

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Thank you for supporting us with keeping our attendance on site to a minimum; we really do appreciate your efforts to keep all children and staff safe at this time. From recent government announcements, it's clear there is not yet a set plan for when we will re-open fully. However, there was some indication that this might happen regionally depending on infection levels. It seems more important than ever that we follow all rules and guidance to reduce cases in our area so that we may be in a stronger position to open when decisions are being made.

REMOTE LEARNING



I really wish there was an equivalent of a Headteacher Award for parents and carers! The support for your children at home has been outstanding! We know from our contact with you that many of you are working much longer days as you balance your own work demands against ensuring your children keep on with learning and we are so grateful to you. Last week saw a slight increase in pupil engagement with 97% of children returning work compared with 92% the week before which is absolutely fantastic. Well done Prior's Mill children and families, please keep up this amazing effort!

ZOOM CALLS

Children in KS2 were invited to meet with their teacher live over Zoom today and we had a great take up! Staff really enjoyed seeing lots of their class together at the same time, hearing news and catching up. There seems to be a theme of lots of new dogs and dog walking keeping people busy! We plan to make these a regular feature of our remote learning provision and KS1 will receive a letter next week explaining how you can take part also.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please remember that we are available to help in any way we can during this time. We have had some really lovely feedback about SeeSaw and how helpful it is in providing continuity in learning and maintaining contact with your child's teachers which is great to know. If you have any concerns about how your child is getting on or about the work provided, please get in touch via the school office so that we can resolve any issues quickly: office@priorsmill.org.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

As mentioned previously, children in receipt of income related free school meals will now be provided with a voucher through the national scheme. The company providing this service is Edenred and parents should receive an email with a code which links to a £15 voucher per week for each eligible child. Please note, this scheme is only in operation until half term when a different voucher through the winter grant scheme will be provided. We have not been given any information yet regarding next half term.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The LA has informed schools that there is a higher than usual number of families in Stockton who have not yet applied for a Reception class place for September 2021. They have asked us to share this message:



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If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, then they are due to start primary school in September and, if you have not already done so, you must make an application for a school place.

As the closing date has now passed, please check our website www.stockton.gov.uk/schooladmissions for a 'Late' application form, or contact school.admissions@stockton.gov.uk.

COMING UP

Monday 25th January



Collective Worship link will be posted on SeeSaw at 9am

Our theme next week is **COURAGE**

Carrying on when things are difficult

Overcoming obstacles

Understanding and facing a challenge

Resilience

Always ready to try

Going for goals

Empowered by encouragement

1st – 7th February



Children's Mental Health Week

The theme is **'Express Yourself'**

Miss Dalkin and Miss Rigg are planning some exciting whole school activities for us to take part in

Tuesday 9th February



Safer Internet Day

The theme is **'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'**

Mr Farrell will be helping us think through this important and very relevant theme

Friday 12th February



Chinese New Year

Year of the OX

Look out for some activities on SeeSaw to help you learn more about this holiday that is celebrated by millions around the world



I hope you enjoyed puzzling over staff photos on our Facebook pages this week – you clearly know staff well as there were a lot of correct answers! Do keep a look out for things we will post on there to keep us connected and promote some activities you might like to get involved in as a family. If you don't already follow us, we have two pages: Prior's Mill CE Primary School KS1/2 and Prior's Mill CE Primary School Early Years, that you might like to have a look at.

Enjoy your weekend – I'm loving the slightly lighter mornings and longer afternoons and the promise they bring that Spring is on its way. 😊

Kind regards,
Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher

