



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter November 10th 2023

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 10.11.23

In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **BBC 500 Words**
- **Digital Leaders - Music Streaming**
- **Attendance**
- **Spirituality**
- **Worship Theme - Remembrance**
- **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 Hero's Welcome



Help for Heroes

It was lovely to see family and friends in the hall this afternoon, for coffee, cake and biscuits, a huge thanks to Mrs Casey and Mrs Bates for organising the event and to the children who sold poppies and enjoyed talking to our special visitors. I would also like to thank Sainsburys for donating the cake and biscuits! It was lovely to see the vast array of 'Hero' outfits on display and no more so than those children that have family members in the armed forces. It was great to see pupils bring in articles and artefacts from home linked to the war - I enjoyed reading about Holly's Grandad and Billy's family member who escaped from a Prisoner of war camp on a motorbike. Laurie also dressed up as her hero Mrs Bates! I've included pictures at the bottom of the newsletter.

School Meals

Thank you to everyone who has pre-ordered a school meal using the new system - please continue to do this at home with your child as there is only limited opportunity for them to do it in school. Please contact the office and ask to speak to Miss Clapp or Mrs Twomey if you are having difficulties.

Poppies

Poppies went on sale this week as well as a variety of stationery and other items. All donations will be sent directly to the Royal British Legion - thank you for your support with donations.

Earrings

A reminder that children with earrings need to either remove them or cover them up with tape when they take part in any Sport or PE. Please can children bring their own tape.

New Website Launch

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

The new school website is now 'live' please check it out for all the up to date school information and links to the school Facebook feed. It also contains updated information about Safeguarding and the new child protection policy that the school uses. If you would like a copy of the policy or any other documentation that can be found on the website then please ask at the school office.

Prior's Promise Pals

We are looking for 2 pupils in each year group to be a Prior's Pupil Pal and identify children in school who display the Prior's Promise school values on a regular basis.

*** We are Honest**

*** We are Kind**

*** We give our Best**

***We Forgive**

***We are Respectful**

The Prior's Promise Pals are:

KS1

Everly, Noah, Grace, Lily and Thea

KS2

Christopher and Holly

Harvey, Daisy and Maria

Jessica and Tiah

Isaac and Laurie

Freya, Luke and Grace

Well Done to everyone who received a certificate today - check out the picture below!

Holidays in Term Time

We have had a huge increase in holiday forms lately and although I can appreciate the challenges created by the cost of living crisis and the incredible cost of going away in the school holidays - going away during term time is not the answer. The results we obtained last year reflected how well children with good attendance did compared to those with a number of absences. I appreciate that there are some situations where it may be unavoidable and each case is looked at individually, however if you do require time off from school during term time please consider the following information:

- A holiday request form must be submitted 4 weeks prior to the event
- Leave of absence without completing a form will result in a fixed penalty notice for both parents
- We are currently issuing fixed penalty notices for absences longer than 5 days that do not meet the criteria

The school is working very hard to support parents and pupils to attend regularly and achieve highly - Mrs Hanson our Pupil Welfare Officer is available to talk to if you need support. The school has to follow very strict guidelines surrounding school absence please understand that we are here to support and only want the best for you and your children. Positive attendance provides many opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and social skills.

I have included some key reminders about dates below:

Next Week

Monday 13th November - odd socks day for antibullying week

Friday 17th November - Children In Need - spots or non uniform

If you have any queries, worries or safeguarding concerns over the holidays/weekend then please use the email address:

office@priorsmill.org.uk

The email account will be monitored throughout the holidays/weekends and we will endeavour to reply to any queries as soon as possible.



- Make friends
- Develop my skills
- Socialise
- Learn
- grow

*Attendance is
important*



BBC 500 Words Competition - LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!!



BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. Opens Tuesday 26 September - Friday 10 November. Please click the link below for further information as the whole school will have the opportunity to take part!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/about-500-words/zctk7v4>

Digital Leaders - Music Streaming





This week Beatrice and Luke (Digital Leaders) have chosen the online safety guide and it has a focus on upsetting content. 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.

All National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, facts and tips for adults.

What you need to know about... MUSIC STREAMING APPS & SITES

Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming series
NOS Social Media & Live Streaming
Brought to you by **National Online Safety**
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What are they? 'Music Streaming Apps & Sites'

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, SoundCloud, Apple Music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to discover their talents which would have been very hard to do many years back.

Know the Risks

Explicit content

Explicit content is over explicit lyrics, including in popular music. Children can easily access songs and lyrics for download, but not from explicit. It also may be some websites so you can't see what content has been listening to.

Adult themed podcasts

Many music streaming apps also offer the ability to listen to podcasts about pop culture, celebrity and other topics. Some podcasts are not suitable for children and contain explicit language.

Chatting to strangers

Some music apps like Myspace, used to have music in more social features by finding others who share the same music taste for one day other users to join group chats where they listen to any and every music. This could open up your child to talking to strangers online.

Safety Tips

Use child friendly apps

Many music streaming services are made just for children. For instance, the Spotify Kids app, provides parents with controls over what their children listen to and all the content is family friendly and fun for children to explore.

Turn off explicit content

Most of the major music streaming apps will provide the option to turn off explicit material to make sure the music is completely clean. Some services even offer parental controls in the content censoring settings with a password, so your child can't switch it back.

Implement privacy controls

Check the privacy settings of your child's app. Ensure that whatever app or site they choose to explore music, the settings are set to private. This way they can only share the music they are listening to with friends and family and can't engage in conversation with strangers.

Offering Support

Explore apps yourself

If your child insists on wanting to use a music streaming app then be part of the journey with them, take the time to understand what they are trying to do and how they want to use it. Find out how to use the app yourself and understand what they could be exposed to and how to ensure they get the most of it in a safe manner.

Regularly check-in

Have regular conversations with your child about what they are listening to and how they are feeling. If they do hear anything that is not good, let them know that they can always talk to you and discuss what they've heard and what it means.

Our Expert

Parven Kaur

Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids Hi Clicks, a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

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% (-1% from last week) this is just below the DFE target of 96%. We need to try and make sure we can maintain whole school attendance this year and aim for 96 - 98%!

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!

Spirituality at Prior's Mill CE Primary School

What Is Spirituality?

It is very difficult to put into words what 'spirituality' actually is because it is a very personal experience. It differs from person to person, and often spirituality changes within people during their lifetime. Spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith.

As a school, we have defined spirituality as:

"Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking questions, inspiration and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves."

Teaching Opportunities and Strategies

At Prior's Mill we follow the Liz Mills approach to provide opportunities for spiritual development:

WINDOWS: giving children opportunities to become *aware* of the world in new ways; to **wonder** about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing) and 'Ows' (things that bring us up short). In this children are learning about life in all its fullness.



MIRRORS: giving children opportunities to *reflect* on their experiences; to **think** about life's big questions and to consider some possible answers. In this they are learning from life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others.



DOORS: giving children opportunities to *respond* to all of this; to **do** something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to live by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.



We provide **WINDOWS** throughout our curriculum. Children reflect (**MIRRORS**) on their learning, experiences and global issues at our school and often identify **DOORS** for themselves. They may hear of a local issue or an international event and request to take action, through fund raising and raising awareness. We also work with the local community through local fundraising and other activities. We also take part in Comic Relief, Children in Need, as well as identifying other charities to support during the year.

We also use this format of Windows, Mirrors and Doors within our Collective Worship.

School staff can develop spirituality in school through:

Establishing and maintaining a partnership between pupils, parents and staff; recognising and respecting the faith background of the children and their families;

Taking part in, and supporting, collective acts of worship;

Being good role models in their conduct towards other members of the community;

Promoting an attitude of respect for other people and for others' views;

Nurturing consideration for and generosity towards others.

Drawing on the experiences of pupils and their families during religious education lessons and beyond;

Recognising and being constantly aware of the needs and backgrounds of each individual pupil;

Being willing to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the faiths of others;

Having a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;

Conducting themselves towards others considerately and respecting the views and beliefs of others in line with the Prior's Promise.

Pupils can do this through:

Taking an active part in acts of collective worship;

Participating in activities which promote the skills allowing them to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice;

Conducting themselves towards others considerately and respecting the views and beliefs of others in line with the Prior's Promise.

Parents can help through:

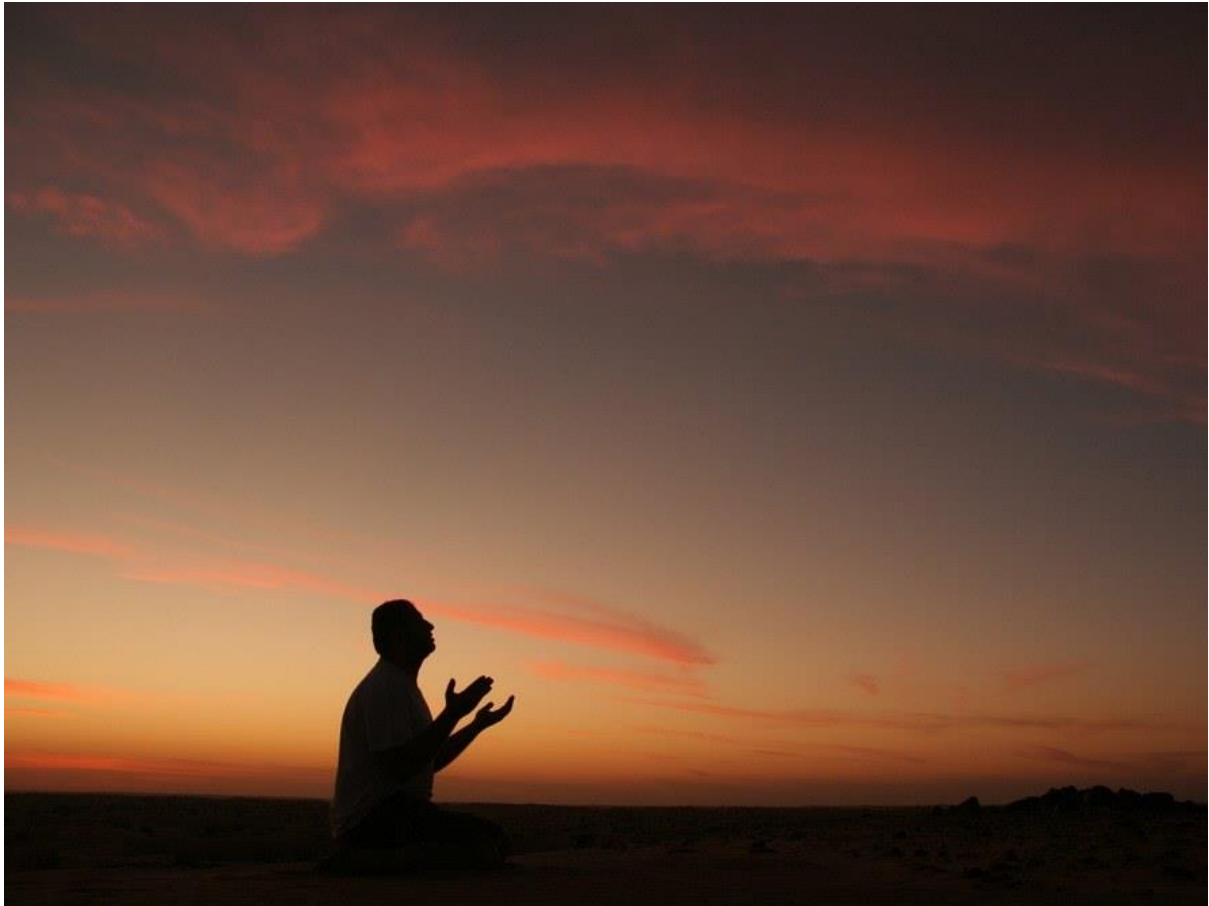
Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;

Supporting the school's Christian ethos and acts of community worship such as assemblies and church services;

Respecting the views and beliefs of others;

Conducting themselves towards others considerately and respecting the views and beliefs of others in line with the Prior's Promise.

Worship Theme - Remembrance



Remembrance

REMEMBERING IS IMPORTANT

Joshua 4:4-8

This week, we will be thinking about Remembrance in different ways.

I wonder why it is important to remember? Can you tell a partner about a memory that makes you feel happy? I wonder if there are also some sad memories too? Memories are important because they are a link to the past that can affect the future.

