

3RD MAY 2024

ISSUE 26

PRIORY SCHOOL NEWS

Headteacher's News

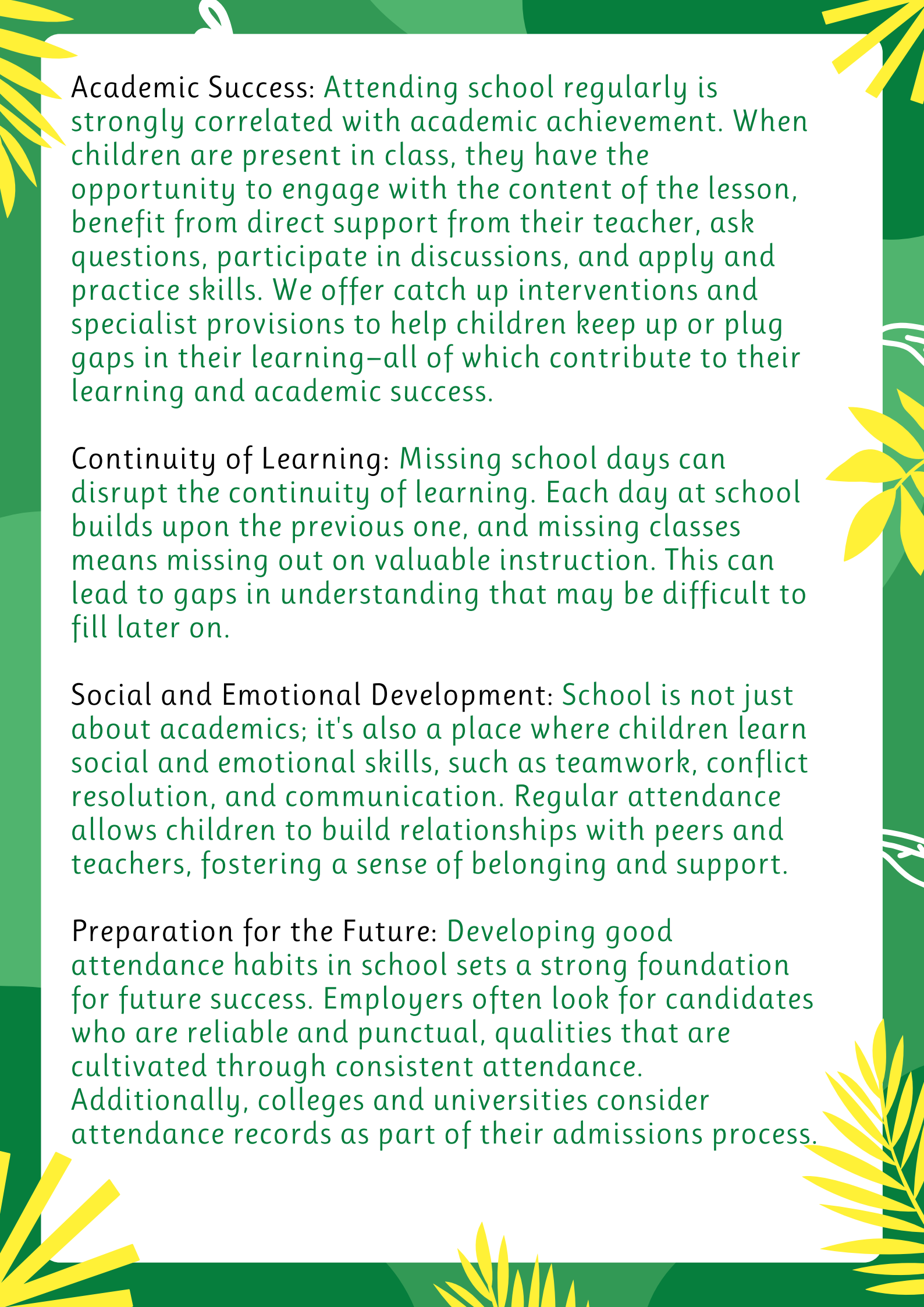
This week at Priory.

This week I would like to focus on the important of attendance. I have spent time with each class teacher discussing the progress of pupils over the last two terms. Every child who has not made the required amount of progress has been discussed and catch up intervention planned.

However, in nearly all the cases of pupils not making enough progress it has been the result of poor attendance that has hindered the progress.

While it's natural to want to keep your child home for every minor ailment, it's essential to consider the impact of prolonged or repeated absences on your child's education. Missing school can lead to missed learning opportunities, falling behind academically, and difficulty catching up with classmates. Additionally, attending school even with minor ailments can help build resilience and teach valuable life skills.

Below I outline the main benefits of school attendance:

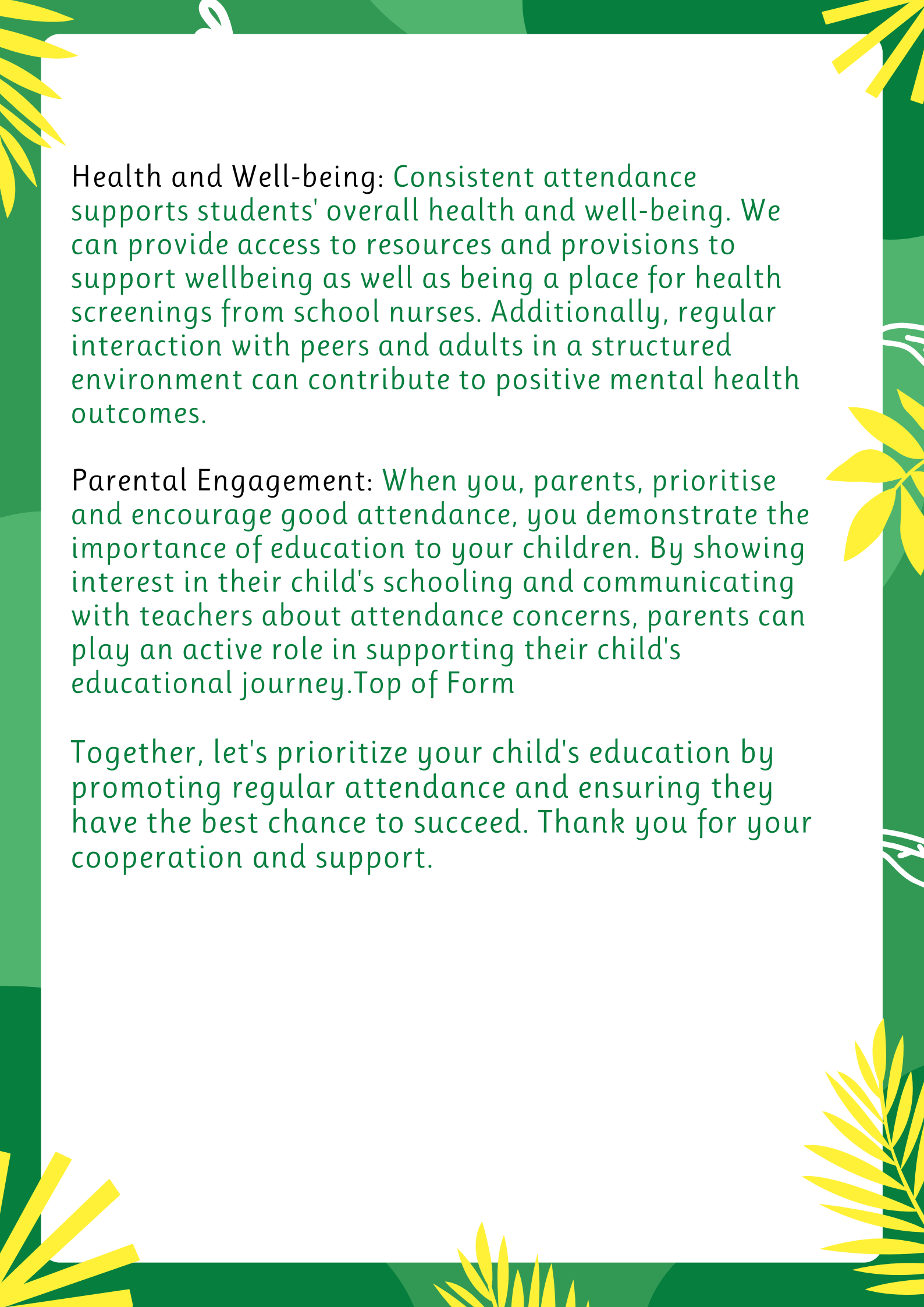


Academic Success: Attending school regularly is strongly correlated with academic achievement. When children are present in class, they have the opportunity to engage with the content of the lesson, benefit from direct support from their teacher, ask questions, participate in discussions, and apply and practice skills. We offer catch up interventions and specialist provisions to help children keep up or plug gaps in their learning—all of which contribute to their learning and academic success.

Continuity of Learning: Missing school days can disrupt the continuity of learning. Each day at school builds upon the previous one, and missing classes means missing out on valuable instruction. This can lead to gaps in understanding that may be difficult to fill later on.

Social and Emotional Development: School is not just about academics; it's also a place where children learn social and emotional skills, such as teamwork, conflict resolution, and communication. Regular attendance allows children to build relationships with peers and teachers, fostering a sense of belonging and support.

Preparation for the Future: Developing good attendance habits in school sets a strong foundation for future success. Employers often look for candidates who are reliable and punctual, qualities that are cultivated through consistent attendance. Additionally, colleges and universities consider attendance records as part of their admissions process.



Health and Well-being: Consistent attendance supports students' overall health and well-being. We can provide access to resources and provisions to support wellbeing as well as being a place for health screenings from school nurses. Additionally, regular interaction with peers and adults in a structured environment can contribute to positive mental health outcomes.

Parental Engagement: When you, parents, prioritise and encourage good attendance, you demonstrate the importance of education to your children. By showing interest in their child's schooling and communicating with teachers about attendance concerns, parents can play an active role in supporting their child's educational journey.

Together, let's prioritize your child's education by promoting regular attendance and ensuring they have the best chance to succeed. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Upcoming events in the summer term

- Year 5 Eco Council Garden Centre trip - 3rd May
- May bank holiday - 6th May
- Year 5 Fire service visit - 7th May
- Year 6 Lion King trip - 8th May
- Year 6 SATS week - 13th - 16th May
- Auditions begin for the Year 6 play - W/C 20th May
- Year 4 Trip to Legoland - 20th May
- Literacy Specialist Day - 21st May
- MHST Coffee Morning - 21st May
- Year 1 Bekonscott Model Village Trip - 22nd May
- Priory Soiree - 22nd May
- May holiday - 27th - 31st May
- INSET - 3rd - 4th June.
- Start back - Wednesday 5th June
- Year 6 production rehearsals begin - 5th June
- Year 5 Burnham Grammar Science Afternoon - 7th June
- Year 5 Tate Modern Trip - 10th June
- Parent meeting Little Canada - 10th June
- Year 2 Beale Park Trip - 12th June
- Phonics screening week - 10th - 14th June
- Father's Day - 16th June
- Lunchtime Concert - 17th June
- Lunchtime Concert - 19th June
- Lunchtime Concert - 20th June
- Year 5 Burnham Grammar Science Afternoon - 21st June

