

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

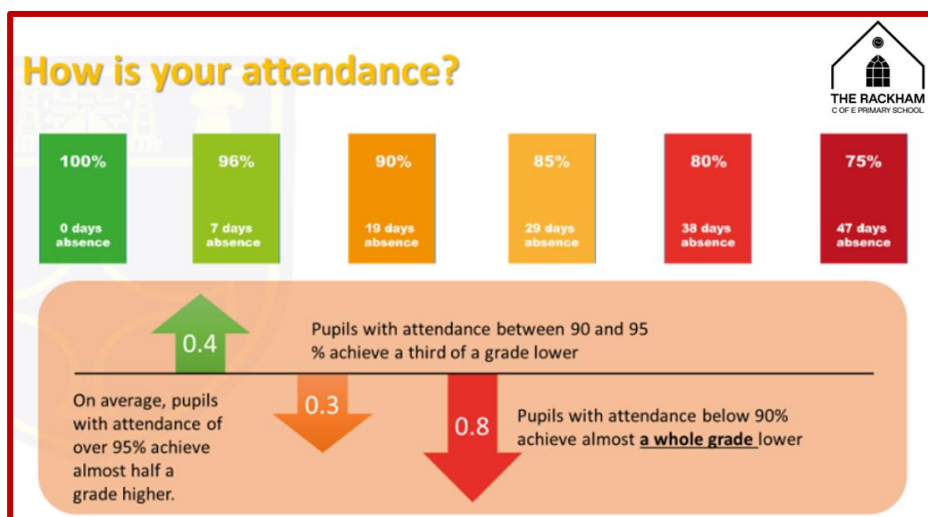
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. *Philippians 4.13*

17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers of pupils in Year 5 this week for school dinner. What a joy to share the kitchen's delicious food with you all. Thank you for joining us.

Safeguarding:



Wellbeing and Mental Health:



New After School Club coming to The Rackham!!

5-11 years

Wednesdays 3.30 - 4.30pm
Starting week after October Half term
5/11/25 - 16/12/25

Booking Link

Activities:

- GAMES
- STORIES
- MUSIC
- MEDITATION
- TEAM ACTIVITIES
- ARTS & CRAFTS

Build Confidence
Raise Self Awareness
Recognise Emotions
Understand Feelings
Self Regulate Responses
Reduce Stress/Anxiety
Increase Inner Calm & Happiness
Encourage Resilience & Communication
Have FUN & Make Friends

£52.50 for 7 weeks (£7.50 per session)

kate@minimemindfulness.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE:
cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk

We are delighted to welcome MiniMeMindfulness after school club to The Rackham. Bookings are made directly on this link: cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk



Work Hard, Dream Big: Would you be willing to share your personal pathway to your current job or hobby with our pupils? At The Rackham we encourage our children to view challenges as opportunities to learn and develop. In any conversation with parents and carers about careers, there are stories to be told about how goals are achieved or in the process of being achieved. Our pupils would love to learn from hearing and sharing your story. Please contact the main office if you would like to find out more. Thank you.

office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk



Scholastic book fair update: Thank you for all your purchases, we managed to raise £394.00



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

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.

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: *This poll will close on Monday 20th October.*

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.

Flu vaccination catch up:

We are pleased to let you know that although we were initially informed there would be no flu vaccination catch up at The Rackham, a date has now been confirmed for Tuesday 21st October.

If you would like your child to receive the vaccination on this date in school, please complete this form as soon as possible: <https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/cambsandpeterborough>



Declaration 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.

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 **today Friday 17th October 2025**. You will receive an email from the NCMP Team confirming that you opt out has been received



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.



Year 4 Parent meal: We would like to invite Year 4 parents and carers to join us for school dinner on Thursday 27th November. 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 20th November

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 4 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.

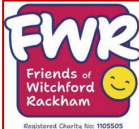
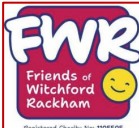
Please can parents and carers of Year 4 children arrive for school dinner at 12.20pm.



