



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter January 12th 2024

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 12.1.24

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This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **Digital Leaders - 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)**

Happy New Year



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead. It has been a positive start back at school, and it is lovely to see our children engaged in their learning and playing together on the yard.

As we embark on a new term, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of regular attendance. Attending school regularly not only ensures that your child does not miss out on vital learning opportunities, but it also helps them to develop good habits and routines that will benefit them throughout their lives. We have a busy term ahead, with exciting projects and activities planned for every year group, and it is crucial that all pupils are present to fully participate and make the most of these opportunities.

I would like to take a moment to thank all parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring that their child arrives on time and ready to learn. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and make a significant difference to your child's educational journey.

If you have any concerns or questions about attendance or any other school-related matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are here to support you and your child in any way we can.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the new year!

Funny Old Game

It was lovely returning to school and receiving so many messages from the staff and children about Sunderland's defeat to Newcastle at the weekend! The school was certainly a very happy place on Wednesday after the great result that Middlesbrough had against Chelsea - fingers crossed for a positive result in the next leg and a visit to Wembley!

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:

Next Week :

Cleveland Police Knife Crime Awareness Presentation Y5/6 - Monday 15th January

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 - New Devices



This week Beatrice and Luke (Digital Leaders) have chosen the online safety guide and it has a focus on new devices 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.

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 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 them online. If you don't sort those 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 limits on using the 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. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link 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 unwrapped. 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'll use to sign in on 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 rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only 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's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach 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 your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this 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. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up 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. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around 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 unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the TV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The National College



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: 20.12.2023

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:

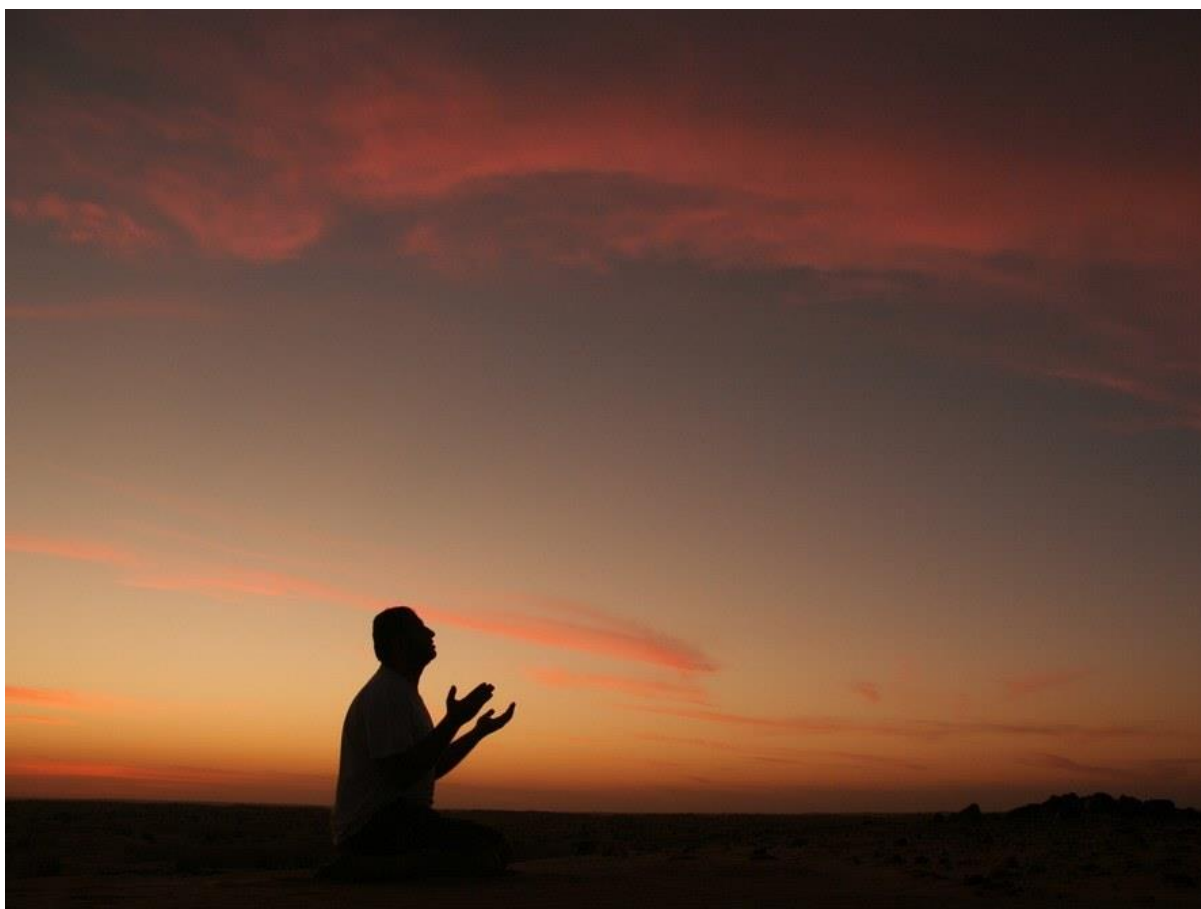
Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;

