



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter November 17th 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 17.11.23

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SUPER SIAMS



SUPER SIAMS

It gives me great pleasure to attach the SIAMS report that was compiled by the Inspector after our SIAMS Inspection at the end of October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, pupils, parents, governors, trust and members of the wider community for their support and engagement with the inspection process. I am incredibly proud of the report and feel that it reflects the school in an accurate and honest manner and recognises the many strengths we have. The areas for development are already included in our school improvement plan and we are working to ensure that Prior's Mill is the best it can be for everyone. The Judgements for SIAMS have now changed an

unlike OFSTED there are no longer any 1 word judgements (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, Inadequate) but Inspectors now make one of two judgements:

1) The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Or

2) The inspection findings indicate that the school has strengths, but that there are also issues that leaders need to address as a matter of priority.

I am pleased to say that we are a judgement 1 school with many Outstanding attributes!

The inspection findings indicate that that Prior's Mill is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Please take time to read the report as we are incredibly proud of it.

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.

School Website

<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 20th Governors Meeting

Friday 24th - EYFS Bedtime Story Afternoon

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.



BBC

**Children
in Need**



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

*Attendance is
important*



SUPER SIAMS REPORT



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)
Report

Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School, Billingham	
Address	Clifton Avenue, Stockton-on-Tees, Billingham, TS22 5BX

School vision
<p>The Parable of the Mustard Seed – Mark 4:30-32</p> <p>'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.'</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision at Prior's Mill drives the actions of the school. It is reflective of the passionate guidance from senior leaders and the local governing body. In partnership with the Melrose Learning trust, this enables adults and children to flourish. • The Christian vision securely underpins the school's curriculum and its outworking, through the 'Prior's Promise.' This rigorously enhances the learning experience of pupils. • Collective Worship is a powerfully inclusive moment each day enriched by a culture of prayer, reflection and spiritual development. Through this, pupils are inspired to appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence. • Leaders have a comprehensive understanding of their local context. Wellbeing and good mental health are central to a culture of dignity and respect, leading to the flourishing of all. • The religious education (RE) curriculum at Prior's Mill is comprehensively planned, balanced and challenging. It enables pupils to acquire a deep knowledge of Christian belief and practice as a living and diverse faith.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with the Melrose Learning Trust and local governing body, extend systems for monitoring this as a Church school. This is to enhance the way the RE curriculum meets the needs of staff and pupils. • Enhance the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults through strengthening partnerships with the local parish church team. • Building on their growing experiences at a local level, extend pupils' ability to challenge issues of injustices nationally and globally.
Inspection findings
<p>A deeply embedded Christian vision, at Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School, is central to the flourishing of adults and children. Leaders ensure the school's distinctly Christian vision is guiding the life and learning experience of all pupils. The vision at Prior's Mill is closely aligned with that of the Melrose Learning Trust which the school joined in 2023. The relationship between the school and the trust is based on connection and collaboration. It strengthens the expression and reality of the school's Christian vision and provides wide-ranging opportunities for school</p>

improvement and staff development.

The outworking of the school's values in the 'Prior's Promise' creates an environment in which all are enriched and inspired. Following this promise is fundamental to leaders' rationale to keep children safe at school, at home and online. Values, which flow from the parable of the mustard seed, are enhanced with stories about Jesus' life. These provide a focus and example for even the youngest pupils to guide their words and actions. Leaders create the right conditions, just as in the parable of the mustard seed, for learners to be nourished and grow. Beautiful mustard trees are located throughout the school serving as focal points for prayer and reflection further reinforcing this vision. Leaders, and partners, work tirelessly to enable pupils and adults to flourish. They inspire pupils to care for others and learn how their gifts and growth can benefit those around them.

Collective worship is a daily opportunity for prayer, reflection and spiritual development which inspires pupils to live out the school's vision. Worship enables pupils to flourish through profoundly spiritual moments. As the prayer candle is extinguished, pupils are offered the opportunity to reflect

on Jesus' love and consider how to put the words of worship into action throughout the day. Key Stage 2 pupils explain that this is a powerful moment that motivates them to reflect on how they should behave. A worship group, composed of pupils, supports the delivery of worship through drama and prayer. Older children assist new members of this group which demonstrates the sense of support and nurture that exists at Prior's Mill. Pupils have opportunities to contribute to, evaluate and lead collective worship at both class and whole school level. This sense of ownership strengthens pupils' commitment to uphold the 'Prior's Promise.'

Worship enables pupils to flourish through profoundly spiritual moments.

