



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter December 21st 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 21.12.23

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This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **Digital Leaders - Online Shopping/Tik Tok / Facebook / New Devices**
- **Attendance**
- **Spirituality**
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- **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)**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in high spirits as we approach the Christmas holidays. It gives me great pleasure to share with you the special events and achievements that have taken place at Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School over the past two weeks.

Our Christmas celebrations have been nothing short of spectacular. The Nativity Performances showcased the immense talent of our children, with exceptional singing, acting, and breathtaking solos. The school halls were filled to the brim with proud parents, grandparents, friends and family

resulting in rounds of applause and even standing ovations for our Year 5 and Year 6 students. It was truly heart warming to witness such support from our community.

As we bid farewell to the Autumn Term, I cannot help but feel a sense of pride in what we have accomplished. A successful SIAMS Inspection, coupled with staff training and the remarkable achievements of our pupils, has set the tone for a positive start to the year. However, we remain ambitious and committed to providing the very best for the children in our community.

Moving on to important matters, today we conducted a practice fire drill on both school sites. Although it may not be the usual festive bells ringing, it is crucial for everyone's safety that we are well-prepared and aware of the routine. I am pleased to report that the evacuation proceeded smoothly, and all staff and pupils exited safely.

Unfortunately, with every departure comes a tinge of sadness. We bid farewell and good luck to Mrs Waldock, who is embarking on a new role at Middlesbrough College. We also say goodbye to Miss Thomas, our Lunchtime Supervisor at KS1, and Miss Walker, our Nursery Teaching Assistant. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them for their invaluable contributions to our school and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

On behalf of the staff, governors, and the Trust, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your kind cards and thoughtful gifts that have been sent to the school are greatly appreciated and serve as a testament to the strong bond we share as a community.

Lastly, please remember that school will reopen on Monday, January 8th. I look forward to welcoming our students back for another term of learning, growth, and success.

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

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 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/New Devices



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. There is also a fact sheet about new devices and controls.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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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.



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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.



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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's needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, learn our tips for safety.

Top Tips For SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect their online. If you don't sort these out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to Screen Time. From here you can customise important settings including time on your own device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. It allows you to create a Family account for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in the Family Link app on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unboxed. At my account Sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you have to log on to the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age ratings.

IPAD

Like parental controls are identical to those on iPhones, however, if you've got a shared family iPad you want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate other than those approved by you. There's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, you can set your child to use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account is a parental profile, so your child can't alter your child's data. You'll be walked through the functions of what you can do to restrict them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with the Microsoft account on the company and Other Users and create your child's account. If you've already used the account on a previous PC, just log in with those details. Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app (like on Android devices). However, just head on to the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings app. The first here is to get locked up on the content you're before looking any other devices. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account. Then, while on their profile – use the screen time options to group and boundaries (apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa)).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however, some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unavailable material.

Meet Our Expert

Amy is a qualified child psychologist and author with more than 20 years' experience of working for the Home Office, the British Army, the NHS, the police and the media. She has been featured in national news and has written for the BBC, the Guardian and the Independent. She has also been a regular contributor to the subject of parental safety.



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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 92% (+1% FROM 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:

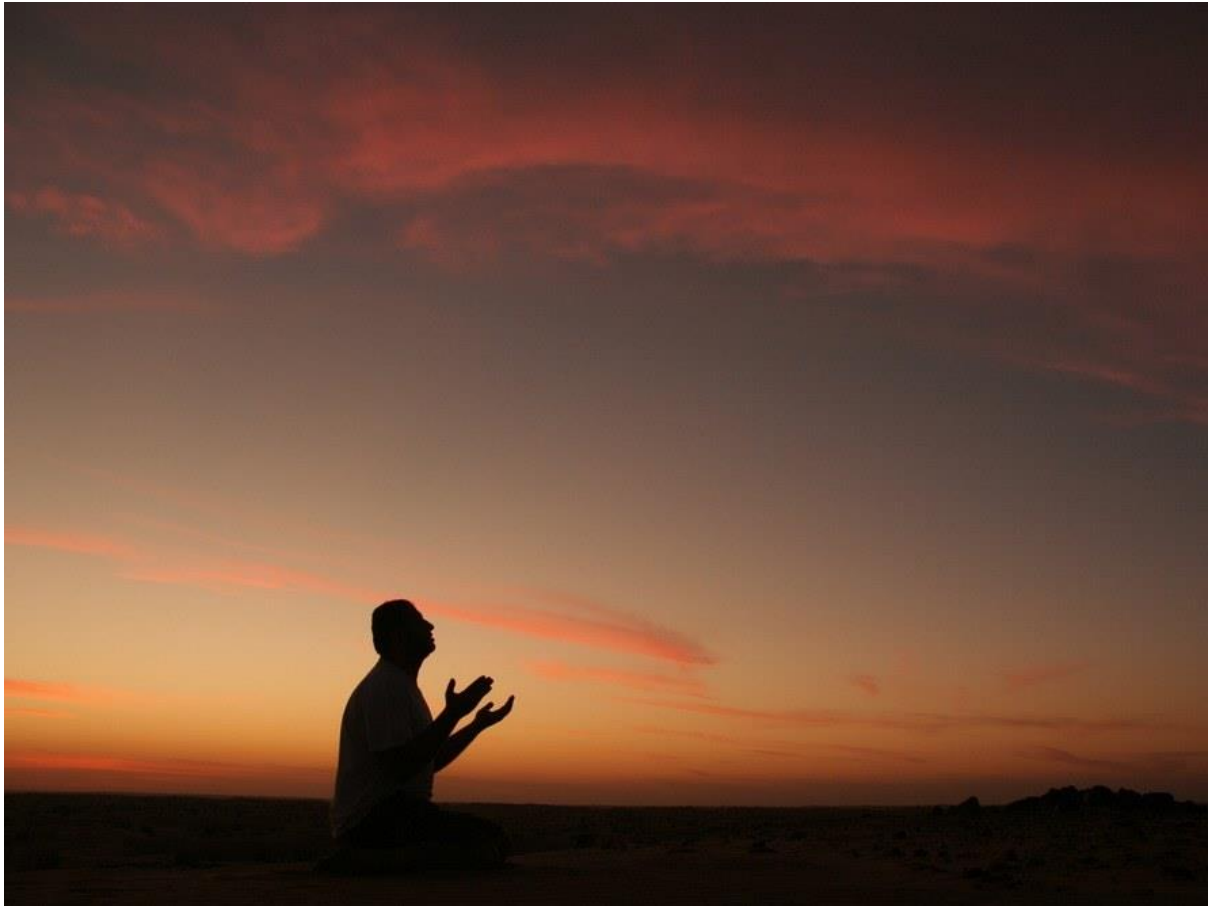
Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;

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 - JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL



JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

Matthew 1: 18-25

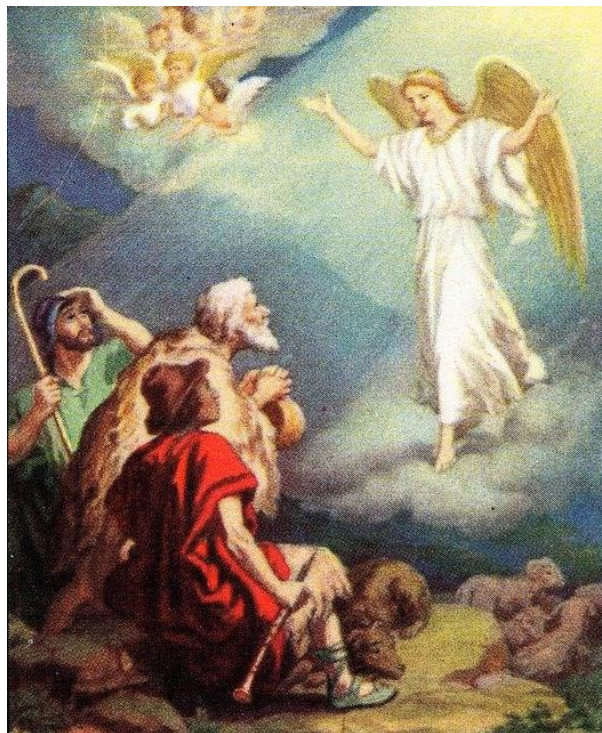
I wonder what it feels like to be confused? I wonder what sort of things confuse us and why? Joseph was confused by the message that Mary had received from Gabriel. So God sent an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream – Matthew 1: 18-25.

