



THE RACKHAM
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Miss Georgina Turner
Email: office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk
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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*

17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone! What a pleasure to see our pupils' smiling faces and their delight returning to school after the Easter holiday.

Attendance:

This week's attendance: 92.5%

What parents and carers must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a back up plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What The Rackham will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

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 could we remind you that absence must be reported to the office by 9am on each day of absence.

Say 'Thank you':

Would you like to pass a message of thanks to a member of staff at The Rackham? Do you feel a member of staff should be acknowledged? Use this link on our website. [Thank a member of staff at The Rackham | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

Safeguarding:

ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

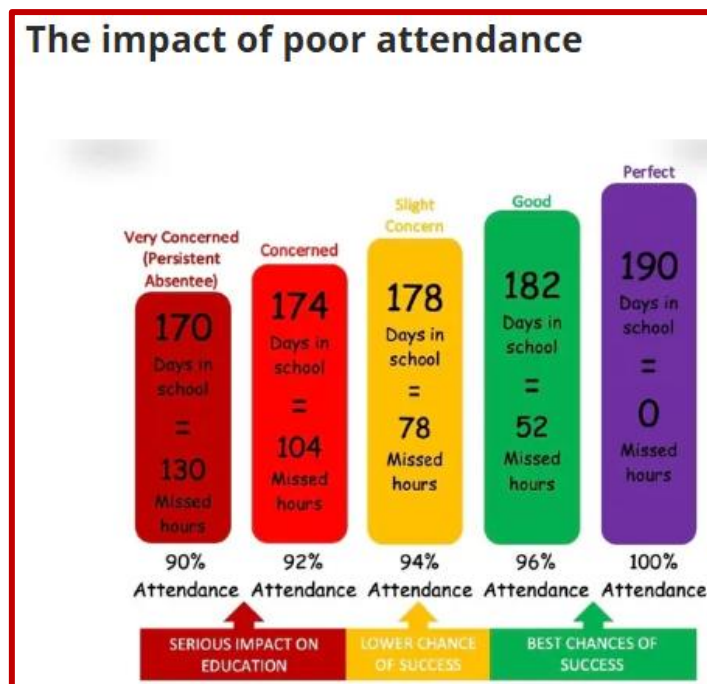
According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 7% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

- 1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER**
This lets you monitor and control what your child is doing on the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.
- 2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to, if your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours). It's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.
- 3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME**
This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.
- 4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE**
Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and parents who include can reinforce what you're telling them.
- 5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE**
Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.
- 6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES**
If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.
- 7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES**
There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the ESRB age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.
- 8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY**
If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones. (A particular worry if they share devices.) Encourage the platform to be good for models and help little ones stay safe online.
- 9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK**
The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.
- 10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY**
Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement, dance and sing along to songs your child loves, and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

Meet Our Expert
Konstantina Moutalidis is a professional development and EYFQ coordinator at an outstanding primary school in London. She has been working with nursery and early years practitioners, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 18 years.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Wellbeing and mental health:



CLUBS

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Dates
Colouring Club	Monday	Lunchtime: 12.45 - 1.15pm	Year 1/2	20 th April – 18 th May
Construction Club	Tuesday	Lunchtime: 12.45 – 1.15pm	Year 1/2	21 st April – 19 th May
Needlework Club	Tuesday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Year 5/6	21 st April – 19 th May
Choir	Wednesday	After school: 3.15 - 4.15pm	Year 3-6	22 nd April – 20 th May
Running Club	Friday	Lunchtime: 1.00 – 1.30pm	Year 5/6	24 th April – 15 th May

How to book:

Booking for clubs is now open through your MCAS account.

Year 4

Big Camp Parent meeting: The parent meeting for the Year 4 Big Camp residential which was postponed, will now be held online on 22nd April at 6pm. Please complete this form by 21st April if you would like to attend . The meeting link will be sent out on 22nd April.

Year 1

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



We are in full swing organising this year's sports days for children at The Rackham.

This year, there will be **three** sports day events.

