

The Priory Press

19th December 2025



Wishing all our families a joyful and peaceful Christmas! May your holidays be filled with laughter, love, and special moments together.

As we celebrate, we also say a fond farewell to Mrs Harvey and Mrs Wilson—thank you both for your wonderful contributions to our school community.

In January, we look forward to welcoming Mr Cole to the Priory team. Please join me in making him feel at home. I'm excited for the year ahead and can't wait to see everyone back, refreshed and ready, on **Tuesday 6th January**. Enjoy the festivities and stay safe!

With warmest wishes, Ms Laver.

Pride of Priory

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

Britto – Sterling and Nova
Hepworth – Archie and Hudson
Kusama – Blake and Henry
Matisse – Henry and Sydney
Ringgold – Charlie, Nathan, Rose and Jay
Warhol – Ellis and Poppy

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

Britto – Logan and Bracken
Hepworth – Belle and Hellie
Kusama – Albert and Leo M
Matisse – Daniel and Locki
Ringgold – Kian and Penny
Warhol – Hal and Huey

World War II day

On Thursday, Warhol Class stepped back in time for an immersive World War II history day. The children took part in lots of drama activities, learned about rationing, and explored some of the vital work carried out at Bletchley Park during the war.

It was a fantastic way to bring history to life and deepen understanding of this important period.



Phonics

A big well done to all our children who recently completed their phonics assessments. We are delighted to share that every single child has made progress on their reading journey – a fantastic achievement!

Developing strong phonics skills is an important step towards building a lifelong love of reading, and we are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by our pupils.

We look forward to sharing this great news with our Read Write Inc. consultant, who will be visiting us in the first week back in January. Thank you to staff and pupils for all their hard work and commitment!

Read Write Inc.

Rocksteady concert

We really enjoyed the Rocksteady Music School concert last week – what an amazing experience for our pupils! The performances were full of energy and confidence, and it was fantastic to see how music can boost self-esteem and teamwork.

Who knows... we might have some rock stars of the future among us! 🎸
Find out more about Rocksteady at rocksteadymusicschool.com.



Christmas performances

A huge well done to all our classes for taking part in their different Christmas productions. Each performance was full of festive cheer and really made us all feel Christmassy!

Lots of hard work went into every show, and it truly paid off – we're all still humming the songs! Thank you to staff, pupils, and families for making these moments so special.

Christmas lunch

On Wednesday, as well as wearing our Christmas jumpers, pupils and staff enjoyed a traditional school Christmas lunch. A big thank you to Mrs. Sappleton and Miss Wilson for preparing such a delicious meal and creating a lovely festive atmosphere for everyone.

Panto

Today the whole school enjoyed our annual pantomime – and this year it was *Aladdin!*

The children had a fantastic time joining in with the fun and laughter.

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for funding this special treat. Your support makes these magical experiences possible for our pupils every year!

Kusama Class Mondays 5-Minute Read After School!

It has been fantastic to have so many families pop in for 5 minutes once they've collected their children to hear them read. It counts as one of your reads for the week and the class has been buzzing with the questions families ask as the children read, to understand what the book is about and what has happened.

Miss Baines is happy to continue in January, if Kusama Class would still like to come and read with their family in class. We've welcomed parents, grand -parents, siblings, even aunts and uncles!

It would be so easy, at this stage of your child's reading, as they become increasingly fluent and independent, to not listen to them read but it is just as important to support with their expression and to check their understanding as the texts have more complex vocabulary and to be able to ask when things don't make sense.

Keep up the reading over the holiday - 5 minutes peace and quiet!

Thank you for your continued support.



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 96% is a concern and is monitored by the school.

Class attendance this week:

Britto – 88%

Hepworth – 94%

Kusama – 96%

Matisse – 82%

Ringgold – 92%

Warhol – 88%

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 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.

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.



Dates for your diary

- **6th Jan** – Pupils return to school
- **8th Jan** - Y5 Ignition Arts Mental Health Workshop
- **15th Jan** – Reception 2026 Admissions Deadline
- **26th Jan** – Reception & Y3 NHS Dental Check Up
- **27th Jan** – Year 5 & Reception Road Safety Workshop – Reception 2:15pm
- **6th Feb** – PTA Disco (TBC)

