

The Priory Press

18th September 2026



It has been a real pleasure to see the children settle so positively into the new school year.

We have been particularly delighted with how well our Reception children have settled into school life. They have approached their first days at Priory with confidence and enthusiasm, making new friends, learning the daily routines and already showing what fantastic learners they are. We are very proud of them and grateful to their families for supporting this important milestone.

The children across the school have returned eager to learn, and it has been wonderful to see such positive attitudes, excellent behaviour and a genuine excitement for the year ahead. Whether in lessons, on the playground or around school, there has been a real sense of community and purpose.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to an exciting term filled with memorable experiences, new challenges and lots of opportunities to celebrate success together.

Ms Laver
Headteacher

Pride of Priory

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

Britto – Lucia & Nyx
Hepworth – Beauden & Amelia
Matisse – Jacob & Jude
Ringgold – Ruby & Spencer
Warhol – Josh & Arabella

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

Britto – Olivia & Kaya
Hepworth – Amos & Millie
Matisse – Freddie C & Ava
Ringgold – Imogen & George
Warhol – Riana & Hugo

Coffee Morning – Supporting Child Anxiety

Join us on **Wednesday 23rd September, 9.00am to 10.30am**, for a SEND Coffee Morning led by **Emotionally Healthy Minds**.

This free workshop will focus on supporting children with anxiety and will provide practical advice and strategies for parents and carers. It is a fantastic opportunity to hear from experienced professionals and learn more about promoting positive emotional wellbeing.

We are fortunate to be hosting EMH and would encourage anyone who can attend to come along.

All parents and carers are welcome.



**EMOTIONALLY
HEALTHY MINDS®**

Happy 50th Birthday, Priory Primary!

Today we are proud to celebrate 50 years of Priory Primary School. Since opening in 1976, generations of pupils, families and staff have helped make our school the special community it is today. We look forward to continuing our journey together for many years to come. 🎉🍰





☆ 50 Years of Learning, Growing and Achieving Together ☆



School Council Elections

Democracy has been in action at Priory, with children across the school casting their votes to elect this year's School Council representatives.

We are delighted that **The Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP** will be visiting Priory on **2nd October** to present our newly elected councillors with their badges. During his visit, pupils will have the opportunity to learn more about democracy and the role of Parliament, as well as take part in a question-and-answer session.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming him to Priory and celebrating the important role that pupil voice plays within our school community.



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 – 92%

Hepworth – 94%

Matisse – 93%

Ringgold – 86%

Warhol – 96%



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.





Supporting Pupils with Allergies

We are delighted to share that Priory Primary School now has a Kitt Medical Anaphylaxis Kit on site.

The kit provides emergency adrenaline pens and supports staff in responding quickly and effectively should a severe allergic reaction occur. As allergies become increasingly common, this is another important step in helping to keep our pupils safe.

If your child has an allergy, please ensure the school has up-to-date medical information, care plans and any prescribed medication so we can provide the best possible support.

Together, we can help keep all our children safe and well.

Food Allergies in School

Previously, we have referred to our school as being “nut-free”. We are moving away from this wording, in line with current allergy guidance, as it is not possible to guarantee or enforce a completely nut-free environment when food is brought into school from home.

Children can also have allergies to many different foods, not just nuts, so rather than focusing on banning one particular allergen, our approach is to manage all known allergies and minimise the risk of accidental exposure and cross-contamination.

We therefore ask all parents and carers to continue to be mindful of nuts and other allergens when preparing packed lunches, snacks or food to bring into school.

This does not mean that we are encouraging nuts to be brought into school, but rather that we are taking a wider approach to allergy awareness and safety for all of our pupils.

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.



PTA Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for their continued support, hard work and dedication to Priory Primary School.

Our PTA gives countless hours of their time to organise events, support school activities and raise vital funds that directly benefit our children. Their enthusiasm, commitment and generosity help provide additional resources, experiences and opportunities that enrich school life for all pupils.

We are incredibly grateful for everything they do behind the scenes and at the heart of our school community. ✨



Dates for your diary

- **21st Sep** – Reception Class 2026 Fun Photo
- **22nd Sept** – RWInc Phonics Reception Parents Meeting 15:15
- **23rd Sep** -SEND Coffee Morning 9:00-10:30
- **5th – 9th Oct** – Y6 Residential
- **6th Oct** – **No Art Club**
- **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 – Donations for Christmas Hamper
- **10th Nov**- Individual & Sibling Photos
- **10th Nov** – Parents Evening
- **12th Nov** – Parents Evening
- **16th Nov** – Odd Sock Day – Antibullying Week
- **26th Nov** – Years 3&4 Colchester Castle Trip
- **4th Dec** – PTA Christmas Fayre
- **9th Dec** – EYFS & KS1 Christmas Production 14:00
- **11th Dec** – Rocksteady Christmas Concert 14:20
- **16th Dec** – Christmas Lunch
- **16th Dec** – KS2 Christmas Production 16:45 – 18:00
- **18th Dec** – **Last Day – School Finishes 14:45**
- **4th Jan** – **Inset Day- Non Pupil Day**