- Dress rehearsal, cast 1 - 21st June
 - Summer Music Festival Hexagon Reading - 24th June
 - Learning Together Mornings - W/C 24th June
 - Performance to parents - 25th June, 7pm
 - Dress rehearsal, cast 2 - 26th June
 - Performance to parents - 27th June, 7pm
 - Year 6 Transition Workshops - 2nd July
 - MHST Coffee Morning - 3rd July
 - Plastic free July - 3rd July
 - Year 6 Summer fayre - 5th July
 - Burnham Grammar Science Afternoon - 5th July
 - Literacy Specialist Day - 9th July
 - Year 6 Transition Workshops- 9th July
 - Year 5 BGS - 10th July
 - Little Canada - 12th July
 - Arts week - W/C 15th July
 - Sports day - 17th July
 - Nursery and Orchard sports day - 18th July
 - Year 6 Graduation - 23rd July PM
 - Reception Graduation - 24th July AM
 - Nursery final day - 24th July
 - Final celebration assembly - 25th July - End of term.
- Whole school to attend Guard of Honour. Year 6 finish at 11:30am. Once they have gone, rest of school go back into class to be dismissed by 12pm.

Attendance

Weekly attendance percentages W/C 29th
April:

Whole School - 92%

Year 1 - 97%

Year 2 - 87%

Year 3 - 92%

Year 4 - 92%

Year 5 - 93%

Year 6 - 94%



Congratulations to 1Donaldson with 99%
The highest attendance this week!

Priory's Got Talent 2024

On March 28th, the whole school gathered together for this year's annual talent show, Priory's Got Talent 2024. The show was filled with incredible talent from across the school. From breakdance... to Teenage Mutant Ninja puppet shows ...it was a blast!

Emelia Mullenger (Year 6) and Dollie Smith (Year 6) stole the spotlight this year, receiving 1st place for their incredible performance, singing 'The Climb'.

Hasahib Gill (Year 6) and Mannat Gill (Year 1) made it to 2nd place with their energetic, show-opening bhangra dance.

And in 3rd place, Lutfan Masoud (Year 1) had the crowd in disbelief as he performed a range of breakdancing stunts!

A huge well done to all of the acts that took part this year - it truly was a fantastic show!



Important dates:

[Click here](#) to link to the school calendar

[Click here](#) to see term dates for 2023-2024

Leaflets and letters:

Please [click here](#) to go to our leaflets page on the website and choose external providers

Signs of the week:

Safeguarding

<https://youtu.be/nhisXBd-mBA>

Peek at the week:

Please follow the link for this week's

<https://www.priorschool.co.uk/peek-at-the-week-1/>

Rugby Brothers

Well done to brothers James Moore and Thomas Moore!

James in Year 6 and Thomas in Year 1 have both been rewarded at the Slough Rugby Club end of season awards.

Thomas was rewarded for his contribution to the u6 squad by demonstrating excellence in behaviours in Rugby's core values for Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. Thomas took up Rugby just before Christmas and it is a sport which he enjoys and is learning new skills all the time.

James received two awards. The first was his medal for his contribution to the u11 squad by demonstrating excellence in behaviours in Rugby's core values for Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. James' effort is top class, and his awareness of respecting players of all abilities to work as a team, respecting the opposition, and his sportsmanship is reflected in his enjoyment of playing sport.

James has improved his rugby immensely over the last season.

His second award was for his recognition for supporting the senior team throughout the season as one of the Ball Boys demonstrating great teamwork and responsibility for helping the referee and senior players enjoy their sport.

Well done to Thomas and James Moore!



Taekwondo Champion

A massive congratulations to Aiyla Hassan in Year 6 for passing her Taekwondo grading! Aiyla is now a High Red belt which is one step away from a Black belt. She has been able to achieve this all while fasting during the month of Ramadan.

Congratulations Aiyla!



Ice Hockey Legend

On 23rd April, a group of Slough young people travelled to Boston, USA to participate in an international ice hockey tournament called SHI (Special Hockey International). One of our pupils, Chase, was part of the group.

Teams gathered from across America and Canada, and were joined by two teams from the UK - SPICE JETS and The WEREWOLVES. Chase is an active member of Spice Jets and trains with them every Sunday at Slough Ice rink.

The whole tournament is about including everyone and the kids and adults are encouraged to focus on fairness, respect and inclusivity. There were many moments where the players were seen encouraging one another and providing support. It was heartwarming to see the teams realise that friendship and inclusion is more important than winning!

