



# Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter June 14th 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 14.06.23*

## In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
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- **Digital Leaders**
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- **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)**
- **Contact Us**
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## Heads Up!



### **Welcome Meetings for Nursery and Reception Children**

Thank you to the parents and families who attended the meetings for new Nursery and Reception pupils this week. It was lovely to meet new families with children starting in Nursery (we still have a few spaces left if anyone requires a space). Currently we only have 1 space left in Reception but are expecting it filled before the end of the term so if you or anybody you know needs a space then please ask them to get in touch as soon as possible.

### **Golf Greats**

I had the pleasure of accompanying Mr. Stokes to Golf on Thursday after school, as someone who hasn't played before it was fantastic to watch pupils on the driving range and find out about other children in school who also play locally. I've included pictures later in the newsletter.

### **Lego Legends**

Mr. Ainsley who organises Lego Club and works with Y6 on Thursday spoke to me about how proud of the Y6 pupils he was and their super ability in working with technical Lego. Yesterday they had a challenging task and had to create a bridge with an entry and exit point. I've included a picture of some Y6 pupils who were highlighted as being stars!

### **School Field**

We have had ongoing issues with the school Field and the new company responsible for the Grounds Maintenance and grass cutting in school. Due to the company making a mistake and leaving the grass to grow too long before being able to cut it we are now faced with having lots of dead grass on the field that they are unable to clear. **If anyone is able to help or knows of a company who would be able to help us then please get in touch asap.**

### **Governor Monitoring and Melrose Trust Director Visits**

This week we have had school Governors monitoring the EYFS provision in school and also the quality of writing. It was a very productive visit and a great opportunity for Governors to see the great work children produce and the different teaching approaches adopted by staff. Today Directors from the Melrose Learning Trust visited and had a tour of the school by the Head Boy and Girl. They had a great time and really enjoyed listening to all the things that make Prior's Mill Special.

### **Superstar Children at Prior's Mill**

Lot's of our children take part in events and activities outside of school if you would like to share any pictures then please email them in and I'll include them in the newsletter.

### **Y6 Leavers Service at Durham Cathedral**

Y6 pupils attended the leavers service at Durham Cathedral on Wednesday and they engaged in a number of art and craft activities. One of the activities involved making a 'Peace Dove' for an installation in the Cathedral from 26th July - 4th September. I have included the details about the event below.

### **KEY DATES**

**ALL SPORTS EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT NEXT WEEK AND RELY ON THE SCHOOL FIELD BEING SAFE.**

National Sports Week is 17th - 21st June

Nursery Sports Day Tuesday 18th June 10am - Morning Nursery / 1:45pm Afternoon Nursery

Reception Sports Day Wednesday 19th June (afternoon)

Sports Day KS1 and KS2 Friday 21st June (afternoon)

Y6 Prom - Friday 12th July

Y6 Performance of Memories and Singing - (Tuesday 16th July 1:30pm and 5pm).

**\* Y6 Eucharist Service Thursday 18th July 10am**

Reception Graduation Wednesday 17th July 2pm

**I've shared a message of peace.**

*Peace Doves Installation*  
Friday 26 July - Wednesday 4 September 2024




Thank you for creating a *Peace Dove*. Your creation will be added to thousands of paper doves illuminated and suspended from the cathedral's Nave. We'd love you to come back to see the installation, look for your dove or take part in one of the special events.

*Evensong for the dedication of Peace Doves*  
Sunday 28 July, 3.30pm

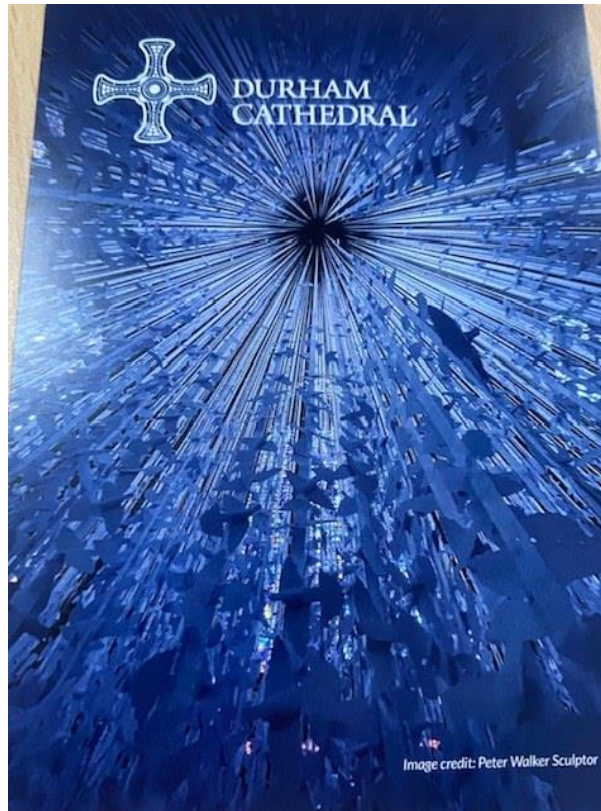
We invite you to join a celebration of Evensong, which will be dedicated to the *Peace Doves* installation and will feature special prayers for peace in our world. Everyone is welcome.

**Prayer for Peace**

God of peace,  
whose son Jesus Christ taught us  
to love you and to love our neighbour as ourselves,  
give your love to all of us who pray for peace -  
peace that will transform,  
peace that will heal,  
peace that will last,  
for the sake of the same Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

[www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/peacedoves](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/peacedoves)  
Registered Charity Number: 1205971



1 - The focus for picture news that children discussed this week.



## School of Sanctuary



In October 2023, Miss Wilbraham and Miss Chapman signed a pledge with the City of Sanctuary organisation. The purpose of signing the pledge is to gain a City of Sanctuary award which enables us to be nationally recognised as a School of Sanctuary. Schools are at the forefront of receiving those who are displaced, international students and students who use English as an additional language. It is becoming vital that we educate about those who have 'a lived experience' of displacement and re-location.

Our journey began with Prior's Mill welcoming our first international student. While trying to learn about, understand and support this pupil's needs, Miss Wilbraham and Miss Chapman began to recognise and appreciate the complexities involved when families leave their native country. This could be due to work commitments, needing asylum, fleeing from war and violence or fleeing persecution due to religious or political differences.

The City of Sanctuary aims to educate children, young people and the wider community about the challenges faced by families around the world and how we can support them in our setting. Supporting cultural differences is best achieved through empathy and understanding. Inspiration, openness, participation, inclusiveness and integrity are values that the City of Sanctuary aim to foster. We have diversified our practise so that we can support students who use English as an additional language (EAL) to access the national curriculum and to integrate into school life.

Schools do not need to have children from sanctuary -seeking backgrounds within the school community to become a School of Sanctuary. As a potential School of Sanctuary, we have to demonstrate that we are a place of acceptance, safety, diversity and compassion for all. To this end, Miss Wilbraham and Miss Chapman have written engaging and fun lessons designed to teach our pupils about asylum, migration and refugees. Year 3 & 4 have already enjoyed the lessons! Staff have also had the opportunity to learn about these topics. Some examples of their work can be seen on the school website.

Miss Wilbraham and Miss Chapman have been following the 'learn, share, embed' process in gaining the award and continue to work towards raising our status to be a place of safety and welcome for all.

For more information about City of Sanctuary, please visit: <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

## School Council



The school council organised a successful fundraising non uniform day.

As a school we have three charities which are Blue For Jackson (Early Years), WWF (KS1) and Guide Dogs (KS2), on the day we are inviting children to come to school in non-uniform, pyjamas or fancy dress.

We raised £310 that will be split between the 3 charities - thank you for your support.



## Sporting Stars



National Sports Week is 17th - 21st June

Nursery Sports Day Tuesday 18th June 10am - Morning Nursery / 1:45pm Afternoon Nursery

Reception Sports Day Wednesday 19th June (afternoon)

Sports Day KS1 and KS2 Friday 21st June (afternoon)

## Digital Leaders





2 - This week I have included a parent fact sheet about upsetting content . 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*



# SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

## A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

### 1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.



### 2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

2



### 3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional responses. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

3



### 4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

4



### 5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

5



### 6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

6



### 7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

7



### 8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

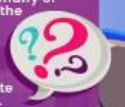
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### 9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

9



### 10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

10



### 11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

11



### 12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

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### Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



[https://www.nos.co.uk/news-and-1047000](https://nps://www.nos.co.uk/news-and-1047000) | <https://www.nos.co.uk/en/g/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content> | <https://www.nos.co.uk/en/g/talk-to-your-child-about-conflict-and-war>



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.10.2023

NOS National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

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.



## Attendance Matters



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.

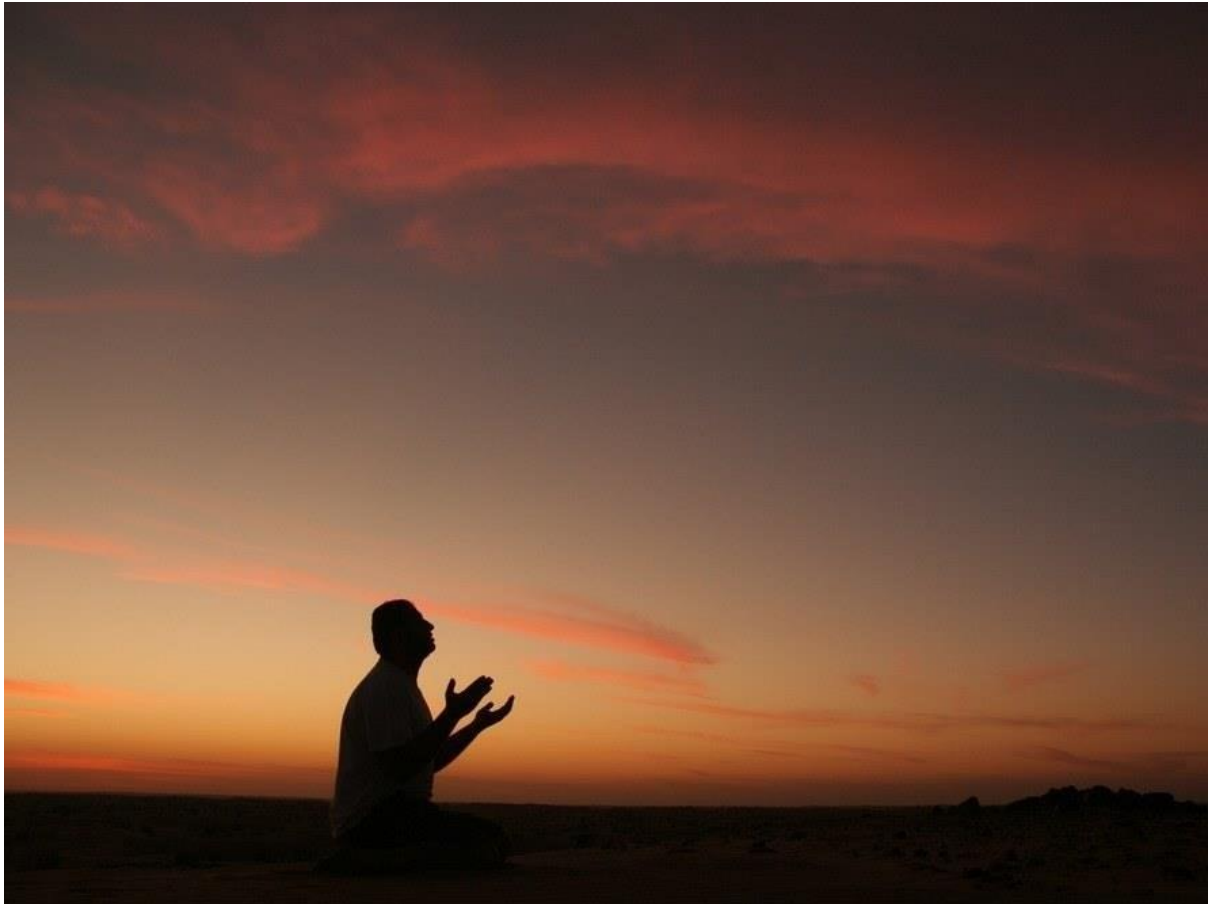
**Current School Attendance is 95% this is below the DFE target of 96%.**

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.

