

# The Priory Press

5<sup>th</sup> September 2025



**Welcome back!** We're happy to see our school buzzing with energy again. A warm welcome to new families joining our community. This term promises exciting learning, growth, and fun. Let's work together to support every child's journey. Here's to a fantastic start to the new school year!

A great 'window' into our school is our Facebook page. Please consider following us.

@prioryprimaryschoolbicknacre



## **Pride of Priory**

This week, the following children have been celebrated for their learning in class.

Britto – Nova and Milli

Hepworth – Amelia and Hudson

Kusama – Albert and Leo B

Matisse – George and Florence

Ringgold – Henry-John and Kenzie

Warhol – Oliver V-W and Lucky

## **A visit from our MP**

This week, pupils at Priory have been learning about democracy by voting for their new School Councillors. Using real voting booths, the children experienced a meaningful and hands-on introduction to the democratic process, helping them understand the importance of having a voice and making choices. We are delighted to welcome the Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale to school this afternoon, where he will present official School Councillor badges during a special assembly. We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part and look forward to seeing our new councillors represent their peers with pride.



## **Ringgold Class – Bikeability**

This week, Year 5 Ringgold Class took part in Bikeability training, developing vital cycling and road safety skills. Pupils learned how to ride confidently, signal clearly, and stay aware of their surroundings. The sessions were engaging and empowering, helping children become safer, more independent cyclists. Well done to all involved!



## Reminder: Term Time Holidays – Important Information for families

We understand that travelling during term time is more affordable for families. However, please be aware that there is no legal entitlement for any pupils to take holidays during school time.

Under the School Attendance Regulations 2024, headteachers may only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances—and the desire for a holiday, at a less busy time, is not considered exceptional.

The Department for Education's national framework now requires schools to consider issuing a Penalty Notice after 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-week period. These sessions can include any unauthorised absence, including lateness.

### ◆ Penalty Notice fines:

First offence: up to £160 per pupil, per parent (£80 if paid within 21 days)

Second offence (within 3 years): £160 per pupil, per parent

Please note: fines are issued and retained by Essex County Council, not the school.

Click to our attendance webpage for further guidance. [Attendance](#)

## EVERY DAY COUNTS

Why attendance is important...

**BELOW 90%**

- Significantly reduced chance of success!
- The chances of obtaining five good GCSE grades (grade 4+) is almost halved!
- Possible risk of fines and court action!

SERIOUS BUT VERY RARE

**95% - 90%**

- Up to one month of school missed!
- Below 95%: On average, a drop in at least one GCSE grade in every subject!

WORRYING

**100% - 96%**

- High attendance leads to improved achievement!
- You are giving your child the best chance of success!

MOST STUDENTS ACHIEVE THIS

There are **175 non-school days in the academic year** - That's plenty of time to go on visits, holidays, go shopping and to other appointments.

## Message from the PTA

### 📅 **Upcoming Event: Bounce Back to School – Thursday 19th September**

We're kicking off the new school year with our popular **Inflatables Day!** It's a fantastic way for the children to reconnect, have fun, and start the term with a bounce!

### 👤 **Join Our PTA – Get Involved Your Way**

We're always looking for new members to join our friendly PTA. Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, your support makes a big difference. 😊

### 🗳️ **PTA Annual General Meeting – Friday 12th September**

Come along to **The Drunken Dragon, Bicknacre** to learn more about what we do and help elect our new committee members. It's a great chance to meet others and get involved in shaping the year ahead.

## Support Our School – Use the Charity Clothes Bin!

The PTA has a charity clothes bin in the front car park. Please consider donating any clean, unwanted clothes, shoes, or textiles. Every donation helps raise valuable funds for our school, supporting activities, resources, and events for our children. It's an easy way to give back while clearing out your wardrobe. Thank you for your continued support!

## PTA Update

We're always looking for new members to join our PTA — whether you can give a little time or a lot, every contribution makes a difference! 😊

Our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held on **Friday, 12th September at 7:30 PM** at **The Drunken Dragon Pub, Bicknacre**. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what we do and to take part in the election of our new committee members. All parents are warmly invited — you don't need to be on the committee to attend.

This year marks a big change, as our long-serving Chair, Sophie Hall, is stepping down after many years of dedicated leadership. We are so grateful for the countless hours Sophie has given to planning, organising, and supporting events that have made such a difference to our school community. We will miss her in this role, but we wish her every success in her next chapter.

With Sophie's departure, we are looking to appoint a **new Chair**. If you're interested, or simply curious about what's involved, please come along to the AGM — your ideas, enthusiasm, and support are always welcome

# Dates for your diary

- **8<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Matisse Class Meet The Teacher 3.30-4.00pm
- **9<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Kusama Class Meet The Teacher 3.30-4.00pm
- **10<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Hepworth Class Meet The Teacher 3.30-4.00pm
- **11<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Britto Class Meet The Teacher 3.30-4.00pm
- **18<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Y6 PGL Parents Meeting 3.30 – 4.00pm
- **19<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Reception Class Group Photo
- **19<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Inflatables Fun Day 3:15pm
- **22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept** – Bikeability Level 1 & 2 – **Year 6**
- **23<sup>rd</sup> Sept** – RWI Reception Class Parents Meeting
- **6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Year 6 Residential Trip
- **17<sup>th</sup> Oct** – PTA Disco Times TBC
- **14<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Children In Need
- **21<sup>st</sup> Nov** – Flu Immunisation
- **21<sup>st</sup> Nov** – PTA Movie Night