

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 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

VISION AND VALUES

Happy half term! We have really enjoyed introducing our new school vision and values to the children this half term and have focused particularly on our Prior's Promise which you can see opposite. We have taken an element of the promise each week as a focus in our collective worship and thought about how we can live out these values in our everyday life at school, at home and in our community. The children have been brilliant at talking and explaining about the different parts; well done everyone!

Next half term we are going to explore the parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32) which is the bible story that supports our vision:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Our chosen parable helps us understand that just like a tiny seed, we each have the potential inside us to grow into something amazing. With the right conditions to help us, we can grow in knowledge, wisdom, self-belief and character just as a seed grows in good soil with the right nourishment. As the big branches of the tree provide support and shade for the birds, we want to inspire all our pupils to care for others and see how their gifts and growth can benefit others around them.

COVID MEASURES

We are aware that cases are still high both nationally and locally. We have had some disruption in school due to staff and pupil absence as a result of COVID and I think we have to expect that this will be a feature of future months as we learn to live with the virus. Our safety measures are regularly reviewed and we continue to have a strong emphasis on hand hygiene and ventilation. After half term, school staff may choose not to wear a face covering at the start and end of the day when meeting or dismissing children.

- Please remember to keep your child at home if they are displaying one or more [Coronavirus symptoms](#)
- Inform the school if your child is showing symptoms or if they receive a positive PCR test

START OF DAY CLIFTON AVENUE CONGESTION

Following a review of our COVID risk assessment and in order to ease the pedestrian congestion on Clifton Avenue on a morning, we are going to re-introduce opening the KS2 playground at the start of the day from Monday 1st November. Duty staff will open the classroom door at 8:30am and children will be encouraged to make their way inside as they do now. **Please note that there will be no supervision on the playground before this time.** We strongly encourage parents and carers to wait with their children until staff have opened school. Can I also remind parents that school does not officially start until **8:40am**. After speaking to staff and some children, I am aware that there is a misconception that children have to be here at 8:30am. We open school 10 minutes before the 8:40am start time to allow a gradual arrival and to ease congestion; there is plenty of time within that 10 minutes for everyone to arrive in class.

PRIOR'S PROMISE



We give our best
We are kind
We are honest
We are respectful
We forgive

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Attendance Matters



ATTENDANCE

After the disruption of the last eighteen months, we want to ensure that children are in school as much as possible. However, we know that there are genuine reasons for absence such as illness or occasional family emergency.

Please ring the school office before 9am if your child is going to be absent.

If we have not had a message, a member of the office staff will contact you to check on reasons for absence. In addition to the office staff, Mrs Anne-Marie Cartwright, our Educational Welfare Officer, may contact you if we have some concerns regarding attendance or punctuality.

Mrs Cartwright



There have been lots of fabulous things happening in and around school this half term ... here are just some ...

- ✓ All of KS1 had a great visit out to the Captain Cook Museum in Middlesbrough as part of their theme 'Was Captain Cook a Pirate?'
- ✓ Year 3 children all completed Pedestrian Training this month to teach them about road safety awareness.
- ✓ We have loved having 'Open the Book' back in school in KS1 where members of the parish bring a bible story to life for the children.

- ✓ Congratulations to **Ellen, Ewan, Freddie** and **Sadie** who got through to the Cross Country Finals at Stewart park last week – you were brilliant! Well done to all our runners who competed from KS2. 😊
- ✓ Pirates, Romans, Egyptians and Stone Age people have all been in school this half term as part of the children's theme learning. Thank you parents for your creative and imaginative costumes!
- ✓ We have enjoyed meeting some of our Parish Friends each Tuesday who spend time on the KS1 playground getting to know the children and joining in some games. It is great to build relationships back up with the parish after a long lockdown.

THANK YOU!

- ✓ Last week we welcomed Reverend Richard back into school to lead our Harvest Worship. Thank you for all your generous donations to Billingham Foodbank!



- ✓ Art Club, Debate Club and Y3&4 Football clubs have all got underway. We are looking at more starting next half term.

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Congratulations!

Children and staff have been involved in choosing pupils in KS2 to take on particular roles in school. Well done to everyone who has been given these special responsibilities!

Head Boy and Head Girl: Ethan and Neve

Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl: Isaac and Amber

St Andrew's House Captains: Isaac and Grace

St Andrew's Vice House Captains: Tommy and Teddi

St David's House Captains: Will and Lily

St David's Vice House Captains: Daniel and Sophia

St Patrick's House Captains: Jacob and Layla

St Patrick's Vice House Captains: Aiden and Olivia

St George's House Captains: William and Darcie

St George's Vice House Captains: Theo and Amy

We will celebrate at whole school Saint's day on St Patrick's Day this year – 17th March 2022.

Children are invited to wear their house colours and we will have some fun house games and activities.

School Council

Year 3 - Jacob and Isabelle

Year 4 - Ted and Rosa

Year 5 - Ellen, Edward and Felix

Year 6 - Robert and Evie

Reader Leaders

...helping to spread a love of reading across the school

Class 9 - Scarlett and Thomas

Class 10 - Emily and Ollie

Class 11 - Dolly and Charlie

Class 12 - Luke and Isabelle

Class 13 - Felix and Ruby

Class 14 - Ruby and Alex

Class 15 - Ellie and Joe

Class 16 - Daniel and Ruby

Class 17 - Henry and Lilly

PD Days and School Calendar 2021-22

Just a reminder of our PD days for the remainder of the school year:

- **Additional Bank Holiday Tuesday 4th January**
- **Monday 6th June**
- **Thursday 21st July**

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful half term and we look forward to seeing you all on 1st November.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Malbon,
Headteacher