**LATE MARKS ALSO IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON ATTENDANCE PLEASE TRY TO BE ON TIME!**



## Worship Theme - Saint Paul



### Keeping in touch

#### I Timothy 1:1-2

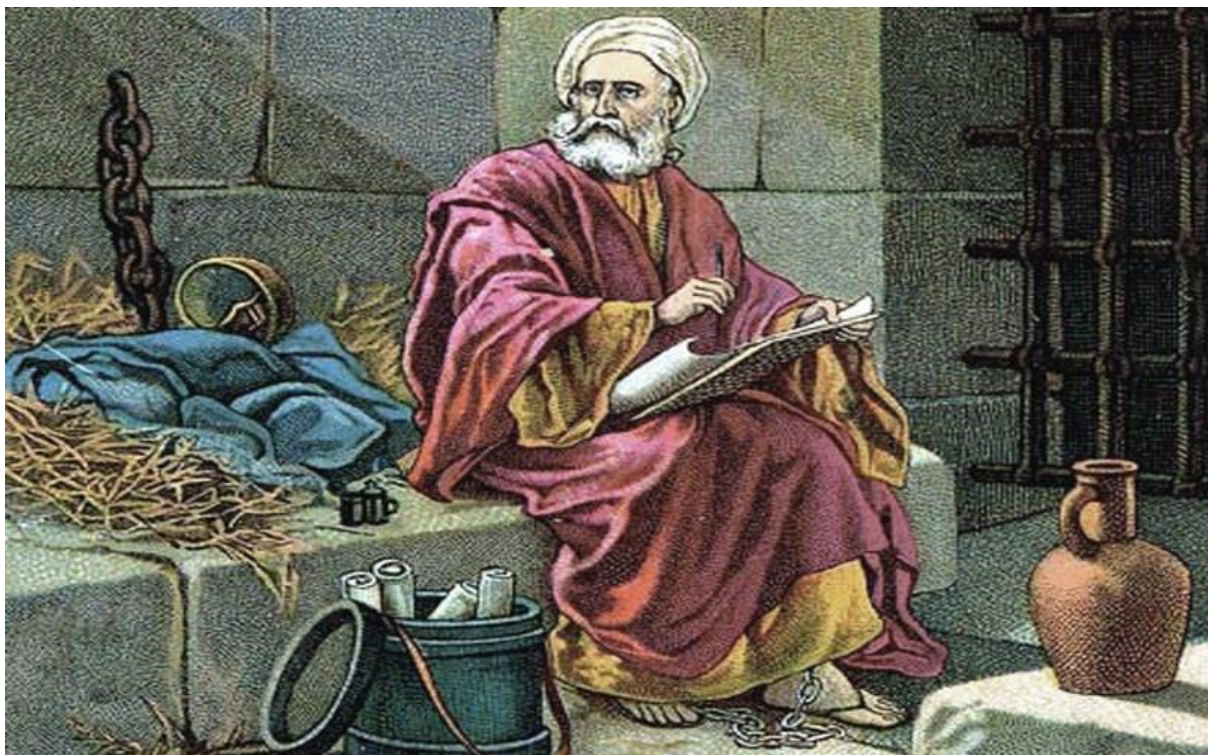
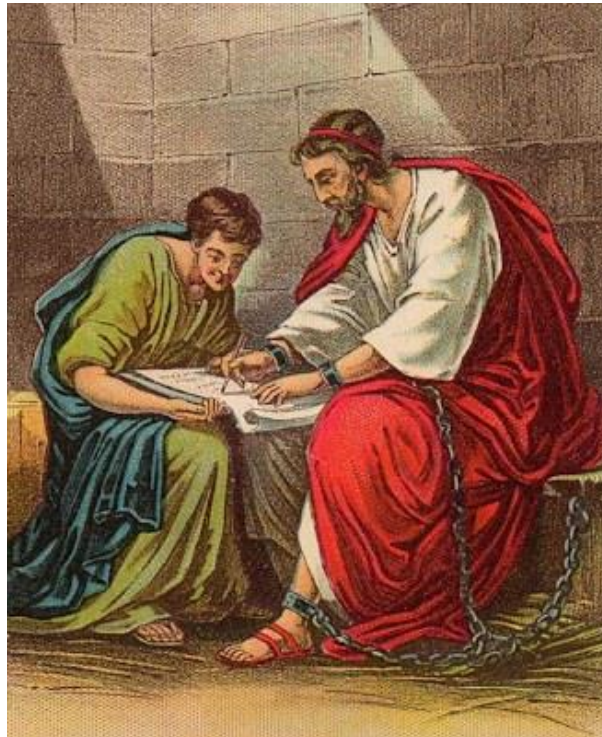
*From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the command of God our Saviour and Christ Jesus our hope. To Timothy, a true son to me because you believe. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

These words were written by St Paul in the first century CE. What sort of a document do you think they come from? (a letter – ‘Dear Timothy’).

