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Main Street,
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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*

10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

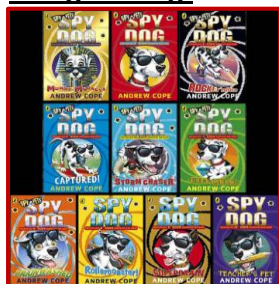
Thank you to everyone for turning The Rackham yellow today as part of World Mental Health Day.
Please donate via this link: <https://shop.youngminds.org.uk/shop/checkout/make-a-donation>

We wish to share the resources which YoungMinds offer to support parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children.

This includes:

- online resources [Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)
- a phone line, open 9.30am-4pm (0808 802 5544)
- an online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you're concerned about your children's mental health (www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/)

Safeguarding:



Andrew Cope's Spy Dog books: We have been made aware of a potential issue with a website link found in some copies of the **Spy Dog** children's books by Andrew Cope. The web address has been taken over by a third party and now leads to an adult pornographic site. Consequently, the publisher Puffin and author Andrew Cope have halted sales and distribution of these books and are working to have the site removed through legal channels. This is a good opportunity to remind children about safer internet use and telling a trusted adult if they have accidentally visited an inappropriate site.



Attendance

Why should it matter to me?

So what?
I am only
5 mins late
to lesson!



7 WEEKS

3 days and 2 hours of lessons will have been missed
in your school life by missing only 5 minutes of learning

Wellbeing and Mental Health:



Donation requests:

If you have any cardboard boxes (shoe boxes, cereal boxes or any boxes of that size), our Year 1/2 classes would be very grateful for donations please.

Scholastic book fair:



If you haven't yet visited, the book fair is continuing today, Monday and Tuesday in the hall after school until 3.50pm. All purchases go towards free books for our school. Thank you for your support.



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: A reminder to all families, please only send in fruit or vegetables for mid-morning snacks.

Wraparound Care

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.

Wraparound Care and Pre-School early drop off and late collection:

If you use Breakfast or After School clubs or the Pre-School early drop off or late collection, please check your MCAS account to ensure payments are up to date before the end of this half term. Thank you.



Parent and carer poll: We are seeking parent and carer views to determine 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



Expression of interest: Would your child be interested in learning to play the violin? We have opportunity for pupils at The Rackham to start violin lessons paid for by parents and carers. Lessons would be delivered by Cambridgeshire Music if we have high enough numbers. Please login or create an account on the Cambridgeshire Music website [here](#) and register your interest.

Relationships and Sex Education:



We have attached an information leaflet on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), which was produced by The PSHE Services Team. We hope you will find this useful for learning about ways to talk with your child about this important area of the curriculum and find out what RSE looks like from Reception up to Year 6.



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.



Pre-School: Please could 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.

	<u>Save the date!</u> Friday 24 th October	<u>FWR events:</u> Doughnut day (see below)
	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
<u>Christmas Market</u> Saturday 23rd November	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.	
<u>Doughnut Day</u> Friday 24th October 	<p>FWR are excited to be holding a Doughnut Day fundraiser on Friday 24th October. 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"> • You DO NOT want your child to have a doughnut or • Your child cannot have these doughnuts due to special dietary requirements. <p>The form must be completed by 9am on Wednesday 22nd October</p> <p>We hope to be able to provide an alternative if made aware of dietary requirements.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Thank you for your support.</p>	

Make up and jewellery:

We have noticed an increase in children wearing make-up, nail varnish and jewellery. Please could we remind parents and carers of the following points from our uniform policy that can also be found [here](#):

- No make-up, tattoos or nail varnish to be worn in school.
- No jewellery except one pair of plain stud earrings.



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 the end of today 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.



Reception pupils September 2026: We welcomed potential new Reception pupils and parents to our school this week at our Open Evening. If you know someone who was unable to attend, please remind them to get in touch by phone or email the main office. Office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk to arrange a tour.

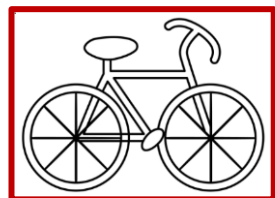
Cambridgeshire Holiday Voucher scheme:

Please see the attached letter and FAQ document regarding the Cambridgeshire Holiday Voucher scheme.

Individual photos:

Photos are now available to order through Kittle Photographic via the code that your child bought home last week. Orders must be placed by Friday 31st October for free delivery to school. If you need a copy of the order slip, please email the office.

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. 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.

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

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.

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:



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



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG



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




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 - 1 pm

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 - 1 pm

Family Hubs logo, Child & Family Centres logo




FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMPS

Now available to book



Norwich City Football Camp, delivered by the club's official coaching team, offering a full day of football skills, games, and matches for boys and girls of all abilities.

Camp details: 📍 St Neots, Impington, Ely, Wisbech, Biggleswade

📅 27 - 31st October

🕒 Full day of football training, challenges & fun

👤🏠 Delivered by official Norwich City coaches

🔑 Booking link: [Here!](#)

Camps designed to be inclusive, fun, and a great way for children to stay active during the holidays while experiencing top-quality coaching.

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils are now available from Sigma. Primary School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#) Pre-School: [Clubs & Groups - 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.

NEW Sports tops for PE days only: Now available to order at Sigma. Sample available to view at the main office or Sigma.

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: 95.5%



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,
Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
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 closes today, Friday 10 th October
24 th October	FWR Doughnut Day – please bring £1
WC 27 th October	HALF TERM
3 rd November	Professional Development Day for teachers
4 th November	Pupils return
10 th November	Anti-Bullying week
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
14 th November	Children in Need: 'Power dressing' – more information nearer the time
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	Year 4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation – booking required nearer the time
1 st December	
8 th December	Christmas performance week: Please see below for days and times. Booking for these events will be available nearer the time.
17 th December	Christmas Dinner: Reception and KS1
18 th December	Christmas Dinner: KS2 Friday
19 th December	Last day of term

Dates for Christmas performances:

Date	Morning	Afternoon
8 th December	9.15am Reception	2pm KS1
9 th December	9.15am KS1 (younger siblings in audience)	2pm Reception (younger siblings in audience)
10 th December	9.15am KS1	
11 th December	9.30am Y3/4 at St Andrew's Church	2pm Y5/6 at St Andrew's Church
12 th December	9.30am Y5/6 at St Andrew's Church	2pm Y3/4 at St Andrew's Church
15 th December	FWR Christmas Fun Run to raise funds for the school all weather daily mile track.	
17 th December	Reception and KS1 Christmas Dinner	2pm Pre-School Christmas celebration afternoon
		FWR Christmas Disco Years R – 6
18 th December	KS2 Christmas Dinner	
19 th December	Last day of term	