Chase was one of the youngest players participating and was facing off against fully grown adults, with no fear. He even gained the nickname of 'human nutmeg' when he skated through the legs of one of the opposition and went on to score a goal!! And of course, Chase was a crucial part of the team celebrations when they did win a game

If anyone is interested in finding out more about SPICE skating or SPICE ice hockey (for children and adults with special needs) please take a look at this website or speak to Chase or his parents. <https://spiceskating.org/>



Woodland Badgers News

This week in Woodland Badgers we have been learning about real life superheroes. Continuing with our topic of Occupations, we have been looking at different types of every day heroes.

In art we decorated our own superhero, using our fine motor skills to scrunch up tissue paper and make our own colourful heroes.

In our drama session we dressed up as different kinds of superheroes, both those with capes and our everyday heroes such as doctors. We have been learning about all kinds of heroes in our literacy lessons.

We have also been continuing to focus on our communication skills, using our PECs and communication boards to request items during sensory play and our turn-taking sessions.



Orchard News

On Monday, the Orchard celebrated International Dance Day. We had performances from some of our staff including Mr Matts hip hop routine, as well as Mrs Sweta and Mrs Tallet showing some of their amazing Bhangra moves. The children enjoyed joining in with their own dance moves.



Summer Lunchtime Concert Dates

Our summer instrumental lunchtime concerts are scheduled to take place as follows, for those children who have small group and individual music lessons at school. Please put them in your diary if your child is involved, noting that the drum concert has an earlier start time of 11:30am. A further reminder will be sent to those involved nearer the time, and we look forward to seeing you there.

12pm on Monday 17th June : Mr Lazenbury's violin / piano / clarinet students

12pm on Wednesday 19th June : Mr Keen's piano / keyboard / flute students

11:30am on Thursday 20th June : Mr Clements' drum students

12pm on Thursday 20th June: Mrs Sumner's guitar students

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's **Summer Reading Challenge**. Sign up FREE at your local library!

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays – and to enjoy reading anything they like! Children aged 4-11 are invited to set a reading goal and collect rewards for their reading. It is completely **FREE** to take part.

It is an amazing way to boost children's confidence – last year 72% of children taking part felt more confident in their reading.

Why should my child sign up?

- They will be **better prepared to return to school** in the autumn.
- The Challenge **supports the move into their next year group**.
- They will become more independent in their reading.
- It boosts children's **confidence and self-esteem**.
- The library provides **free access** to books and fun family activities all through the summer.
- Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by [The Reading Agency](#) and delivered in partnership with the [public library network](#).

How can my child take part? (Library OR online)

In the library. Visit your local library and sign up. Your child will:

- Set a reading goal for the summer and borrow and read any books, eBooks and audiobooks.
- Receive a Challenge poster and collect special stickers and rewards for reading.

Online. Take part online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

- Sign up on the [official Challenge website](#).
- Set a reading goal and get book recommendations and tips.
- Unlock digital badges and online rewards, including a printable certificate.

Which local libraries are involved?

Children can join at:

- The Curve, Slough <https://www.slough.gov.uk/directory-record/96/library-the-curve>
- Langley Library <https://www.slough.gov.uk/directory-record/95/langley-library>
- Cippenham Library <https://www.slough.gov.uk/directory-record/94/cippenham-library>
- And on selected dates at Britwell Library <https://www.slough.gov.uk/directory-record/93/britwell-library>

When?

The Summer Reading Challenge starts in Slough on **16th July** and finishes **14th September**.

Head to your local library this summer and sign up!

Yours faithfully,
Mr Philpott

Want to know more?

- Find out more about the importance of reading and its impact on children's success [here](#).
- Visit the [official Summer Reading Challenge website](#) for free activities, videos, book recommendations and more.
- Keep up-to-date and be in the know when we launch competitions by following [@SummerReadingChallengeUK on Facebook](#).



**Wednesdays, 13th March; 17th April; 8th May;
12th June; 3rd July 2024**

Community Parent/Carer Support Group, Slough

A support group for family members who have children/young people with additional needs living within Slough.

