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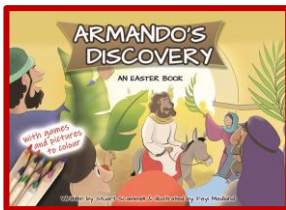
**Working together to be the best we can possibly be.**

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

27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a Church School, The Rackham has taken part in the Bishop's Lent Challenge again this year. This week we also have continued to mark Lent in preparation for Holy Week next week, through worship at St Andrew's Church led by Revd. Becky Warner. Thank you Becky for making this week so special.



Each pupil at The Rackham will bring home a book this week telling the Easter story. These beautiful books are so very kindly gifted to each child by Stuart Scammell. Enjoy sharing the story of Armando's Discovery with your child. Thank you to Mrs Jessop and Mr Scammell for organising this book donation for The Rackham. Happy Easter everyone!

### **Attendance:**

This week's attendance: 92.7%

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:

### When Cannabis Comes Home

This is home. Everything feels safe.

But sometimes, something changes. A smell, a look, a feeling. I don't understand.

I wait for dinner. I wait for hugs. Did I do something wrong?

I'm waiting to be collected again. I hope the drive isn't too jumpy.

I want to play outside while they are sleepy. They don't tell me no, so it must be safe.

I didn't have money for lunch. It's hard to concentrate when I'm hungry.

Noone noticed me. Crying is all I can do but now they are shouting and can't hear me.

When cannabis comes home, children can be put at risk.

**Clear Minds make Safer Homes**

## Myths

### "It's natural, so it must be safe."

While cannabis is plant-based, that doesn't mean it's harmless - especially for children exposed to second-hand smoke or impaired caregiving.

### "It helps me relax, so I'm a better parent."

While it may feel calming, cannabis can impair judgement, slow reaction times, and reduce emotional availability.

### "It's legal now, so it's not a concern."

Cannabis is a Class B drug and driving when high is illegal. If someone does not have a prescription for medical cannabis, then possession is a criminal offence, even if self-treating a health condition. Even when medicinal use is allowed, it must be prescribed by a specialist.

### "I only use it when the kids are asleep - it doesn't affect them."

Cannabis can linger in your system and affect alertness and decision-making even hours later. Children may also be exposed to second-hand smoke or unsafe storage.

### "Everyone does it, it's not big deal."

Normalising drug use can influence children's attitudes and increase the likelihood of early experimentation. It also raises safeguarding concerns for professionals.

# Year 1

**Year 1 Parent meal:** We would like to invite Year 1 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> April.**

**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 1 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 1 children arrive for school dinner at 11.50am.



**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.



**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.



**Trip and Wraparound care payments:** Please could we remind you that instalment payments for **Year 4 Big Camp, the Reception theatre trip and Year 6 Horstead residential** are due by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Please would you ensure Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club outstanding payments are up to date by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. 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. **Unfortunately, this does not include pre-school pupils.** 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.



### **Piano lessons:**


If your child is interested in piano lessons, Mr Wheatley will have places available in September. You can contact him via email: [lwheatley@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:lwheatley@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)



### **The Red Mile:**

Coming soon, a challenge for everyone to raise funds for our all weather track. More info to come, but here are some clues, it's called The RED Mile and it's time to dust off your trainers!

**Collective Worship Council prayer for this week:**



Dear God,


Thank you for this new day;  
For the sunshine and the rain;  
For our friends, our families;  
And all the love we share.


Help us to be kind with our actions and words;  
Brave when things feel hard;  
And ready to help when someone needs us.

Thank you for our school;  
For our teachers and our learning;  
And for all the chances we have to grow and  
do our best.

Please help us today to make good choices;  
To look after one another;  
And to bring a little happiness wherever we  
are.

Amen







**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.

**EDD IS RUNNING 262 MILES IN MARCH**

**EQUIVALENT TO 10 MARATHONS, 3 CHARITIES**

Raising money for  
The Katy Hancock Foundation,  
Addenbrooke's Hospital &  
Witchford Primary School

**EVERY PENNY HELPS!**  
Total amount split between all three

act Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust

THE RACKHAM C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

gofundme

**Activities and Events:**

**BBC MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS**

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire is searching for outstanding community heroes for our Make a Difference Awards 2026.

