

PRIORY COMMON SCHOOL

AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER 2025

We take **Pride**, we **Care**, we are **Successful**

Message from Head of School



Dear Priory Common School Community,

I am delighted to share with you some wonderful updates from Priory Common School as we settle into the new academic year.

We have had an excellent start to the term, and I want to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to all who attended our first Parent/Carer Consultation of the year. Your engagement and support are invaluable to our school community.



I am particularly excited to celebrate a significant milestone this September - the opening of our new Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Unit, called The Oak. This is an important addition to our school that will support and nurture even more of our pupils.

A warm welcome goes out to our new pupils and their families who have joined us in Reception, The Oak, and across the school. It has been wonderful to see how quickly everyone has settled in. The positive behaviour we have observed is truly remarkable and

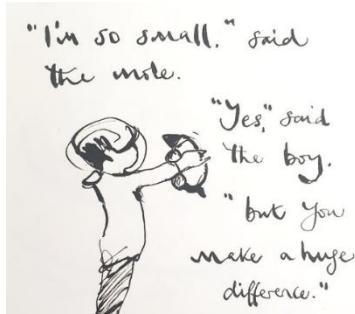
has already translated into obvious progress across all classes. This early success is a testament to the hard work of our pupils and staff.

As we continue to grow and improve, we would love to hear your thoughts. We are asking all parents and carers to complete our first [school questionnaire](#) of the year. Your feedback is crucial in helping us understand how we are doing and where we can enhance our provision. Your ongoing commitment to our school community is what makes Priory Common such a special place to learn and grow.

PCS Parent / Carer Questionnaire
Autumn Term (October) 2025



Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's educational journey.



With warmest regards,
Gill Cash
Head of School



Curriculum and Teaching

Rabbits Class The Oak



In Writing this term, we have shared many sensory stories for the children to participate in and to help promote their excitement and engagement for reading. We have encouraged the children to improve their handwriting by focusing on their fine-motor skills and letter formation. Our English lessons have been based on the story 'Billy Goats Gruff'



In Maths we have been working on different number skills, this includes recognising numbers and representing these in different ways, counting to and from a given number and working on addition and matching skills.

In Art and Design, we have been learning to explore media and materials through imitating actions observed. We have also been learning to use various tools and techniques confidently.



Hedgehogs Class Reception Year

Hedgehogs This is Me!

Literacy:

We have started to learn our phonic sounds using the Read Write Inc scheme. We are beginning to blend words to help us read and segment words to help us write.

Mathematics:

The children have been practising matching and sorting objects based on attributes such as their colour, size and shape. They have also compared sets of objects and amounts using the language of more and fewer.

Understanding the World:

We have explored the similarities and differences between ourselves and others and to learn that there are different communities we belong to such as school, family and local communities.

People, Culture and Communities:

We have familiarised ourselves with the classroom and school environments and can describe key features of these areas. We have also been learning about people who help us.

The Natural World:

We have explored the natural world around us and observed changes in the leaves as we entered Autumn.



Squirrels Class Year 1



In Geography the children made a map of the classroom in a creative way with four key features represented by different objects: beginning to use directional language to describe the location of features in the classroom. They used objects for their messy maps and decided on three features to add to their map.



In art the children were experimenting with a range of mark-making techniques. They were encouraged to use a range of materials and draw using big, wider arm movements. They controlled the materials more effectively and created more accurate work. This allowed them to develop greater detail in their drawing.



Badgers Class Year 2

This half term in Badgers Class we have been working hard and having lots of fun!

In English lessons, we have learnt about nouns, verbs and adjectives. We learnt how to use expanded noun phrases to make our writing more interesting. Then we went on to use this in our writing of a character description. This week, we are learning how to write a newspaper report.

In Maths, we have learnt about place value of numbers using our tens and ones. Now we are looking at addition and subtraction, still using our place value to help us.

During Science lessons, we learnt all about what different animals need to survive. We were surprised to find that they all need the same 4 things: air, water, food and shelter, but that these needs are met in different ways.



In Geography we learnt about hot and cold places around the world and thought about which we would prefer to live in.

We also enjoyed PE; learning to keep fit. Art was all based on maps and RE, when we learnt about giving thanks and how some people give thanks to God.



Attendance and Behaviour

Behaviour

**Well done Squirrels Class
with an amazing 100% positive
behaviours this half term.**



All our pupils across the whole school have settled into the new academic year and have been absolutely brilliant; accumulating an impressive 3,817 positive behaviour points! This equates to 97% positive behaviours across the school – a truly excellent accomplishment that we should all be proud of.

