

20th March 2026

This week, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Adams to our school community. She will be joining us as our new SENCo and will also be teaching Year 5 on Fridays, beginning her work with us straight after the Easter break. We are very much looking forward to the expertise and support she will bring to the team.

You may already be aware that the astro surface has now reached the end of its life, and we are in the process of gathering quotes and exploring a range of funding options to move forward with its replacement. This is an important project for us, and we will keep you updated as plans progress. We are hopeful that, once the weather improves after Easter, we will be able to return to using the field more regularly.

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Ms Laver

Pride of Priory

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

Britto – Esme and Oliver

Hepworth – Freddie and Albie

Kusama – Phoebe and Penny

Matisse – George R and Stanley

Ringgold – Angel

Warhol – Lenny and Tate.

Parent Group

Thank you to all the families who are attending sessions led by Jane and Christine from Grow, focusing on supporting positive behaviour and building strong, nurturing relationships at home. Jane and Christine have said they are grateful for the engagement and thoughtful discussions that take place. If there is enough interest, we would be happy to run these sessions again in the future, as they provide valuable strategies and a space for families to share experiences and support one another.



Cross Country

Our cross-country team did a fantastic job today. As the smallest school with the smallest team, they still showed outstanding sporting spirit, resilience and camaraderie throughout the event. Each runner gave their best, supported one another and represented the school with real determination. Their positive attitude stood out just as much as their performance on the course. We were especially proud to see Anais, Locki and Macie win medals, which is a well-deserved reflection of their effort and teamwork. It was a great achievement for a small but

committed group of pupils, and we couldn't be prouder of them.



History Day

Kusama and Matisse classes enjoyed an immersive Viking History Day, taking part in a wonderful range of hands-on activities.

Throughout the day, pupils created jewellery, shaped and decorated their own clay pots, tried their hand at traditional weaving, and even made candles using methods inspired by the Viking era.

One of the highlights was the lively "soldier training," where children learned about life in a Viking settlement through role-play and teamwork.

A huge thank you to our volunteer parents, whose time and support helped make this memorable experience possible for the children. We truly appreciate your contribution.



Rocksteady Concert

Thank you to every who attended or performed in the Rocksteady Concert today. As ever, we are grateful to our bandleader, Liv who works with our pupils every Friday to rehearse these pieces, building self-confidence and perform skills.



Delicious Dojos

This Friday – and every Friday – the children with the most Dojo points in each class will enjoy Hot Chocolate with Mr Cole and Ms Laver! It's a lovely way to celebrate positive choices, hard work and kindness across the school. We can't wait to see who will be joining them this week... who will it be?



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 – 98.5%
Hepworth – 98.5%
Kusama –96.3%
Matisse – 95.5%
Ringgold – 91.9%
Warhol – 96.6%

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!

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.



Moving Payments, Meal Bookings, Clubs & Trips to Arbor

We are pleased to inform you that we are moving all school payments, meal bookings, clubs, and trip management over to **Arbor**. This change will allow everything to be managed in one place, making it easier for you to stay organised throughout the school year.

We will stop using Parent Pay from April, however you can start booking meals, clubs and trips on Arbor from today, including Y6 residential.

Please clear any outstanding payments before April.

You are now able to:

- **Book meals for the Summer term**
- **Book and pay for clubs - Art Club - Summer Term 1**
- **Book and pay for trips** all through the Arbor Parent Portal or Arbor App.

We understand that moving to a new system can take some time to get used to. If you need any assistance with logging in, navigating Arbor, or making bookings and payments, please contact the school office, we are very happy to help.

Meal Bookings

To order your child's lunch, **you must top up their account first.** Meal choices cannot be saved until there is enough credit on the account. Please ensure that you **pre-book your child's meals in advance.**

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/6956696271261-Meal-Menu-choices-on-the-Parent-Portal-or-Parent-App>

Clubs

To book your child into a club:

1. Navigate to your child's **main dashboard** on Arbor.
2. Scroll down to the **Activities** section.
3. Follow the on-screen steps to sign up.

For additional guidance, please visit the Arbor Parent Help page:

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360008179494-Signing-my-child-up-for-a-Club-on-the-Parent-Portal-or-Parent-App>

Trips

Trips can also be found under the **Activities** section, alongside clubs.

Please follow the instructions on the Parent Help page to book and pay for trips:

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360008180414-Signing-my-child-up-for-a-Trip-on-the-Parent-Portal-or-the-Parent-App>

For more parent support:

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/sections/12209476383517-Parent-Portal-and-App-Payments-School-Shop-Meals-Clubs-and-Trips>



Dates for your diary

- **24th March** – Parent Consultation Evening
- **26th March** - Parent Consultation Evening
- **27th March – Last Day – Finish 3pm**
- **30th March -13th April** – Easter Break / Inset Day
- **14th April** – Pupils Return
- **1st April** - Year 6 October Residential 4th instalment payment due
- **14th April** – Pupils Return
- **15th April** -KS1 Fun Run at St Francis School Maldon 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- **20th – 23rd April** – Book Fair 3.20pm – 3.50pm
- **21st April** – Group Class Photos
- **22nd April** – Earth Day – Info Sent
- **23rd April** – Year 1 – Phonics screening meeting for parents
- **4th May** – Bank Holiday
- **11th – 14th May** – Y6 SAT's Week
- **15th May** – PTA Disco (times tbc)
- **18th May** – PTA Priory Bake Off
- **21st May** – Mini World Cup Y1 & Y2
- **21st May – Last Day – Finish 3pm**
- **25th – 29th May – HALF TERM**
- **1st June** – Pupils Return
- **8th June** – District Sports Field Events – 4pm – 5.30pm
- **15th June** - District Sports Track Events – 1pm – 3.30pm
- **15th – 19th June** – PTA Father's Day Sale
- **16th June – Whole School Trip – Parent Volunteers Needed**