A safe and supportive space for sharing experiences and gaining support with the unique challenges faced by families of children with additional needs.

Each session will include an hours topic around being a parent of a child with additional needs. The remainder of the session will be for discussion of the topic and social support time.

March Topic; Exploring self care

DATE & TIME

Monthly- See above dates
10-12pm

VENUE

Farnham Common Village Hall
Victoria road Farnham Common,
Slough SL2 3NL

COST

FREE
(Refreshments provided)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Charlie Taylor
07831409731
charlie@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Children welcome under parent supervision



GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire



Bear cubs



Ages 5 to 10

First and third Friday of
the month - 4pm to 5pm

April 5th - Animal Fun Facts Quiz - Online

April 19th - Yoga and Mindfulness - Slough

May 3rd - Arts and Craft - Bracknell

May 17th - Mini Golf - Maidenhead

June 7th - Nature Hunt - Bracknell

June 21st - Story time - Create your own - Online

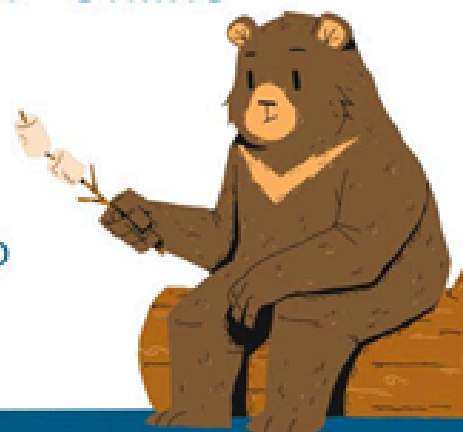
**Please note activities may be subject to change*

Registration:

Gems.4Health@nhs.net
0800 999 1342

Criteria:

Children with or likely to have ADHD
and/or autism and living in East
Berkshire



For more information:

Call 0800 999 1342 or visit www.Gems4Health.co.uk



Supporting your Child with School Transitions

21st May 9.00am-11.30am

Priory School

**Whole School, for all
ages.**



Does your child feel anxious about change?

Would you like to understand how you could support your child more with this?

Please join the CAMHS Mental Health Support Team for a coffee morning at school to think about how we can help you support your child with anxious thoughts around general school transitions. This coffee morning session's focus will be based on transitions within Primary School.

Another coffee morning will be presented specifically for Year 6 at a later date.



Supporting your Child with Secondary School Transitions

3rd July 9.00am-11.30am

Priory School

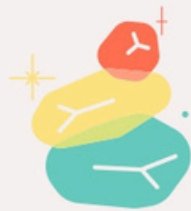
**Whole School, for all
ages.**

Does your child feel anxious about moving onto Secondary School?

Would you like to understand how you could support your child more with this?

Please join the CAMHS Mental Health Support Team for a coffee morning at school to think about how we can help you support your child with anxious thoughts around general school transitions. This coffee morning session's focus will be based on the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.





GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Virtual Coffee Morning - Sensory needs (AUDHD)

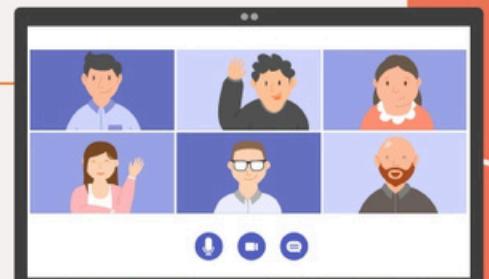
Friday 10th May 10 - 11:15am

Join our online informal discussion to
cover the following areas:

**25 spaces
available!**

- What works for your family?
- What are the sensory difficulties that are being experienced?
- How do you identify and support your child's sensory needs?

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.



Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

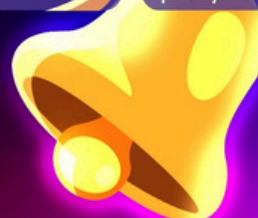
YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday