

The Priory Press

16th October 2026



Over the past few weeks, there has been much to celebrate at Priory. Our Year 6 pupils returned from their residential having shown tremendous resilience, teamwork and determination, while children across the school continue to impress visitors with their positive attitudes and enthusiasm for learning. It was particularly pleasing to hear such positive feedback from our new School Effectiveness Partner, who commented on the warm welcome he received from our pupils and how quickly they settled to their learning.

As we approach half-term, I would like to thank all members of our school community for their continued support. Whether completing surveys, supporting fundraising events, attending school events or simply encouraging your children each day, your partnership plays a vital role in making Priory such a special place. I am incredibly proud of what we continue to achieve together and look forward to a busy and exciting second half of the autumn term.

Ms Laver
Headteacher

Pride of Priory

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

Britto – Lexie-Jean and Nova
Hepworth – Logan and Grayson
Matisse – Ronnie and Erin
Ringgold – Jackson and Grace

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

Britto – Ava and Alfie
Hepworth – Belle and Oliver
Matisse – Elliott and Ronnie
Ringgold – Mason and Sydney
Warhol – Penny and Ezra

Farewell to Mrs Gray & Welcome to Mrs Annetts

Next Tuesday, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Gray. We would like to thank her for her dedication, kindness and commitment to our school community over the years. She has made a huge difference to the lives of many children and families and will be greatly missed by everyone at Priory. We wish her every success and happiness for the future.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Annetts to the Priory team. Mrs Annetts has been working alongside Mrs Gray as part of a smooth handover and we look forward to her becoming a familiar face for our children and families. We know she will receive a very warm Priory welcome.

Meet Our New Headteacher

As many of you know, Mr Hancock, who will be taking up the post of Headteacher in January, spent time at Priory this week getting to know the school. He greatly enjoyed meeting staff and pupils and was delighted by the warm welcome he received.

Mr Hancock will be visiting again after half term and is looking forward to spending more time with our school community as he prepares to join Priory in January.



Harvest Challenge: Building a Herd!

This Harvest, we are raising money for the World In Need International "Pay It Forward" goat scheme, helping families around the world gain access to milk, income and future opportunities.

Staff will be collecting donations on the school gates each morning from 15th to 23rd October, and donations can also be made via the Arbor School Shop.

Our challenge is simple: How many goats can Priory buy before half-term?

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Visit from Our School Effectiveness Partner

We were pleased to welcome Daniel Fox, our new Essex School Effectiveness Partner, to Priory for his first visit this week. During his time in school, he commented on the warm and welcoming nature of our pupils and was particularly impressed by how quickly they settled to their learning tasks.

We look forward to working closely with Mr Fox over the coming months as we continue our journey of school improvement.

Prospective Parent Tours

Choosing the right school for your child is an important decision, and we are always delighted to welcome prospective parents and families to Priory. School tours provide a great opportunity to see our learning environment in action, meet staff and pupils, and find out more about what makes our school special.

To book a tour, please visit our website: **www.priory.essex.sch.uk**. We look forward to meeting you and showing you around our wonderful school.

Year 6 Residential

Our Year 6 pupils had a fantastic time on their recent residential visit. Throughout the trip, the children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience and determination, stepping out of their comfort zones and supporting one another every step of the way.

The residential provided countless opportunities to develop teamwork, independence and confidence, and we were incredibly proud of how our pupils represented Priory.

A huge thank you must also go to our dedicated staff team, who gave up their time to make the experience possible. Their commitment and care helped create memories that will last a lifetime for our children.

School Dinner Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent school dinner survey. We received a fantastic response and greatly value the feedback provided by pupils and families.

We have carefully considered your comments and suggestions, and we are pleased to say that some changes to the menu will be introduced soon. We hope these improvements will make school meals even more enjoyable for our children. Thank you for helping us shape this important part of school life.

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 – 97%

Matisse – 96%

Ringgold – 97%

Warhol – 94%

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.



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.



Lunch Menu

 Week 2 Autumn Term Menu 2026 07/09 – 21/09 – 05/10 – 19/09 					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Picnic Day	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Katsu Curry (sauce on the side)	Ham Sandwich	Chicken Nuggets	Fish Fingers
Vegetarian	Creamy Tomato Pasta	Quorn Pieces Katsu Curry (sauce on the side)	Cheese Sandwich	Veggie Nuggets	Veggie Fingers
Lighter Bite	Jacket Potato or Baguette	Jacket Potato or Baguette	Tuna Sandwich	Jacket Potato or Baguette	Jacket Potato or Baguette
On the Side	Sweetcorn, Salad Bar, Bread & Butter	Plain Boiled Rice, Salad Bar, Bread & Butter	Mini Sausage Rolls Mini Scotch Eggs, Crisps	Crispy Cubed Potatoes, Salad Bar, Bread & Butter	Chips, Baked Beans, Salad Bar, Bread & Butter
Dessert	Fresh Fruit Platter, Yoghurt	Peaches & Cream	Lollies Fruit	Lemon Drizzle Cake Fruit	Fresh Fruit Platter




Dates for your diary

- **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
- **9th – 12th Nov** – Book Fair – 3.20 – 3.50pm
- **10th Nov-** Individual & Sibling Photos
- **10th Nov** – Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm
- **12th Nov** – Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm
- **16th Nov** – Odd Sock Day – Antibullying Week
- **20th Nov** – Children In Need
- **26th Nov** – Year 3&4 Colchester Castle Trip
- **4th Dec** – PTA Winter Fayre
- **10th Dec** – **EYFS & KS1** Christmas Concert 9.15-9.45am
- **11th Dec** – **Rocksteady** Concert 2.20-3.00pm
- **15th Dec** – Reception + Y6 Height and Weight Check
- **16th Dec** -Christmas Lunch – Must Be Booked on ARBOR
- **16th Dec** – **KS2** Christmas Concert 4.45pm
- **18th Dec- School Ends at 2.45pm**
- **5th Jan** – Pupils Return to School