



# Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter 19th January 2024

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*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 19.1.24*

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## In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **Digital Leaders - Music Streaming Websites**
- **Attendance**
- **Spirituality**
- **Worship Theme - Four Gospels**
- **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)**

Happy New Year



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a wonderful week here at Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School, filled with exciting learning opportunities for our pupils.

I have had the pleasure of observing our students fully engaged in their learning across all year groups. From Pre-school to KS2, it has been a delight to see them tackling a range of subjects including English, Maths, Gymnastics, Dance, and Art. They have also been making the most of our outdoor areas, using the sand and water to explore and learn.

This week, I have been particularly impressed with the display of good manners by our students. I have witnessed numerous examples both in the classroom, in the dinner hall, and on the yard. It is heart-warming to see our children treating each other with kindness and respect.

I am proud to share that our Y5/6 children received high praise from Cleveland Police for their maturity and knowledge during a presentation on Monday. The police have visited several primary schools in Billingham and Stockton to educate students on the dangers of offensive weapons and knife crime. Our children asked some of the best questions the police officers had ever heard, showcasing their understanding and commitment to keeping our community safe.

"I thought the talk by the police was interesting and taught everyone something. Also it made me more aware of knife crime and what I can do in these situations to keep safe." Deputy Head Girl - Isabelle

"The session was presented very well and the policeman made sure everyone was okay with what we were talking about and some of the drawn images involving blood we might see." Head Boy - Fletcher

In other news, our Health and Wellbeing Ambassadors have successfully completed their training with Alliance. They will be supporting pupils within the school and collaborating with staff to implement ideas and resources. They will also be informing parents about various health and wellbeing initiatives. Look out for pictures next week.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that Number Day is fast approaching on Friday 2nd February. Pupils are encouraged to attend school in non-uniform and wear something numbered. This can be a customized item and does not need to be bought. In-class maths activities will also be available for those who prefer to focus solely on completing them.

As we anticipate the arrival of warmer weather, I kindly ask that you continue to send your children to school with coats, hats, and gloves. Safety and comfort remain our utmost priority.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. Together, we can continue to provide the best possible education for our children.

Best regards,

Mr Linsley

### **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 (additional key dates are further in the newsletter):**

Next Week :

Afterschool clubs as usual

**If you have any queries, worries or safeguarding concerns over the holidays/weekend then please use the email address:**

[office@priorsmill.org.uk](mailto: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.**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## Attendance: the top facts to know & share

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

**The link between attendance and attainment is clear:**

- In 2018/19, **just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup>

**And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:**

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.<sup>2</sup>

**But attendance is important for more than just attainment:**

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.<sup>3</sup>



Send **your nomination** **before**  
**Friday 26 January 2024!**

## Who deserves an award ...

*...for what they do,  
or have done for our  
community?*

**Please help** draw attention to  
the **great** things they **do** and  
**have done**, **and show them**  
that they **are appreciated**.

## Award Categories:

- **Young Person Award**
- **Service to Community Award**
  - i. **Individuals**
  - ii. **Groups & Organisations**
  - iii. **Business**
- **Health & Wellbeing Award**
- **Green Award**
- **Carer/Foster Carer Award**

**Everyone knows** an individual, a  
couple, group / organisation, or  
business that **deserves** recognition  
for the **fantastic difference** they  
make in the **lives of others** across  
the **borough** of Stockton on Tees.

## Make a nomination

- Use the **link** in the email, **or** the  
**attached form**.
- For **more** information call the  
**Mayor's Office** on **(01642) 528161**  
or email:  
[mayors.office@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:mayors.office@stockton.gov.uk)
- The awards will be **presented**  
at the Council's **Annual Meeting**.

**Closing date:**  
*Friday*  
**26 January 2024**

# All Together For You

Monthly multi-agency drop-in sessions



Pop along to ask questions and get advice from a variety of services to help support your family.

Ask questions, get advice on the support available or make a plan on how to tackle your issues.

**No appointment needed, just turn up!**

# All Together For You

Monthly multi-agency drop-in sessions



<b>January 19</b>	Billingham	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>February 16</b>	Redhill	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>March 15</b>	Stockton	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>April 19</b>	Thornaby	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>May 17</b>	Billingham	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>June 21</b>	Redhill	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>July 19</b>	Stockton	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>August 16</b>	Thornaby	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>September 20</b>	Billingham	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>October 18</b>	Redhill	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>November 15</b>	Stockton	9.30am - 11.30am
<b>December 20</b>	Thornaby	9.30am - 11.30am

**No appointment needed, just turn up!**



## Digital Leaders - New Devices



This week Beatrice and Luke (Digital Leaders) have chosen the online safety guide and it has a focus on music streaming devices. If there are any apps or online sites that parents would like a fact sheet about then please get in touch and we'll try and provide one.

***Any safeguarding concerns can be relayed to:***

***Mr Linsley - Designated Safeguarding Lead***

***Miss Huddart - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead***

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

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming Series

**NOS**  
Social Media & Live Streaming

Brought to you by  
**NOS** National Online Safety  
[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

# What you need to know about... MUSIC STREAMING APPS & SITES

Download the App Search Artists

## What are they? 'Music Streaming Apps & Sites'

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to showcase their talent which would have been very hard to do many years back.

## Know the Risks

### Explicit content

Explicit content is everywhere online, including in popular music. Children can easily access songs on Spotify, for example, that may have explicit or inappropriate language not suitable for children. It is also easy to erase searches so you can't see what a child has been listening to.

### Adult themed podcasts

Many music streaming apps also offer the ability to listen to podcasts which can vary across any kind of topic, from business and health to comedy and relationships. Again, children could be exposed to content which is more adult themed or contains age-inappropriate language.

### Chatting to strangers

Some music apps, like Playlist, want to make music a more social experience by finding others who share the same musical tastes and will allow users to join group chats where they listen to a playlist together in real time. This could open up your child to talking to strangers online.

## Safety Tips

### Use child friendly apps

Many music streaming services are made just for children. For instance, the Spotify kids app provides parents with control over what their children listen to and all the content is family friendly and fun for children to explore.

### 18+ Turn off explicit content

Most of the major music streaming apps will provide the option to turn off explicit material to make sure the music is completely clean. Some services even offer an option to lock the content censoring settings with a password, so your child can't switch it back.

### Implement privacy controls

Check the privacy setting of your child's app. Ensure that whichever app or site they choose to stream music, the settings are set to be private. This way they can only share the music they are listening too with friends and family and can't engage in conversation with strangers.

## Offering Support

### Explore apps yourself

If your child insists on wanting to use a music streaming app then be part of the journey with them. Take the time to understand which apps they prefer to use and why they want to use it. Find out how to use the app yourself and understand what they could be exposed to and how to ensure they get the most of it in a safe manner.

### Regularly check-in

Have regular conversations with your child about what they are listening to and how they are feeling. If they do hear explicit music or content that makes them feel uncomfortable, let them know that they can always talk to you and discuss what they've heard and what it means.

## Our Expert

**Parven Kaur**

Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

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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 93% (+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!**

**"THIS MORNING, HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT SCHOOL... BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!"**

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

 HM Government  
Head to the Education Hub to find out more.



**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**



**“THIS MORNING, HE HAD A RUNNY NOSE... BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!”**

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

 HM Government

Head to the NHS website to find out more.



## 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 - The Four Gospels



### THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

#### Simon - Matthew 16:16

I wonder how we know all that we do about Jesus and what he did whilst he lived? We have 4 books in the new Testament of the Bible called gospels written by 4 different authors who tell us about what Jesus did and what he taught. I wonder what 'Gospel' means? (you may have talked about this in your RE lessons). This week we are going to meet 4 people, each one from a different gospel – the gospels help us to meet the people that Jesus met and to see how they changed as a result.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poNuGusSX5c>

based on Matthew 4:18-20

I wonder what sort of person Simon was when he first met Jesus? I wonder how and why he changed?

Read Matthew 16:16 – here *Jesus gave Simon a nickname. I wonder why he chose the name, Peter the rock? Sometimes that rock was a real support and sometimes it was very wobbly! – for example, when Peter said he did not even know Jesus.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRzL1Aca4Lw>

based on Matthew 26:69-75

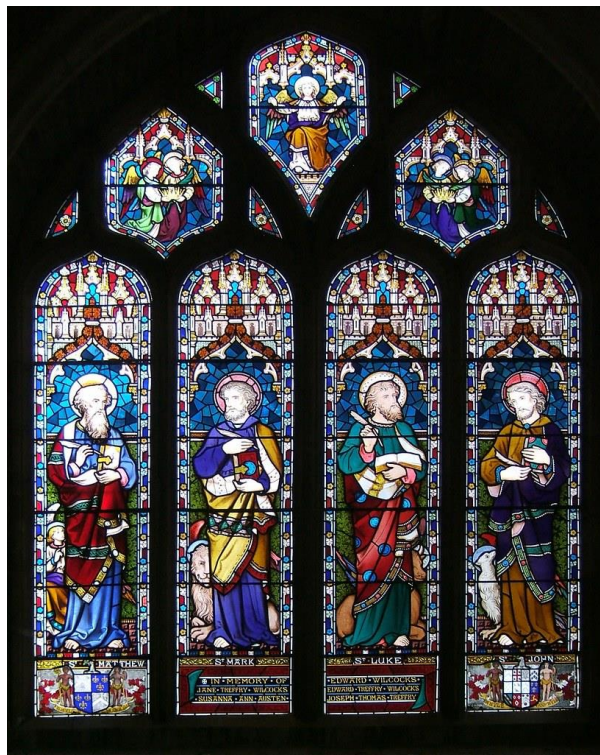
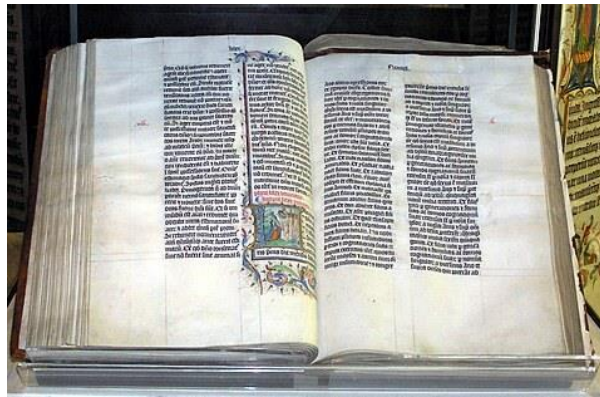


*I wonder what we can learn from our meeting with Simon Peter in the gospel of Matthew? Perhaps it is that God knows the best you can be and wants to help you to become that.*

*Dear God, When I am feeling sad or disappointed in myself, help me to remember that you are there to forgive me and to be with me as I go forward with you by my side. AMEN*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xznM-v8fkYI>

*Song and images reflecting the life of Simon Peter*





## Class News





1 - Photographs from the Y6 Midsummer Nights Dream Walk.





## KEY DATES



### **Key Dates**

School reopens Monday 8th January

Number Day NSPCC - 2.2.24

Mental Health Week - 5.2.24

Safer Internet Day - 6.2.24

School closes Friday 16th February - Half Term - Re-opens Monday 26th February

National Careers Week - 4.3.24

World Book Day - 8.3.24

British Science Week -11.3.24

Comic Relief - 15.3.24

Food Bank Donations - 18.3.24

Easter Around the World RE - 22.3.24

DT Week 25.3.24



*2 - And Finally...enjoy the Weekend*

## Picture News

[2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2024-01-12](#)



What's happening  
in the news this week?





Let's have a look at this week's

15th – 21st January 2024

## Ready to read!

	Creation	Fall	People of God
Incarnatio	Gospel	Salvation	Kingdom of Go

© Picture News 2024

A study from the University of Valencia, in Spain, found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading, for example, on an e-reader or tablet. The study, published in the Review of Educational Research, also found that while there is a negative relationship between digital reading and comprehension for primary school pupils, the relationship turns positive for secondary school-aged pupils.

