



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter June 21st 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 21.06.23

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This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
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- **Digital Leaders - Supporting Mental Health**
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- **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**
- **Safeguarding**

Heads Up!



Warmer Weather and Smiles

The warmer weather has made the school sports week much more enjoyable and allowed children to participate in a range of different activities. A huge thanks to all the staff for their involvement, support and organisation as well as the additional coaches and venues that helped make the week such a success. Mr Stokes has already thought about plans for next year! We've spoken to the Maintenance Team and we are hopeful that we can hold Sports Day in 3 weeks time - specific dates are listed below. Thank you for your patience and support.

Sports Week pictures will be shared on our social media and in the newsletter next week.

Nursery and Reception Children

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. We have a limited number of spaces available in our combined Pre-School Nursery please speak to staff if you are wanting to book a space in the next academic year.

Sun Safe

Fingers crossed we experience a spell of warmer weather please make sure your child is prepared with water, hat/cap and sun cream that can be self-applied (staff will support younger children).

Refugee Week

This week has been 'Refugee Week' and we have explored the term refugee and what it means in school. We had a lovely collective worship from the Y6 pupils in Miss Kemp's class. A key phrase they shared was that 'Today's Children are Tomorrow's Leaders' it is reassuring to know that we will be in safe hands!

Football's Coming Home?

Mr Stokes encouraged pupils in KS2 Worship this morning to sing the song before they left as he thought it might motivate the England Team after the performance last night! I will be watching closely on Tuesday to see if it has worked!!

KEY DATES

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

We have identified the following dates and times for Sports Day;

Nursery Sports Day Tuesday 9th July 10am - Morning Nursery / 1:45pm Afternoon Nursery

Reception Sports Day Wednesday 10th July (afternoon - 1:45pm) Sports Day

KS1 and KS2 Friday 12th July (afternoon - KS2 gates open at 1pm - 1:15pm start)

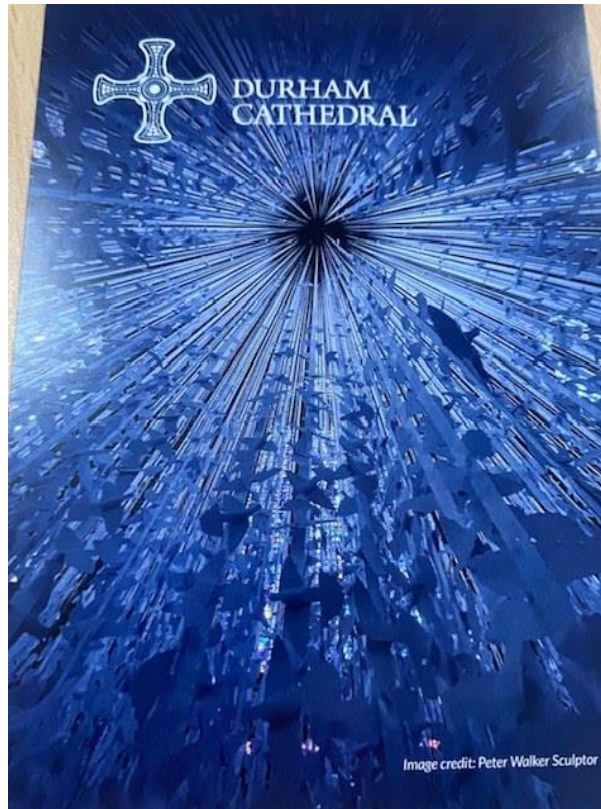
Y6 Prom - Friday 12th July

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

*Peace Dove Installation Durham Cathedral (See image below)



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.

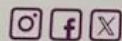
Evensong for the dedication of Peace Doves

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.

