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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*

3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Festival this morning. We were delighted to welcome Reverend Becky and Chris Warner from St Peter's, Coveney to lead our worship.

Safeguarding:

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Lost minutes = Lost learning








Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

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 **September & October**.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 23 September 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Thursday, 2 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Sleep	Tuesday, 7 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Anger	Thursday, 9 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Thursday, 23 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	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 earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Therapy Dog Tuesday with Sancho: We are delighted to welcome Sancho a trained therapy dog and his handler into school on Tuesday afternoons. We have shared with our pupils that they require permission from their parents and carers before they can spend time with Sancho. Sancho is a Shih Tzu which are generally considered to be hypoallergenic or low allergen breed. Please follow the link here to advise us about your child taking part:



Playtime snacks: Thank you for sending in only fruit or vegetables for morning snack. We would ask that if parents and carers send in grapes with younger children that they cut each grape in half. Grapes do present a choking risk. Thank you.

Wraparound Care

Wraparound Care: At The Rackham we offer Breakfast Club from 7.30am for pupils in Reception to Year 6. We also offer After School Club from 3.15pm to either 4.30pm or 5.30pm.

Booking is via the Wraparound care tab in your MCAS account. Breakfast Club is currently charged at £5.00 per child per session, After School Club is £7.75 for 4.30pm collection and £13.00 for 5.30pm. Please email office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk for more details or to answer to any questions you may have.



Parent and carer poll: We are seeking parent and carer views on whether if there would be sufficient demand from our families to investigate provision of holiday clubs for pupils. Please share your thoughts through this online form. Thank you. Link here:

Hall hire:

Our school hall is available to hire at weekends and on weekday evenings. If you know of any groups looking for a space in Witchford, please ask them to email us: office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk

[Governor Vacancy | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#) Deadline last day of this half term.



Share your views on the future of local government in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:

People in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are being given a further opportunity to have their say in shaping the future of local government. The second phase of engagement runs until **Friday 3rd October** and invites views on the option being developed by Cambridgeshire County Council – known as 'Option A'. For more information and to complete the survey, [visit Cambridgeshire County Council's website](#).

The Procurement Act brings simplified procedures, enhanced transparency and greater flexibility – creating new opportunities for parish and town councils to deliver better procurement outcomes. Parish and town councils are advised to review any policies and ensure they are registered on the [Government's procurement portals](#).

Free Winter Wheeler events:

In partnership with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, we've organised four free Winter Wheeler events, designed to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to stay safe and keep cycling throughout the colder months.

Sign up for a free bicycle check with Dr Bike at one of the following locations:

- Monday 3 November on Market Hill, St Ives PE27 5AP, 11am to 2pm
- Tuesday 4 November outside The Guildhall, Cambridge CB2 3QJ, 4pm to 7pm
- Thursday 6 November at Ely train station CB7 4DJ, 11am to 2pm
- Friday 7 November on Market Street, Whittlesey PE7 1AB, 11am to 2pm

Each event will include Dr Bike sessions (free bike checks), a bike light giveaway, bike marking by Cambridgeshire Police, cycle maps and cycling advice, and the opportunity to meet our Active Travel Officers for advice and support.

Explore Cambridgeshire's green spaces this autumn:

There are many free to access green spaces across Cambridgeshire, providing opportunities to get out on foot and connect with nature. The [Cambs Open Space website](#) shares the top 200 parks in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to explore, as well as an interactive map of parks across the county and upcoming events in green spaces.

The county council also own eight [Local Nature Reserves in Cambridgeshire](#), all of which are open to the public. They are excellent places to study and learn about wildlife or simply enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of being in nature

Visit the council's website to access [walking routes and top tips](#).

Stay connected with mobile libraries:

Our three mobile libraries make over 400 stops each month, bringing up to 3,000 items of stock to communities across the county, helping more people to use Cambridgeshire Libraries' services.

Mobile libraries can be a lifeline for people who can't get to a static library and enable potentially isolated people and those in rural areas to stay connected and independent by borrowing books, audio books, magazines and jigsaws.

Cambridgeshire's mobile libraries also carry postage stamps and reading glasses, and free walking stick ferrules and hearing aid batteries.

[Join Cambridgeshire Libraries for free online](#) or on board any of our mobile libraries to borrow books and resources and [view our interactive map](#) to find a mobile library stop near you

Reception and Year 6 only - National Height and Weight Measure measurement programme:

Please see the attached letter and leaflet regarding the Reception and Year 6 National Height and Weight measurement programme.

Please note that if you do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, please email eh.ncmp.healthyyou@nhs.net with your child's official name, date of birth, school and year group confirming you would like to opt out your child. The deadline for opting out is **Friday 17th October 2025**. You will receive an email from the NCMP Team confirming that you opt out has been received

Pre-School requests:



Would parents and carers please be mindful about objects children are bringing to pre-school, such as lip balm. The children are very young and keeping items, for example a lip balm, safely with them is tricky. Please speak with your child's key worker in the first instance.

On a similar theme, some children are bringing toys to pre-school which can be easily misplaced. Whilst fully appreciating children may find objects comforting, we request parents and carers take items home on drop off. Please speak with your child's key worker if you wish to discuss this further.

Please can we remind parents that collection time in the afternoon is 3pm unless you have pre-booked Pre-School late collection through your MCAS account.

If your Pre-School child has an existing injury, please complete this form to let us know about it: Alternatively, there is a QR code to scan at Pre-School.

We are turning The Rackham yellow for one day, Friday 10th October 2025: Children and adults can choose which part of their usual school uniform to turn yellow. This is for pre-school through to Year 6. Parents and carers are also invited to take part. Thank you in advance for your support. Please donate via this link: <https://shop.youngminds.org.uk/shop/checkout/make-a-donation>



More than 1 in 4 young people have a probable mental health condition. Many aren't getting the help they need, when they need it. Some don't even know where to turn, who to talk to, or if anyone else feels the same. By wearing yellow on World Mental Health Day (10th October), and donating what you can, you can show young people that they are not alone and that things can get better.

Year 5 Parent meal:

We would like to invite Year 5 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 16th October. 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 Friday 10th October please.**

Please complete this form to book your meal 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 5 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 can parents and carers of Year 5 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.



My Happy Mind: Have you logged into this platform for free access to strategies that are identical to the ones used in school to support children's understanding of emotions and how to regulate them? Further information at the main school office.

	<u>Save the date!</u>	<u>FWR events:</u>
	Friday 24 th October	Doughnut day (more information to follow)
	Sunday 23 rd November	Christmas Market. Stalls, Santa's Grotto, Reindeer Food and much, much more!
	Monday 15 th December	Santa Run (more information to follow).
	Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Disco

Christmas Market: If you or someone you know would like a stall at the Christmas Market, please contact FWR on fwr@rackham.cambs.sch.uk Stalls are £15 and FWR would be very grateful for a raffle prize donation.



My Child's Art:

A reminder that last week's Artwork homework should be returned to school by 10th October.

Open Evening for Reception 2026 intake



Open Evening

The Rackham C of E Primary School

Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

Parent meeting and a tour of our beautiful school.

**Wednesday 8th October 2026
6:00pm**

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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



Reception 2026: Come to our open evening for prospective parents and carers: Wednesday 8th October at 6pm.

St. Andrew's Church:



PET SERVICE

St Andrew's Church

WITCHFORD

10.00am - 19th October, 2025

Bring along your pets for a blessing and a short service - ALL WELCOME

Children are welcome to interact with the service.

Please use appropriate carriers and leashes.

A memory board will be available for photos of deceased pets who will also be blessed. (Please email photos to 'buckley7@btinternet.com' - or bring them with you.)

Refreshments will be served after the Service at the rear of the church.



Activities and Events:



Kids and Smartphones
an information evening for parents
Everyone welcome

Guest Speaker: Amy Ruffell,
Cambridgeshire's Lead for
Smartphone Free Childhood

Worried about your child's smartphone use?

Wondering when to give them their first
smartphone?

Keen to chat to other parents about phones?

Come along for an open, honest, non-
judgmental conversation about the impact of
smartphones on childhood

When
7.30pm,
Wednesday 8th
October 2025

Where
Ely St Johns
Community Primary
School
St John's Rd, Ely CB6
3BW

FREE EVENT

**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD** | Ely

Tax credits & childcare vouchers accepted

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

**October Half-term
Holiday CLUB**

ST MARYS JR SCHOOL, HIGH
BARN, ELY CB7 4RB

8.00 am - 5.45 pm £35
9.00 am - 4.00pm £27

LOOKING FOR EXCITING ACTIVITIES, NEW
FRIENDS, AND NON-STOP FUN THIS SCHOOL
BREAK?