Worship is coherently planned and expertly linked to the vision, ensuring that this is reinforced daily for pupils and adults. Whole school collective worship sets the tone for the week and both staff and pupils recognise the value in this. A comprehensive plan supports all staff to lead class and key stage worship throughout the week. In these moments, themes are developed and unpicked further in an age-appropriate way fostering the spiritual flourishing of all. Collective worship is enhanced through local partnerships. Representatives of the local church lead worship half-termly. 'Parish Friends' support Open the Book sessions for Key Stage 1 pupils regularly and Eucharistic services are held termly. Parents' insightful comments demonstrate the powerful impact worship has on many who have attended. These external partnerships provide supportive links from the wider community that are contributing to the flourishing of all at Prior's Mill. Leaders continue to explore opportunities to develop partnerships with Billingham Team Parish to share in the spiritual flourishing of all. Pupils and adults have a clear understanding of what spiritual development means to them at Prior's Mill. Leaders recognise that this can be extended from the key role it plays in collective worship to influence the wider curriculum. The way intentional moments of spiritual reflection are embedded within the curriculum is at an early stage of development.

Collective worship is enhanced through local partnerships.

Wellbeing and good mental health is a fundamental part of the vision at Prior's Mill. In collaboration with the trust and local governing body, wellbeing support is nurturing and inclusive. The local governing body are passionate about protecting the welfare of staff and pupils. Decisions are made which are ethical and reflective of the needs of the community. The trust's mental health and wellbeing lead trains staff to support the needs of parents and pupils. Access to mental health support, visits from a therapy pony and the appointment of a pupil welfare officer reinforce this. Volunteers from the parish are a weekly presence in the Key Stage 1 yard to support the needs of younger pupils. These actions have a powerful flourishing effect and reflect the value that leaders place on treating all with dignity and respect.

The RE curriculum at Prior's Mill is effectively planned and confidently led by senior leaders. Collaborative work with the diocese and Stockton local authority ensures that the RE curriculum meets local needs. The priority placed on RE at Prior's Mill reflects its key place in the curriculum of a

Church school. Recent changes ensure that the curriculum is well-balanced, relevant and diverse. Learners are able to acquire knowledge about Christianity as a living and diverse faith through the school's approach to Christianity as a global faith. Senior leaders use different depictions of Jesus from a range of cultures and continue to invest in diverse religious reading books. This builds an inclusive and equitable culture where all are welcomed.

Pupils reflect confidently on the impact of faith on their lives. Older pupils accurately talk of being the mustard tree for younger pupils reflecting on how they protect and nurture them. The 'Prior's Promise Pals' seek out pupils demonstrating the 'Prior's Promise' and award them with certificates at celebration worship. These examples demonstrate the characteristics which enable pupils at Prior's Mill to thrive.

Regular opportunities to challenge injustice exist at the local level. Pupils speak enthusiastically about changes they have achieved in their school community and the local area which have had a positive impact. These include reducing waste and the appropriate disposal of school dinner stickers. Leaders acknowledge that courageous advocacy is in its infancy and are developing opportunities to explore wider issues of injustice nationally and globally. Positive steps are already being taken in this area with valuable work being undertaken in relation to the 'global goals.' These steps inspire learners to be agents for change who recognise and challenge injustice.

Throughout the school, displays, reflection areas and biblical quotes reflect the spiritual journey that the school is on. Parents, staff and pupils support the 'Prior's Promise' and recognise the benefit it has for their school community. Pupils are consulted and listened to. The school community has created a permanent room providing all with opportunities to pray and reflect. This was created following feedback from pupils and highlights the power of pupil voice at Prior's Mill. A pupil explained that this was for any adult or child, of any religion, who needed a quiet place. Leaders are unwavering in their drive to empower the school community to flourish and grow in their God-given gifts.

The inspection findings indicate that Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	23 October 2023	URN	149706
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	433
Diocese	Durham		
MAT/Federation	Melrose Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Richard Linsley		
Chair	Kevin Cooper		
Inspector	Kevin Taggart	No.	2246

Digital Leaders - Houseparty App





This week Beatrice and Luke (Digital Leaders) have chosen the online safety guide and it has a focus on the Houseparty App. 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 trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel it needed. The guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and top tips for adults.

LIVE

WHAT IS HOUSEPARTY?

Houseparty is a live streaming app designed as a free-to-use social network where people log on each evening to have fun, have messages and hang out in groups. The app is available for iOS, Android, macOS and Google Chrome and has over 10 million users worldwide. It's important to note that children under the age of 13 must have a parental permission to access the service. However, no proof of age is required to create an account.

HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE USE IT?

Each time the app is opened, your child will be instantly connected to other users who are also on the app. Users can create group conversations of up to 12 people in real time. Each time a person joins, the screen shifts to show everyone who is part of the conversation. Your child can add friends by phone numbers, search for their usernames, and share a link to their profile. They can have no more than 100 users and move from chat to chat by swiping across the screen. Along with this functionality comes a few associated risks to be aware of.

What parents need to know about HOUSEPARTY

"STRANGER DANGER"

Friends of friends can join conversations on the platform without the need to be connected on the app. As the chat opens to the group, strangers can join the chat when individuals they may know enter that room. It's important to note that the app does not have a self-reporting system for users who are not connected to the app.

SEXUALISED MESSAGES

Parents may also be concerned about risks such as harassment or sexualised messages. There have been reports of sexualised messages being sent to users, including those reported by young people. These are not automatically reported by the app. However, users can report such messages to the app. It's important to note that friends of friends can also connect with your child via the app, which may include people with whom you are not aware.

CONTENT BEING SHARED

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has advised that users share content from their devices to the app. This includes photos, videos and audio recordings. The app has a reporting system for users to report content that is inappropriate. However, users can also share content with others in the app. It's important to note that users can also share content with others in the app, which may include people with whom you are not aware.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is when someone sends you a message or posts something on social media that is meant to hurt or embarrass you. It can be done through text messages, social media, or other digital communication. It's important to note that users can also share content with others in the app, which may include people with whom you are not aware.

OVERSHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION

Children often don't understand the risks involved in giving out personal information. They may also be less aware of personal information that is shared on the app. It's important to note that users can also share content with others in the app, which may include people with whom you are not aware.

IN-APP PURCHASES

It's important to note that users can also share content with others in the app, which may include people with whom you are not aware.

Top Tips for Parents

TURN ON PRIVATE MODE

One additional tip to use the app settings to turn on 'Private Mode' which automatically locks the room. Instead of being in a room, users with questions can always email us at help@houseparty.com

SAFER CONVERSATIONS

With live streaming being such a popular feature on apps, it's important that you are aware of the dangers associated with it in order to protect your child effectively. There are a number of things you can do to help you have the best conversations with your child about what apps they are using and how they are using them. It may be a good idea to have your child show you how they use Houseparty and how to navigate through the platform so you are aware of how it works.

CHECK COMMUNICATIONS

Also, it's important to be aware of who is on their Friends list and who they are communicating with. Remind your child to not communicate with people they do not know and trust. If they experience something on the app that makes them feel uncomfortable then they should tell a trusted adult immediately. Remind your child that if they get an invite to join a Houseparty room from someone they don't recognise, then they should ignore it.

'LOCK' ROOMS

In regards to communicating with users on the platform, we advise that your child uses the 'lock' feature to make their conversations private. This means that other users, especially strangers, can't join their conversations.

PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY

Your child may unknowingly give away personal information during a live stream, including their location. Talk to them about what constitutes personal information and make sure they are not disclosing anything to anyone during a live stream, even to their friends. Advise them to remove any items that they share (friend profiles, email names, phone etc.) that could potentially expose their location or personal information. Check your child's privacy settings thoroughly. You have the option to opt out of certain uses and disclosure of personal information, such as turning off the app's location sharing options.

PROTECTING YOUR CHILD'S DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

As the video on this page, it's important to the concept that whatever happens in the video will disappear once the live stream ends. All content shared on the app can be recorded or screenshoted and stored in a wider community. It is important that your child knows that what they do may have a long-term impact. In addition to this, the video chat can be recorded later which means that a parent or even a friend could be using it. It's important to note that users can also share content with others in the app, which may include people with whom you are not aware.

REMOVE LINKS TO OTHER APPS

Users can link their account to both Facebook and Snapchat, or can simply share a link to their profile. We advise that you remove these links and remind your child not to be linking to their account to their profile or other apps. There is the potential for strangers to get hold of your child's information or communication with them.

BE PRESENT

A study conducted by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) found that 91% of parents shared a child on their own, often in their bedrooms or bathroom. If your child is going to connect to live streams, will there if you could be present for it. This will give you a greater understanding of what your child is doing during their live streams and who they are streaming to.

REPORTING AND BLOCKING

If your child faces a problem while using the app they can report it directly to the platform by clicking their profile. It's important to note that users can also share content with others in the app, which may include people with whom you are not aware.

