



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter October 27th 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 27.10.23

In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **BBC 500 Words**
- **Digital Leaders - Share Kindness Online**
- **Attendance**
- **Spirituality**
- **Worship Theme - Kindness**
- **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)**

Thank You and Happy Half Term



SIAMS Inspection

On Monday, the school received a Church SIAMS inspection, the inspector rigorously explored all aspects of school to find out if Prior's Mill is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. A huge thanks to parents, members of the Parish and local community who spoke to the inspector. Staff and pupils were spoken to as were the Governors and Mr Ward the CEO of the Melrose Learning Trust. The inspector started at 8am and left just before 6pm and looked at lots of different aspects of school life to make sure staff and pupils were getting the best out of working and attending a Church School. Myself, Miss Huddart, Mr Kevin Cooper (Chair of Governors) and the Trust CEO had some brief feedback but have been told that we must

wait for the official report in 3 weeks before sharing anything with other staff or parents. Overall we felt the inspection was fair and look forward to reading the report when it arrives and then sharing it with you all.

School Meals

Please take time to make sure you have paid and then selected a meal for your child prior to returning after half-term. The school meals system is changing so it is important that parents pay and select the food they want in advance. Please contact the office and ask to speak to Miss Clapp or Mrs Twomey if you are having difficulties.

Poppies

Poppies will be on sale as well as a variety of stationery and other items when we return after half-term. All donations will be sent directly to the Royal British Legion.

Online Safety Meetings

Mr Farrell will again be organising drop in sessions for parents after Christmas to support with any questions or advice you need about any new devices you have received and any of the apps that are on them. Please check out our guide in the newsletter this week.

Harvest

Thank you to everyone in the school community that has dropped off tins of food and items for a harvest hamper. We will distribute these to deserving members of the local community.

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!

Billingham United Football Club

Billingham United FC have asked us to advertise that they are looking specifically for Girls to join their Y4 Team if you are interested then please get in touch with the club directly. If you are not a girl in Y4 but are interested in joining one of the teams organised by the club then they would also like to hear from you.

SRC Bede Sports Centre, Marsh House Ave, Stockton-on-Tees, Billingham TS23 3EH

committee@billinghamunited.co.uk

<https://billinghamunited.co.uk/contact/>

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 - Half Term - CHECK OUT THE HOLIDAY CLUB POSTER BELOW!

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!

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.



Autumn Half Term Holiday Camps

**Every weekday of the holidays
Mon 30th Oct - Fri 3rd Nov 2023**

- ✓ **Gymnastics & Trampolining**
- ✓ **Fun & Games**
- ✓ **Crafts & Activities**

£25 all day

9am-4pm (wrap around available
8-9am and 4-5pm)

Pre-booked lunch only £3.50.

**Limited Spaces - Book in the APP or at
www.velocitysports.org.uk/go/holidaycamps
now to avoid disappointment**

**Velocity Trampoline & Gymnastics Club, Inside Marsh House Sports
& Community Ctr, Marsh House Ave, Billingham, S23 3HB**



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

*Attendance is
important*





BBC 500 Words Competition



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 - Share Kindness Online





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.

10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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 95.7% (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 - Kindness



Kindness

WHO IS KINDNESS FOR?

Luke 10:25-37

You can also watch the Parable of the Good Samaritan through one of these videos:

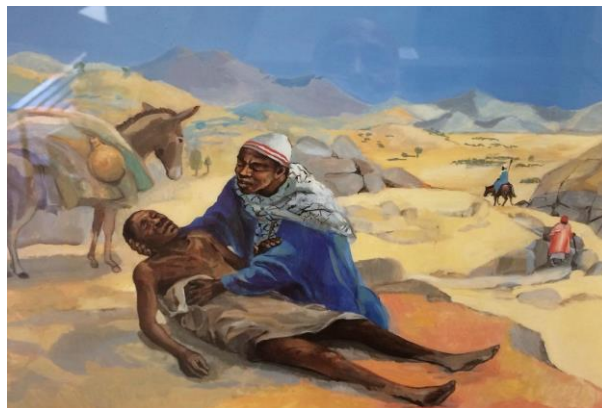
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO4qSAh1sl>

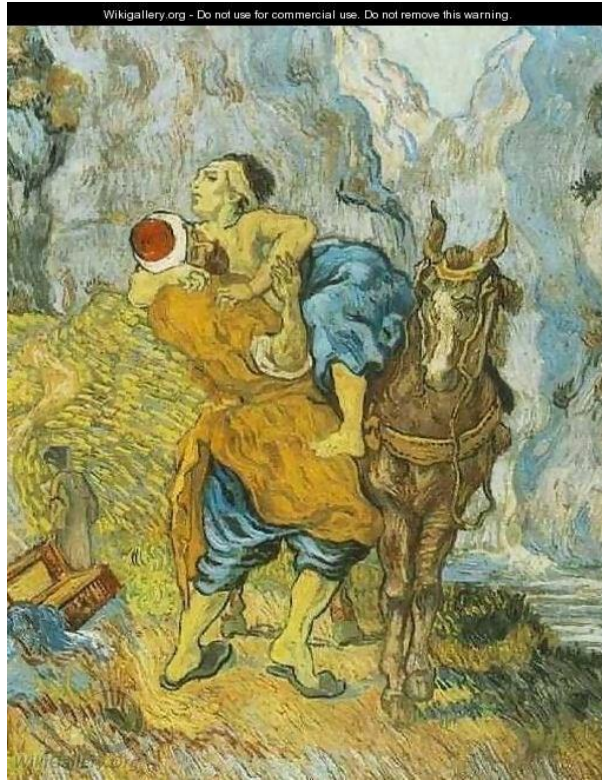
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLzdQtetedc> (up to 2 mins 45 secs) or read from an appropriate version

In the Good News Translation, we see the importance of kindness coming through: “In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?” The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.” Jesus replied, “You go, then, and do the same.” In the time and place that this parable was told, Samaritans were not popular; it was certainly not expected that this person, from that place, would be willing to help the beaten man lying helpless in the road!

I wonder how the beaten man felt when the Samaritan helped him by showing kindness? I wonder how he felt when the others walked past and ignored him? I wonder what difference you think this act of kindness meant to the beaten man and to the Samaritan? Why do you think Jesus decided to tell this story?

Sometimes our acts of kindness, however big or small, can really make a difference in someone's life. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus helped the teacher of the Law realise that being a neighbour and showing kindness was much more important than deciding who is or isn't a neighbour.





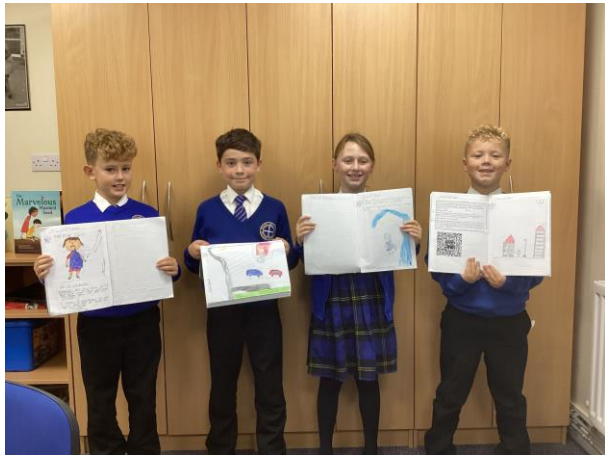
Class News



It has been a pleasure to have visitors from Mr Stokes, Miss Alderson and Miss Wood's Class come and show me their great work this week - Super Stars!



1 - Class 6 were amazing in their class worship. The theme of the worship was kindness. The children shared their understanding of kindness and they shared the story of The Good Samaritan. They explained that the story teaches us to be kind to everyone



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!

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



2 - And Finally...enjoy half-term! Hopefully Sunderland will be back winning by the time we return! Well done Middlesbrough for your good form and finally being above us in the table!

Picture News

2-08--england-primary-powerpoint-2023-10-20



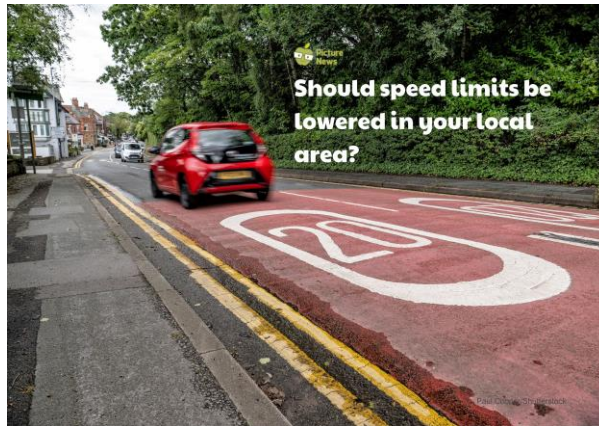
What's happening
in the news this week?





Let's have a look at this week's

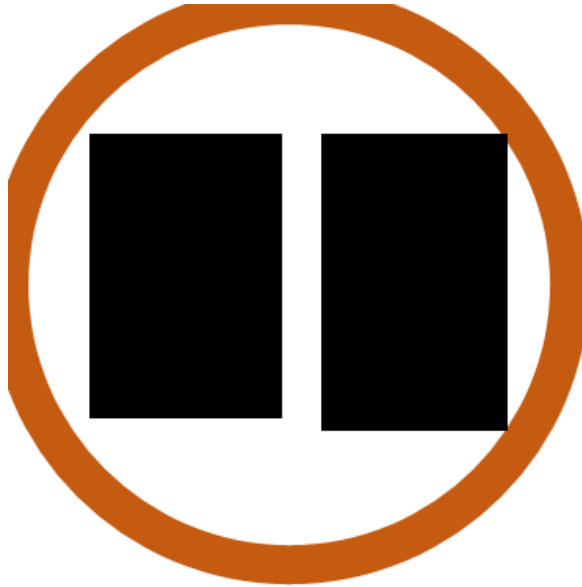
23rd – 29th October 2023



Let's look at this week's story



Wales has reduced its maximum speed limit in residential areas, close to homes and schools, from 30mph to 20mph, becoming the first nation in the UK to introduce these measures. Ministers in Wales have said the 20mph limit will make roads safer, with the aim also being to increase the number of people choosing to walk or cycle. Changing the speed limit, along with the need to raise awareness and amend road signs, has cost the government in Wales just over £32m. However, ministers believe the cost will be outweighed by reduced impact on emergency services and the NHS.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).

Watch this week's useful video [here](#).

This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



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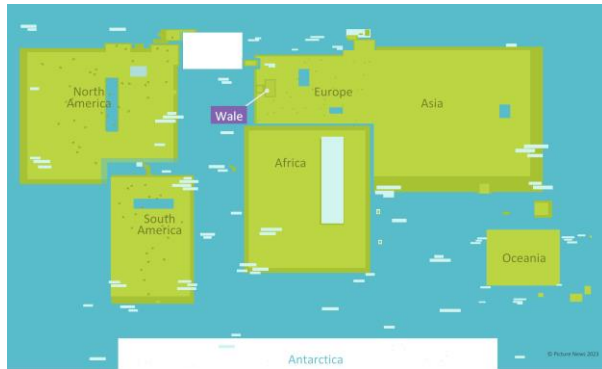
How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
discouraged dejected downcast downhearted gloomy melancholy miserable sorrowful wretched	aggravated annoyed disappointed disgruntled dissatisfied furious gloomy indignant irritated outraged resentful vexed	beaming blissful cheerful content delighted glowing jubilant jovial	befuddled bewildered boggled boggled confused dazed dumbfounded flummoxed muddled perplexed puzzled	amused astounded enthusiastic excited thrilled thrilled thrilled thrilled thrilled thrilled thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned dreadful fretful nervous worried worried worried worried	astounded dumbfounded flabbergasted horrified shocked shocked shocked shocked shocked shocked shocked	alarmed apprehensive dreadful fearful fearful fearful fearful fearful fearful fearful fearful fearful

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This week's story looks at events related to ...



Why has Wales introduced a 20mph speed limit on residential roads and busy pedestrian streets?

A public health study, conducted by the Welsh government, estimated that the 20mph default speed limit could result every year in:

- 40% fewer collisions
- 1200 to 2000 people avoiding injury

The government also believes the change will:

- Make streets safer for playing, walking, and cycling; encouraging more people to do them



Read through the information below about the new laws in Wales.



Does everyone support the changes?



Some people don't agree with the changes to reduce the speed limits because they think it is unfair to drivers, as their car journeys will take more time.

When the Labour government (the party currently in charge) in Wales asked the public what they thought of the plan, it found that more people were against the speed limit change than for it.

The UK's first 20mph zone was introduced in Sheffield in 1991.

Spain changed their road speeds in 2021, reducing the speed limit from 30km/h to 20km/h (12.4 mph) on one-way roads in all towns and cities.



In your opinion, should these laws be introduced everywhere?

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Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of things that might help to make the



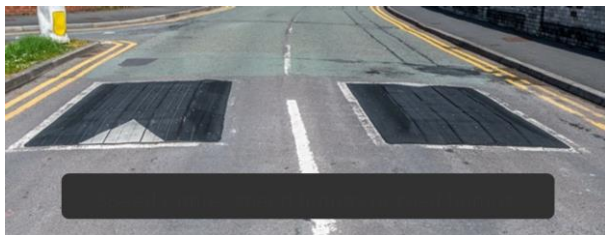
A school crossing patrol officer, sometimes known as a lollipop person.



Road markings



A crossing.





A 20mph speed limit

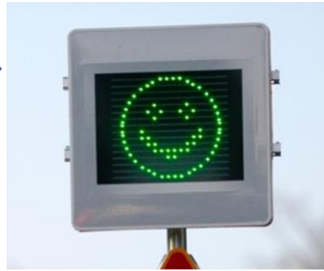


A plastic cutout.

Warning road traffic signs.



A smiley face speed sign



Have you seen any of these things outside your school?

© Picture News 2023



Look at the resource below, which shares more information about how speed limits are decided.



Built-up areas have a speed limit of 30mph in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, and 20mph in Wales.

In 1935, the 30mph speed limit was introduced in the UK to keep everybody safer and reduce the number of road traffic accidents and fatalities.

Speed limits can also be set by local councils. Examples of these include:

20mph speed limit in a built-up area around a school
50mph speed limit on a stretch of road with sharp bends



Across the UK, cars travelling on single carriageways have a speed limit of 60mph. On dual carriageways or motorways, this is 70mph.

These national speed limits vary depending on the vehicle being driven. For example, a bus or coach is limited to 50mph on single carriageways, 60mph on dual carriageways and 70mph on motorways. It is a driver's responsibility to know the speed limit for the vehicle they



Some vehicles, such as lorries carrying heavy loads and buses carrying passengers, must be fitted with speed limiters, which limit the maximum speed of the vehicle and are designed to reduce collisions.



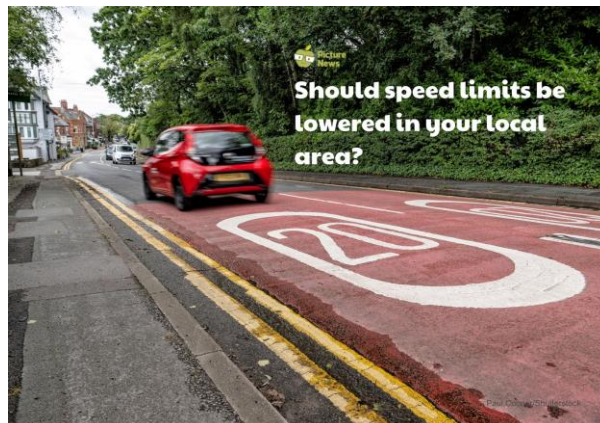
The Department for Transport (DfT) says that for every 1mph the average speed of vehicles reduces on roads, there are 6% fewer accidents.

They also say, 'Speed limits should be evidence-led and self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel.'

Do you agree with these limits?

How do you feel about the speed limits in Wales compared with the rest of the UK?

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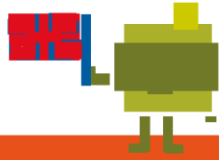


Reflection



Introducing speed limits is one of several ways we can ensure that all road users can stay safer, including drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.





British Value



Rule of Law

Speed limits are put in place to reduce road accidents and keep people safer.

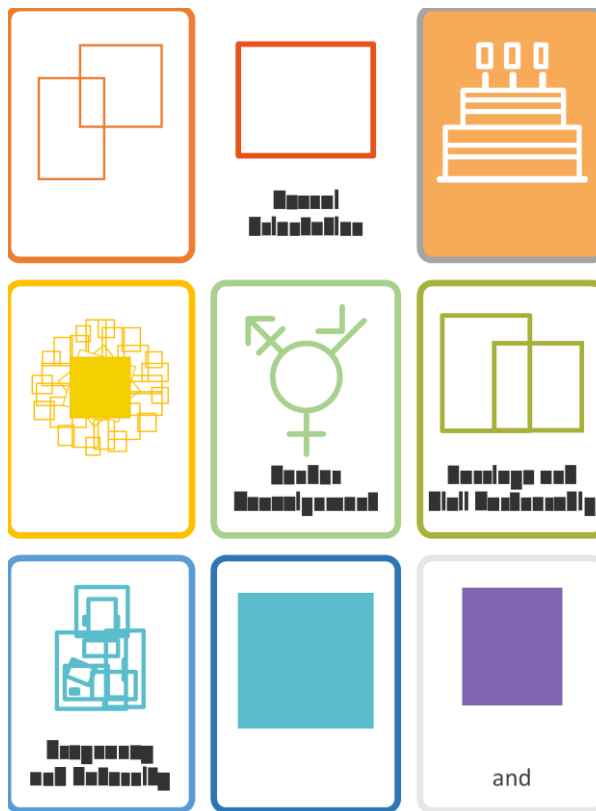
These limits are law and if a vehicle exceeds them there can be consequences.

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Protecte
Characteris



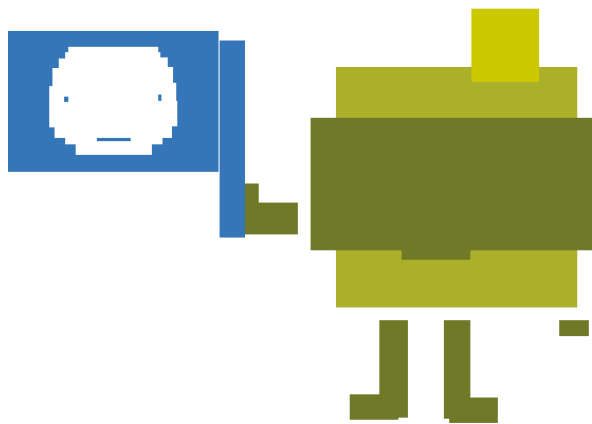
UK law states to start learning to drive a car on roads, you must be at least 17 years old. This helps keep everyone safer. However, we can all use roads as pedestrians, cyclists etc no matter what age we are. We should never be treated unfairly because of our age.





UN
of a

Every child has the right to be alive. Governments must make sure that children survive and develop in the best possible way. Speed limits can help protect us and keep us safer.





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Useful vocabulary



D



Amend

To make changes to a text.

Changing the speed limit, along with the need to raise awareness and **amend** road signs, has cost the government in Wales just over £32m.

Minister

The head of a government department (in some countries).

Ministers in Wales have said the 20mph limit will make

Collision

Two vehicles hitting each other with force.

A public health study, conducted by the Welsh government, estimated that the 20mph default speed limit could result every year in: 40% fewer **collisions**, 1200 to 2000 people avoiding

Outweighed

To be of greater importance, benefit, or significance.

However, ministers believe the cost will be **outweighed** by reduced impact on emergency services and the

Default

The thing that exists or happens if you do not change it intentionally.

A public health study, conducted by the Welsh government, estimated that the 20mph **default** speed limit could result every year in: 40% fewer collisions, 1200 to 2000

Residential

An area that contains houses and homes.

Wales has reduced its maximum speed limit in **residential** areas.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

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Should speed limits be lowered in your local area?

Wales has reduced its maximum speed limit in residential areas, close to homes and schools, from 30mph to 20mph, becoming the first nation in the UK to introduce these measures. Ministers in

Wales have said the 20mph limit will make roads safer, with the aim also being to increase the number of people choosing to walk or cycle. Changing the speed limit, along with the need to raise awareness and amend road signs, has cost the government in Wales just over £32m. However, ministers believe the cost will be outweighed by reduced impact on emergency services and the NHS.



- Look at this week's poster image. What do you think this week's story could be about?
- Thinking about the area around your school, do you believe that it is safe? Does it have a safe speed limit in your view?
- Not everyone agrees with the decision because they feel it is unfair to drivers, who will face longer journey times. Can you come up with any other possible reasons why people might not support the changes?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource about the new laws in Wales. In your opinion, should these laws be introduced everywhere?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows one school in London taking it upon themselves to tackle speeding drivers outside their building. The children ask questions such as 'Why do you think the speed limit is 20mph on this road?' and 'Are you aware of the consequences of speeding?'. Do you think this is a good way to help reduce the number of drivers exceeding the speed limit? Can you think of any other ideas?

Reflection

Introducing speed limits is one of several ways we can ensure that all road users can stay safer, including drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

KS1 focus

How can we make sure the area
around our school is safe?



- Think about your journey to school. How do you get there? Do you walk, cycle, travel in a car or bus? What time do you set off and what time do you arrive?
- When you arrive at school what happens? Do you go straight into school, onto the playground or wait outside school?
- Schools can be busy places, especially when children are being dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. How do you think the areas around schools can be made safe during these busy times?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some examples of things that might help to make the area around a school safer. Have you seen any of these things outside your school?
- The area outside every school is different so different safety measures will be in place. Focus on the area outside your school. Does it get busy? Is there much traffic passing through?

Where do cars park? Is there a safe place to cross? Are there any systems in place e.g., a drop-off point, a one-way system, or staggered start times? Is there anything that you think might improve it?

- As well as having things in place to make the outside of our schools safer, we can also do things to help. Discuss some of the things you can do to help keep yourself safer outside school e.g., visible clothing, use pavements/crossings, be alert.

Reflection

The areas outside schools can be very busy places. There are often things that help make them safer but if we feel there is more that can be done, we can use our voices to make things better.

KS2 focus

How are speed limits decided?



Discuss speed limits. Do you know what speed limits are in place in your local area? What is the speed limit on a motorway? What other speed limits have you come across?

Speed limits are in place to help keep all people using roads safer. Look at resource 2, which shares more information about how speed limits are decided. Do you agree with these limits? How do you feel about the speed limits in Wales compared with the rest of the UK?

Some speed limits are decided by local councils such as 20mph zones outside schools. Does your school have a 20mph zone? Were you aware this was decided by your local council? Are there any other speed limits near you that you think your local council might have decided?

Speed limits are the absolute maximum you can travel on a road but it does not always mean it is safe to do so in all conditions. Can you think of an example of when it might not be safe to travel at the maximum speed?

DfT say, 'Speed limits should be evidence-led and self-explaining'. What do you think this means? Is it obvious to you why different speed limits are in place on different roads? Can you explain why built-up areas have a lower speed limit than a motorway?

Think back to your local area and its speed limits.

Do you agree with them all? Are there any you would change? Why?

Reflection

Speed limits are in place to reduce the number of accidents on the road and to keep everyone safer. We can all contribute to keeping ourselves and others safer when using roads.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Speed is a measure of how fast an object is moving. To calculate speed, you need to know the distance travelled and the time it took.

- What units can we use to measure distance? Kilometres, miles?
- What units can we use to measure time? Seconds, minutes, hours?
- Do you know the distance from your home to school?
- How long does it take you to travel to school?
- Do you know what the average walking speed is?

Speed = distance ÷ time. You could explore this further by calculating some speeds travelled to get to places in your local area. An online map may help you do this.

Option 2

Read and research to find out more about the history of roads and traffic in the UK. Think about the following:

- When and where was the first motorway in the UK?
- How have speed limits changed over time?
- How many cars are there now compared with the past?
- When did seatbelts become compulsory?
- When did speed cameras first start being used?
- How are vehicles fuelled now compared with the past?

Share your findings and discuss what changes you may see in the future.

KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Stand just outside your school.

- What road traffic signs can you see?
- Are there any markings on the road? Do you know what they mean?
- Is there a place to cross?
- Are there any pavements?
- Is the road busy or quiet?
- What traffic have you seen? Cars, pedestrians, cyclists?

Take some photographs of these things and if possible, email them to another school. You can discuss the similarities and differences between the outside of the two schools.

Option 2

Design a poster that will encourage road users to slow down and be cautious when travelling past your school. Think about:

- What will your poster say?
- What pictures will you have on it?
- What colours will you use?
- Where could you display it?
- How can you make it weatherproof?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://metro.co.uk/2023/09/18/wales-rolls-out-20mph-speed-limit-for-roads-near-homes-and-schools-19515606/>

This week's useful video

One school's campaign

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48802277

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

Amend

To make changes to a text.

Changing the speed limit, along with the need to raise awareness and amend road signs, has cost the government in Wales just over £32m.

Collision

Two vehicles hitting each other with force.

A public health study, conducted by the Welsh government, estimated that the 20mph default speed limit could result every year in: 40% fewer collisions, 1200 to 2000 people avoiding injury.

Default

The thing that exists or happens if you do not change it intentionally.

A public health study, conducted by the Welsh government, estimated that the 20mph default speed limit could result every year in: 40% fewer collisions, 1200 to 2000 people avoiding injury.

Minister

The head of a government department (in some countries).

Ministers in Wales have said the 20mph limit will make roads safer.

Outweighed

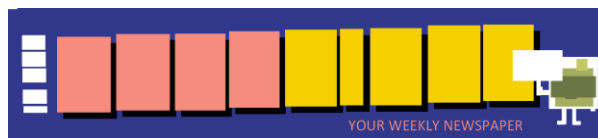
To be of greater importance, benefit, or significance.

However, ministers believe the cost will be outweighed by reduced impact on emergency services and the NHS.

Residential

An area that contains houses and homes.

Wales has reduced its maximum speed limit in residential areas.



Plump Pumpkins





Pictured: Trying to pick up a large pumpkin. **Source:** Canva.

Comedy Wildlife Photo

Award Finalists

The Comedy Wildlife Photography Award finalists have been announced for this year. Below are just a few of the hilarious and entertaining photos that made it to the final judging stage. Thousands of submissions were received from professional and amateur photographers from around the globe. The awards website explains the goal of the competition, stating, 'Through the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards, we aim to widen understanding and engagement of a sustainable world - and wildlife conservation specifically - for the

preservation of biodiversity and the health and enrichment of everyone on Earth.' 'Hang Loose' was taken by Christian Hargasser and 'Air-apparent' was photographed by Paul Goldstein, both in Masai Mara, Kenya. The photo of the monkey was taken by Delphine Casimir in Ubud, Bali. The bird dispute was captured by Jacek Stankiewicz, in Bialowieza Forest, Poland. There is a special people's choice award, where the public vote for their favourite photo on the photo awards' website. The winners will be announced on 23rd November.

Experts have announced that this October's pumpkins will be larger than ever! They predict that all varieties of pumpkin picked this autumn will have grown bigger than normal, due to the very wet summer in the UK this year. Steve Whitworth, from Oakley Farms near Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, explained,

'We had a pretty good growing season for pumpkins this summer with a really hot June, which really helped the plants along. The rainy July and August may not have been great for sun lovers or barbecue fans but from a growing point of view for pumpkins, it was perfect. The weather

gave us the right amount of rain with sunny intervals especially compared with the challenging conditions we encountered during last year's heatwave, which was officially the hottest UK year on record.' Good news was reported from Tesco supermarket which said that compared with last year, there were ten times as many people searching for pumpkin recipes from September to October on its Tesco Real Food website. Tesco pumpkin buyer Lucy Moss, stated, 'It's good news, from a food waste point of view... so nothing should go to waste.'



Picture: Four of the photos that have been selected as Prudis Hong Lopez, The Panforest Emily, An apparent, Picture: Image: Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards 2023

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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Golden Gymnast



American gymnast, Simone Bile, has made history after winning a second gold medal at the 2023 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, held in Antwerp, Belgium. The women's all-around gold medal that she was awarded there has made her the most decorated gymnast ever! She now holds 37 medals across the world championships and Olympics, more than any other male or female gymnast in the history of the sport! She has seven Olympic medals, including four golds, and thirty world medals, which include twenty-three golds. Simone competed in her first world championships in Antwerp in 2013.

Bonus Picture News - Conflict in Israel

IH2-08--england-primary-powerpoint-2023-10-11

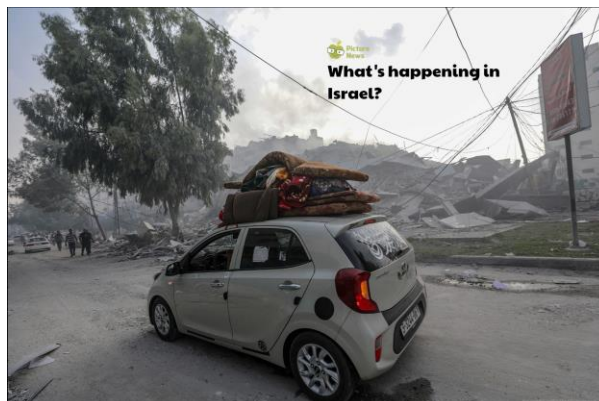


What's happening
in the news?



Let's have a look at the poster

Israel and Hamas





Let's look at the story



The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has said the country is at war after an attack by Palestinian militant group, Hamas. Fighters from the group crossed into Israel from Gaza in an unexpected attack on 7th October.

The attacks hit civilians as well as soldiers. Israel responded with air strikes into the Gaza Strip (Gaza), saying the targets were militant sites. However, the United Nations (UN) has reported that these strikes displaced around 200,000 Palestinians, while Gaza health officials say thousands have been injured.



Learn more about this story [here](#).

Watch the useful video [here](#).

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Resource



Look at the information below, which explains more about what is currently happening in Israel.

What is Hamas?

Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls the Gaza Strip. The group wants to take over Israel and change it to an Islamic state. Since the group took over Gaza in 2007, there have been several periods of fighting between it and Israel. Israel has attacked Hamas with air strikes, and, alongside Egypt, has blockaded the Gaza Strip for 17 years for security reasons. Hamas is classified as a terrorist group by many countries including Israel, the EU, UK, and the USA. The group is backed by Iran, which funds it and provides weapons.

What is the Gaza Strip?

How did the conflict begin?



Map of Israel Source: BBC World Maps

The Gaza Strip is a 6-mile-wide and 25-mile-long territory that borders Egypt and Israel. Just over two million people live there.

The Palestinian territories include Gaza and the West Bank (shown in the map above). Israel was declared a state in 1948, although the land in the territories is still referred to as Palestine by those who do not recognise Israel as a country. These, according to the Bible, were also the lands of Jewish kingdoms and so are regarded by Jews as their ancient homeland. The most recent conflict began when fighters from Hamas crossed into Israel from Gaza to attack. Following the start of the assault, Hamas' military commander, Mohammed Deif, called on Palestinians everywhere to join the group's operation. Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, told Israelis they are going into a long and difficult

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Main question



What's happening in Israel?

Listen Think Share

- Look at the poster image, it shows a car with belongings passing the site of a destroyed 14-storey tower block in Gaza City, following air strikes there. Share any information or prior knowledge about what is currently happening in Israel and Gaza.
- Read through the news story and share your thoughts and reflections now you have read more.
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows what life is currently like for people living in Israel. What impact is the current situation having on the lives of people there?

Following the start of the assault, Hamas' military commander, Mohammed Deif, called on Palestinians everywhere to join the group's operation. On Sunday, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, told Israelis they are going into a "long and difficult war". What do you think he means by this?

Read through the information found on the resource, which explains more about the history of the conflict.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said he will support Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. 'We will do everything that we can to help. Terrorism will not prevail,' he said. What do you think other countries can do to help in situations like this? Do you think enough is being done?



Useful Weblinks



News story: www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67039975

Useful video: www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/av/67052739

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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=IwAR3xfRJGBaXWIRCTfTbvCYY70cU1FDoeJKYDgQjmlU104LYoYQuq_Oc-91M



3 - [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