Do you know someone locally who deserves recognition? Perhaps a hard working volunteer, great neighbour, young hero, or helpful animal?

Nominations are now open for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's Make a Difference Awards 2026. The awards celebrate the incredible individuals, groups and animals across our community who go above and beyond to help others.

If you know someone who deserves to be recognised, we'd love to hear about them!

Nominate via [www.bbc.co.uk/makesadifference/awards](http://www.bbc.co.uk/makesadifference/awards)  
Nominations are open until Tuesday 31/03/2026.

**THINK BEFORE YOU PARK**

**YOU COULD ENDANGER A CHILD'S LIFE  
BE CONSIDERATE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS**

ROYAL ESTATE Sandringham

**EASTER ACTIVITIES**

**Archery Sessions**

A fantastic fun activity, whether you're a complete beginner or returning to improve your aim, the fully trained GB instructor will be with you throughout your archery experience.

During your archery session you'll gain a greater understanding of your bow and arrows, learn fun facts about this increasingly popular sport. Take part in a whole host of fun archery-based games and challenges. £35 for a 30 minute session. One family per session, up to six people, suitable for ages 4+.

Available dates: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

To book visit [www.sandringhamestate.co.uk](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk)

We will NOT tolerate behaviour that is:

- ☹️ thre@tening,
- ☹️ abusive 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.

**BARRACUDAS ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS**

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!

**AT A SCHOOL 2025! NEAR YOU IN 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!

01480 467 967

**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 10 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

## Your Education Inclusion Family Advisor



Emily Norman

Education Inclusion Family Advisors offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence

As Education Inclusion Family Advisors, we offer support in various ways:

- Up to six 1:1 sessions with parents/carers (virtually, or face to face in your child's school if required)
- Workshops on specific topics (currently held virtually)
- Signposting to other services such as parenting courses and support services

For more information, please speak to your school's office, or contact me directly on 017879 428 947 / [Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or by using this link or QR code to request support: <https://forms.office.com/e/WELlqqr7G>

cambridgeshire.gov.uk

### 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@facebook-indv-2026-04-02123000>

Booking link: [Cambridge North and Ely Mental Health Support Team - Booking by Bookwhen](https://bookwhen.com/east-cambs-mhst-parents@facebook-indv-2026-04-02123000)

# Easter EGG HUNT

**£5 Per Child**

**Friday, 3<sup>RD</sup> April**  
12:00 - 3:00

Millenium woods Witchford

**Face painting Tombola**  
**Colouring competition Toast a s'more on the fire**

**Easter bonnet competition**

## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Transition to Primary School Workshops

The EIFA team would like to present our Transition to Primary School online workshops for May. Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Transition to Primary School	Thursday, 7 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or
Transition to Primary School	Monday, 18 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or
Transition to Primary School	Wednesday, 20 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

cambridgeshire.gov.uk

## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Transition to Secondary School Workshops

The EIFA team would like to present our Transition to Secondary School online workshops for April to June. Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Transition to Secondary School -Part 1	Thursday, 30 April 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School -Part 2	Tuesday, 5 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School -Part 1	Tuesday, 12 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School -Part 2	Thursday, 14 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School -Part 1	Tuesday, 9 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School -Part 2	Thursday, 11 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

cambridgeshire.gov.uk

## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter April 2026

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 this is you, just contact me on the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

**Parenting Tip - what to do When Children Argue**  
A visual timetable can help your child to understand the structure and activities of the day. Click the link to create your own visual timetable: <https://www.theschoolbag.co.uk/>  
Special time is a daily interaction with your child that is child-led. It doesn't need to be a long period of time, 10 minutes for example. Playing with your child helps to build a warm relationship and a strong attachment between you and your child. It also helps to develop a child's communication and social skills. Your child will learn to problem solve, test out their ideas and know time to explore their imagination.  
**Praise** - make sure you acknowledge and praise your child, catch them doing the right thing and praise them, using descriptive language. Make that you shared your own 'congratulating' or 'I noticed you were polite to that lady, well done!'  
**Storytime reflection** - after reading a book ask your child how they think the character felt and what would they do in that situation. This provides opportunities for talking about & discussing emotions, and continuing to work on problem solving skills in a calm and safe space.

