



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.



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

*Attendance is
important*



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

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.



ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

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



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.11.2023

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18
CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years 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

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING
13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12–15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12–15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's 'Audience Selector' gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



Source: www.facebook.com/alexwright

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@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/oXYeiHlodP/>

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-2023-12-08











What's happening
in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's

11th – 17th December 2023

Is all rubbish rubbish?

 God	 Creation	 Fall	 People of God
 Incarnatio	 Gospel	 Salvation	 Kingdom of God

British litter-pickers have become world champions in the litter-picking 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



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?



What does the Bible have to say?



There are many different ways we can learn about and act on important issues affecting our lives and the world we live in. In the Bible, God came to Earth in human form as Jesus to help us. Jesus' whole life offers a pattern for us and models the way we should be.



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,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

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

Time to be quiet
and to pray



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?

Time to worship

Come and praise the Lord our King
[Click here for the hymn online](#)



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



Christ was born in Bethlehem, Hallelujah,
Son of God and Son of Man, Hallelujah.

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



From him love and wisdom came, Hallelujah,
All his life was free from blame, Hallelujah.

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



Jesus died at Calvary, Hallelujah,
Rose again triumphantly, Hallelujah.

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



He will be with us today, Hallelujah,
And forever with us stay, Hallelujah.

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