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 - Epiphany



THE WISE MEN OFFER WORSHIP

Matthew 2 v 1-12

I wonder if you have ever received an invitation or sent one? Look at a range of invitations – wedding, birthday, supermarket double points, join a gym etc. Use a star shape – say that there is an invitation on the back – I wonder who this is for/what this invitation says? This star in the sky was an important invitation and, although everyone could see it, only the Wise Men realised what it meant. They accepted the invitation of the star even though it meant a very long journey. The invitation of the star was to come and worship Jesus, the gift of God to the world.

Epiphany Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22SMUUMsx0o&t=5s>



Class News



AI was recommended the book 'My Friend Walter' by Seb in Y6.

Seb and Henry brought the book down for me to read - I'll give you my review in another newsletter!



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



1 - And Finally...enjoy the Weekend

Picture News

2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2024-01-05



What's happening
in the news this week?





Let's have a look at this week's

8th – 14th January 2024

Emojis for emotions?

	Creation	Fall	People of God
Incarnatio	Gospel	Salvation	Kingdom of Go

© Picture News 2024

????????????????

10-year-old Teddy Cottle from Oxfordshire has launched a petition calling for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he says it gives the wrong impression of glasses-wearers. Teddy decided to write a letter to Apple requesting the design be changed, asking his classmates and French teacher, Lisa Baillie, to sign it. She suggested instead that it should become a petition and it was launched on petitiononline.co.uk.

Think together and talk



Think together and talk

Have you ever used an emoji before? When and why?

What other ways do you think you can communicate your emotions and feelings with others?

Do you think you always show how you are feeling? Is it possible to always know how someone else is feeling?



What does the Bible have to say?





Pictures can be used to represent emotions. A tear can represent sadness and a smile can represent happiness. However, it is important to remember we are all different. Not everyone cries when they are sad or smiles when they are happy. God made each of us wonderfully unique and special. The Bible tells us whatever we are feeling, God is always there.



Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever

YOU GO
Joshua 1:9



What do others think?



Sometimes no matter how much you try to speak your heart out, words are not just enough to describe how you truly feel.



Anonymous

Time to be quiet and to pray



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you created each one of us to
be unique and special,

Help us to recognise that not everyone will
behave or act in the same way,

Help us to communicate the love you give us
on our faces and in our actions,

Amen

Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion

Do you have a favourite emoji? Explain why you like it.

Can you describe your face and your actions when you
are feeling happy, sad or angry?



Have you ever recognised when someone else is feeling
happy, sad or angry?

What did you do?

Key Stage 2 class discussion





How do you communicate when you feel angry, sad, happy or excited? Is how you communicate an emotion affected by what caused you to feel that way?

All emotions are 'normal' but sometimes we might need to manage them. Discuss strategies you might use to manage some emotions such as feeling nervous, over-excited or angry.







Time to worship



God knows me
Click here for the hymn online
(Please note, this version does not contain lyrics)



There are hundreds of sparrows, thousands,
millions,
They're two a penny, far too many there must
be;
There are hundreds and thousands, millions of
sparrows,
But God knows every-one, and God knows me.



There are hundreds of flowers, thousands,
millions,
And flowers fair the meadows wear for all to see;
There are hundreds and thousands, millions of
flowers,
But God knows every-one, and God knows me.





There are hundreds of planets, thousands,
millions,
Way out in space each has a place by God's
decree;
There are hundreds and thousands, millions of
planets,
But God knows every-one, and God knows me.



There are hundreds of children, thousands,
millions,
And yet their names are written on God's
memory;
There are hundreds of children, thousands,
millions,
But God knows every-one, and God knows me!



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