

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

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

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

REMOTE LEARNING

Thank you to all those who responded to our survey regarding remote learning; it has been really helpful to get a sample of views across the school and a temperature check on how things are going so far. A feedback summary has been sent along with this letter. What I am particularly pleased about is the sense that we are working together to make this situation work as best we can and that on the whole parents feel involved and supported. Please do contact the school office if you have any specific worries or concerns – we will always do our best to find a solution.

ZOOM CALL PROTOCOLS

As of today, all children from Reception to Year 6 have been invited into Zoom calls and in KS1 and KS2 these have been happening daily this week. Teachers will begin to use some of these calls for short teaching sessions; you will find more information on this in the survey feedback. **Please can I underline our expectations that children and/or parents must not take or share photographs or recordings of these calls as this would breach staff and other pupils' privacy and could create a potential safeguarding risk.**

PROUD MOMENTS



I was so impressed to see an article in this week's Gazette reporting on the great work of a local community group who have been litter picking around our area.

The group now has over 450 members including children in our own school! Well done to everyone involved in this and a special shout out to Lily and Arlo for being snapped in the article.

One of our teachers, Mr Greenwood, has also been doing great work for the wider community by completing a fundraising challenge to run 150km in 15 days. I would struggle to run 15km in 150 days so this is particularly impressive to me! Mr Greenwood has been really keen to raise awareness of the increasing need for foodbanks in the current climate and also to raise money to support these invaluable resources. He has raised a fantastic £360 for our local Billingham foodbank; well done Mr Greenwood!



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STAFF TESTING

Our Staff Asymptomatic testing is now fully underway in school. This is one of the Government strategies to move towards full opening of schools. Whilst this is a step in the right direction, the discovery of positive- asymptomatic staff may unfortunately lead to bubble closure due to close contact. As ever, we will endeavour to communicate as quickly and clearly to you about any closures or the need to self-isolate.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

I hope you have all enjoyed taking part in our activities for mental health week. We have seen some fantastic photographs of places, people and things that make the children feel good - thank you. Teachers are introducing the 'You've Been Spotted' badge to share with children who show resilience and positivity both in school and at home. This isn't about expecting everyone to be happy all the time – which we know is unrealistic – it's about finding ways to bounce back, find hope and keep going. By doing so, we can encourage each other.

COMING UP

**Tuesday
February**



9th Safer Internet Day

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

We'll be seeing how good we are at telling the truth from a lie ...

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

Thank you for another busy and productive week and for all your home schooling – we really do appreciate all your hard work. I hope everyone has some time to relax and enjoy a break over the weekend. 😊

Kind regards,
Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher

