



# Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter May 17th

*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 17.05.23*

## In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **SPA - WE NEED YOU!**
- **School Council**
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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)**
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## WELL DONE Y6



Good Afternoon, everyone! I hope you're all doing well. Let me start by expressing how incredibly proud I am of our Year 6 pupils. They've truly shown remarkable dedication and perseverance throughout the SATs week. Each and every one of them attended school diligently and gave their utmost effort in completing all the papers. A massive thank you to all the parents and families for their unwavering support during this crucial period and in the lead-up to the tests. Our Year 6 pupils have undoubtedly earned their private cinema screening and Pizza Hut lunch reward today – a well-deserved treat for their hard work!

Speaking of celebrations, I must commend Miss Thompson's class for delivering an absolutely fantastic Worship this week, highlighting the importance and joy of prayer. Their efforts truly touched

our hearts. Additionally, our Year 5 pupils had the exciting opportunity to witness a demonstration from the Police Dogs this morning. It's experiences like these that make learning engaging and memorable.

Now, let me share a couple of important notices with you all. First and foremost, we'll be having a Non-Uniform Charity Fundraiser next Friday. This is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to express their individuality while contributing to a worthy cause. Secondly, please mark your calendars for the upcoming Half-term break, which will take place from the 27th to the 31st of May.

As we approach the end of another busy term, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support and commitment to our school community. Together, we're creating an environment where our children can thrive, learn, and grow into exceptional individuals.

#### Sun Safe Advice

The NHS suggests pupils should:

- slip on a t-shirt
- slop on sun cream with a protection factor of 30 or more (Applied at home initially but pupils can reapply at school themselves)
- slap on a wide brimmed hat / cap
- slide on some quality sunglasses
- shade from the sun wherever possible

#### **KEY DATES**

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)

\*We are waiting for a date from the Church for the Y6 Eucharist Service (usually last week of term) - we will hopefully confirm this before the end of next week.

Y6 Prom - Friday 12th July

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





## SPA - WE NEED YOU!



***We raised £1,178 through the efforts of parents, staff and pupils at our Coronation Event - FANTASTIC!!***

In the current economic climate this money is essential in raising funds for things that we would like in school.

It is essential that we are able to create a group of staff and parents that are willing to carry this great work on. Currently the SPA is made up of mainly staff and it would be great to have a few more parents involved. I promise this will not take up a huge time commitment but can be fitted in around your own priorities. It could be 30 mins labelling tombola items or bagging up sweets for a disco.

Without increased parental support then a number of additional events such as discos will be cancelled as school does not have the capacity alone to organise and prepare them.

If you can spare any time at all to join SPA then it would be greatly appreciated by the staff team and ultimately by the pupils who will benefit from having a number of events to attend during and after school.

Please contact Mrs Twomey or Miss Clapp in the office [office@priorsmill.org.uk](mailto:office@priorsmill.org.uk) / 01642650426

## School Council



The school council are having a fundraising non uniform day on the last Friday of half-term.

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.

### Charity non uniform Day 240524

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to hold a non-uniform day on Friday 24th May, to raise money for our chosen charities.

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.

Children can bring a donation to school and we will split the money raised between the charities.





*The smallest of all seeds becomes the largest of the garden plants*

Prior's Mill C of E Primary School  
Clifton Avenue  
Billingham  
Stockton on Tees  
TS22 5BX

01642 650426

office@priorsmill.org.uk

www.priorsmill.org.uk



8<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Please do not buy anything new and just use what you already have, we would like to raise as much money for our charities as we can.

Thank you for your support.

School Council



## Sporting Stars



**We have athletics next week as well as catch up swimming for Y6.**

National Sports Week is 17th - 21st May

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

Reception Sports Day Wednesday 19th May (morning)

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

## Digital Leaders



*1 - This week I have included a parent fact sheet about Group Chats . 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*

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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## Advice for Parents & Carers

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### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**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