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 21.03.2020

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% (same as 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:

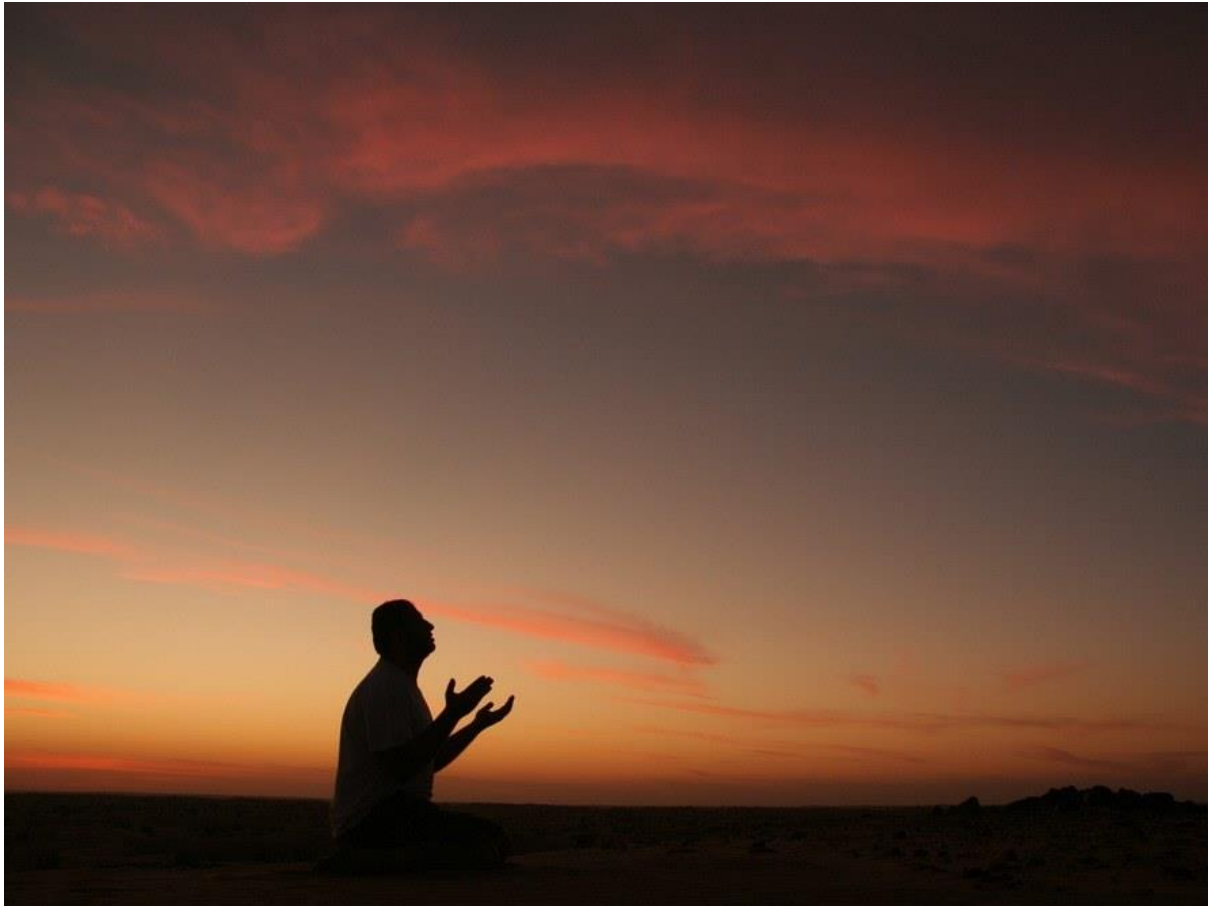
Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;

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 - Anti-Bullying Week



<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week> is a great website for exploring what we have been talking about in school.

Teaching from the Bible to support this is given above.

You might also like to look to particular role models to encourage the community to be united and committed against unfairness and equality of which bullying is an example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDZK09AUXT8>

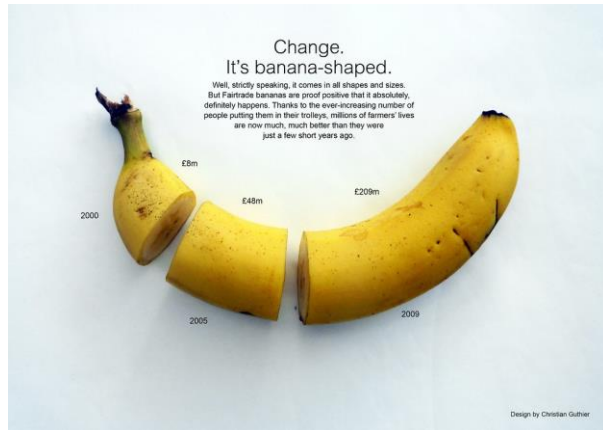
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iQVMWGE3_s – relevant parts

We also looked at Fairtrade and Children in Need.