After Paul was imprisoned in Rome, he still wanted to keep in contact with all the people he had met on his missionary journeys. There was no telephone or email, only letters, which took many months to arrive. Paul gave solutions to problems and encouragement in his letters. There are 13 of Paul’s letters in the New Testament.

Timothy was young (Paul says he is a true son to him, but he was not his real son). He was a leader in his church in Ephesus but not everyone agreed with him and they were not living by following Jesus’ example and in the ways that Paul had encouraged them to do when he had visited. I wonder how you feel when other people seem to be doing the wrong things? I wonder if you try and help them to solve their problems?

*Spend some time reflecting on how you can do that – perhaps you could write a letter trying to help someone to solve a problem and encouraging them?*





## Class News



Thank you class 7 for a fantastic Worship! You were also the first class ever to do a rap! We all loved it!





3 - Eden passed her Bronze Figure Skating Award last weekend!





*4 - Lego has developed my engineering skills! Don't Give Up On Lego!*

## GOLFING GREATS!

















## Key Dates



### *Key Dates*

**Nursery Welcome Meeting Tuesday 11th June 5pm**

**Reception Welcome Meeting Thursday 13th June 5pm**

National Sports Week is 17th - 21st June

Nursery Sports Day Tuesday 18th June 10am - Morning Nursery / 1:45pm Afternoon Nursery

Reception Sports Day Wednesday 19th June (afternoon)

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Reception Graduation Wednesday 17th July 2pm



## Picture News



2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2024-06-07



What's happening  
in the news this week?






Let's have a look at this week's

10th – 16th June 2024



## Who should I follow?

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

© Picture News 2024

Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has announced that a UK general election is to take place on 4th July. He made the announcement in a press conference outside 10 Downing Street. Parliament was dissolved on Thursday 30th May, and the members of Parliament have returned to being members of the public. Many are campaigning to be re-elected. A general election is when people over 18 can vote for who they want to represent them in the UK parliament. It could mean a new government party and new leader for the UK this summer.

## Think together and talk





Think together and talk

Have you ever voted for something? Share your experience of this.

What do you know about the upcoming general election? Do you know who is involved?

Can you describe what you believe it takes to be a leader of a country?




What does the Bible have to say?



Adults elect people to form the government, which is responsible for some of the rules and laws. In the Old Testament, God gave us rules to follow, called the Ten Commandments. The People of God try to live in the way God wants, to serve Him, love others, and tell the story of Jesus.







Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40




What do others think?



I follow three rules:  
Do the right thing, do the best  
you can, and always show  
people you care.

Lou Holtz – American football coach



Time to be quiet  
and to pray



## Prayer



Dear God,  
Thank you for the people who lead well and  
help to make the world a better place,  
Thank you for giving us rules to follow,  
Help us to love one another as you love each  
of us,  
Amen

## Continue thinking



## Key Stage 1 class discussion



Make a list of rules you have at school and/or at home. Which do you find easy to follow and which are trickier?

A general election gives adults an opportunity to choose. Share some examples of when you can choose.

## Key Stage 2 class discussion



How do you decide what is right and wrong?

Do you have your own set of rules, standards, morals for how you live your life? What are they?

Have you ever challenged a rule?

# Time to worship

In Christ there is no east of west  
Click here for the hymn online




In Christ there is no east or west,  
In Him no south or north;  
But one great fam'ly bound by love,  
Throughout the whole wide Earth.



In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord,  
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples in the faith,  
Whate'er your race may be!  
Who serve each other in Christ's love,  
Are surely kin to me.





In Christ now meet both east and west,  
In Him meet south and north;  
All Christly souls are one in Him,  
Throughout the whole wide Earth.



## 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.***

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

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

Visit us on the web at <https://priorsmill.org.uk/>

### 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.**

### 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