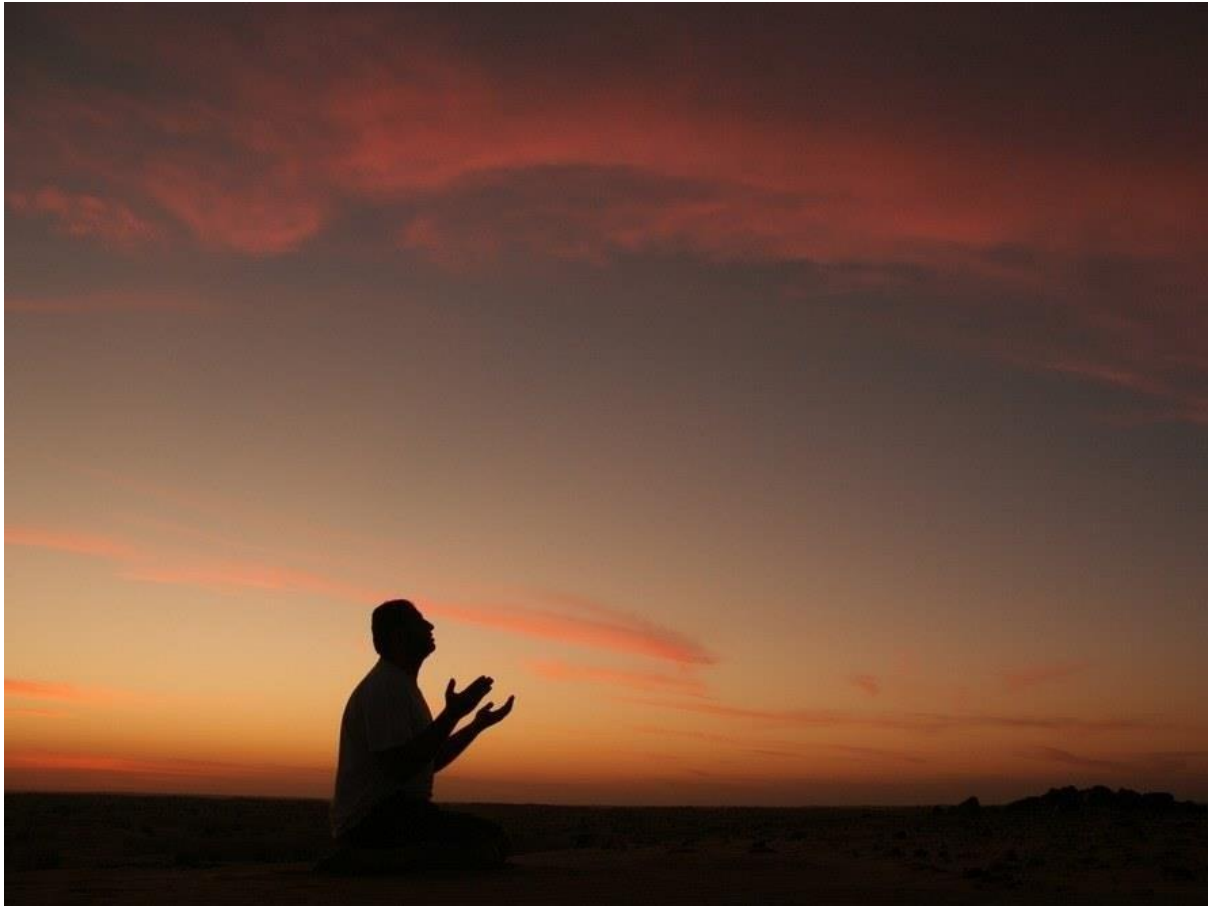
In accordance with School and Trust Policy any unauthorised absences (that are not subject to exceptional circumstances) will be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

**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 - Prayer



This week collective worship was all about:

**Live prayerfully - What is prayer?**

**Connecting with our senses.**

**Thankfulness and praise Psalm 9:1**

For people of faith, prayer is an opportunity to communicate with God as part of a two way relationship. This Bible verse reminds them of this.

***Jeremiah 29: 12*** *Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.*

Ask the children outside to sit quietly for a short period of time. What did they notice - see, hear?  
What did they notice about others?

Allow them to turn and speak to someone about what they noticed in this time or another moment that day.

For Christians, prayer is about noticing things and then responding to this. This can call them to thank God, praise God, ask for help or bring people before God so they can be comforted or supported.

How did you feel about the things you noticed today?

Invite the children to share a thankful prayer: e.g this morning I saw some beautiful flowers in my neighbour's garden, so, I want to thank God for creation and the joy that flowers bring.

I also noticed that the old lady across the road is feeling better and is able to leave her house, so I want to praise God for bringing healing to her body.

Ask the children in pairs to do the same. What things did they notice this morning that they are thankful for or want to offer praise for?

Thank you, God, for ...