## Think together and talk



Think together and talk

**What do you enjoy reading? Do you have a favourite book?**

**Make a list of things you read every week e.g., messages from friends, books, comics, menus.**

**Do you prefer reading printed material or do you prefer reading on a screen? Does everyone agree?**



What does the Bible have to say?



**The Bible is written by lots of different authors and is made up of lots of different books. It is split into the Old Testament, which tells us about the time before Jesus was born, and the New Testament, which tells us about Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection and how the Christian church started. Whether we choose to read or share the Bible in a physical book or digitally, it is for everyone and it helps us to know God better.**







**Your word is a lamp for my feet, a  
light on my path.**

Psalm 119:105



What do others think?



**The more that you read, the more  
things you will know. The more  
that you learn, the more places  
you'll go.**



'I can read with my eyes shut!'  
by Dr Seuss - author

Time to be quiet  
and to pray



## Prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you that we can learn to  
read,  
Thank you for everything that  
we can enjoy reading,  
Thank you for the Bible and all  
that it teaches us,

## Continue thinking



### Key Stage 1 class discussion

Think about something you have enjoyed reading. What was it? Why did you enjoy it?

Where do you prefer reading?  
At school, at home, on a beanbag, by a radiator?

### Key Stage 2 class discussion

Do you read for enjoyment and pleasure?  
If so, share something you enjoyed reading recently.

Not everyone enjoys reading or finds it easy, but we are all lucky to have the opportunity to learn to read. How do you prefer to learn reading skills?

Discuss how being able to read helps us now and may help us in the future.

# Time to worship

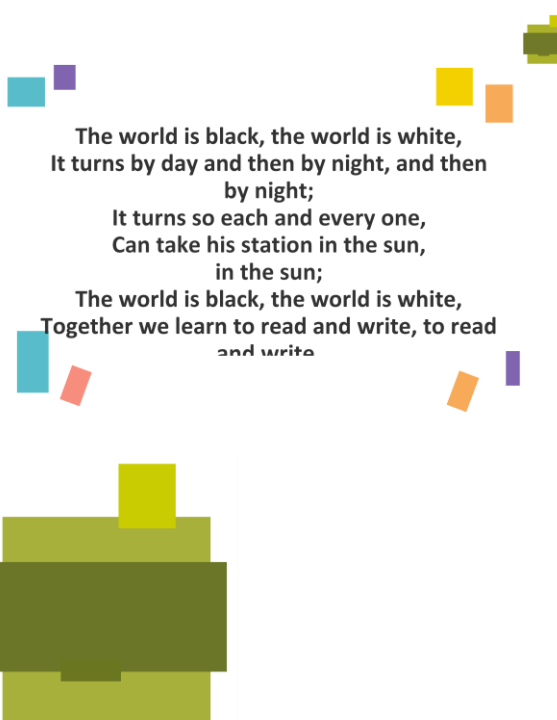
Black and white  
[Click here for the hymn online](#)



The ink is black, the page is white,  
Together we learn to read and write, to read  
and write;  
And now a child can understand,  
This is the law of all the land,  
all the land;  
The ink is black, the page is white,  
Together we learn to read and write, to read  
and write

The slate is black, the chalk is white,  
The words stand out so clear and bright, so  
clear and bright;  
And now at last we plainly see,  
The alphabet of liberty, liberty;  
The slate is black, the chalk is white,  
Together we learn to read and write, to read  
and write

A child is black, a child is white,  
The whole world looks upon the sight, upon  
the sight;  
For very well the whole world knows,  
This is the way that freedom grows, freedom  
grows;  
A child is black, a child is white,  
Together we learn to read and write, to read  
and write



The world is black, the world is white,  
It turns by day and then by night, and then  
by night;  
It turns so each and every one,  
Can take his station in the sun,  
in the sun;  
The world is black, the world is white,  
Together we learn to read and write, to read  
and write

## 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**

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Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: [office@priorsmill.org.uk](mailto: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