Year group	Date and time	Booking link
Pre-School pupils	Wednesday 20 th May Start time: 9.30am	Pre-School Sports Day 2026 booking form
Reception and Key Stage One	Wednesday 20 th May Start time: 1.30pm	Reception and KS1 Sports Day 2026 booking form
Key Stage Two	Thursday 21 st May Start time: 1.30pm	KS2 Sports Day 2026 booking form

For safeguarding and fire safety reasons, we will require parents and carers to book in advance. Please see below for the booking forms. **Bookings will close at 9am on Monday 18th May.** As with previous events, it will be necessary to strictly adhere to this, and we will be unable to accept any further bookings beyond the closing date.

Pre-School Sports Day:

Pre-School children can attend their Sports Day morning with parents, carers, or child minders if they are not in session on morning of 20th May. If your child is in session, pre-school staff will take your child to the sports day. All parents and carers are invited to come to support and watch their children take part – please ensure you have completed the booking form above. Please ensure you arrive at school between 9.10am and 9.25am.

Primary School Sports Days:

Primary school events will begin at 1.30pm, so please ensure you arrive at school between 1pm and 1.25pm.

Parents, carers and child minders are most welcome to attend to watch their child's Sports Day – please ensure you have completed the booking form above.

Please remember to bring a fold up chair or blanket as we are unable to provide seating.

We look forward to seeing you at the event!



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!



Please would parents and carers ensure all items of clothing, drinks bottles, wellies and hats are named so we can reunite lost items with their owners. Please could we also request that children have plenty of spare clothes with them. We will be starting Forest School Experience sessions on a Wednesday morning from 29th April so please could children wear long trousers and suitable shoes.

As the weather gets sunnier, please would you provide a named bottle of suncream for your child and ensure this form is completed to allow us to apply it:



Swimming lessons: We are very much looking forward to our swimming lessons which will take place weekly for every child in school. **Unfortunately, this does not include pre-school pupils.**

The start date will be confirmed as soon as possible as there is an unforeseen repair to be completed.

For swimming 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.

Collective Worship Council prayer for this week:

Dear God,

I am thankful for my family.

I am thankful for food and thankful for my friends.

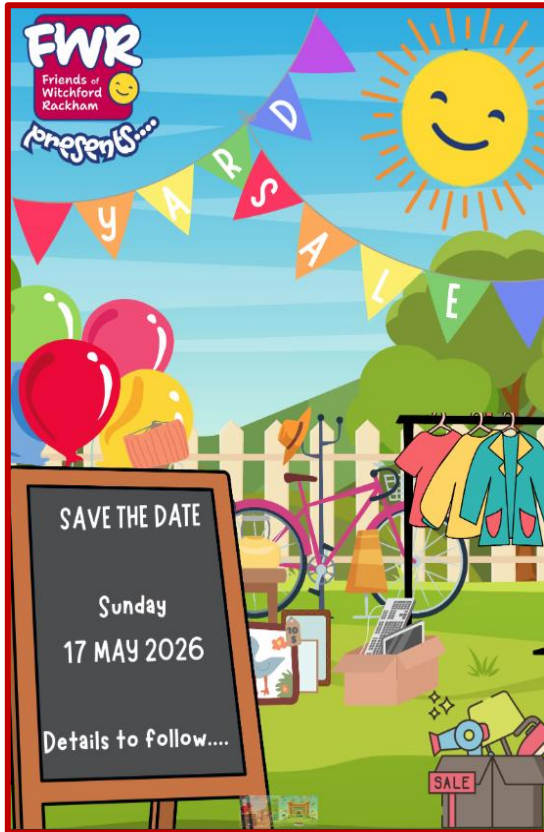
I am thankful for animals.

Amen

THE RACKHAM
C of E Primary School



SAVE THE DATE



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



Trip payments: Please could we remind you that instalment payments for **Year 4 Big Camp**, the **Reception theatre trip** and **Year 6 Horstead residential** were due by Friday 27th March. Please check your MCAS account to ensure payments are up to date. Thank you.