**Activity Idea**  
If you are looking for a fun free way to get outside this Easter with your children, click the link below to download an Easter Nature Scavenger Hunt. This activity gets you all outdoors in the fresh air! <https://www.nature.scavengerhunt.co.uk/>

**Another Resource**  
The Easter VAP Programme will run from 30 March to 10 April 2026. The programme offers fully funded holiday, weekend places during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays. Eighteen primary and secondary school children and young people can attend subject to availability. You can find more information about whether your child is eligible, and how to book via this link: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/young-people/vacation-programme/>

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Please email [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For more information please email [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or call 01787 428 947.

Contact me directly on 017879 428 947 or [Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

cambridgeshire.gov.uk

ROYAL ESTATE Sandringham

## EASTER ACTIVITIES

### Forest School Sessions

A laid-back, traditional forest school in Norfolk, in the beautiful ancient woodlands adjacent to the Play Area. Bags, crafts, sensory learning, swamp, scavenger hunts, hammocks, swings and slackline, campfire (if conditions allow).

Come and be guided by Nana Lavender, an experienced teacher, and enjoy the spectacular woodlands. £12 per child, with adults free. Tickets are per child to attend the workshop.

Available dates: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

To book visit [www.sandringhamestate.co.uk](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk)



# WITCHAM VILLAGE EASTER EGG HUNT

**SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 11AM - 1PM**

**£4 PER CHILD**

Including, tiny toddler, stalls, arts and crafts, raffle and light refreshments

All profits will support Ely Foodbank

# After School CLUBS

**£7.50 per session**

**5-11 YEARS OLD**

**Calm. Confidence. Resilience.**  
Supporting children with tools they can use for life.

We teach powerful mindfulness and mindset techniques in a fun and innovative way. Through Mentoring 4 Kids™, meditations, movement, stories, games and creative activities.

**THE RACKHAM COE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL WIMBORNE, 3:30-4:30PM CHILDREN COLLECTED FROM SCHOOL HALL 3.15PM**

BOOKING: [CAMBRIDGE.MINIMEMINDFULNESS.CO.UK](http://CAMBRIDGE.MINIMEMINDFULNESS.CO.UK) (CLICK ON THE GREEN BUTTON & FIND THE RACKHAM)

**BOOK NOW** [www.minimemindfulness.co.uk](http://www.minimemindfulness.co.uk)

MiniMe Mindfulness™ - teaching positive mindfulness and mindset techniques in a fun and innovative way. Because little eyes are always watching.™

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!

Looking forward to seeing you all again on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

## Dates for your diary

### Easter holiday

13 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of term, children return today
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 4 Big Camp – parent and carer meeting online at 6pm FWR meeting at 7.30pm
30 <sup>th</sup> April 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 1 Parent meal – booking now open Year 4 Bikeability
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
11 <sup>th</sup> May 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week FWR Yard Sale
20 <sup>th</sup> May 21 <sup>st</sup> May 21 <sup>st</sup> May 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Reception and Year 1/2 Sports Day – booking required nearer the time Year 3 – 6 Sports Day – booking required nearer the time Last Day of term for children Professional development day for teachers

### Half term

1 <sup>st</sup> June 1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June 5 <sup>th</sup> June 7 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of term Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check FWR non-uniform day when pupils bring a bottle to school for Funday Sunday. Any type of bottle for the bottle stall from shampoo to Champagne! FWR Funday Sunday
W/C 8 <sup>th</sup> June 8 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Year 6 Bikeability
16 <sup>th</sup> June 17 <sup>th</sup> June 18 <sup>th</sup> June 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Class photos Year 1 school trip – further information available soon Year 2 school trip – further information available soon Reception classes theatre trip
W/C 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	
W/C 29 <sup>th</sup> June	
9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Big Camp
17 <sup>th</sup> July 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers Collective Worship at 10am followed by Year 6 parent and carer buffet – further information will be available nearer the time Last day of term