

The Priory Press

4th September 2026

Welcome Back to the Autumn Term

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week and to see such a positive start to the new academic year. The children have returned with enthusiasm and have settled quickly into their new classes and routines. Classrooms are already filled with busy learning, smiling faces and a real sense of purpose.

A special welcome goes to those children and families who have joined our school community this term. We hope you feel very much at home at Priory.

Thank you to our staff, pupils and families for helping to make the start of term such a success. We are looking forward to an exciting autumn term ahead, filled with learning opportunities, memorable experiences and plenty of reasons to celebrate.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Ms Laver

Pride of Priory

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

Britto – Esme & Oliver

Hepworth – Bracken & Freddie

Matisse – Rafe & Marcie

Ringgold – Henry & Amelia

Warhol – Kenzie & Rose



Priory is 50!

On Friday **18th September**, we'll be celebrating a very special milestone as Priory turns 50!

We have a fun-filled day planned for the children, with lots of activities taking place throughout the school day to mark the occasion. The celebrations will then continue after school with the PTA's popular Bounce Back to School event. To help us get into the party spirit, children are invited to come to school in **non-uniform**, with a **touch of gold or even something inspired by the 1970s**, the decade when Priory first opened its doors!

We're looking forward to a fantastic day celebrating 50 years of Priory with our school community. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon. 🍷 🎉 🏠

Meet the Teacher Meetings – See Dates for your Diary

Our Meet the Teacher meetings will take place after school next week. Parents and carers are warmly invited to come into their child's classroom for a short session with the class teacher. These meetings are a great opportunity to find out more about the year ahead, including curriculum expectations, behaviour and routines, home learning, reading, PE arrangements and ways you can support your child's learning at home. Teachers will also share important information about the daily organisation of the class and key things to remember throughout the school year.

We hope as many families as possible will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you there.

Willow Trees on the field

You may have noticed that the willow trees on the field have been cut down over the summer. Following some particularly windy weather, it became clear that the trees had reached the end of their natural life and were becoming a safety concern.

Our Site Manager, Mr Woollard, acted quickly to make the area safe and the remaining branches and debris will be removed shortly.

Whilst we're sorry to lose such a familiar feature of the school grounds, safety has to come first. We're now starting to think about what might replace them and would like to create something that provides shade, supports play and learning, and enhances the field for future generations of Priory children.

The Butterfly Book

At Priory, we love celebrating the many talents and achievements of our children, both in and out of school. Our Butterfly Book is a special place where children can record accomplishments from their lives beyond the classroom.

If your child achieves something outside of school, we would love to hear about it! They are welcome to write about their achievement in the Butterfly Book. During our Pride of Priory Assembly each Friday, we celebrate these achievements together as a school. 🌸🦋



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 – 95%

Hepworth – 98%

Matisse – 90%

Ringgold – 95%

Warhol – 97%

Booking School Dinners

We would like to remind parents and carers to please ensure your child's school meals are booked in advance via **Arbor**. We have noticed an increased number of children having school dinners that have not been booked. Thank you for your support in helping us manage school meals effectively.

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.

Term Time Holidays – Important Information for families

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

- **7th Sep** – Meet the teacher – Warhol – 15:15-16:00
- **8th Sep** – Meet the teacher – Matisse - 15:15-16:00
- **9th Sep** – Meet the teacher – Ringgold - 15:15-16:00
- **10th Sep** – Meet the teacher- Hepworth - 15:15-16:00
- **11th Sep** - Meet the teacher – Britto - 15:15-16:00
- **14th Sep** – Y6 Bikeability Group 1
- **15th Sep** – Y6 Bikeability Group 2
- **16th Sep** - Y6 Bikeability Group 3
- **18th Sep** - PTA Bounce Back To School-Non uniform-Gold or 70's inspired-Donate a bottle
- **21st Sep** – Reception Class 2026 Fun Photo- Register Online
- **23rd Sep** -SEND Coffee Morning 9:00-10:30
- **5th – 9th Oct** – Y6 Residential – No Art Club This Week
- **9th Oct** – Hello Yellow – Wear Yellow for World Mental Health Day
- **16th Oct** – PTA Halloween Disco (times tbc)
- **23rd Oct**- Harvest Donations Collection Deadline
- **26th -31st Oct- Half Term Week**
- **2nd Nov- Non Pupil Day**
- **3rd Nov** – Pupils Return To School
- **6th Nov** – Non Uniform Day – Hamper Donations
- **10th Nov**- Individual & Sibling Photos
- **10th Nov** – Parents Evening
- **12th Nov** – Parents Evening
- **16th Nov** – Odd Sock Day – Antibullying Week