

Dear Parents,

There has been much taking place in school in recent weeks, with children attending the Panathlon tournament, the choir's Young Voices trip to the O2 Arena, and our after-school clubs continuing to be popular. We also commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day—with a special assembly, and lessons in class.

This week, we have welcomed two Chinese students to our school. You may remember that we were hoping to host 15 students. Unfortunately, visas are proving tricky to get in China currently, and so, in the end, only two have been able to join us. We are hopeful that more may come later in the summer term. Our children have been exceptionally welcoming—preparing the entrance area with Chinese New Year decorations, and ensuring they are looked after at play and in class.

It has been a mixture of temperatures outside—but overall, we are still experiencing a cold wind. Please make sure your children have coats and hats for the colder weather. We aim to play outside whenever we can, and this helps the children to be able to do so.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keefe

OPAL

OPAL means Outdoor Play and Learning, and as part of our School Development work this year, we are further developing our lunchtime provision. This week we have been meeting as a working group to audit our current provision and look at ways that we can develop further.

We are keen to get everyone involved and gain your thoughts too. Next week, we will be sending home a survey on lunchtimes—please take a minute to complete this. We will also be surveying the children and staff too.

As part of our plans, FOPJS have agreed to fund a Loose-Parts Storage facility for us—a huge thank-you to them to enabling us on this development in school.

Attendance

Our school's attendance is currently 95.9% which is great.

A few reminders to help:

- ◆ Please be on time for school. There are learning activities in class from 8.35am for Year 5/6 and 8.40am for Year 3/4. Registers are taken 10 minutes after this and any child arriving after this is marked late. See the information on the next page.

Please make sure your child is there—so they don't miss out on valuable learning time.

- ◆ From time to time, parents sometimes ask why an absence was marked as unauthorised if they provided a reason. Not all reasons are classed as authorised absences, and as a school we will make the decision whether something can be authorised—following the DfE's criteria. If in doubt, please ask.
- ◆ Term-time leave is only granted in exceptional circumstances. All leave should be requested using our leave of absence form. This is available from the school office.

Diary Dates

Children's Mental Health Week	5th—9th February
AN3 Class Assembly	7th February
Year 6 Coffee Morning	14th February
Year 3 Flag Fen Trip	16th February
Half-Term Holiday	19th—23rd February
Hockey Tournament	27th February
Parents' Evenings	28th / 29th February
Parents Do Day	7th March
World Book Day	7th March
Science Week	11th—15th March
HD6 Class Assembly	13th March
MD5 Class Assembly	20th March
Year 4 Residential Group 1	18th—20th March
Year 4 Residential Group 2	25th—27th March
Year 3 Coffee Morning	26th March

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. All children will be involved in a range of activities in class to support this.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, or a member of the SLT.

Mrs Durham, is our Mental Health Lead in school, and can be contacted through the school office.

We are able to help through a range of provision—including a referral to MHST (Mental Health Support Team), who are working directly with schools in St Neots to support families.

Every minute counts



Lateness = lost learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

As few as 19 missed
reduces your child's
child's SAT results
across all subjects



days over the school year
chances of success. Your
could drop by one grade

Your Education Inclusion Family Advisor

Charlotte Dean

Appointments in school

Individual Appointments for Priory Junior School

Appointments available on the following dates, from 9am.

Thursday 11th January 2024

Friday 16th February 2024



Thursday 21st March 2024

To make an appointment, please ask at the school office.

Education Inclusion Family Advisor's offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence
- Any other family challenges you might be facing

For more information speak to your school office or contact us directly on:

 charlotte.dean@cambridgeshire.gov.uk  07917 173791