Attendance



**Well done Hedgehogs Class
with an amazing 95.3% attendance
this half term.**

However, our whole school attendance is currently 93.5%, which is below our target. During the recent Autumn Term Consultation evenings, class teachers discussed individual pupil attendance reports with parents. We are committed to improving our attendance, and this is everyone's responsibility. Our goal is to achieve 95% attendance for all pupils. To support this aim, I must emphasise a few critical points:

- Please do not plan holidays during term time. We cannot authorise such absences, and parents may face fines from the Local Authority.
- Attendance is far more than just a number - it is crucial for your child's overall development.
- Regular school attendance directly impacts your child's academic attainment, progress, well-being, and social skills. By working together, we can ensure our pupils have the best possible opportunity to learn and grow.



- To help you make informed decisions about your child's health and attendance, we've provided a link to the NHS poster '[Should I keep my child off school?](#)'.

We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain a positive and consistent learning environment for all our pupils. ***Together, we can ensure our pupils get the most out of their time at Priory Common.***

Personal Development and Well-being

It is our aim at Priory Common School to equip pupils with the knowledge and Cultural Capital they need to succeed in life. Our understanding of Cultural Capital is derived from the following wording in the National Curriculum:

'It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.'

This is done through both our hidden and explicit curriculums for: Personal Development, Social Development, Physical Development, Spiritual Development, Moral Development, Cultural Development and British Values.

AUTUMN TERM 2025 – September & October

Whole School	Assemblies	Class Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Newsround – daily ❖ Values - friendship ❖ Makaton signs – sit, louder, Hedgehogs, Squirrels, Badgers, good afternoon ❖ Being me in my world ❖ Faith day – Sikhism ❖ Listening calendar – Escape into a world of music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weekly values assembly – friendship ❖ Weekly welcome assembly ❖ Weekly singing assembly ❖ Weekly listen to a story – author/ illustrator of the half term assembly – Rose Impey ❖ Weekly celebration assembly 	<p>Key Stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ (5/9) International Day of Charities ❖ (21/9) International Day of Peace ❖ (15-17/9) Rosh Hashanah ❖ (4/10) World Animal Day ❖ Black History Month ❖ (14/10) Battle of Hastings Anniversary ❖ (31/10) Halloween

Calendar Dates

- Monday 3rd November – Children return to school.
- Friday 7th November 9.15-10.45 – Open morning for new starters September 2026
- Friday 7th November reception Year School Nurse Screening
- Thursday 13th November – School photographer – individual photos
- Monday 17th November – INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
- Friday 5th December 9.15-10.45 – Open morning for new starters September 2026
- Tuesday 16th December 10am – Christmas performance
- Wednesday 17th December – Children's Christmas dinner
- Wednesday 17th December 2pm – Christmas performance
- Thursday 18th December- Christmas jumper and party day
- Friday 19th December – Cosy PJ's themed day
- Friday 19th December – Last day of term
- Monday 23rd December – Friday 2nd January – School holiday (school closed to pupils)

Message from our Executive Headteacher

As we reach the midpoint of our Autumn Term, I am delighted to share the remarkable progress and achievements of our school. This has been a term of significant growth and exciting developments.

We are particularly proud of our new Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Unit, "The Oak", which opened this September. This dedicated space will support and nurture pupils with ASC needs, ensuring every child receives personalised care and education. A warm welcome to all new pupils and families joining us in Reception and across our classes.

Our recent Parent/Carer Consultation evening demonstrated the strong engagement within our school community. The attendance and enthusiasm were truly inspiring. We are committed to continuous improvement and invite all parents and carers to complete our Autumn Term questionnaire, helping us refine our provision.

Each of our classes has been making exceptional progress. From the sensory storytelling in The Oak (Rabbits Class) to the Phonics exploration in Hedgehogs, creative geography in Squirrels, and comprehensive learning in Badgers, our pupils are developing crucial skills across multiple domains.

Our Behaviour and Attendance data reflect our commitment to excellence. We are particularly proud that our Squirrels Class achieved 100% positive behaviour, with the whole school accumulating 3,817 positive behaviour points. However, our current whole school

attendance of 93.5% falls short of our 95% target. We kindly remind parents to avoid term-time holidays and prioritise regular attendance.

We continue to embed Cultural Capital through our curriculum, focusing on personal, social, physical, spiritual, moral, and cultural development, alongside British Values. Our holistic approach ensures pupils receive a comprehensive educational experience.

I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and most importantly, our wonderful pupils. Their hard work and enthusiasm make Priory Common School a truly special place.

As we approach the half-term break, I encourage everyone to stay connected, support your child's learning, and continue engaging with our school community. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half-term.



Ms Sashi Siva (Executive Headteacher)

Inclusive Learning Federation

Over to you

Please let us know how you feel we are doing by completing our Autumn Term questionnaire. You can access this by scanning the QR code or clicking on the link below.

PCS Parent / Carer Questionnaire
Autumn Term (October) 2025



https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=y7ESb7EL4EW9_r5TEp1-GLrFdF82mQNBj-qJwD94v7tUNDdBT1FCSIU1VjQ5R0k5RzhKQlhOOVJQVC4u

Have a safe and fun half-term and thank you all again!