

The Priory Press



13th February 2026

Welcome to a bumper edition of our newsletter!

We are now halfway through the school year, and life at Priory continues to be lively, purposeful and full of great learning. Our school is always busy, always striving to be the very best we can be, and this newsletter reflects just how much has been happening across our community.

Inside, you'll find a wide range of updates, celebrations and highlights from recent weeks. We hope you enjoy catching up on everything our pupils and staff have been working on.

Wishing you all a **lovely, refreshing half-term break** — and we invite you to read on for a full update on life at Priory.

With warmest wishes, Ms Laver.

Pride of Priory

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

Britto – Isla and Esme
Hepworth – Isabella and Jude
Kusama – Erin and Freddie
Matisse – Emily S and Imogen
Ringgold – Gwen and Bella
Warhol – Eviee and Macie-Mae

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

Britto – Tiberius and Rosa
Hepworth – Grayson and Teddy
Kusama – Elliott and Blake
Matisse – Harry and Florence
Ringgold – Joshua and Eva
Warhol – Isabella and Hal

Year 4 Superstars

We are incredibly proud of Matisse Class, who travelled to Chelmsford this week to compete in the annual Superstars Competition.

Their behaviour was impeccable, and they demonstrated excellent sporting integrity throughout the day. Every pupil represented our school with pride, determination, and enthusiasm. We are delighted to share that Matisse Class finished:

🏆 3rd on the day

★ 7th overall out of 45 schools taking part in the full event!

This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work, resilience, and team spirit shown by all the children. Well done, Matisse Class — you are superstars! 🌟👏



Upcoming Sporting Competitions

We are pleased to share an update on the wide range of sporting events our pupils will be taking part in over the coming months. These events not only promote fitness and teamwork but also give our children the opportunity to compete alongside each other and against other local schools, building confidence and community spirit.

- Cross Country – Pupils test their stamina in a long-distance run with other local schools.
- Key Stage 1 Fun Run – A joyful event where younger pupils enjoy running alongside nearby schools.
- Mini Wimbledon – Children take part in friendly tennis matches, developing skill, coordination and fair play.
- Kwik Cricket – Year 5 and 6 teams play fast-paced cricket matches, building teamwork and game awareness.
- District Sports – A highlight of the year, with pupils competing in a range of athletics events against district schools.

Our upcoming events include:

- Teddy 'Lympics – Our next and most playful event! Designed especially for our youngest pupils, this fun set of teddy-themed activities will take place in school on 24th February, led by Mandy from the Chelmsford Schools Sports Partnership.



Atom Learning – KS2 Home learning platform

Over the coming weeks, KS2 will be transitioning to Atom Learning as our new home learning platform. This move will help us further support pupils with adaptive, engaging, and personalised learning tasks across English, maths, and reasoning.

A big thank you to all families who attended the information session led by Mr Cole.

If you were unable to join us, the presentation slides have been emailed to all KS2 families.

World Book Day

We are delighted to be celebrating World Book Day in school on Thursday 5th March 2026. This day is a wonderful opportunity to promote a love of books and reading, helping children discover stories that spark imagination and joy.

To keep the day fun and accessible for everyone, dressing up is entirely optional. We understand the pressures that costumes can place on families, so there is absolutely no expectation to buy or create anything new.

Children are welcome to:

- Dress as a favourite book character, *if they wish*, and bring the book their character appears in, or
- Come in their pyjamas and bring a favourite 'bedtime story',
- Or simply come in school uniform and still take part fully in the day's activities.

Throughout the day, pupils will enjoy a range of book-themed activities designed to encourage reading for pleasure and celebrate the joy of stories.

Matisse and Kusama – multiplication morning

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the multiplication workshop this week. It was lovely to see families taking part and spending time learning together. We appreciate you making the effort to come along and hope the session helped build confidence in supporting your child with their maths at home. The calm, positive atmosphere made it a really enjoyable workshop for everyone involved. Your continued support is greatly valued, and we look forward to welcoming you to future events as we work together to help the children develop their skills.

The role of our Governors

Recent survey feedback shows that some members of our school community are unsure about the role of our Governors and how they support the school's work. The short video below explains what they do, and how they help shape the strategic direction of the school. To learn more specifically about our school, click the link to our Governor Webpage.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to Governor Webpage](#)

We hope this helps everyone better understand the important contribution our Governors make.

New after school clubs

We are delighted to announce two new clubs starting this term:

- **Cross Country Club** on Mondays- Led by Mrs Lavender-Mitchell, offering pupils the chance to build stamina and enjoy running outdoors.
- **Mixed Football Club** – Run by Super Star Sport on Thursdays, giving pupils the opportunity to develop skills, teamwork, and confidence on the pitch. [Book Here](#)

School FAQ: How do I know what my child is learning?

We provide a range of ways to help you stay informed and involved in your child's learning throughout the year:

Class Webpages – Each class has its own webpage outlining the learning for the term.

Meet the Teacher Events – Held at the start of the school year to share curriculum plans and expectations.

Parent Meetings and Workshops – Offered throughout the year to help you understand how we teach key subjects and how you can support at home.

Open Afternoons – Termly opportunities to visit your child's classroom and informally share their learning together.

Parent Consultation Evenings – Held twice a year to discuss progress, strengths and next steps.

End-of-Year Report – A comprehensive summary of your child's achievements and progress.

Midday Assistant Needed – Summer Term (Wednesdays)

We are looking for a Midday Assistant to join our team on Wednesdays during the Summer term. The role involves helping to supervise pupils in the dining hall and playground, encouraging positive play, and supporting a calm, safe lunchtime environment.

If you are reliable, caring, and enjoy working with children, we would love to hear from you. Full guidance will be provided.

To apply or find out more, please contact the school office.



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 – 93.5%
Hepworth – 88.5%
Kusama – 94.4%
Matisse – 93.4%
Ringgold – 96.9%
Warhol – 96.1%

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

- **16th Feb -20th Feb – HALF TERM**
- **23rd Feb** – Pupils Return
- **24th Feb** – Teddy Lympics - Reception & Year 1 (info to be sent)
- **1st March** – Year 6 October Residential 3rd instalment payment due
- **5th March** – World Book Day
- **13th March** – Y3/4 Viking Day
- **18th March** -KS2 Cross Country Event (info to be sent) 3:30 – 5pm
- **20th March** – Red Nose Day – Crazy Uniform Day
- **20th March** – Rocksteady Concert 2:20pm – 3:15pm
- **24th March** – Parent Consultation Evening
- **26th March** - Parent Consultation Evening
- **27th March – Last Day**
- **1st April** - Year 6 October Residential 4th instalment payment due
- **30th March -13th April** – Easter Break / Inset Day
- **14th April** – Pupils Return
- **21st April** – Group Class Photos
- **22nd April** – Earth Day – Recycling Fashion Show (info to be sent)

