



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter May 24th

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 24.05.23

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This week we include:

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- **Sporting Stars**
- **Digital Leaders**
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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**

Happy Half-Term!



LOCKDOWN

I just wanted to take the time to reassure parents that the school responded quickly to the alert this afternoon and ensured all children were taken inside and windows closed as a precautionary measure. I'm very proud of the way children conducted themselves and to the staff for organising things so quickly. We came out of lockdown at 1:20pm after seeking external advice. The situation was reported as not being dangerous to the public but it is reassuring to know that the school policies and procedures are in place and effective to safeguard staff and children.

WORSHIP

We have had a busy week at Prior's Mill with two lovely worships from Miss Jones (Y1) and Miss Wilbraham (Y2) it was lovely to see so many family and friends in school supporting the children. I was incredibly proud of staff and pupils for producing class worships that were informative and creative as well as sharing their fantastic work afterwards.

STAFFING

Hopefully everyone has received a separate copy of the letter that outlined staff changes in light of a restructure at school. We will be sharing more information about school organisation for the next academic year when we return after half-term!

JUST CHAMPION!

We said our goodbyes to Miss Champion today and wish her all the best for the future. Miss Champion has worked across the school and more recently in KS1 and with Miss Jones. Miss Champion has supported numerous children and staff over the years and been an absolute Super Star in school! On behalf of myself, staff, governors and the Trust I would like to wish Miss Champion all the best for the future and welcome her back in school at any time. Mrs Bates is going to be supporting pupils in KS1 throughout the next half-term.

CHARITY

It was lovely to see children in non-uniform supporting our charity fundraising day (see information below) we will bank the money and let you know the total in the newsletter. The total will be then split between the three Charities.

*Blue for Jackson

*World Wildlife Fund

*Guide Dogs

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

I just wanted to send our thoughts and prayers to everyone involved in the sad news from Mount Pleasant Primary School in Darlington yesterday. I previously worked at Mount Pleasant and know how much it will impact the whole community. It makes me appreciate the strength of the staff team and community at Prior's Mill and I hope we can all have a safe and secure half-term break.

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).

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.

IT WAS LOVELY TO HAVE A VISIT FROM ALLY AND HER GUIDE DOG TESS.





Sporting Stars



Congratulations to the pupils who represented the school at a very wet athletics event on Wednesday and for the staff who supported them.

Pupils in Y6 and Y5 also continue to attend catch up swimming sessions it is a requirement of the National Curriculum that pupils are able to swim 25m confidently before they leave school and perform a range of water safety exercises.

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Digital Leaders



1 - This week I have included a parent fact sheet about sharing kindness online . 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

10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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 - Creativity



Celebrate creativity to His glory

Celebrating God through nature

Isaiah 55:12

This week in worship we are going to explore how Christians use creativity and art as their worship to God.

Share this Bible verse with the children:

Isaiah 55:12

“So you will go out with joy and be led out in peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees in the fields will clap their hands.

What do you think this verse means? I wonder if it might mean, that because God made the world, the whole of creation seeks to praise God.

How might trees clap their hands or mountains burst into song?

Show the children some images of majestic mountains and towering trees – how might nature be praising God?

A prayer for climate change

Dear God,

Weave a thread of love and courage

among those who stand for creation.

May they know the sound of your voice in all they do.

May your love echo across the streets

*so that the sap of change can seep into the corridors of power to bring the dawning of a new day
where the world is*

sanctified, renewed, and replenished.

Amen

Elle Limebear is a Christian music songwriter and singer.

Listen to her song Maker of the Moon together – I wonder what you think inspired her to write this song?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7ZkBE8c4UM> Maker of the Moon





Class News



Thanks to pupils in Mrs Stoke's class I enjoyed reading the book 'Once' this week. I can highly recommend it if you are interested in the treatment of Jewish families during the Holocaust. Read the first chapter and find out about the book below.

<https://morrisgleitzman.com/once.htm>

MORRIS GLEITZMAN



Everybody
deserves
to have
something good in their life.

At least
Once.





2 - Leo achieved his 25 metres swimming certificate - in 1 week! We are all super proud!!



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

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Picture News



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What's happening
in the news this week?