Show a picture of a cairn. I wonder if anyone has seen one of these or if anyone has added a stone to something like this?

Tell the story of Joshua's memorial. I wonder why it was important for the Israelites to mark and remember this moment as God's people entered the Promised Land?

A daily act of remembrance for today -every day at 8pm, this ceremony of remembrance is held at the Menin Gate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6MqLCqNroE>

THE POPPY OF REMEMBRANCE

John 15:13

Explore the symbolism of the poppy in an age appropriate way in your classroom.

For younger children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOT5CDnYHEs>

History of the poppy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGCHk5_2skY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAWfiTM2KsA>

More detail

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOJptRG7aJg>

People see the poppy in a variety of ways:

It is, of course, the symbol of a charity fund that still cares for those who were bereaved or injured in wars.

It is also a way of remembering the sacrifice made by many who fought against those who would take away democratic freedoms from our world.

It is a sign of hope, inspired as it is by the poppy fields in Belgium, where the flowers grew on the very land that had, during the First World War, been battlegrounds.

It can also be seen as a 'vote for peace'.

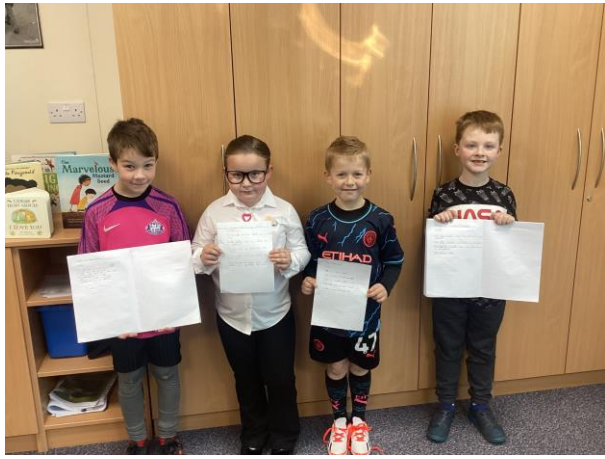




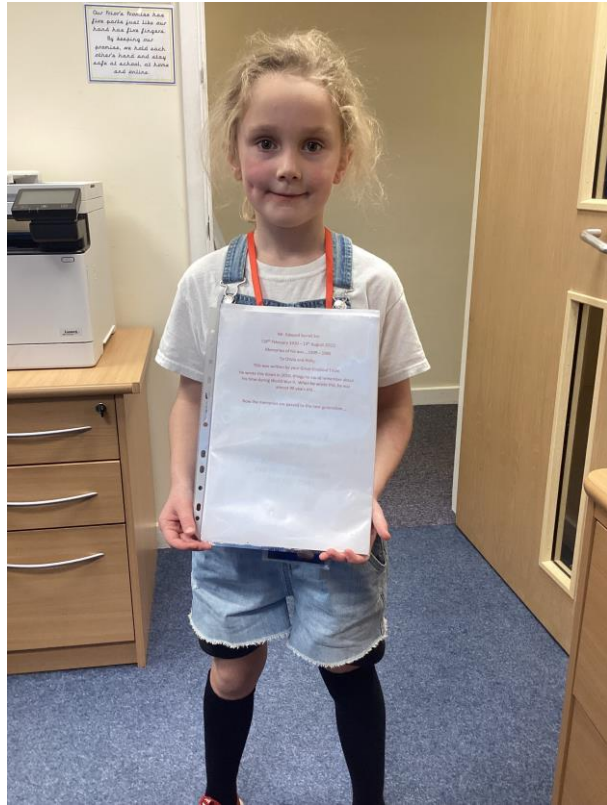
Class News



I've shared some brilliant pictures of pupils who have been to visit this week.









KEY DATES



Key Dates

HALF TERM WEEK - Monday 30th - Fri 3rd Nov

Friday 10th November - First week Back - Help For Heroes Day (attend school dressed as your favourite hero - it could be a super hero or someone who has inspired you!

