



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter May 19th

Welcome to the Prior's Mill Newsletter - this will now be shared weekly and will contain key dates and information 19.05.23.

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This week we include:

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Fantastic Y2!



Following in the footsteps of our Y6 pupils it was the turn of Y2 pupils to complete a number of assessments this week. They have had a very busy week and done extremely well to always try their best at completing Reading and Maths tasks. Mrs Rowbotham has shared two pictures of them celebrating this afternoon with a Dance and Ice-Lollies!

There continues to be lots of discussion in the press about Y6 SATs, particularly the reading paper. I just want to reiterate on behalf of all the Staff and Governors at Prior's Mill that we are incredibly proud of all our pupils and SATs will not determine how we think of our children! It is more important

that they move forwards representing the vision and values of the school as children with good character and kindness.

We have now fully joined the Melrose Learning Trust, due to a close working partnership that started in September there has been a seamless transition in school and staff are already benefitting from extended training and professional development opportunities. We are very excited about the PE opportunities that being in the Trust brings and Mr Greenwood and Mr Stokes have organised for some fantastic events in the next half-term and throughout next year. The link to the Trust website is included below if you would like to learn more.

<https://melroselearningtrust.org.uk/>



Y1 Phonics and Y4 Multiplication Checks



A reminder to parents in Y1 that the Government Phonics Check is between Monday 12th June and Friday 16th June it is essential that Y1 pupils are in school during this week so they can showcase their fantastic phonics and reading skills.

Parents of pupils in Y4 it is important that they are in school from Monday 5th June to Friday 16th June in order to complete the Government Multiplication Check.

SPA - WE NEED YOU!



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

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.

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

Pupil Voice



Lexi Chilton and Alaina Clark have written the pupil voice section this week:

We have been looking at the area outside KS1 that needs to change to be a more accessible and appropriate place. We have visited the different classes in school and asked pupils and teachers what their opinion on how to develop the space is. As a result of this the top 5 ideas are:

1. A wildlife Area
2. Mindfulness area
3. Play Area
4. Garden
5. Outdoor Seating Area

To decide what happens next we are going to ask pupils and staff in school to vote on what should happen to the space. We will update you with these results next week.





Digital Leaders - Roblox Guide



This week I have included a parent fact sheet about Roblox. 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.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a "sandbox" title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**
Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefters and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.
- ONLINE DATERS**
These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODERs. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.
- PUBLIC SERVERS**
Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.
- IN-APP PURCHASES**
Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- SET PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.
- DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING**
Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.
- PRIVATE SERVERS**
If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.
- MONITOR SPENDING**
If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.
- DEALING WITH STRANGERS**
At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.theweek.com/2021/12/23/333343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-using-virtual-parade-towns>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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Attendance Matters



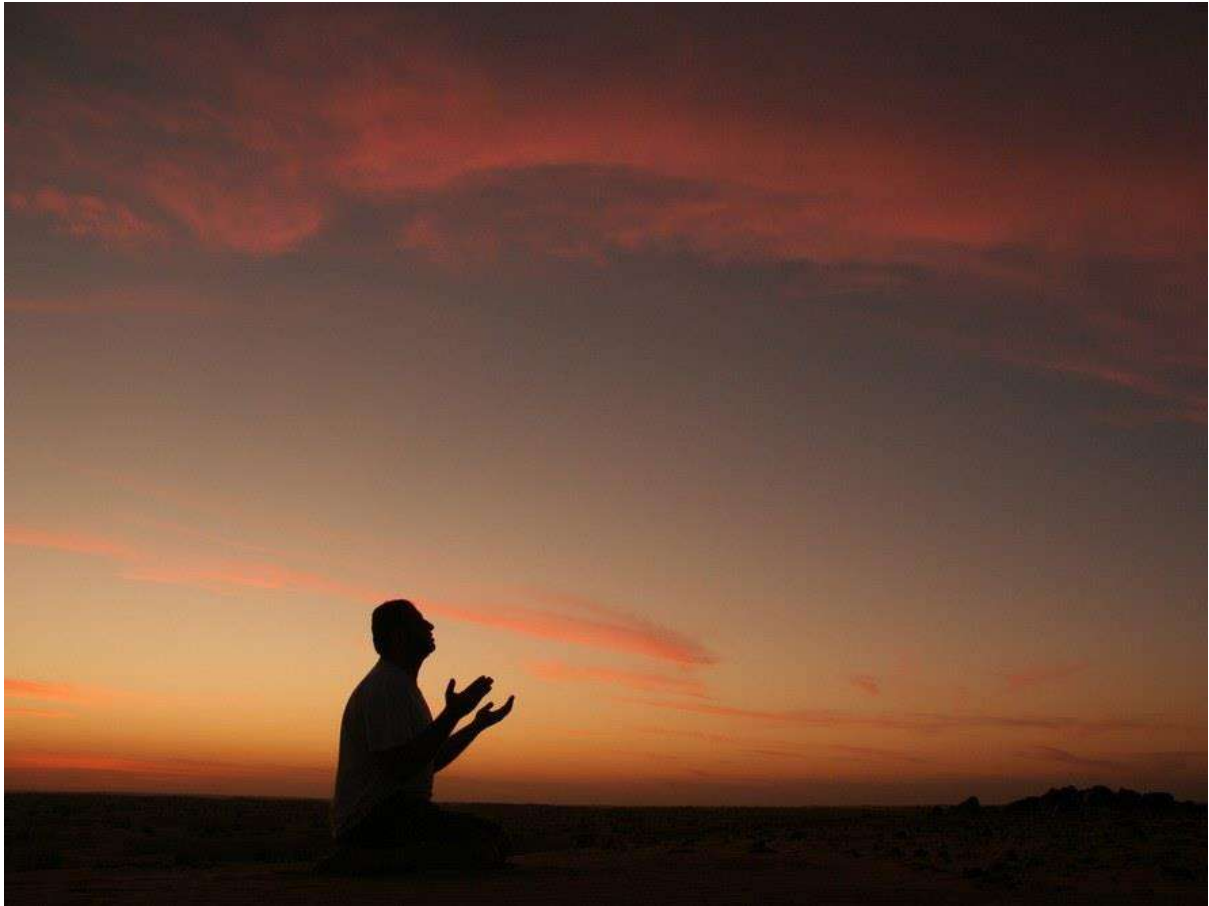
IMPORTANT REMINDER

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 94.2% 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.

Worship Theme



As this week is Christian Aid week, in our Collective Worship we learned about the work of the charity with the children of Angola, Burma and Bangladesh. We heard stories from children affected by war and extreme weather events and how Christian Aid is supporting the people of these countries. We reflected about how we can support the work of Christian Aid and prayed that the children in Angola, Burma and Bangladesh would be protected to keep safe moving forward.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



Mr Richard's class also shared their Class Worship with KS2 pupils as well as friends and family it was lovely to see so many visitors in school listening to their message.



Class News



Class 16 have designed and created their own fairy houses in art based on our unit on a midsummer night's dream.







The children in class 9 read the story 'Look Up' by Nathan Byron and had a paragraph from the story to read. They then recreated some of the artwork from the story as a response. We enjoyed the message in the story to look up and not look down at our phones all the time like the older brother in the story.





<https://sway.office.com/OuY0sYo5M0B2ESml#content=4zXcm5RjHg20Q1>



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.

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

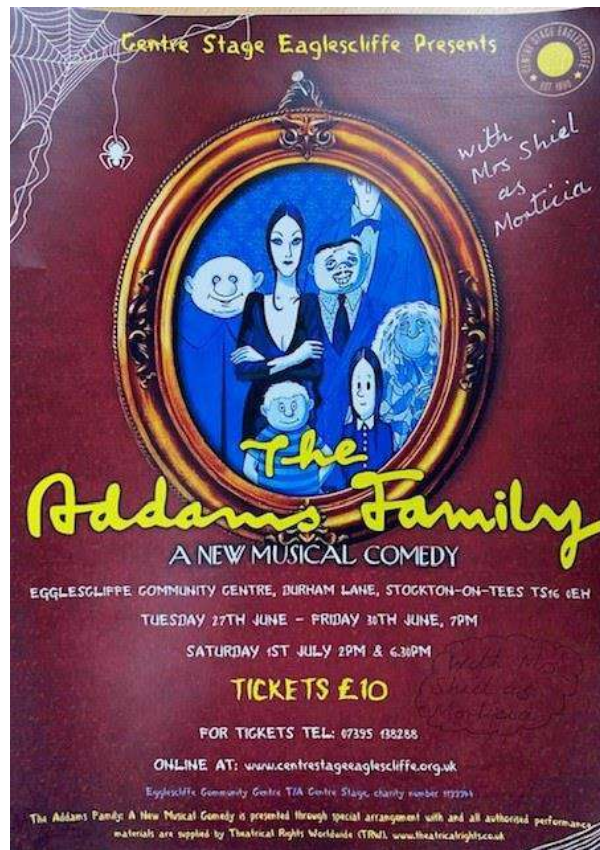
National Fieldwork Week

Save the Date

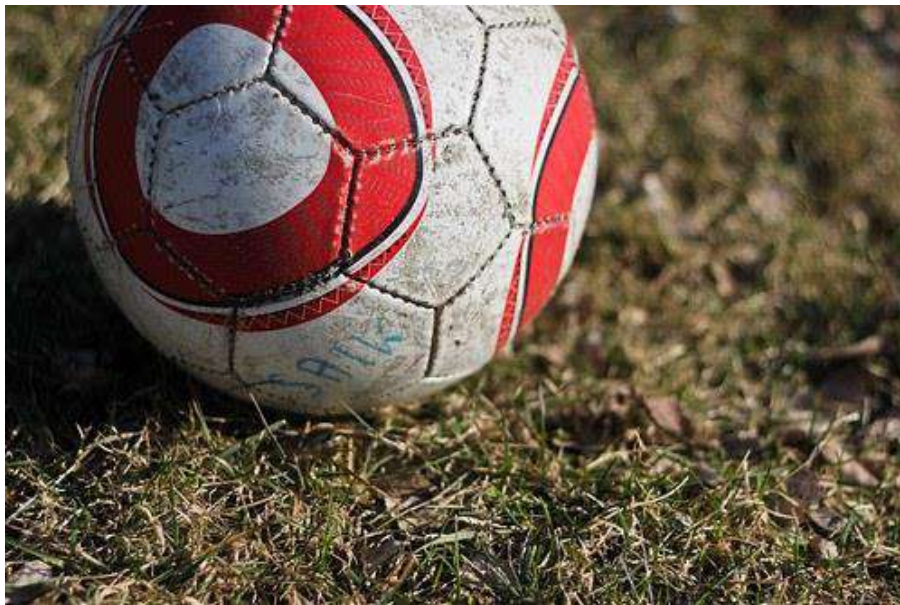
The Year 6 Prom will be held on Tuesday 11th July at 6pm. Further information to follow.

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.....the footballing dream of a visit to Wembley is over for both our teams - we were both robbed! Hopefully brighter days and automatic promotion are on the cards next season. Have a lovely 'football free' weekend.

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