

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

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

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



SPRING 1 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers...

It was a short but super first week back in school last week; the children settled straight down to hard work and excellent behaviour and they are a joy to be around. Classes have started their new theme learning which for some included hunting around school for the Iron Giant or photographing fairies in the local area – such lovely ways to get hooked into new themes and we are looking forward to more wonderful activities in the weeks to come!



COVID Updates

Like every other school in the country, we are affected with high levels of staff absence due to COVID and I expect that this will be the picture for several weeks to come. Whilst we continue to do all we can to hopefully minimise spread, the very transmissible nature of the Omicron variant does make it likely that we will see more cases in children and staff.

Where necessary, we will cover some absence with supply staff. However, this too is proving very difficult due to the high rates of absence across local schools. We also know that our children work best with staff who know them well so our preference is to re-arrange staffing internally where possible. Our priority is face to face teaching and continuing to deliver the curriculum at the appropriate pace. On a

practical note, fewer staff means that some activities or routines such as book changing may be disrupted to enable staff to focus on daily lessons. We appreciate your understanding if this is the case and will ensure that any disruption is as minimal and for as short a period as possible.

COVID - Informing School

Just a reminder that if your child tests positive for COVID, please ensure you contact the school office as soon as possible. Please provide the following information:

- Name
- Class
- Date your child was last in school
- Date of the positive LFD and/or the PCR test
- Whether your child has/had any symptoms

You can either ring the school office 01642 650426 or email office@priorsmill.org.uk

Please note that we are no longer using the tests@priorsmill mailbox as we no longer have to close bubbles.

New PE Kit

You received a letter last week explaining that we are changing our PE kit and providing one for each child currently in full time school from Reception to Year 6. I just wanted to give a little more information and clarification in case you have any queries. As children already have kits for this year that parents have purchased, it is absolutely fine to order a 'future' kit now for your child to use from September. Children can continue to use their existing kit for the remainder of this year and wear their new kit from September 2022. Changing midyear is obviously not ideal, however, we have an amount of money in this

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year's grant that needed allocating before the end of the financial year and we wanted to make sure we could benefit all children in some way. If you want any further information on how we use our PE and Sports Premium Grant, please see our annual statement which you can find [here](#) on the school website.

Vision, Values and Website

It's nearly exactly a year ago that I wrote to you about the work we were starting on refreshing our school vision and values. From this work with staff, children, parents and governors we now have our **Prior's Promise** which sets out our school values of giving our best, kindness, honesty, respect and forgiveness. We chose the parable of the mustard seed as our biblical text to underpin our vision. Our school website has undergone a refresh to include these new elements along with a new suite of photographs. As part of this work we wanted to integrate our school logo which is the cross of St Cuthbert, with a Mustard Tree to reflect our new vision and values. You will see this on the website. The image will be used on our paperwork and around the school but there are no plans to change the badge on the school uniform which is a white cross of St Cuthbert; this is still an integral part of our graphic.

Website: www.priorsmill.org.uk

Spring 1 Collective Worship

This half term we are going to focus on one of our key values, Kindness, in our whole school worship. Through an acrostic poem we will unpick different aspects and demonstrations of kindness and relate these to scriptures in the bible and the example of Jesus:

Keeping an eye on friends

Including everyone when you play

Noticing when people are sad or lonely

Defending people who are bullied

Never talking about someone unkindly

Encouraging and supporting everyone

Sharing what you have with others

Showing that you care about people

In our Key Stage worship we will further explore the value of Giving our Best through finding out about inspirational leaders from different walks of life, cultures and communities. In class worship we will explore local, national and global issues to raise awareness with the children and encourage a sense of courageous advocacy as we are called to do as a Church of England school.

Dates for the Diary

7 th Jan	Art workshops each Friday for Y3
20 th Jan	Health Checks for Rec & Y6
21 st Jan	Open the Book for Y1
28 th Jan	Open the Book for Y2
2 nd Feb	Y6 residential to Robinwood
7 th Feb	Mental health Week
8 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
18 th Feb	Break up for Half Term
28 th Feb	School Re-opens
8 th April	Break up for Easter
25 th April	School Re-opens
27 th May	Break up for Half Term
6 th June	PD Day – school closed to children
7 th June	School Re-opens
20 th July	Last day of summer term

Thank you all for your support with ensuring the children have had a great start to school in 2022.