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**Working together to be the best we can possibly be.**

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

7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what is always such a joyous half term with Christmas celebrations to look forward to next month.

**Safeguarding:**

We are delighted to share with you that all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will be learning how to give CPR on the following dates. This training is provided free of charge by Cambridgeshire Air Ambulance.

**Day 1 - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Half of Year 4; Year 5; Year 6

**Day 2 - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 1; Year 2; Year 3; The other half of Year 4

**Wellbeing and Mental Health:**





We are delighted to welcome MiniMeMindfulness after school club to The Rackham. Bookings are made directly on this link:  
[cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk](https://cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk)

**NEW uniform options: Long sleeve polo shirt daily uniform; short sleeve polo daily uniform plus sports tops for PE days only:**

Following up on parental suggestions, we are pleased to share the items below are now available to order at Sigma. Samples available to view at the main office or Sigma. [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)



**My Child's Art:**

Leaflets are coming home tonight with details of how to order your child's art work. There are over 35 different products to choose from and if you order before Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November you can get 10% off – details on the leaflet.

**Flu vaccinations:**

The School Immunisation Team have completed their visits to The Rackham to offer the flu vaccination. If your child did not receive their vaccination and you would like to book a community clinic appointment, please do so via this link:

<https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book>

Current clinics are available in Cambridge and Huntingdon, more clinics will be added during November and December

**Booking is essential to be able to attend the clinics**



**Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need WC 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Friday is the final day of Anti-Bullying Week as well as 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 sports person 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 can, please do donate to Children in Need.

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

This is the same day as our Indian Dance Day. There is no need for children to change for this event.

#### **Christmas Performances:**



Christmas performances will take place as detailed in Diary dates below. Attendance at the performances will require a ticket. Bookings will open on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November and close at 9am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. **Tickets can be booked through MCAS and will appear under the Products and Trips tab.** Tickets will initially be limited to two per family – these can be split one for each performance but the total booked must not exceed two please. If you would like extra tickets, please contact the office to be added to the

waiting list for the preferred performance.

#### **Clubs:**

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

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Dates
<b>Christmas Card Club</b> – Waiting list	Monday	Lunchtime: 12.45 – 13.15pm	Y1 and Y2	10 <sup>th</sup> November to 8 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Needlework Club</b> – Waiting list	Tuesday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y5 and Y6	23 <sup>rd</sup> September to 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>Book Club</b> - Waiting list	Tuesday	Lunchtime: 13.00 - 13.30pm	Y3 to Y6	4 <sup>th</sup> November to 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>Homework Club</b> – Please note the change of day	<b>Wednesday</b>	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y3 to Y6	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
<b>Choir</b> - Places available	Thursday	After school: 3.15 – 4.15pm	Y3 to Y6	We will contact parents when Choir resumes.



**Piano concert:**

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

**Please note that this concert will no longer include The Rackham Choir.**



**Declaration of interest for Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone lessons:** Would your child be interested in learning to play a woodwind instrument? We have opportunity for pupils at The Rackham to start 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 in the preferred instrument.

**Parent's Evenings for Primary School and Pre-School pupils:**

Parent's Evenings will take place next week Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Bookings for Reception to Year 6 opened via MCAS on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 9am and will close on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

We would like to remind you that Oak and Hazel class Parent's Evenings have been postponed. We will contact you with new dates as soon as possible.

**EIFA newsletter:** The latest EIFA newsletter for November 2025 can be found here: [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

**Family Centre Ely newsletter:** The latest Family Centre newsletter is here: [Community Notice Board | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)



**2025 Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion:** Poppies are on sale now. We will marking Armistice Day on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Pupils who attend Girlguiding or Scouts are welcome to wear their uniform on this date.