Monday 13th Odd Socks Day

Friday 17th Children in Need - Non-Uniform or Spots

Christmas Dates

Monday 11th December 1.15pm -Year 1 children (class 3 & 4) and Reception class 1 children (Watch School Panto)

Monday 11th December 2.10pm – Year 2 children (class 5 & 6) and Reception class 2 children (Watch School Panto)

Tuesday 12th December 1.30pm – Morning Nursery and Afternoon Nursery

Thursday 14th December- Year 2 Singing Club, attending Snappy Christmas

Performances

KS1 - Friday 15th December- Grandparents performance 1.30pm and Monday 18th December- 9.30am and 1.30pm

EYFS - Early Years will be doing their nativity on the 11th and 12th December in the morning 9/9:930

Y3/4 Carol Service - Thursday 14th December 1:30pm (Y3 Parents) / Friday 15th December 10am (Y4 Parents)

Y5/6 - 19th (Y5 Parents) and 20th December 10am (Y6 Parents)

Parties

Tuesday 19th December- Year 1 Party (pm)

Wednesday 20th December- Year 2 Party (pm)

Thursday 21st December - EYFS Party (Am and Pm)

Year 5 20th December

Year 6 21st December

Year 3 Monday 18th

Year 4 Tuesday 19th

EYFS Christmas Workshop

Wednesday 6th December - Am / Pm times and classes to be confirmed

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday 13th



1 - And Finally...enjoy the weekend. Hopefully we'll all have a peaceful and thoughtful weekend where we can remember those who are special to us.

Picture News

Collective worship

Pupil involvement

You will need a feely bag with a selection of different coins in.

Show the children the feely bag and give it a little shake. Explain that you have some coins in it. Ask for a volunteer to place their hand in the bag and select a coin. Before they bring it out of the bag, can they guess which coin it is from the way it feels, its size, or shape? Repeat the activity with another volunteer or name a coin for them to find.

Coins are used as money. Have you ever used coins or notes before? Discuss your experience of money. Think about how you and adults at home spend money and what you spend it on.

Knowing how much we earn, spend and save is something we need to be responsible for as we grow up. Discuss other responsibilities you have now and may have in the future.

God Creation Fall

Bible Link: 1 Corinthians 13:3-7 Christian Value: Love

Theme: Money and responsibility

Pupil talk

- What role does money play in your life?

- Have you ever been responsible for money? Perhaps money you have earned doing jobs or been given as pocket money/a gift? What did you do with it?
- Do you think learning about money and managing finances now will help you be more responsible with money in the future? Why?

Think

A study, conducted by the government and backed by the Money and Pensions Service, has estimated that around 5.4 million children in the UK do not have the money skills they will need in adulthood. Less than half of children and teenagers aged 7 to 17 have received a meaningful financial education, according to the results. It also found that a third of children recall learning about money in school and finding it useful, and nearly a quarter received key elements of financial education at home.

As we go through life, there are many things we need to learn about and be responsible for, including money. The Bible is not against money, but it does warn about people becoming greedy and placing too much value on it. Instead, it teaches us the most important thing to value and be responsible for is loving God and each other.

People of God Incarnation

Invitation prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for always being there and teaching us what is important,

Help us be responsible for loving others,

Thank you for always loving us,

Amen

Key stage 1 class discussion

- Can you name the different coins and notes you have seen and what their value is?
- Have you ever spent any money?

What did you buy and how much did it cost?

- Do you prefer to spend or save money, or a bit of both?

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Make a list of things you need that cost money and things you need that don't cost money.
- Which of these things are you responsible for now? Which do you think you will be responsible for in the future?
- Discuss the things that are important to you and that you value most.

Worship song

Praise the Lord in everything!

Gospel Salvation Kingdom of God

© Picture News 2023

Thanks to Mrs Ann Hope for sharing this lovely message:

Our lovely lollypop man Peter, is raising money for Cancer Research for his wife Claire who is now in remission from lung cancer.

Peter has had both his knees replaced but he is planning to walk as much as possible to raise money.

He is such a lovely man and a great lollypop man

https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/peters-giving-page-885?fbclid=IwAR3xfRJGBaXWIRctfTbvCY70cU1FDoeJKYDqOjmlU104LYoYQuq_Oc-91M



2 - [Peter's Giving Page](#) Thanks for taking the time to visit my Giving Page. Cancer is happening right now, which is why I'm fundraising right now for Cancer Research UK. There's no time to lose! Donate to my page today and help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured. fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org

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

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

Tel: 01642 650 426

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