OUR HOLIDAY CLUB IS PACKED WITH:

- GAMES & SPORTS
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- FOREST SCHOOL
- CREATIVE BAKING
- NERF CHALLENGES
- SAFE, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

OPEN TO AGE 4
(AT SCHOOL) - YEAR 7

DATES:
MONDAY 27th OCTOBER
TO
FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BOOKINGS OR
EMAIL
INFO@ACTIVEPLAYLEDUCATION.CO.UK

TENNIS FESTIVAL
6TH-12TH OCTOBER

JUMP ON COURT WITH US FOR
SOME FUN TENNIS ACTIVITIES.
BEGINNER OR BUDDING PRO THERE'S
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Email: info@inspire2coach.co.uk
to book into one of the sessions today!

QUOTE
OCTOBERFEST
ALONG WITH
VENUE NAME

JUNIOR PROGRAMME POWERED BY **YOUTH**

SUPPORTED BY
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TENNIS CAMPS

JUMP ON COURT THIS HOLIDAY
PERIOD FOR FUN TENNIS & SPORTS
ACTIVITIES. WHATEVER YOUR LEVEL
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Scan the QR code to book into
one of our summer camps at your
local club today!

JUNIOR PROGRAMME POWERED BY **YOUTH**

SUPPORTED BY
HEAD F SSE LTC A NOW Tennis A brand of inspire2coach

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COME COOK WITH

Tiny Cookz

Tuesday, 28 Oct 2025
1:00-3:00pm (6-9 years)
3:30-5:30pm (10-14 years)

£26

- Homemade pizza
- Fruit skewers

With Chef Deb

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL:
TINY_COOKZ2025@HOTMAIL.COM

Little Thetford Village Hall
CB6 3HG

**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.

****OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2025****

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

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galford Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND. Thursday 16th October, 9.30 - 11.30am

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 9.30 - 11.30am

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Wednesday 19th & Wednesday 26th November, 12:00 - 1pm

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

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galford Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND. Thursday 16th October, 12:45 - 14:45pm

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 12:45 - 14:45 pm

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Tuesday 18th & Tuesday 25th November, 12:00 - 1pm

Family Hubs | Child & Family Centres

Let's reclaim childhood

Join the growing movement of parents choosing to wait to give their children smartphones & social media

Sign
THE PARENT PACT

- ✓ Delay smartphones & social media
- ✓ Over 135,000 sign ups
- ✓ Takes 30 seconds to sign
- ✓ Reduces peer pressure
- ✓ View live local leaderboards




SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

Ely Young Voices!

WHERE: King's Ely Prep School
WHEN: Monday, 4-4.45
WHO: Years 3, 4, 5, 6
 Come and sing lots of different styles of music.
 Email chrisparsons@kingsely.org for further information.

Disney

Pop songs

Musicals



Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils are now available from Sigma. [Home - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents and carers and will then be delivered to school and given to the children to bring home.

Attendance:

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.

This week's attendance: 93.9%

ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT - DON'T MISS OUT



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,
Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
6 th – 9 th October	Stay and play sessions for Reception 8.30 – 9.30am – booking closes today
7 th October	FWR Committee meeting at 7.30pm in the school hall - All welcome
8 th October	New intake evening for September 2026 at The Rackham 6pm
9 th - 10 th October	Scholastic Book Fair in the hall after school
10 th October	Reception phonics meeting at 8.50am - booking closes today
13 th – 14 th October	Scholastic Book Fair in the hall after school
13 th – 17 th October	Year 6 Horstead residential
15 th October	Year 3/4 singing workshop
16 th October	Year 5 Parent or carer school meal invitation – booking now open
24 th October	FWR Doughnut Day – more information nearer the time
WC 27th October	HALF TERM
3 rd November	Professional Development Day for teachers
4 th November	Pupils return
11 th November	Armistice Day
12 th November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 7pm - booking required nearer the time
13 th November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 5.30pm - booking required nearer the time
14 th November	Indian Dance Day
19 th November	Vision screening for Reception
19 th November	Y4 residential / experience week information evening 6pm – booking required nearer the time
23 rd November	FWR Christmas Market
27 th November	Y4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation – booking required nearer the time