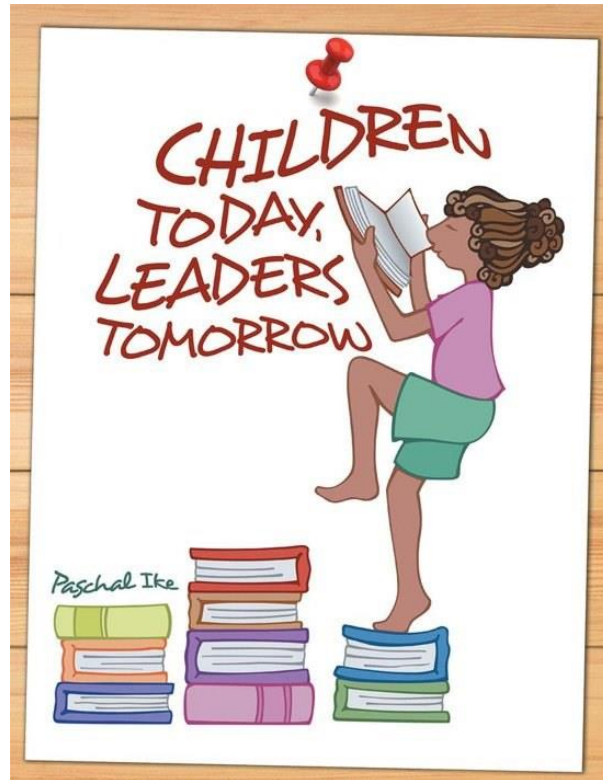
Prayer for Peace

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

Registered Charity Number: 1205971



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.

School Council are also raising money via a book sale in the next few weeks!

Sporting Stars



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Digital Leaders





1 - 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'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP
 Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>
<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.02.2020

Attendance Matters



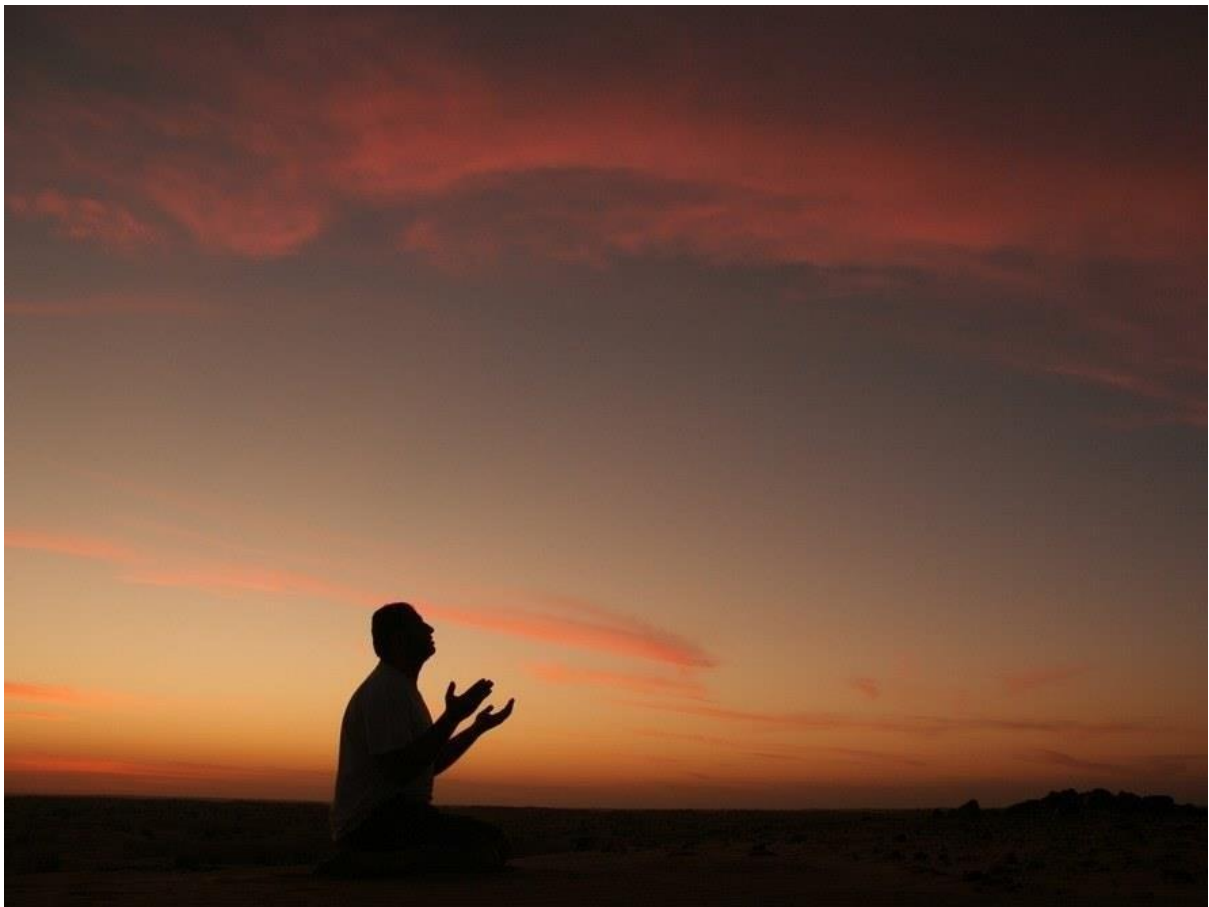
In accordance with School and Trust Policy any unauthorised absences (that are not subject to exceptional circumstances) will be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

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!

