

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter December 15th 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 15.12.23

In This Issue



This week we include:

- Message from Mr Linsley
- Digital Leaders Online Shopping/Tik Tok / Facebook
- Attendance
- Spirituality
- Worship Theme Advent
- 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)

Snappy Christmas



I hope this newsletter finds you well and getting into the festive spirit! It has been a truly wonderful week here at Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School, filled with joy and celebration.

Firstly, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our Reception and Nursery classes for their spectacular Nativity performance, "Wriggly Christmas." The children were simply outstanding, and it was a joy to see their enthusiasm and talent on display. Well done to all involved!

I would also like to express my gratitude to Mrs Rushton for her exceptional piano skills during our lovely Carol Service, performed by our Year 3 and 4 students. The atmosphere was truly magical, and the children's voices filled the hall with festive cheer.

Speaking of festive cheer, our Christmas Dinner was an absolute delight. The children thoroughly enjoyed their meal, and it was a pleasure to see them all coming together to share this special occasion. It truly embodied the spirit of Christmas.

We had a fantastic time on Christmas Jumper Day, with everyone donning their most festive attire. The school was filled with laughter and joy, and due to the overwhelming response, we have decided to repeat this event on the last day of term next Thursday! So get those jumpers ready for another day of festive fun!

I am delighted to inform you that our Snappy Christmas Singing Group had the opportunity to perform at the Thornaby Pavilion. If you would like to relive the magic, please check out the video and photographs further in this newsletter. Additionally, I would like to remind parents that our KS1 Performance will be taking place on Monday 18th December at 9:30am and 1:30pm. Make sure to mark your calendars!

In the coming days, we have a number of Carol Services and Sing-a-longs to look forward to. Our Year 5 Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 19th December at 10am, followed by the Year 6 Carol Service on Wednesday 20th December at 10am. The Nursery Sing-a-long will take place on the same day at 2:30pm. We can't wait to see you there!

Finally, we have our Christmas Parties to round off the term. Children are invited to come dressed in their finest party clothes for a day of celebration. The schedule is as follows: Year 3 on Monday 18th December, Year 1 and 4 on Tuesday 19th December, Year 2 and 5 on Wednesday 20th December, and EYFS and Year 6 on Thursday 21st December.

Please note that the last day of term will also be Christmas Jumper Day, with a non-uniform dress code for both children and staff. There will be no after school club on this day.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Prior's Promise Pals 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!

*Huge congratulations to Mrs Jamieson who was also awarded a certificate by the children.

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:

Dates for next week are included above and at the end of the newsletter.

School is closed on Friday 22nd December and it reopens on Monday 8th January 2024

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.







Digital Leaders - Online Shopping / TikTok/Facebook



This week Beatrice and Luke (Digital Leaders) have chosen the online safety guide and it has a focus on staying safe if you are doing any online shopping. 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.

We have also included a TikTok Fact Sheet as well as a fact sheet about Facebook - please take time to read this as this week Facebook was highlighted as being a dangerous site for young children.

Any safeguarding concerns can be relayed to: Mr Linsley - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Huddart - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

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





At National Online Sofery, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they here it is needed. This audie locuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults with the information to hold on informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they there it is needed. This audie locuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults which be evane of Places with www.nationatonisticstery.com to truster adults of the adults of the other in the information of the other i What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBO GERATING 13+ ta, is the world's most popular a by (among other things) With 2.9 billio nting on their content. es and d is already familiar with the WHAT ARE THE RISKS? et use it themselves. Π ADDICTIVE NATURE pok's quick rew +1111 CYBERBULLYING OVERSHARING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT 18 FUTURE IMPACT Facebook monitors and removes mate like hate speech or extreme political v CEN FB taken down instant still a risk of childre VIDEOS AND STREAMING LIVE CONTACT FROM STRANGERS re are people entions. Ofcom te in the offline world, the book with malicious in orid, there lous intentions, Olcon-at 30% of sceived a friend request adly, can include ake advantage of 0 16 Advice for Parents & Carers **KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE** ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING LEAD BY EXAMPLE Let your child watch 1 66 SAVVY SHARING BLOCK AND REPORT **RESPECT BOUNDARIES** 🖳 Friends 🔻 that what they and up being haring, whenever a hotos are uploaded or is pa National Meet Our Expert NOS Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday 👎 /NationalOnlineSafety 🛞 www.nationalonlinesafety.com 🥑 @natonlinesafety @nationalonlinesafety Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.03.2022

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 91% (SAME AS LAST WEEK) this is 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:

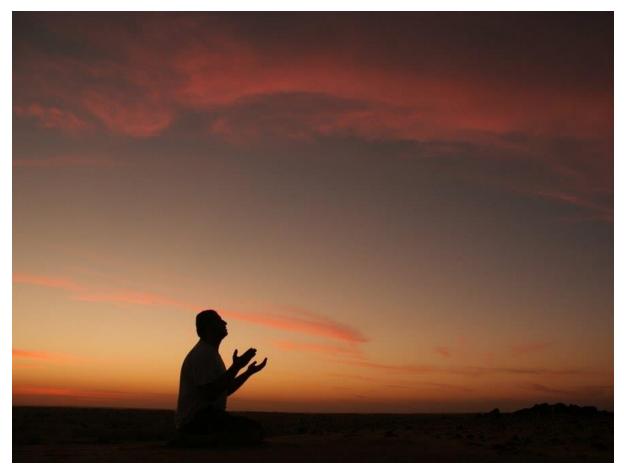
Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;

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 - Advent



ZECHARIAH AND THE ANGEL

Luke 1:5-25

Throughout the Christmas story, angels appear with important messages, they play a key role in the whole story. Together you can explore the Nativity Story, focusing on the actions of the angels. Before you begin, create a display of representations of angels, using a variety of pieces of artwork from around the world from different periods of history.

I wonder what an angel is... what they do....where do they come from? I wonder what an angel looks like? How do you know? There are 273 references to angels in the Bible. I wonder if you can remember any stories that include them?

I wonder if you have said the phrase " I

don't believe it?' Hamsters run up to 8 miles a night on a wheel. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain - these facts are true but hard to believe. Zechariah had such a surprise one day brought to him by an angel that he cried out the words "I don't believe it! How can

that happen?"

Tell the story of Zechariah and the angel in the temple using an appropriate version or use a clip such as

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=490SDWdIG3U up to 2mins 13 secs

Dear God, very often if we have not seen something or do not fully understand something, then we do not believe it to be real or possible. Although we may never have met an angel, we know that they are your special messengers. As we prepare for Christmas, help us to listen carefully to the words of the angels and learn more about your love for us. Amen









Class News



Snappy Christmas

Singing club had a fantastic day at 'Snappy Christmas'. The children enjoyed singing a range of songs and were given a special shout out during the performance for singing so well. A huge well done to all of the children who have worked so hard practicing for the performance.



https://fb.watch/oXYeiHIodP/

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

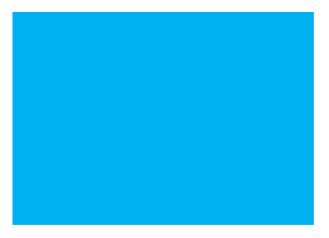
Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday 13th



1 - And Finally...enjoy the weekend.

Picture News

2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2023-12-08



What's happening

in the news this week?





11th – 17th December 2023



British litter-pickers have become world champions in the litterpicking World Cup (also known as the SpoGomi World Cup) after sifting through nearly 60 kilograms of rubbish in the Japanese capital to win the first-ever contest of its kind. The British team, made up of Sarah Parry and brothers Alexander and Jonathan Winship, beat teams from 20 other nations from around the world. SpoGomi is named after a combination of 'sport' and 'gomi', the Japanese word for rubbish. Each team is equipped with protective gloves, metal tongs and waste bags, and allocated an area of five square kilometres (nearly two square miles) in the busy Shibuya district of Tokyo, to collect as much litter as possible.



Think together and talk

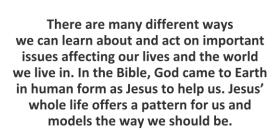
What type of rubbish do you collect in school/at home?

Where do you put your litter? Do you sort it? Do you ever recycle anything?

Do you think making something fun and entertaining is a good way to inform and educate people?









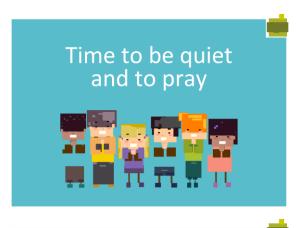
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlecting Fother, Prince of Person Isaiah 9:6

What do others think?



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

Anne Frank – a Jewish girl who wrote a famous diary during World War Two



Prayer

Dear God, At this time of year, we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and the good news he brought us,

Thank you for always being there and for showing us how to live, Amen

Continue thinking

Key Stage 1 class discussion

Would you treasure or throw away the following items: a colouring book, milk bottle tops, a toy car, a collection of old photographs, a conker? Does everyone agree?

Share the phrase, 'One person's rubbish is another person's treasure'. Can you explain what it means?

Key Stage 2 class discussion

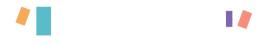
As well as being a fun competition, SpoGomi raises awareness about littering. Discuss other ways people can communicate and share messages about litter and rubbish.

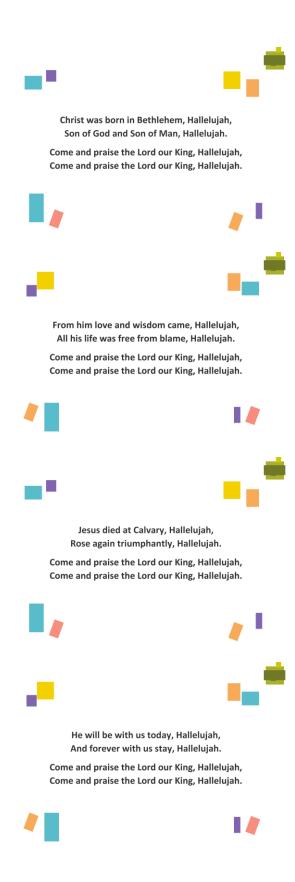
What other messages do you think you should model and share with others? How might you do this?

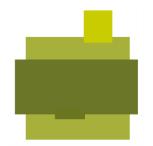




Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah, Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah.







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