

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

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

24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your continued support over the course of this half term. What a delicious way to end such a super half term, thank you FWR for Doughnut Day! We all make a great team!

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 \(\[achieveservice.com\]\(https://achieveservice.com\)\)](#)

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 \(\[www.police.uk\]\(http://www.police.uk\)\)](#)

Wellbeing and Mental Health:



1 Side Hops



- Stand up.
- Hop onto your left foot.
- Now, hop onto your right foot.
- Keep hopping from one foot onto the other, try not to wobble!

2 Star jumps



- Stand up tall.
- Jump up high with both feet, spreading your arms and legs our wide like a star.
- Then land back down gently with both feet, bending your knees when you land.
- Repeat 10 times.

3 Cat pose



- Start on hands and knees in a table top position.
- As you breathe out, round your spine toward the ceiling and imagine you're pulling your belly up towards your spine.
- Release your head toward the floor, but don't force your chin to your chest.
- Hold for 1 to 3 breaths.

New After School Club coming to The Rackham!!

MiniMe Mindfulness
Mindset Mentoring & More

5-11 years

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

Booking Link

• 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



Thank you to Scott's Farm Shop: We would like to say a huge thank you to Scott's Farm Shop for welcoming our Year 5 and 6's last week. Pupils went to visit as part of their work about sustainability and locally sourced foods.



Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need WC 10th November This year's theme for Anti-Bullying Week is 'Power for Good'. The children will explore what power means and the importance of using power responsibly, as bullying involves a power imbalance. We want every child to know that they can use their power for good. This might be by showing respect and kindness or by being able to ask for help. Please do continue the conversation at home.



As the final day of Anti-Bullying Week is also Pudsey Day, we thought 'Power Dressing' would be a fun theme to remind us all to use our power well. Children and adults are invited to dress in clothing that makes them feel empowered. This might be by dressing as a superhero, a sportsperson or a business person. There might be a colour or look that makes you feel empowered. Have some fun

thinking about this and, if you are able to, please do donate to Children in Need -

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>



We have signed up for Junior Parkrun. More details soon!



Early Years Half Term Challenge: This half term holiday, we would like all children in Reception and Pre-School to learn how to put their coats on and do them up themselves. This will include pulling arms through coats to make sure that they are the right way round; being able to manoeuvre the coat around their backs; putting their arms in and zipping/buttoning them up. What a super life skill to have as we approach the colder weather. Enjoy!



2025 Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion: Poppies will be on sale after half term. We will marking Armistice Day on Tuesday 11th November. Pupils who attend Girlguiding or Scouts are welcome to wear their uniform on this date.



Pre-School: Please could we remind parents that drop off time for Pre-School is either 8.45am if you have pre-booked or 9am. Pre-School staff will open the gate at these times only. Please do not ring the bell between these times as staff will be settling the early arrival children.

Clubs:

Please see below for details of clubs that will be running next term.

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Dates
Christmas Card Club – Waiting list	Monday	Lunchtime: 12.45 – 13.15pm	Y1 and Y2	10 th November to 8 th December
Needlework Club – Waiting list	Tuesday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y5 and Y6	23 rd September to 2 nd December
Book Club - Waiting list	Tuesday	Lunchtime: 13.00 - 13.30pm	Y3 to Y6	4 th November to 2 nd December
Homework Club – Please note the change of day	Wednesday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y3 to Y6	5 th November to 3 rd December
Choir - Places available	Thursday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y3 to Y6	25 th September to 27 th November

Parent's Evenings:

Parent's Evenings will be taking place on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th November. Bookings for Reception to Year 6 will open via MCAS on Tuesday 4th November at 9am and close on Monday 10th November at 8am.

If you wish to book a meeting with your Pre-School child's keyworker, please contact the office to book a time.



Piano and Choir concert: For the families of those children who have piano lessons with Mr Wheatley or who are in The Rackham choir, we will be holding our end of term concert on Thursday 4th December at 9.30am. Please book your tickets via this link:



The Rackham Design an Island Competition: The children are very excited about our Design an Island competition that is running over half term. Entry forms are attached.



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



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.



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](#)



St Andrew's Church, Witchford: interviews for a new Vicar Interviews for a new vicar are happening during half term in Little Downham, on Thursday 29th October at the church. Would your child like to take part and interview him (ideally at Little Downham) between 11.15am-12noon? Parents will need to attend with their children. Please alert the church if you wish to attend: churchwarden@stpeterscoveney.org

	Save the date!	FWR events:
	Wednesday 19 th November	Uniform sale before and after school
	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).
	Tuesday 16 th December	Uniform sale before and after school
	Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Disco
Christmas Market 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.	

Activities and Events:

	Did you know Girlguiding is active in your community? 1st Witchford Rainbows, 1st Witchford Brownies and 1st Witchford Guides provide a range of extracurricular activities for girls aged 4-7, 7-10 and 10-14. We work through a variety of Girlguiding themes, go on adventures, play games, do crafts, bake, take part in community events, undertake challenges, learn new skills and most importantly, have FUN! Would your daughter like to join us? We meet in Witchford on Tuesdays in term time, 4:30-5:30 for Rainbows, 6:00-7:30 for Brownies, and Guides meet 6:30-8:00. Rainbows is currently close to capacity and running a waiting list, but there are spaces available at Brownies and Guides. Please see www.girlguiding.org.uk for more information, or contact us directly using witchfordrainbows@gmail.com / witchfordbrownies@gmail.com / witchford.guides@gmail.com. Would you like to volunteer with Girlguiding? We help all girls to know they can do anything! Are you curious, adaptable, thoughtful, ambitious? Could your skills complement Girlguiding in Witchford? Please see www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested for more information. Your local Girlguiding leaders, Robyn and Jess, Brown Owl and Barn Owl, Butterfly and Squirrel.
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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: 94.8%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 4th November.

Best wishes,
Miss Turner

Dates for your diary:

Date	Scheduled events
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
13 th November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 5.30pm - booking required
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
Sunday 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 – booking now open
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	FWR Christmas Disco Years R – 6
18 th December	KS2 (Year 3 – 6) Christmas Dinner		
19 th December	Last day of term		