Let's have a look at this week's

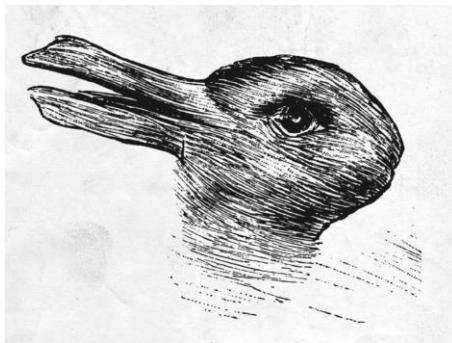
20th – 26th May 2024



First impressions

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

© Picture News 2024



An all-girls football team has won a league dominated by boys' teams, after going unbeaten for an entire season. The Queens Park Ladies U12s finished top of their table with eighteen wins in the group of eleven boys' teams. They were the only girls' team in the Bournemouth Youth Football League, playing in its third division for under-12s. The players, who train twice a week, have now proved themselves against the other teams.

Think together
and talk



Think together and talk

Describe what a first impression is.

What could you do to make a good impression when meeting someone for the first time?

Can you think of an example when your impression of a person changed from the first time you met them?



What does the Bible have to say?



We can all make and give first impressions; however, it is important to try not to make judgements based on these alone. In the Bible, God told Samuel, who spent his whole life serving Him, that He had chosen a new king for Israel. It was going to be one of the seven sons of a man named Jesse. When Samuel saw the sons, he assumed Jesse's eldest son would be chosen. God chose David, Jesse's youngest son, even though he was not as strong or handsome as his brothers. God does not judge by outward appearance but by the heart.



But the Lord said to Samuel,
“Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7



What do others think?



Before you assume, learn the facts; before you judge, understand why; before you hurt someone, feel; before you speak. think.

Unknown

Time to be quiet
and to pray



Prayer

Dear God,
Give us the wisdom to see beyond
first impressions,
Give us the wisdom to embrace and
celebrate our differences,
Thank you for seeing what is in our
hearts,
Amen

Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion

How can we get to know each other better?

Do you ask people questions? Do you listen to others? Do you notice how they are behaving or might be feeling?

Can you share something about yourself that not everyone in your class knows? Perhaps a hobby you have, your favourite meal or a place you have visited.

Key Stage 2 class discussion

How do you believe people 'see' you?

Can you think of a time you believe someone had the wrong impression of you or perhaps you had the wrong impression of someone else?

Discuss what a stereotype is and how it may affect the way we think about, feel about and see others.

Time to worship

Cross over the road
[Click here for the hymn online](#)



Would you walk by on the other side,
When someone called for aid?
Would you walk by on the other side,
And would you be afraid?



Cross over the road my friend,
Ask the Lord His strength to lend,
His compassion has no end,
Cross over the road.



Would you walk by on the other side,
When you saw a loved one stray?
Would you walk by on the other side,
Or would you watch and pray?

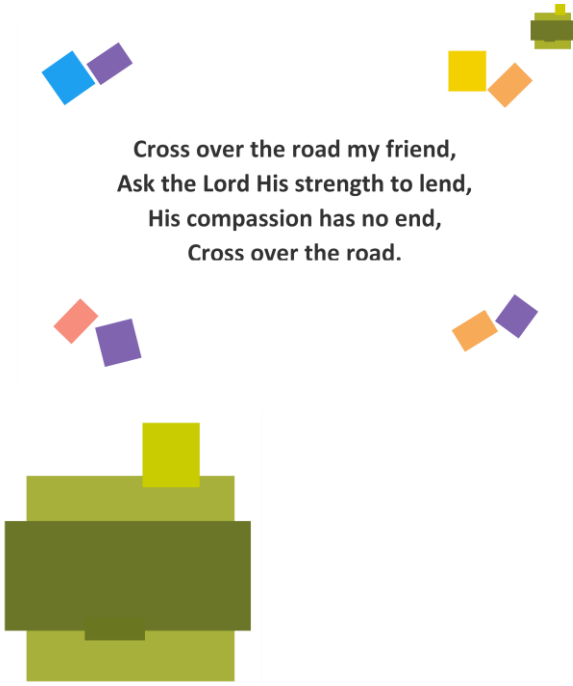


Cross over the road my friend,
Ask the Lord His strength to lend,
His compassion has no end,
Cross over the road.



Would you walk by on the other side,
When starving children cried?
Would you walk by on the other side,
And would you not provide?





Cross over the road my friend,
Ask the Lord His strength to lend,
His compassion has no end,
Cross over the road.

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