

The Priory Press



5th December 2025

We have had a busy couple of weeks at school. Last Friday, our School Effectiveness Partner from the local authority observed around school and spoke with pupils. The report notes: *Pupils were very positive about their school experience and were able to share learning they had enjoyed. They commented that when they get stuck, there are adults available to help. Children were articulate and eager to talk about school.*

I look forward to seeing many of you at the PTA Christmas Fayre later today.

With warmest wishes, Ms Laver.

Pride of Priory

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

Britto – Lucia and Oliver M
Hepworth – Archie W and Sienna
Kusama – Elliott and George
Matisse – Spencer and James
Ringgold – Ira and Freddie
Warhol – George and Celestina

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

Britto – Hudson and Reuben
Hepworth – Mark and Isabella
Kusama – Marcie-Mae and Callum
Matisse – George R and Stanley
Ringgold – Charlie and Riana
Warhol – Oliver F and Matilda

Christmas Cards

If child would like to write Christmas cards for friends at school, they can post them in the school letter box, based in our library.

Elves will deliver the cards. Last posting date is **Wednesday 17th December.**



Matisse Class- Roman Day

Last week Matisse class enjoyed their immersive Roman day. The shields they created at home for this day, were wonderful and during the day they made, clay, fought Boudicca and even had time for a Roman feast!



School FAQs

Q How are children celebrated at school?

A - Verbal praise (specific and sincere)

Positive Notes sent home

Pride of Priory weekly certificates

Thank You Cards from the Headteacher

Butterfly Book for wider achievements

Dojo points (whole school trial from Jan 2026)

Weekly extra play for the class with the most speedy listening ticks.

Update for September 2027

We are pleased to let you know that the local authority has agreed to our request to increase our Reception intake. From September 2027, we will be able to offer 30 places each year, up from the current 20. This change reflects the steady growth of our school and will allow more families to join our community.

A great 'window' into our school is our Facebook and Instagram pages. Please consider following us.

@prioryprimaryschoolbicknacre



Attendance

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in

school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. DfE

Attendance below 95% is a concern and is monitored by the school.

Class attendance this week:

Britto – 95%

Hepworth – 96.8%

Kusama –100%!!!

Matisse – 93.9%

Ringgold – 93%

Warhol – 90.7%

Support Our School – Every Contribution Counts!

You can now donate to Priory Primary School via ParentPay.

No amount is too small – every penny goes directly towards enriching pupil learning and enhancing educational experiences.

Thank you for your continued support.



Thank you for Supporting Our School Through Our Amazon Wishlist!

Thank you to everyone who has purchased items from the school wish list. We are so pleased with the wonderful support we have received and very grateful the items when they arrive.

 Click here to view the wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/5PPZDjp>

Thank you for your continued support!



Arbor – Parental Consent & Personal Details Update

We kindly ask all parents and guardians to log in to their **Arbor** account to review and update **personal details, medical information** and **parental consents** for their child(ren).

Keeping this information accurate is essential for ensuring we can communicate with you effectively and provide the best care and support for your child. It only takes a few minutes and helps us stay compliant with data protection and safeguarding requirements.

Saturday Activity Club for Children & Young People with SEND

Looking for a fun, inclusive weekend activity? The Saturday Activity Club (run by Families InFocus Essex) offers sports, crafts, and play for children and young people aged 0–25 with SEND.

Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre
Saturdays, 3:30 pm–5:30 pm
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Find out more and book here:

<https://www.familiesinfocusessex.org.uk/event/saturday-activity-club-2-3>

For further information and to book email activityclub@fifessex.org.uk

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.



Christmas Productions

- **Britto and Hepworth** – 9th December at 9.15am & 10th December at 2pm
- **Kusama and Matisse** – 11th December at 5pm
- **Ringgold and Warhol** - 17th December at 5pm



Helping Reduce Illness in School This Winter

The *Education Hub* has published a helpful blog for both parents and staff:

“Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance.”

Read the guidance here:

[Education Hub Blog – Reducing the spread of illness this winter](#)

NHS Guidance: Is My Child Too Ill for School?

The NHS has produced a straightforward guide to help parents decide when children should stay at home and when they can attend school.

View the advice here:

[NHS Guidance: Is My Child Too Ill for School?](#)

Exciting Opportunity: Parent Gym Workshops at Our School!

We are exploring the possibility of hosting **Parent Gym workshops** for our school community. These sessions are designed to support parents in building confidence and practical skills for family life.

What is Parent Gym?

- A programme of **six weekly sessions**, each lasting **two hours**.
- Led by a trained **Parent Gym coach**.
- **Completely free of charge** for parents.

<https://parentgym.com/>

The workshops cover topics such as **communication, confidence**, and **creating a positive home environment**.

Next Steps

To make this happen, we need to know if there is enough interest. We require **12–20 parents** who are willing to commit to the full programme. Please click [here](#) to register your interest.

Dates for your diary

- **9th Dec – Reception & KS1** Christmas Production 9:15-10:15
 - **10th Dec – Reception & KS1** Christmas Production 14:00 – 15:00
 - **11th Dec – Kusama & Matisse** Christmas Production 17:00-18:00
 - **12th Dec – Rocksteady Concert** 14:20-15.00 (can bring own clothes to change into)
 - **17th Dec** – Reception & Year 6 NHS Height & Weight Checks
 - **17th Dec – Christmas Lunch** and **Christmas Jumper Day** with uniform
 - **17th Dec – Ringgold and Warhol** Christmas Production 17:00 – 18:00
 - **19th Dec** – Aladdin Panto – Whole School
 - **19th Dec – Last Day** – School Finishes at **14:45**
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- **5th Jan** – INSET Day
- **6th Jan** – Pupils return to school
- **27th Jan** – Year 5 & Reception Road Safety Workshop
- **6th Feb** – PTA Disco (info to be sent out)
- **11th Feb** – Year 4 Superstars to Melbourne

