

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

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

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

HAPPY HALF TERM

It seems almost surreal to be closing our doors – physically and virtually – for half term already! In some ways it seems five minutes since I was writing to welcome you all back after Christmas. But then equally, these have been some of the longest days ever as we've all grappled with new ways of working, learning and living through lockdown. We hope you are all ok and managing to stay positive. I am grateful for reasons to be hopeful such as the roll out of vaccines and the fall in case numbers and of course re-opening to all children. We do miss being 'real school'! I would like to thank you on behalf of staff who have received lots of supportive messages over SeeSaw and via the school office this half term. This is a hard time for us all and your support and encouragement has helped enormously.

REMOTE LEARNING



We have had really strong engagement in remote learning over the half term and weekly we have had around 97% of all children participating in some or all lessons. This is fantastic and we are super proud of everyone for their hard work. As we begin to have an eye on returning, we really want to make sure that we can keep any learning gaps to a minimum, particularly in English and maths, so we are going to really encourage children to attempt every English and maths activity after half term and see if we can hit a golden 100% for these subjects.

Thank you, mums and dads, grandparents, big brothers and sisters and everyone who has helped with remote learning. You have made our job possible and made a massive difference to your children. I am sure you are also looking forward to a break from lessons next week! 😊

CONTACTING SCHOOL – COVID CASE NOTIFICATION & SCHOOL PLACES

I have included our contact details again in this newsletter as a reminder for after half term. Our booking system is working well for school places but I must re-emphasise that government guidance has not changed and school attendance is only available for children of critical workers whose parents are **not available** to care for them at home. I must continue to ensure that I am protecting those that **have** to attend– children and staff – by reducing the number of households people come into contact with. This seems even more important at this point when we are hoping for a wider opening and want everyone to be well and able to attend.

OFFICE	For all general enquiries including requests for contact with a member of staff or for support with remote learning	office@priorsmill.org.uk
TESTS	To notify school of any positive pupils COVID test results	tests@priorsmill.org.uk
During Restricted Attendance/Partial Closure		
BOOKINGS	To request a place for Reception to Y6 Attendance during Lockdown	bookings@priorsmill.org.uk
PRESCHOOL/ NURSERY	To request a place for Pre-School or Nursery Attendance during Lockdown	nurserybookings@priorsmill.org.uk

Please note that bookings must be made by 4pm on Thursday each week.



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COMING UP

We have enjoyed the opportunity to do some whole school themed work around mental health, Safer Internet and Chinese New Year. These are the things that we always enjoy a lot when we are in school together. We have some more events and themes to take part in next half term which we hope everyone will get involved in.

Monday 22nd February



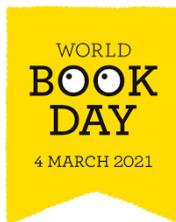
Monday 22nd February



1st – 6th March



Thursday 4th March



5th – 14th March



School Re-opens

Remote Learning will begin again for children at home. School will be open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

Collective Worship

Our theme next week is **LENT** which starts on Wednesday 17th February. Bishop Philip from Blackburn Diocese shared this collective worship last year for primary schools. He helps us remember what this special season in the Church's calendar is all about.

National Careers Week

Although our children are a way off their first proper job, it's never too soon to start thinking about the future. Mrs Rowbotham will help us do just that.

World Book Day

£1 book tokens will be sent out so you can buy a good read! Miss Horner will be sharing some ideas about how we can get stuck into loving books and loving reading.

British Science Week

This year's theme is '**Innovating for the Future**'. Miss Thompson is helping us plan some exciting activities for everyone to enjoy.

Have a wonderful half term break ... enjoy the local area (there's nowhere else to go!), spend time together and have as much of a screen break as possible. I look forward to 'seeing' you all on 22nd February. 😊

Kind regards,
Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher