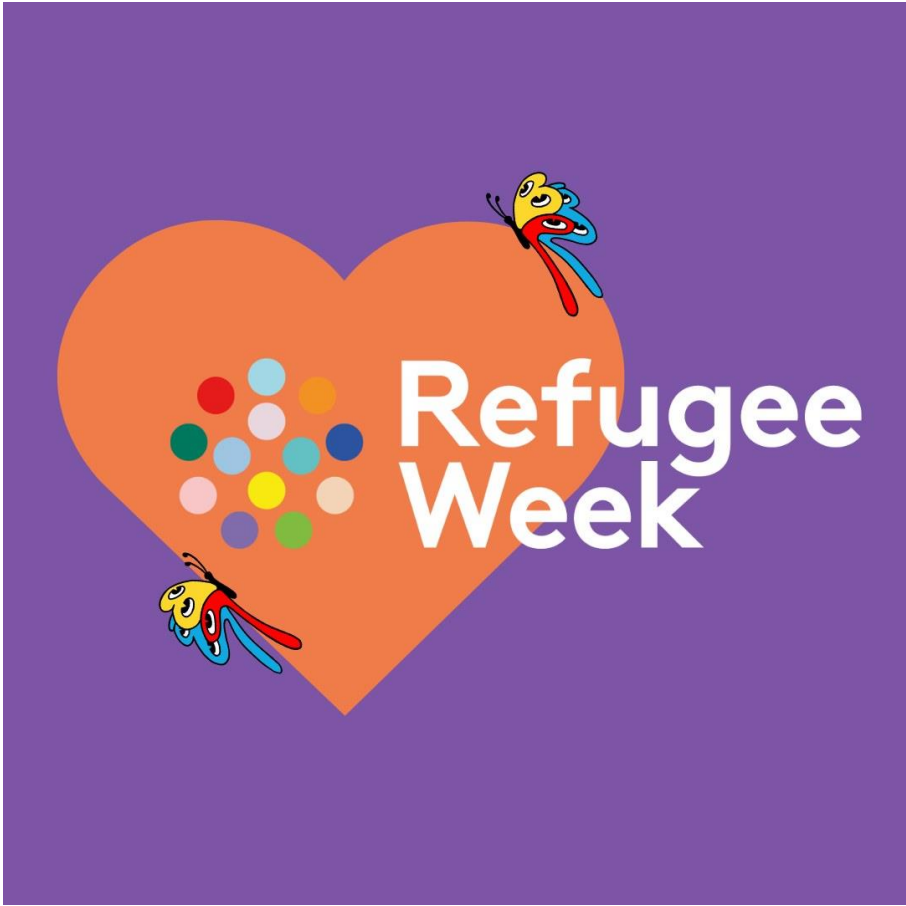
Worship Theme - Refugee Week



Refugee week is a yearly week-long festival that is celebrated across the world, but what is refugee week and how can you get involved? Find out more below.

World Refugee Day takes place on 20 June, and every year the UK celebrates Refugee Week around this date. Refugee Week 2024 will run from 17th – 23rd June.

This programme of cultural events, sport, community arts and education highlights and celebrates refugees' unique contributions to our national and local culture. It also aims to create dialogue and understanding about why people flee their homeland in search of safety and seek asylum abroad.



Class News



Thank you class 15 for a fantastic Worship!



*Today's Children!
Tomorrow's Leaders!*



*Today's Children!
Tomorrow's Leaders!*

Y6 Pupils had a lovely time at the Y6 Leavers Service at Durham Cathedral









Key Dates



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Picture News



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



What's happening
in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's

17th – 23rd June 2024



© Picture News 2024

The UK government has launched a new website, prepare.campaign.gov.uk, designed to help people plan for potential dangers and equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and resources to respond effectively. Households are encouraged to understand the hazards in their local area by checking their long-term flood risk and signing up for flood and weather warnings. Creating an emergency plan is another key aspect of being prepared, including deciding on escape routes and keeping important phone numbers to hand.

Think together and talk



Think together and talk

Can you list the emergency services?

What do you have in place at school/home to prepare for emergencies? Is there a first aid kit?

Have you practised a fire drill?


Is there a smoke alarm?

