimming hats are available for £1.50 and can be purchased via your MCAS account.

For our younger children in school, during the Easter holiday, we would be grateful if you could support your child in becoming independent with dressing and undressing and also drying themselves after a bath or shower.



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 25th March at 9.00am. Please book your tickets via this link:



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 would you ensure these items are available each Tuesday.



Year 2 Parent meal: We would like to invite Year 2 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 26th 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 19th 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.



Year 6 SATs online parent information evening: We will be holding an online information evening about SATs for Year 6 parents on Wednesday 18th March at 6pm. Please complete this form if you would like the link to attend:
Booking will close on Monday 16th 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 or speak to a member of the Office Team.

FREE Building Confidence Workshop

Booking link: [Cambridge North and Ely Mental Health Support Team - Booking by Bookwhen](#)



FAO PARENTS
Free & Online **NHS**

BUILDING CONFIDENCE WORKSHOP

*Does your child often feel scared or show physical symptoms of anxiety?
Are worries stopping them from doing the things they want to do?
Are you struggling to know how best to help them overcome their fears?*

Join the Mental Health Support Team for an online workshop looking at how you can help your child manage their worries and build confidence

We will be looking at the following:
Why you are best placed to offer support
How worry impacts us and which factors may maintain anxiety
Strategies you can use to support your child



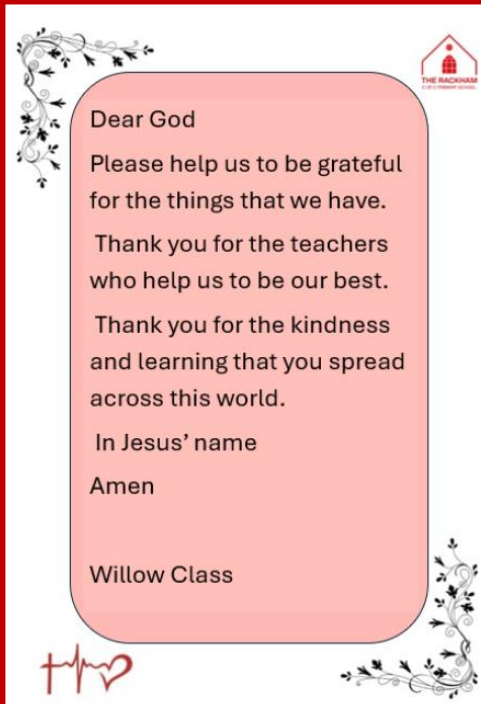
Thursday 2nd April at 12:30 to 3:30pm
On Microsoft Teams
2.5 hours - plus breaks throughout

For more information and to book your place, please access the following link: <https://bookwhen.com/east-cambs-mhst-parents#focus=ev-sn4w-20260402123000>



Spare clothes appeal: We would be grateful for the return of spare clothes sent home with children to be returned to pre-school please. In addition, if families have any spare underwear, we would be pleased to accept donations. Thank you so much.

Collective Worship Council prayer for this week:



Dear God

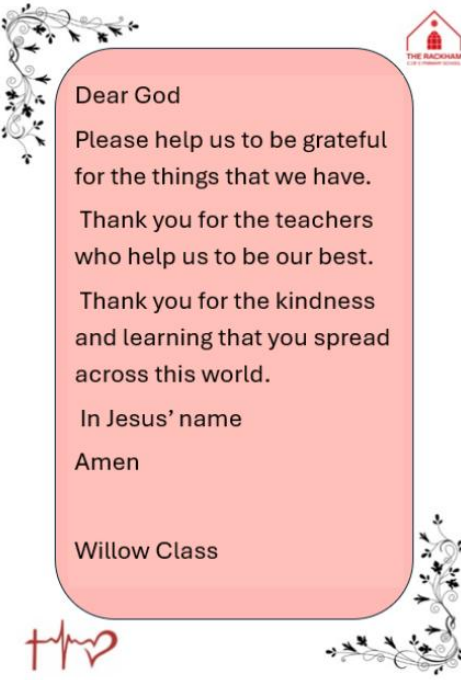

Please help us to be grateful for the things that we have.

Thank you for the teachers who help us to be our best.

Thank you for the kindness and learning that you spread across this world.

In Jesus' name
Amen

Willow Class



FWR events:

FWR are excited to be holding a Doughnut Day fundraiser on Friday 27th 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.

Please note that this is optional.

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.

Please complete this form [Doughnut Day - 27th March 2026](#) if either of the following statements apply:

- You DO NOT want your child to have a doughnut or
- Your child cannot have these doughnuts due to special dietary needs.

The form must be completed by 9am on Wednesday 27th 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: [Sainsbury's White Iced Ring Doughnuts x4](#) | [Sainsbury's \(sainsburys.co.uk\)](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Doughnut Day!
Friday 27th March



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 successfully completed her half marathon last weekend.

It is not too late to donate.

Please click on this link to sponsor Bonnie:

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

Activities and Events:



Free Spring Tennis Festival

9th –15th March 2026

Come and try tennis for **FREE** at Ely Tennis Club during our Spring Tennis Festival. We're running a variety of fun, active sessions throughout the week for children aged **4–11 years**.

Tennis is a fantastic sport for young people — it's enjoyable, inclusive, and helps children develop confidence, coordination, teamwork, and resilience both on and off the court.

How to book:

Online booking is essential as we only have a limited number of spaces available - <https://inspire2coach.co.uk/try-tennis/>



Easter Tennis Camps

We are also running tennis camps on selected dates throughout the Easter break.

Families can view availability and book online via our website: <https://inspire2coach.co.uk/summer-camps/>

Early bird offer:

Get **10%** your basket automatically applied when booking 21 days in advance of camp date



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

17 th March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 11am – 12pm - booking closed
18 th March	Pre-School Craft and Cake session – 2pm – 3pm - booking closed
18 th March	Year 6 SATs - online parent information evening – booking closes on Monday 16 th March
20 th March	Comic Relief
25 th March	Overture and Piano concert (Mr Wheatley) - booking now open
26 th March	Year 2 Parent meal – booking now open
27 th March	Doughnut Day
27 th March	Last day of term
Easter holiday	