

# Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

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

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: [office@priorsmill.org.uk](mailto:office@priorsmill.org.uk)



7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a fun day in school today with all things number! Thank you for hunting out t-shirts and sweatshirts with digits on – there was a great variety across the school. After such a fractured year it has been good to have some whole school events to connect us together. Our Saints Day on 23rd April was another lovely (and competitive!)

time with everyone undertaking a skipping challenge for their house. A massive **16 233** skips were skipped across the school with the winning house being St Patrick's with a score of **4405**! Well done everyone!



## Parent Governor Nominations

There has been a great response to last week's invitation for parent governor nominations and therefore there will be a ballot conducted in the next few weeks. I will be in touch with nominees to explain the next steps and then ballot papers and information about the nominees will be sent to all parents to support you in your selection.

## School Vision



Thank you for your survey responses regarding our review of Vision and Values. There were many lovely comments about the ethos of the school, the quality of teaching and the support that staff offer to children. In terms of how we can improve further, we note that parents would like more communication regarding children's progress and attainment. COVID has prevented many of our usual means of meeting with you taking place. However, even without the constraints of a pandemic, this is an area where we can look to review and strengthen our current practices over the next academic year.

## Thy Kingdom Come - 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May

Children in KS1 and KS2 will be taking part in Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to get involved in praying. Reverend Radley and members of the local parish will be leading short prayer walks around the school grounds with class bubbles on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. We are looking forward to a special time of prayer and reflection with everyone involved having the opportunity to pause, reflect and pray if they would like to, about the beauty of what is around us every day.

## School Meals

We are now offering hot meals to all children in full time school from Reception to Year 6. It has been great to get this back in place for our younger children after a very long wait and they have been superstars at adapting to the dining room/bubble routines. We have had some queries about menu choices and portion size so I thought it would be useful to share some information with you about how the school meal service is designed and operated in school.



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We buy in a contract catering service through Stockton Borough Council and their service managers design the menus for all schools. The meal choices and portion sizes must adhere to the National School Food Standards and therefore are not controlled by individual cooks or schools. You can read more about the standards [here](#). Schools can work with the catering service to personalise the number of daily choices and decide whether this is a pre-ordered choice or an open choice. At Prior's Mill we operate a pre-order system so that parents can support their children in making their meal choice and so that parents know what their children are eating.

Our kitchen and lunchtime service are regularly monitored by the Area Manager and her team to ensure that the food standards and all health and safety requirements are being adhered to. This provides essential quality assurance to us as school and you as parents. If you have any concerns about school dinners, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to help.

## Staff News

Mrs Mackay and her husband welcomed a lovely baby boy, Jacob John, into their family over the Easter break. Mrs Mackay says the whole family are doing well and I am sure you would join me in congratulating her and wishing her a wonderful maternity leave.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Wilson back to school in a few weeks' time following her maternity leave. Mrs Wilson will be working with groups of children to offer some targeted support in reading, writing and maths.

We have also welcomed a new member of staff in to school this week. Mrs Maddison has joined us as School Business Manager which is a new role to us here at Prior's Mill. Mrs Maddison is an experienced SBM and has recently been working at a junior school in Sunderland. Mrs Maddison will offer strategic leadership and support across a range of areas including finance, health and safety, premises and operations.



## Breakfast Club



Breakfast Club is back up and running and we have some spaces available for children in Nursery – Y6. The cost is £4 each day, including a great breakfast and we open from 7:30am. Bookings and payments are made via the School Gateway. Please contact the school office if you would like some more information.

## Coming Up

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| <b>20<sup>th</sup> &amp; 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> | Thy Kingdom Come prayer walks in school with Rev Radley and parish team |
| <b>28<sup>th</sup> May</b>                       | Last day of half term   |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> June</b>                       | School reopens  |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>                      | Last day of school year   |

Kind regards,  
Mrs H Malbon  
Headteacher