**Year 4 Big Camp residential parents meeting:**



We will be holding a meeting for parents and Year 4 children on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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:

[Unforgettable School Residentials | Big School Camp | Onsite Camps](#)



# Year 4

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **St Andrew's Church, Witchford: services up to Christmas 2025**

	Sunday 9th November 10.45 a.m. (with videos from 10.00 a.m.) Remembrance Day Service
	Sunday 30th November 6 p.m. Lighting of the Star with mince pies and mulled wine
	Friday 12th December 7 p.m. Carol Concert with a chance to sing some carols . in St Andrew's Hall Witchford
	Saturday 13th December 4 p.m. Christingle in the church
	Sunday 21st December 6 p.m. 9 Lessons and Carols in the church

	<b><u>Save the date!</u></b>	<b><u>FWR events:</u></b>
	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Uniform sale before and after school
	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Christmas Market. Stalls, Santa's Grotto, Reindeer Food and much, much more!
	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Run (more information to follow).
	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Uniform sale before and after school
	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Disco
<b><u>Christmas Market</u></b> <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b> 	If you or someone you know would like a stall at the Christmas Market, please contact FWR on <a href="mailto:fwr@rackham.cambs.sch.uk">fwr@rackham.cambs.sch.uk</a> Stalls are £15 and FWR would be very grateful for a raffle prize donation.	

## 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

**viva!**

# A Tale As Old As Time...

FEATURING THE ONLY WAY IS ESSEX STAR  
RICKY RAYMENT AS GASTON



## Beauty AND THE BEAST

**5 - 14 Dec 2025**



01353 722 228  
www.viva-group.org.uk  
The Viva Theatre, Spencer Drive, Soham, CB7 6EE

### 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 **November and December**.

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

Digital Safety	Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 11 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Sleep	Tuesday, 25 November 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Tuesday, 2 December 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Tuesday 9 December 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or 

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

cambridgeshire.gov.uk

# Christmas Holiday Scheme Places

**FULLY FUNDED**

Your child can book onto a fully funded holiday scheme this Christmas with fun experiences and food offered.



Children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals are eligible and can attend for up to 16 hours.

For details and the wider eligibility criteria please scan the QR Code or visit: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf)  
Questions: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



Department for Education  
**HOLIDAY STUDENTS**  
Cambridgeshire County Council

**EXCLUSIVE EVENT**

# Santa's Day Off (For Parents!)

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

9.00 am - 4.00pm £25  
10.00 am - 3.00pm £20

Need a few child-free hours to get your Christmas shopping done, wrap gifts in peace, or simply enjoy a quiet cup of coffee while making a festive to-do list? We've got you covered!

Activities will include:  
Christmas Crafts, Baking Cookies, Writing letters to Santa, Making Reindeer food, festive party games, nerf fun and a variety of sports.

Spring Meadow Infant School,  
High Barns, Ely CB7 4RB

Open to all children from 4 (at school) to 12

Scan the QR code for bookings or email [info@activeplayeducation.co.uk](mailto:info@activeplayeducation.co.uk)



ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 7

# CHRISTMAS Holiday Club

SPRING MEADOW INFANT SCHOOL, HIGH BARNES, ELY, CB7 4RB

**DATES:** MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AND TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

9.00AM - 5.45PM £35  
9.00AM - 4.00PM £27

JOIN US FOR SOME FESTIVE FUN AT OUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB! KIDS WILL ENJOY GAMES, CRAFTS, SPORTS, MESSY PLAY AND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES - ALL IN A WARM, JOYFUL ATMOSPHERE, AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK... A SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS HIMSELF!

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ARE ACCEPTED

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BOOKINGS OR EMAIL [INFO@ACTIVEPLAYEDUCATION.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@ACTIVEPLAYEDUCATION.CO.UK)



**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.

**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: 93.6%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,  
Miss Turner

**Dates for your diary:**

Date	Scheduled events
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying week
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Armistice Day
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 7pm - booking required
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent's Evening 3.30 - 5.30pm - booking required
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Indian Dance Day
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need: 'Power dressing'
19 <sup>th</sup> November	FWR Uniform sale
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Vision screening for Reception children
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4 residential / experience week information evening 6pm – booking now open
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	FWR Christmas Market
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Parent or carer school dinner invitation – booking now open
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Piano and Choir concert – booking now open
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas performance week: Please see below for days and times
15 <sup>th</sup> December	FWR Santa Run
16 <sup>th</sup> December	FWR Uniform sale
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner: Reception and KS1
17 <sup>th</sup> December	FWR Christmas Disco
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner: KS2
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

**Dates for Christmas performances:**

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