Father God, You have placed Your children in a world where people push and shove to be first. But you have called us to view life from a perspective that considers others to be as important as ourselves. May our love and consideration for others grow and may the example of Jesus guide us as we make decisions that affect others and ourselves. Amen.



FAIRTRADE



Class News



I've shared some brilliant pictures of pupils enjoying sports hall athletics, collective worship and the arrival of our new clothes bank. Please ask the office about how to make a donation.









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 9/9:30

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.

Picture News

2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2023-11-10



What's happening
in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's

13th – 19th November 2023

Money and

God	Fall	People of God	
Incarnatio	Gospel	Salvation	Kingdom of God

A new robot called Digit, designed to be human-like and that is capable of lifting and moving items, is being tested in warehouses of the online retailer, Amazon. The robot is in its first few weeks of trials at Amazon's facility in Seattle, USA, as the company tries to improve automation in its processes. To begin with, the robot is being taught to pick up and move empty boxes to ensure that they are ready for reuse. The yellow boxes, or totes, are used throughout the company's fulfilment process.

Think together
and talk



Think together and talk

Can you explain what a robot is?

What jobs or tasks do we carry out that involve robotics?

Think about some of the everyday jobs and tasks you carry out. Are there any you would prefer a robot do?

Are there any jobs that are not suitable for a robot?



What does the Bible have to say?



The technology associated with robots continues to evolve. This makes us wonder even more about the power and majesty of God, who created the universe and everything in it. We have a responsibility to Creation so must ensure the robotics used do not cause it harm.



For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:20



What do others think?

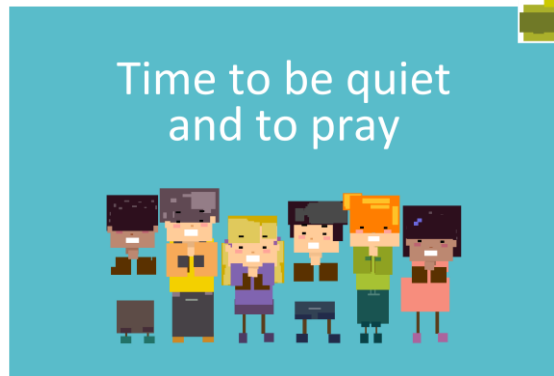





**Technology alone
is not enough.**



Steve Jobs – co-founder, and former
chairman and CEO of Apple

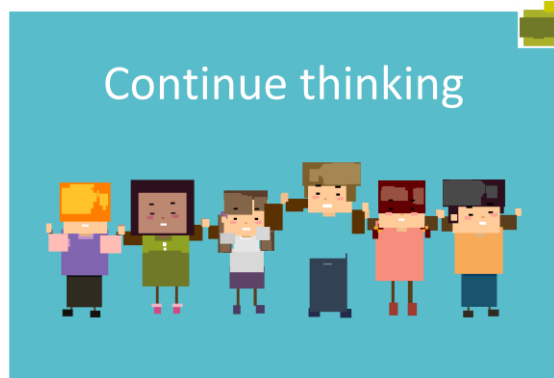


Time to be quiet
and to pray




Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the technology that
enhances our lives and the wonderful
world,
Help us to use technology to protect and
care for all Creation,
Amen



Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion

Make a list of jobs people have. Which do you think a robot might be able to do? Are there any jobs you don't think a robot should ever do?

What do you think your job or role is at school/home?

Do you think a robot could show kindness and love like you do?

Key Stage 2 class discussion

How do you feel about robotics?

How can they enhance our lives and help our responsibility to Creation? Can you think of an example when they do not?

Technology continues to evolve and change the world we live in. How do you cope with change?

Time to worship

God in his love
[Click here for the hymn online](#)



God in his love for us lent us this planet,
Gave it a purpose in time and in space,
Small as a spark from the fire of creation,
Cradle of life and the home of our race.



Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,
Life that sustains us in body and mind,
Plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
Riches undreamed of to fathom and find.



Long have our human wars ruined its harvest,
Long has earth bowed to the terror of force,
Long have we wasted what others have need of,
Poisoned the fountain of life at its source.



Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it,
Ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend,
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
Good Lord, deliver us, world without end.



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