Have you ever encountered an emergency? If you feel able to, share your experience.




What does the Bible have to say?





There are many different emergencies we may face throughout our lives. It could be an emergency such as extreme weather or it could be a personal emergency such as feeling anxious/sad, struggling with loss. Whatever the emergency, we can trust that God is always there, and the Bible can help guide and comfort us.




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?



Because you never know when the day before... is the day before. Prepare for tomorrow.

Bobby Akart - author

Time to be quiet and to pray



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the emergency services and
people who help us when we may face
unexpected or dangerous times,

Thank you for guiding, comforting and
preparing us for emergencies,

Thank you that we can trust you will always
be there,

Amen

Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion

What do you think a 'potential hazard' is?

Can you see any potential hazards in and around
school? E.g., a step that could be tripped over, a
busy road to cross, a sharp pair of scissors.

How could being prepared help reduce the risk of
these hazards? E.g., learning road safety.

Key Stage 2 class discussion

Look up emergency in a dictionary. Using this definition share some examples of emergencies. Does everyone agree they are emergencies?

How can we prepare for personal emergencies? Do you think knowing more about yourself, your strengths/weaknesses, how you respond to situations, and recognising your emotions can help?

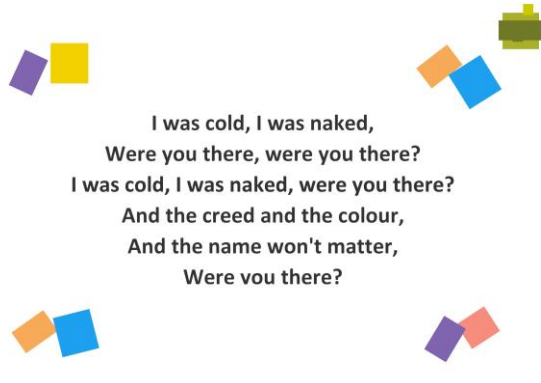


Time to worship

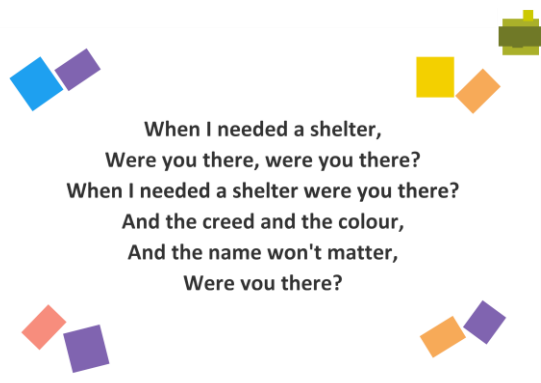
When I needed a neighbour
Click here for the hymn online

When I needed a neighbour,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour,
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

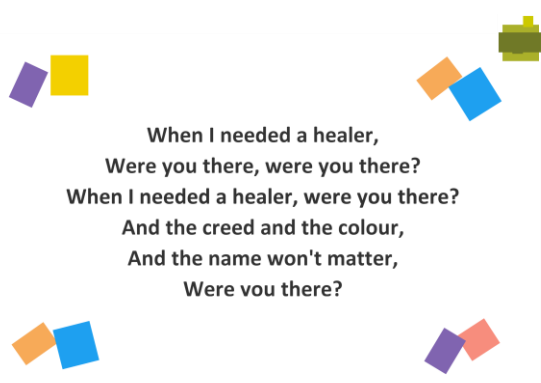
I was hungry and thirsty,
Were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour,
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?



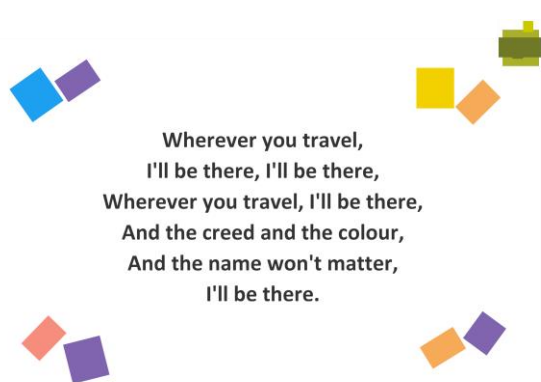
I was cold, I was naked,
Were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour,
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?



When I needed a shelter,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?
And the creed and the colour,
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?



When I needed a healer,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour,
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?



Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there,
Wherever you travel, I'll be there,
And the creed and the colour,
And the name won't matter,
I'll be 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.

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/>

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