

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break together.

It has been great to see the children back in school, ready for the new term of learning. We've been talking in assemblies about our hopes, dreams and goals for 2024. Please do take time to talk to your children about this—what are their goals for the year ahead? These may be goals in learning, or goals for new or existing hobbies.

This term, we've started on new themes and books in year groups. A curriculum overview will be sent home to you, which outlines the learning taking place in class. Please have a look and if you do have an expertise in any of the areas of learning, and are able to support in any way, let your child's class teacher know.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keefe

Staffing

As we start this term, we have had some changes in staffing. Mrs Miller and I are teaching a year 6 class—now called KM6. Mr O'Neill has joined Mrs Tack to teach one of our year 3 classes—now TO3.

We have welcomed two new members of staff to our midday supervisor team—Miss Colmer and Miss Brain—who have joined us this week.

Sadly, we are also saying farewell to Mrs Kernick this week—who is one of our teaching assistant team. Having run provision in our school library during lunchtimes, she is moving to take on a role in a library. We wish her well in this new role.

Spelling and Handwriting

During this term, we will be having a sharp focus on spelling and handwriting.

As your child progresses through Priory Junior School, they will be taught to write joined-up and as they master this, to develop their style of handwriting. Children then are encouraged to transfer this to their independent writing. The National Curriculum expectation for a child at the end of Year 6 is that they write joined-up and neatly.

Did you know that there is a strong link between writing joined-up and spelling? Please encourage your child with this too.

In your home-school learning logs, you will also find a list of words that children are expected to be able to spell by the end of Year 6— and be able to demonstrate this in their writing. There are word lists for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. These lists are great for supporting independent practise at home, and for supporting writing in school too.

Diary Dates

Panathlon Tournament	16th January
Young Voices O2 Arena Concert	18th January
Year 5 Play Leader Training	24th January
FOPJS Committee Meeting	24th January
Holocaust Memorial Day	26th January
Chinese Students Visit	28th January—3rd February
AB4 Class Assembly	1st February
Children's Mental Health Week	5th—9th February
AN3 Class Assembly	7th February
Y3/4 Gymnastics Competition	13th February
Year 6 Coffee Morning	14th February
Year 3 Flag Fen Trip	16th February
Half-Term Holiday	19th—23rd February
Hockey Tournament	26th 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

Coats

Brrr! It's been very cold this week! Please make sure your children bring a coat to school so that we can maximise our time outside during breaks and lunchtimes.

Holocaust Memorial Day

We will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day in school next week. Children will be involved in activities in class that focus on developing understanding around this area.

All materials we will be using are age-appropriate and aim to develop tolerance and understanding.

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter

January 2024

A Message From Me

I do hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas holidays and managed to spend some quality family time together. I am continuing to offer support to families, please complete this quick online support request form and I will be in touch:

<https://forms.office.com/e/h963ySwVc7>

Financial Support and Advice

Household Support Fund - £110. Up to £110 payment to help with paying for household energy bills and food. Available to people experiencing immediate financial hardship. [Household Support Fund - Cambridgeshire County Council website.](#)

Low-income benefits and tax credits Cost of Living Payment eligibility. You may be entitled to up to 3 Cost of Living Payments: [Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) http://makingmoneycount.org.uk/assets/uploads/2022/05/Universal-access-to-CLAS-16_03.pdf

Access to the following grants is via a professional referral: Stay Well Grant – up to £400 are awarded for vulnerable individuals and families facing fuel poverty. For those that are homeless, other costs of keeping warm (such as sleeping bags) will be considered. Individual customers cannot apply on their own behalf. Please contact your local Citizens Advice - [Citizens Advice Cambridge & District](#) or [Citizens Advice Rural Cambs](#) for [access to this grant](#)

The Education Inclusion Family Advisor team offers a range of county wide online workshops.

Parental wellbeing - Tuesday 09th January 2024 (12:00-13:00)

Supporting your child with feelings of worry - Tuesday 16th January 2024 (12:00 -13:30)

Supporting your child with feelings of anger – Tuesday 23rd January 2024 (12:00 -13:30)

Arguing Better- Session 1 Tuesday 30th January 2024 (12:00 -13:30) Parents need to attend both sessions

Sleep -Tuesday 6th February (12:00-13:00)

Arguing Better- Session 2 Tuesday 13th February 2024 (12:00 -13:30) Parents need to attend both sessions

To book a place on any of the workshops, please use the link or the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/4tCXXqv3PC>



Top tips for children going back to school after a break

- ✚ Go back to your normal bedtime routine few days before school starts.
- ✚ Remind your child what is expected from them at school.
- ✚ Talk about school in positive way.

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint (www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer

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

Education Inclusion Family Advisor County Wide Online Workshops

The Education Inclusion Family Advisor team offers a range of countywide online workshops. We welcome any parent/carer with a child/ren in primary schools.

Arguing Better- Session 1 Tuesday 30th January 2024 (12:00 -13:30)

Session 2 Tuesday 13th February 2024 (12:00 -13:30) (Parents need to attend both sessions)

What is 'Arguing better'?

Arguing better is an online workshop designed to help parents manage their stress and communicate with one another in ways that are helpful to their relationship and their children.

'Arguing better' aims to:

- Raise awareness of impact of stress on relationships and parental conflict on children.
- Increase parents' capacity to cope with stress.
- Support parents to develop positive communication strategies to deal with conflict.

The workshop combines evidence-based information, activities, animations, and video clips specifically designed for this audience. Arguing better works best when both parents do it together. It is divided into three sections, delivered over 2 sessions, so it is essential that both sessions are attended.

1. Understanding stress

This section helps parents understand how stress affects them and their relationship. It helps parents to identify sources of stress.

2. Coping with stress together


This section helps parents to learn ways of coping with stress together and supporting each other.

3. Arguing better

Arguments can be constructive (helpful) or destructive (harmful). This section helps parents think about how their arguments start, and how they get out of hand. Most importantly, it will give them the skills to resolve arguments in more constructive ways.

To book a place on the workshops, please use the link or the QR code <https://forms.office.com/e/4tCXqv3PC>



For more information speak to your school office or contact us directly on:
 earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk