

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter June 23rd

Welcome to the Prior's Mill Newsletter - this is shared weekly and will contain key dates and information, paper copies are available at the office 23.06.23

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This week we include:

- Message from Mr Linsley
- SPA WE NEED YOU
- School Council
- National Sports Week
- Digital Leaders Managing Device Stress and Anxiety
- Attendance
- Worship Theme Courage
- Class News
- Key Dates
- NEW! Picture News (We thought you might like to read 'Picture News' this is shared with children in a class worship every week)

A Great Week and another Great Week ahead



Apologies, due to some technical issues we were unable to distribute the newsletter on Friday, the IT Team have worked hard over the weekend and hopefully it should arrive on Monday Morning!

We've had an incredibly busy week in school, with lots of pupils participating in different events and leading collective worships. It is a great time of the year for pupils as they have the opportunity to experience many different learning activities and events. I am incredibly proud to be headteacher of Prior's Mill but the positive feedback we receive when we hold class collective worships or attend different venues for events always puts an extra wide smile on my face.

On Wednesday morning we had 3 Anti-Bullying presentations for Parents, KS1 Pupils and KS2 Pupils this was in response to the questionnaire that parents and pupils completed last term which requested more information about approaches to bullying in school. We will also be starting work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance in September to run a programme of staff training and pupil activities to ensure our school continues to be a safe place where any bullying issues can be dealt with appropriately. Gemma from Clennell Education, who are the Melrose Learning Trust's Safeguarding partner delivered sessions to pupils in KS1 and KS2 and talked about different types of bullying and how important it is to confide in an adult. We have brilliant staff in every class who are keen that pupils don't worry or feel that they are alone. Staff are here to support including myself and Miss Huddart please reassure your child and speak to us if you have any worries. In the parent presentation we discussed how friendship issues can be mistaken for bullying and it is important to speak to staff who will investigate any worries or concerns. We only had 1 parent attend - while we could take this as a positive, I believe it is really important that families are confident in the ways that we support pupils and families with any bullying worries. We will offer the parent workshop again in the Autumn Term.

It was brilliant to experience 'Bright Day' on Friday and raise funds for Ruby Radley so that she can convert her wheelchair into an electrical one. Thank you to everyone who wore bright clothing or attended in their Pyjamas and made a donation online or at the school office, everyone had a great day for a great cause.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rubyradley

I had a Melrose Trust Headteacher Meeting - my suit certainly provoked an interesting response from the CEO and other Trust Headteachers - hopefully I'll be invited back!!

Strike Action

The NEU have organised two further strike days on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July, currently we anticipate being able to remain open on those days. If there is any change then I will let you know as soon as possible. Union advice to teachers is not to let Headteachers know until the day of the strike, we are fortunate in school that teachers are cooperative and understand the pressure this puts on parents however they also have their own children in other schools and may have child care issues themselves. Where possible we will always endeavour to keep classes open and where we can't we will provide information as soon as possible. Regardless of your views on striking teachers the issue of school funding is something that I'm passionate about as I would prefer as much money as possible to go into recruiting and retaining quality teachers and providing resources that our children deserve. The uncertainty over school funding makes this incredibly challenging to plan for at the moment. Hopefully the situation will be resolved before further strike action happens in the Autumn Term.

REMINDER

Next week is National Sports Week - we are hopeful for good weather and an opportunity for pupils to experience a number of different sports and develop their skills and character as Prior's Mill Sporting Stars!





SPA - WE NEED YOU!



In the current economic climate this money is essential in raising funds for things that we would like in school.

It is essential that we are able to create a group of staff and parents that are willing to carry this great work on. Currently the SPA is made up of mainly staff and it would be great to have a few more parents involved. I promise this will not take up a huge time commitment but can be fitted in around your own priorities. It could be 30 mins labelling tombola items or bagging up sweets for a disco.

We raised £1,178 through the efforts of parents, staff and pupils at our Coronation Event - FANTASTIC!!

Without increased parental support then a number of additional events such as discos will be cancelled as school does not have the capacity alone to organise and prepare them.

If you can spare any time at all to join SPA then it would be greatly appreciated by the staff team and ultimately by the pupils who will benefit from having a number of events to attend during and after school.

Please contact Mrs Twomey in the office office@priorsmill.org.uk / 01642650426

School Council



House Points

St David - 279

St George - 215

St Andrew- 198

St Patrick - 245

Well done to St David

National Sports Week



As usual, we are hosting our Reception Sports Afternoon on Wednesday 28th June at 2pm, please make your way to the school field via the KS1 gate which will be open from 1.50pm. We would like to invite all parents to attend to support pupils during this event.

Our Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils will be participating in their Sports Afternoon on Friday 30th June at 1.30pm, please make your way to the school field via our KS2 gate, gates will be open at 1.10pm. Pupils will be dismissed at home time in the usual way. Again all parents and carers are encouraged to come along and support the pupils.

Nursery will host their own Sports Event in the final week. Morning Nursery on Tuesday 18th July at 10.30am and Afternoon Nursery on Wednesday 19th July at 2.15pm. Nursery will send out further details shortly.

Digital Leaders - Managing Device Stress and Anxiety





This week Beatrice and Luke (Digital Leaders) have chosen the online safety guide and it has a focus on 'Managing Device Stress and Anxiety'. If there are any apps or online sites that parents would like a fact sheet about then please get in touch and we'll try and provide one.

Any safeguarding concerns can be relayed to:

Mr Linsley - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Huddart - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

The safeguarding policy is on our website and you can also request a paper copy from the office. We will also share with you our pupil version of the safeguarding policy.



Attendance Matters



IMPORTANT REMINDER

In accordance with School and Trust Policy any unauthorised absences (that are not subject to exceptional circumstances) will be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

Current School Attendance is 93.4% (same % from last week) this is below the DFE target of 96%.

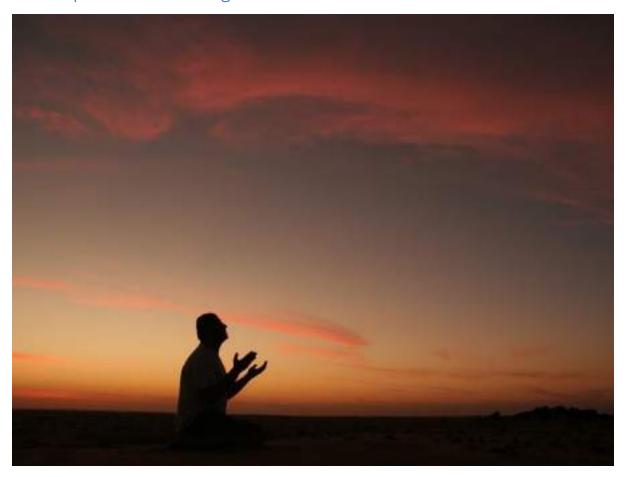
We strongly advise that any holiday in term time should be avoided due to the impact of lost learning time on children. Please be aware that leave of absence (holiday) during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. It is school policy to refer any unauthorised absence due to holiday to the local authority who may issue a fixed penalty notice. This is a penalty of up to £120 per child, per parent and so can add up to a significant amount. The school does not receive any revenue from fines; the money is paid to the Local Authority. In addition, we now have a new system in school for pupils who are late. Pupils must be escorted to the office in the main building and a form completed by parents/carers to sign the pupils in and indicate the reason for the lateness. This is for our records and also to avoid pupils becoming distressed.

All gates are opened at 8.20am, KS1 & 2 staff will be in attendance and children remain in the yard until school doors are opened just before 8.30am. For Nursery and Reception children gates are

opened for access and to ease congestion on Clifton Avenue and staff are not in attendance until school doors are then opened just before 8.30am. Children should remain supervised until then. Pre-School will open at 8:25am.

LATE MARKS ALSO IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON ATTENDANCE PLEASE TRY TO BE ON TIME!

Worship Theme - Courage



Courage

Courage is often about continuing to do what you would normally do when faced with extraordinary situations. Many Christian believe that we should offer our skills, talents and abilities and that God will use that courageousness to achieve great things. The word 'courage' comes from the Latin word 'cor' – heart.

I wonder what you think of when you hear the word courage? I wonder who or what you think of when you hear the word courage? I wonder if you can think of a time in your life when you had to be filled with courage?

Find a small stone and hold it in your hand. Could something this small make any difference to anything?

Explore the story of David in Goliath in a way most meaningful to your current context.

Let the story speak for itself today – reflect by looking at the small stone again or by listening to 'Courageous' by Casting Crowns https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkM-gDcmJeM





Class News



Class 5 were delighted to receive a card today thanking them for an amazing class worship all about reducing our carbon footprint. The girl's grandma/Nana said we have given her lots to think about. We were all very proud!



Some of KS1 classes joined a virtual author visit this morning. Nathan Byron shared his book Speak Up, which was about a little girl called Rocket who was a courageous advocate and saved her local library. We then had an illustrator session with Dapa Adeola where he taught us how to draw the bookworm which is on Rockets t-shirt.







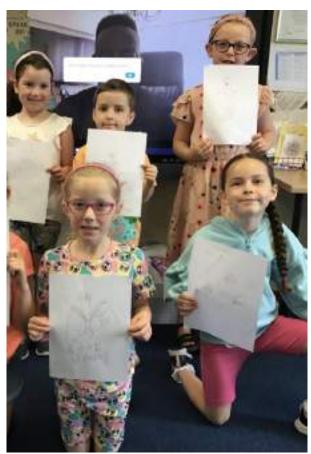












We had two lovely class worships this week from Mrs Rowbotham and Mrs Mackay/Mrs Wilson's classes - thank you.

Next week we have class worships from Mrs Akhtar and Mrs Thompson.

KEY DATES



Key Dates

5th May Coronation of King Charles III

From 2-3pm Friday 5th May we will provide activities in each classroom and you are welcome to join us for refreshments and cakes in the KS1 & KS2 halls, we will have a children's

tombola in each hall and the raffle will also be drawn that day.