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/makeadifference/awards
Nominations are open until Tuesday 31/03/2026.

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.

A BIT ABOUT ME

Parenting Top Tip - What to do When Children Argue

A Visual Timeline can help your child to understand the structure and activities of the day. Click the link to create your own visual timeline. [Visual Timeline](https://www.dailymail.com/parenting/parenting-tips/visual-timeline)

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 family members. It also helps to develop a child's communication and social skills. Your child will learn to problem solve, test out their ideas and allows time to explore their imagination.

Please - make sure you acknowledge and praise your child, catch them doing the right thing and praise them, being generous in praise, truly, so that you shared your loving gaze if it makes you want to hug that, well done.

Storyline reflection - after reading a book ask your child how they think the character felt and what they do in that situation. This provides opportunities for thinking 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 new way to get outside this Easter with your children, click the link below to download an Easter Bunny Easter Egg Hunt, this activity gets you all outside & the best part is that you can print it out at home.

Another Resource

The Easter JAY Programme will run from 30 March to 10 April 2026. The programme offers fully funded holiday scheme places during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas school holidays. Places are limited and 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/education/primary/activities-and-projects/easter-jay-programme>

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Please get in touch with us to have one of our information, advice and tips. For more information, please contact emily.norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Contact me directly on 01783 426 947 or [Emily.Norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:emily.norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

After School CLUBS

5-11 YEARS OLD

£7.50 per session

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 by Kids™, motivation, movement stories, games and creative activities.

THE RACEMAN COE PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, 2:30-3:30PM
CHILDREN COLLECTED FROM SCHOOL HALL 3.15PM
BOOKING: CAMBRIDGE.MINDFULNESS.CO.UK
CLICK ON THE GREEN BUTTON & FIND THE RACEMAN

QR Code
To Book

www.minimemindfulness.co.uk

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

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: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Transition to Primary School	Monday, 18 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Transition to Primary School	Wednesday, 20 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact parentventions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

BARRACUDAS ACTIVITIES DAY CAMPS

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USE CODE **SCHOOL25** 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

We will NOT tolerate behaviour that is:

- threatening,
- abusive or
- violent

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.

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

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



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 01783 426 947 / emily.norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by using this link or QR code to request support: <https://forms.office.com/WEEd0697ZQ>

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: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School Part 2	Tuesday, 5 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School Part 1	Tuesday, 12 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School Part 2	Thursday, 14 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School Part 1	Tuesday, 9 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Transition to Secondary School Part 2	Thursday, 11 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact parentventions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Wishing everyone a super weekend.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner

Dates for your diary	
Easter holiday	
22 nd April	Year 4 Big Camp – parent and carer meeting online at 6pm
23 rd April	FWR meeting at 7.30pm
30 th April	Year 1 Parent meal – booking now open
1 st May	Year 4 Bikeability
4 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
11 th May	Year 6 SATs week
17 th May	FWR Yard Sale
20 th May	Pre-School Sports Day – booking required
20 th May	Reception and Year 1/2 Sports Day – booking required
21 st May	Year 3 – 6 Sports Day – booking required
21 st May	Last Day of term for children
22 nd May	Professional development day for teachers
Half term	
1 st June	First day of term
1 st – 12 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
5 th June	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!
7 th June	FWR Funday Sunday
W/C 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
8 th – 11 th June	Year 6 Bikeability
16 th June	Class photos
17 th June	Year 1 school trip – further information available soon
18 th June	Year 2 school trip – further information available soon
19 th June	Reception classes theatre trip
W/C 22 nd June	
30 th June	Year 5/6 school trip – further information available soon
2 nd July	School Disco (Reception to Year 6) - Booking required nearer the time
8 th July	Whole school - Move up day. Please note that Pre-School will be closed to current pupils from midday.
9 th – 10 th July	Year 4 Big Camp residential
17 th July	Year 6 Leavers Collective Worship at 10am followed by Year 6 parent and carer buffet – further information will be available nearer the time
17 th July	Last day of term