Year 4 Big Camp residential parents meeting: We will be holding a meeting for parents and year 4 children on Wednesday 19th November at 6pm in the school hall. Please complete this form to let us know if you whether or not you will be able to attend:

Polite reminder that the deposit payment is due by Friday

24th October. [Unforgettable School Residentials](#) | [Big School Camp](#) | [Onsite Camps](#)

 Registered Charity No: 1105505	<u>Save the date!</u> Monday 20th October Friday 24th October Wednesday 19th November Sunday 23rd November Monday 15th December Tuesday 16th December Wednesday 17th December	<u>FWR events:</u> Uniform sale before and after school Doughnut day (see below) Uniform sale before and after school Christmas Market. Stalls, Santa's Grotto, Reindeer Food and much, much more! Santa Run (more information to follow). Uniform sale before and after school Christmas Disco
<u>Christmas Market</u> Saturday 23rd November  Registered Charity No: 1105505	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  Registered Charity No: 1105505	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. 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 if either of the following statements apply: You DO NOT want your child to have a doughnut <i>or</i> Your child cannot have these doughnuts due to special dietary needs The form must be completed by 9am on Wednesday 22nd October. 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 support.	

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.

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.



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.

St. Andrew's Church this Sunday 19th October at 10am:



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



SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

FOR INFORMATION, EMAIL revive.xtreme@gmail.com

COMPETITIVE CHEER TEAMS

COME AND JOIN US!

Training Wednesdays term-times ONLY

JOIN US!

We are still looking for members, come and join us at one of our sessions.

Everyone welcome. No experience needed.

Attend at the appropriate time depending on birth year

Term-time training ONLY.

U8 4.30-5.15pm

EMBER

Calling all kids ages 6-8! BIRTH YEARS 2017-2021

Get ready to jump, shout, and cheer with Ember, the most energetic cheer team around!

Little Sparks, ignite EMBER!

U14 5.15-6.30pm

FLAIR

Open to age 14 and under BIRTH YEARS 2011-2016

Got energy? Got style? Bring your FLAIR and join the most spirited team in town!

Be bold. Be bright. Be FLAIR.

If you were born before 2011, and interested in cheer, let us know! If we get enough interest we can look at developing another team.

Inexpensive monthly fees

Open to all, no experience required, just the willingness to try and want to have fun!

Come and be part of one of our teams.

STRETHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, WOOD LANE, STRETHAM, CB6 3JN



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: 95.8 %

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,
Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
20 th October	FWR Uniform sale
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 on MCAS from Tuesday 4 th November
13 th November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 5.30pm - booking required on MCAS from Tuesday 4 th November
14 th November	Indian Dance Day
14 th November	Children in Need: 'Power dressing' – more information nearer the time
19 th November	FWR Uniform sale
19 th November	Vision screening for Reception children
19 th November	Y4 residential / experience week information evening 6pm – booking now open
23 rd November	FWR Christmas Market
27 th November	Year 4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation – booking now open
4 th December	Piano and Choir Concert 9am – booking required nearer the time
8 th December	Christmas performance week: Please see below for days and times.
15 th December	FWR Santa Run
16 th December	FWR Uniform sale
17 th December	Christmas Dinner: Reception and KS1
17 th December	FWR Christmas Disco
18 th December	Christmas Dinner: KS2
19 th December	Last day of term

Dates for Christmas performances:

Date	Morning	Afternoon
4 th December	9.30am Piano and Choir concert	
8 th December	9.15am Reception	2pm KS1 (Year 1/2)
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	2pm Y5/6 at St Andrew's
12 th December	9.30am Y5/6 at St Andrew's	2pm Y3/4 at St Andrew's
15 th December	FWR Christmas Fun Run to raise funds for the school all weather daily mile track.	
17 th December	Reception and KS1 (Year 1/2) Christmas Dinner	Pre-School Christmas celebration afternoon
18 th December	KS2 (Year 3 – 6) Christmas Dinner	
19 th December	Last day of term	

FWR
Christmas
Disco
Years R – 6