Following refreshments children can be collected from their class at 2.50pm but will need to be signed out with the class teacher.

Children who have not been collected will be dismissed at usual time.

15th May

Christian Aid Week

15th May

Walk to School week

17th May - Reception School Trip - Hardwick Park

23rd May

School Council Charity Day

EY – Teddy Bears

KS1 – Turtle Day KS2- Mind 5th June - School PD Day (Closed) 6th June - School Re-opens using New Start Time 8:30am 8th June National Best Friends Day 13th June Grandads wheels visit. Wednesday 21st June Anti-Bullying Workshop Parents for 9am KS2 Hall Mrs Rowbotham Collective Worship Mrs Mackay Collective Worship *NEW* 23rd June Bright Colour / PJ Day Raising Money for Ruby 26th June National school sports week - Children are invited to come to school wearing sports clothes and trainers during this week. They will be taking part in a variety of sporting activities. Whole week to include sports day EYFS SPORTS DAY - Reception Class will hold their own Sports Day on Wednesday2pm. Parents are invited to join us! Please bring your running shoes!!! Children can be taken home after the event.

3rd July

Y2 Wynard Sports Event

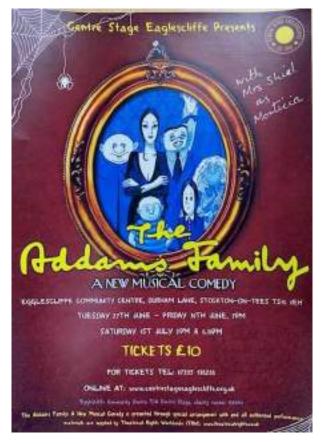
National Fieldwork Week

Save the Date

The Year 6 Prom will be held on Tuesday 11th July at 6pm. Further information to follow.

Nursery's Teddy Bears Picnic - **Friday 14th July 1.45pm -3pm** - Please come and join us for an end of term Teddy Bears Picnic! This will take place in our Nursery Outdoor garden. This will be an opportunity for all of the children and parents to join together before the children move onto the next step of their journey. If your child attends morning nursery or the pre-school setting then they are welcome to join this picnic too! Additional details to follow closer to the time!

Class 1 and Class 2 - End of Year Graduation - **Monday 17th July, 1.45pm – 3pm** - Please join us to celebrate and congratulate the children's fantastic achievements and look back on their special memories from their treasured time in Early Years! We will mark this momentous milestone by awarding each child with an end of year personalised certificate as a keep sake for their magical journey throughout Early Years! We value the partnership we have built up between us and yourselves and would love for you to be a part of this occasion!



1 - Our own Mrs Shiel is starring in this production of the Addams Family! Tickets are on sale now.



2 - And Finally....fingers crossed that the weather continues to be good and you have a great weekend and can join us for the sporting events we have planned for next week.

Primary Picture News Resource England Collective Worship - 19th June - Fast travel





Let's look at this week's story



Within the next ten years, people may be able to travel between London and Sydney in just two hours by journeying through space on a sub-orbital flight. The current length of a traditional flight between London, UK, and Sydney, Australia, is at least 20-22 hours and usually entails a stop-off to refuel along the way. A sub-orbital flight involves launching a spacecraft to an altitude above the Karman line lithe boundary of space).





How does it make me feel?



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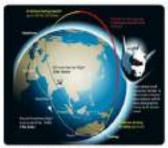
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Be you imagine you would like to travel on a sub-erbital craft?



Lack at the resource telew, which shares some information about how air travel has changed ever time















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Reflection



Travel has transformed the way we live our lives, allowing us to meet others, try different food and visit new places all over the world. As technology advances, the ways and means to travel can become quicker and easier.



















Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Having access to travel can help us learn more about people living in our world. Life is not the same for everyone and we should respect that.

ratected

Where and how people choose to live may affect the modes of transport they use. We should never be treated unfairly because of how we choose to live.

























If a child lives in a different country than their parents, governments must let the child and parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.



Useful vocabulary

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Sub-orbital

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Can you use them in your writing this week?

Collective worship

















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Contact Us



If you would like to contact us about anything in the newsletter or need an additional conversation then please don't hesitate to catch me outside on the yard or through making an appointment at the office.

Safeguarding

The school safeguarding policy is on the website and a paper version can also be requested from the office. Safeguarding is at the heart of all we do at Prior's Mill CE Primary School.

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

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Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk

Visit us on the web at https://priorsmill.org.uk/

School Vision

As an inclusive Church of England primary school, we welcome children and families of all faiths and none to be part of our school family which has a distinctly Christian character and ethos. At Prior's Mill, we encourage everyone to discover, flourish and grow in their talents, nurturing their God given gifts and potential. We work with passion to foster a love of learning, a love of community and personal resilience. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we are a school where kindness, forgiveness, respect and honesty underpin our words and actions.

Biblical Narrative - The Parable of The Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

School Values

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