

# The Priory Press



16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Welcome back to a brand-new term at Priory Primary School! We hope all our families enjoyed a restful break and are ready for an exciting start to the year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping children arrive on time and attend every day—good attendance really does make a difference.

We're looking forward to a term full of learning, growth and new opportunities for every child. Let's make it a great one together!

With warmest wishes, Ms Laver.

## **Pride of Priory**

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

Britto – Lucia and Beauden  
Hepworth – Sienna and Fenton  
Kusama – Harry and Erin  
Matisse – Grace and Stanley  
Ringgold – Nancy and Charlie  
Warhol – Harry and Christian

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

Britto – Freddie and Millie  
Hepworth – Remi and Aveda  
Kusama – Olivia and Freddie  
Matisse – Amelia and Mason  
Ringgold – Jay and Seren  
Warhol – Huey

## **Reminder: Please Bring a Raincoat**



As part of our commitment to outdoor learning and regular fresh-air breaks, we aim to go outside at lunchtime even if there is light drizzle.

Please ensure your child brings a raincoat to school each day so they can enjoy outdoor time comfortably and safely.

Fresh air and movement play an important role in supporting wellbeing and learning—thank you for helping us make this possible!

## **Free KS2 learning and 11+ preparation**



We work in partnership with [Atom Learning](#), the leading online Key Stage 2 learning and 11+ preparation platform, to provide children in Years 3-6 who are eligible for Pupil Premium with free Atom Home accounts. Atom Home is normally £575.90 per year.

Atom Home provides Key Stage 2 learning resources, helping children build exam technique, subject mastery and academic confidence.

If your child is aged between 7 - 11 and has been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (please check with the school office if you are not sure), please fill in the form by clicking the button below.

For other families, there is a five-day free trial of Atom available:  
<https://atomlearning.com/11-plus>

## **Ignition Arts**

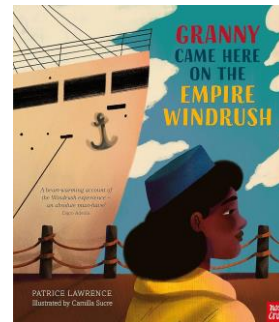
Our Ringgold class enjoyed a wonderful visit from Harriet at Ignition Arts this week. Through imaginative drama and storytelling, the children explored positive self-identity, built their self-esteem, and learned the importance of valuing and respecting others. Harriet's sessions, running throughout this half-term, create a safe space for pupils to recognise their strengths, express themselves confidently, and celebrate the diverse voices in our class. The children loved every minute and are excited for the weeks ahead!



## **Collaborative Learning**

This week, Matisse Class have been learning about the Windrush generation through the book *Granny Came Here on the Empire Windrush*. As part of their research, they called upon our very own in-house experts—Warhol Class! Having recently studied *Windrush Boy*, Warhol pupils shared what they had learned from their text, helping Matisse Class build a richer understanding of this important part

of British history. It was wonderful to see such collaborative learning across the school.



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 – 98%
- Hepworth – 96%
- Kusama – 100%
- Matisse – 85%
- Ringgold – 94%
- Warhol – 92%

## School Uniform Reminder

We would like to remind families of Priory Primary School's uniform policy. Wearing the correct school uniform helps to create a strong sense of community and ensures all children feel a sense of belonging to Priory Primary.

### Hair and accessories

- Hair accessories should be plain **black, white, brown or blue** only.
- Children will be asked to remove any accessories outside of these colours.
- Shoulder-length hair or longer **must be tied back**.

### School uniform

- Blue jumper or cardigan with embroidered logo
- Blue polo shirt (with or without embroidered logo)
- Grey school trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or tunic (**no leggings or jogging bottoms**)
- Grey or white socks, or grey tights
- Blue checked summer dress\*
  - *Optional – may be worn after Easter until October half term*

### Additional items

- Sun hat/cap or woolly hat when required
- Coats suitable for the weather (e.g. winter coats). Coats must have a loop and fit easily on school coat pegs
- Black school shoes (**trainers, open-toed shoes, sling-back shoes and high heels are not permitted**)

## ClassDojo Information for Parents

We would like to let all parents and carers know that **ClassDojo is used within school only**, as a tool to promote and reward positive behaviour, effort, and attitudes to learning.

Parents will **not have access** to ClassDojo. Keeping the system school-based ensures a consistent approach to recognising positive behaviour and supports our whole-school behaviour policy.

We also want to maintain **clear and effective communication** with parents. By limiting the number of communication platforms, we can avoid confusion about the best way to share messages between home and school.

## Nut-Free / Tree Nut-Free School Policy

A friendly reminder that our school is a **no nut / no tree nut** environment.



For the safety of all students, **any type of nuts and tree nuts are not permitted on school grounds**. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Peanuts
- Tree nuts (such as almonds, walnuts, cashews, pistachios, hazelnuts)
- **Pine nuts**
- Any foods containing nuts or nut products (such as chocolate spreads, pesto spreads and etc.)

We ask that you carefully check ingredient labels on snacks, lunches, and treats sent to school.

## 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.

## 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

- **21<sup>st</sup> Jan** – Britto Reception Reading Meeting 15:30 – 16:00
- **26<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Reception & Y3 NHS Dental Check Up
- **27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 5 & Reception Road Safety Workshop – Reception 2:15pm
- **6<sup>th</sup> Feb** – PTA Disco (TBC)
- **9<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Y3 DT Helping Hands –Y3 Parents/Grandparents welcome to help 9am
- **10<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Open Afternoon (tbc) 3pm – 4pm
- **11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Y4 Superstars
- **12<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Y3 & Y4 Parents Multiplication Workshop 9am – 9:40am
- **16<sup>th</sup> Feb -20<sup>th</sup> Feb** – **HALF TERM**
- **23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – Pupils Return
- **24<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Teddy Lympics (info to be sent)
- **5<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day
- **13<sup>th</sup> March** – Y3/4 Viking Day
- **18<sup>th</sup> March** -KS2 Cross Country Event (info to be sent) 3:30 – 5pm
- **20<sup>th</sup> March** – Red Nose Day – Crazy Uniform Day
- **20<sup>th</sup> March** – Rocksteady Concert 2:20pm – 3:15pm
- **24<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent Consultation Evening
- **26<sup>th</sup> March** - Parent Consultation Evening
- **27<sup>th</sup> March** – **Last Day**
- **30<sup>th</sup> March -13<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Break / Inset Day
- **14<sup>th</sup> April** – Pupils Return
- **21<sup>st</sup> April** – Group Class Photos
- **22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Earth Day – Recycling Fashion Show (info to be sent)