Close this time of prayer with a huge AMEN.

Christians use this verse to praise God for all they have noticed and are thankful for.

*'I will thank you , Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of the marvellous things you have done.*

*Psalm 9: 1*

I wonder if you will take more time to notice things you see when you are out and about now?





Class News





Some great visitors to my office this week - with Gingerbread and Fantastic Writing!





*2 - Miss Thomson Class Worship*

Year 5 pupils had a demonstration from the police dog team this morning - they asked all pupils and staff to stand behind the fence while they carried out all of their demonstrations. Both pupils and staff thought it was brilliant and we are organising for them to return to show other year groups.











## Key Dates



### *Key Dates*

*Charity Fundraiser - Non-Uniform Friday 24th May*

*Half Term - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May*

Fieldwork Week - 1st - 5th July

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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\*We are waiting for a date from the Church for the Y6 Eucharist Service (usually last week of term) - we will hopefully confirm this before the end of next week.

Y6 Prom - Friday 12th July

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



## Picture News



2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2024-05-10



What's happening  
in the news this week?





Let's have a look at this week's

13th – 19th May 2024



## Who am I?

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

© Picture News 2024

**Cambridge University has returned four spears to the descendants of an indigenous community in Australia, who crafted them. The four aboriginal spears are all that remain of the forty or so that British explorer, James Cook, and his team took from the Gweagal people more than 250 years ago. On their arrival in Australia in 1770, they became the first known Europeans to reach the country's east coast.**

## Think together and talk



### Think together and talk

**Can you describe what someone's identity is?  
What do you think forms part of someone's  
identity?**

**How do you think you are similar to/different  
from others in school/your family/your  
community?**

**Do you have any special  
events/objects/buildings that form part of your  
community's identity?**



## What does the Bible have to say?



Jesus is God and he was born as a baby in Bethlehem. Jesus had a very clear sense of identity. He knew who he was and his life's purpose. His birth, life, death, and resurrection were part of a plan by God to restore the relationship between humans and God. Jesus came to show that all people are precious and special to God.



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14: 6-7



What do others think?



**Own your identity.  
Love who you are in  
world.**



Nyle DiMarco – model and actor

## Time to be quiet and to pray



### Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that we are all unique and special,

Give us the courage to discover more about ourselves,

Help us to accept ourselves and others so we all have the confidence to show who we truly are,

Amen

## Continue thinking



### Key Stage 1 class discussion

Make a list of things that you enjoy doing.

Make a list of things you are good at.

Make a list of things that are special/important to you.

Share your lists and celebrate who you are.


## Key Stage 2 class discussion

How do you see yourself? How do you feel about yourself?

Have you ever tried to hide who you are? Why?

Are there people, places, times that help you feel you can truly be yourself?

Who are you? Who are you really?

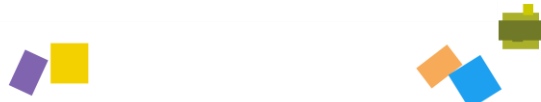


Time to worship

One More Step  
Click here for the hymn online

One more step along the world I go,  
One more step along the world I go;  
From the old things to the new,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
*Keep me travelling along with you*

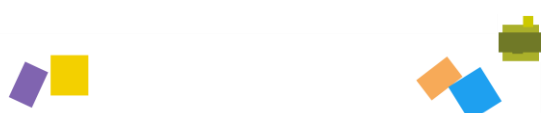
Round the corners of the world I turn,  
More and more about the world I learn;  
And the new things that I see  
You'll be looking at along with me.  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
*Keep me travelling along with you*



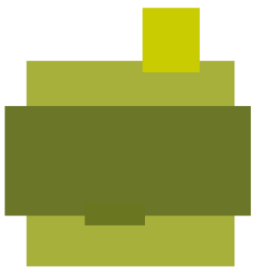
As I travel through the bad and good,  
 Keep me travelling the way I should.  
 Where I see no way to go,  
 You'll be telling me the way, I know.  
 And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
*Keep me travelling along with you*



Give me courage when the world is rough,  
 Keep me loving though the world is tough;  
 Leap and sing in all I do,  
 Keep me travelling along with you:  
 And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
*Keep me travelling along with you*



You are older than the world can be,  
 You are younger than the life in me;  
 Ever old and ever new,  
 Keep me travelling along with you:  
 And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
*Keep me travelling along with you*



## 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