Show the children a picture of Joseph with a troubled face. Explain that Mary has just told Joseph her wonderful news. Joseph is feeling very puzzled - he has promised to marry Mary but now he is not so sure if he should. Follow on by showing a painting of Joseph lying asleep on a mat being visited by the angel, eg

<https://seedsofffaith.cph.org/2015/12/24/new-testament-1-lesson-5-an-angel-visits-joseph/>

God sends an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream. The angel tells Joseph not to worry, that he must marry Mary and that she will give birth to a son. The angel tells Joseph to name the child Jesus, and that Jesus is the Son of God. When Joseph woke up, he did exactly as the angel had told him to. I wonder how Joseph felt when he awoke?

Sometimes we all become fearful, In this time of quiet, remember that God is with us always, helping us to overcome worries and understand things more clearly.



Class News



Christmas Pictures

Class 7 are Party Ready

George Toth is the first ever Y2 to become a Rock Hero at Times Tables!

Attendance Stars and Goodbye Mrs Waldock





KEY DATES



Key Dates

School reopens Monday 8th January

School closes Friday 16th February



1 - And Finally...enjoy the Christmas Holiday!

Picture News

2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2023-12-15



What's happening
in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's

18th – 24th December 2023

Special Celebration

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

Twinpikeway, a street in York, is also known as Twinklepikeway as usually, in December, every home is lit up with incredible festive lights to raise money for charity. The residents started putting up the lights in 2000 and since then, hundreds of people have come to visit them. After 20 years and raising over £100,000 for charities, the homeowners have collectively decided that it's time for a break this year, partly due to the ages of the residents. Rising energy bills and the closure of the local bank branch, where the donations are typically paid, added to the decision.

Think together
and talk



Think together and talk

Make a list of things people might celebrate.

How do you celebrate?

Who do you enjoy celebrating with?

Do you have any traditions or ways of celebrating at this time of year?



What does the Bible have to say?



Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. He was born in a stable, he slept in a manger, and he wasn't rich. Whilst many people celebrate with gifts, special meals, decorations and parties, it is important to remember that Jesus is the most special gift. His birth is the true meaning of Christmas.



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11



What do others think?



**'Maybe Christmas', he
thought, 'doesn't come from
a store. Maybe Christmas...
perhaps... means a little bit
more.'**

**'How the Grinch Stole Christmas',
by Dr Seuss**

**Time to be quiet
and to pray**



Prayer

**Dear God,
Thank you for all the exciting things that
come at this time of year,
Thank you for the most special and
greatest gift of all, Jesus,
Amen**

Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion

Have you seen any decorations in your local area? Do you have a favourite? Can you describe it? How does it make you feel when you see it?

Do you have any decorations at home or school? Perhaps you could make one to add to your classroom!

Key Stage 2 class discussion

Think about a celebration you have recently taken part in. What was it? How did you celebrate? Who was there?

Would you have enjoyed your celebration if you had been on your own? How important are the people you share your celebrations with?

Have you ever felt like not celebrating or seen someone else feeling like this?

Time to worship

Away in a manger
[Click here for the hymn online](#)



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.



The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.



Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.



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.

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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