

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter July 5th 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 05.07.24

In This Issue



This week we include:

- Message from Mr Linsley
- School Council
- Sporting Stars
- Digital Leaders Parent Insight
- Attendance
- Worship Theme
- 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)
- Contact Us
- Safeguarding

Heads Up!



Transition Days

As we approach the last few weeks of the summer term it is only natural that we start thinking about next year. Y6 pupils have been experiencing transition days in their feeder secondary schools. We've had new starters in Nursery and Reception visit for stay and play sessions. On Wednesday all children moved into their new classes and it was lovely walking around school watching them meet their new teachers. The majority of children have remained in the same class but we have made changes in some year groups. Staff have worked hard to ensure friendship groups are maintained and pupils are provided to meet members of their staff team.

Staffing Changes

I would like to update parents on staffing in school for the next academic year. As you will have seen from the transition letters that were sent home yesterday the structure of the school is broadly remaining the same and we have a full complement of teachers and teaching assistants. We are however saying goodbye to a number of staff who we will miss GREATLY. In Early Years Miss Haffrun, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Hughes and Miss Umpleby are leaving. In KS1 Mrs Rowbotham and Mrs Evans are both leaving us. In KS2 Mrs Cuthbert, Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Wild are also saying goodbye. There is not enough space in the newsletter to outline all of the significant contributions that they have all made during their time at Prior's Mill C of E. Some staff have only been with us a short time while others have been with us for over 25 years. We will be celebrating their achievements in school and I'm sure parents and pupils will want to say their own goodbyes. As we approach the final two weeks we will be celebrating their achievements and thanking them for all they have done and wishing them the very best for the future.

Family Fortunes

Both Mr stokes and Mrs Stokes are enjoying time with their new arrival, we believe everyone is happy and healthy. We hope to share more news when we have it.

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 pleasure make sure your child is prepared with water, hat/cap and sun cream that can be self-applied (staff will support younger children).

Melrose Learning Trust Visit

I just wanted to share a few paragraphs from our Trust Report that has literally just arrived.

Prior's Mill is a warm and welcoming school environment which provides a safe and stimulating learning environment for pupils. The school's vision, which is underpinned by the parable of the mustard seed, and its distinctive Christian ethos are clearly evident through the strong relationships observed across school and the high-quality learning experiences pupils are afforded. This was highlighted in School's exceptionally positive SIAMs report earlier this academic year, where the strength in personal development particularly shone through.

The Prior's Promise is well embedded across school and can be articulated well by pupils of all ages. Wall art, displays and linked texts within classrooms ensure the Prior's Promise is prominent in school and continually reinforced.

Football Still Coming Home!?!

Na Hey Jude! England may have left it late but could this now be the game where we fully arrive in the tournament?! It has been lovely sharing stories with the children this week about the football - where they watched it, how they felt and who in the family was getting the most frustrated!

Sports Days

Next week we hope to start holding sporting events on the field for Nursery/Reception/KS1 and KS2. Typically the weather does not look great but we will try our best and give parents enough notice although this might have to be as late as the night before!

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 - (Tuesday16th 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 relocation.

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/

TODAY WE WERE AWARDED WITH A CERTIFICATE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE ARE A SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY



1 - Proud to be a place of Sanctuary

SANCTUARY AWARD,

Welcoming People Seekmg Sanctuary

In recognition of its work and ongoing commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of being a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution





•Prior's Mill C of E Primary

is hereby awarded the

School of Sanctuary Award.

Date 4th July 2024

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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Bay Lakes

Q



About Photos **Videos**

Mentions



Lake 2 throws up a gem!

Father and son duo in the double swim off the mark in fine fashion! After seeing some moving in to the bay they repositioned one over to the area and it definitely paid off with this torpedo of a common spinning the scales round to 62lb!! Memories made for a life time and the smiles say it all, this is what fishing is all about!! 20 100









O You and 105 others

11 comments 2 shares











Digital Leaders





3 - 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

...MSG ME...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

CHAT LOCK

FAKE NEWS

VISIBLE LOCATION

COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS



Advice for Parents & Educators

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

99

THINK BEFORE SHARING

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Meet Our Expert



The **National** College

X @wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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.

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS (1)

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.

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 comfartable.

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 response. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 flight bing around the world. FaceUphelps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.

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 important of the pandemic properties on tent contents on the pandemic in the properties of the

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.

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 imappendes, the content is actually imappendes, the stories of the sto

(10)

FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view he mast recent video on social view he mast recent video on social child that it is healthy to cake regular breaks, and to locus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While ou 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.

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.









4





Attendance Matters



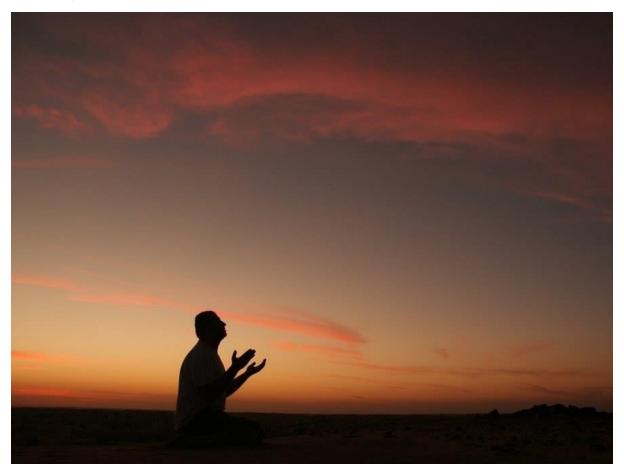
In accordance with School and Trust Policy any unauthorised absences (that are not subject to exceptional circumstances) will be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

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 - I Need Others



I need others

I Corinthians 12:12-27

I wonder if you have ever been in a team or group when you have tried to work towards an important goal? I wonder how you succeeded or perhaps did not succeed working like this?

Think of all the 'teams' in school – in your class, year group, Key Stage, whole school, worship leaders, school council, kitchen team, office team etc. (these will depend on the size of you school)

I wonder how many different teams you rely on in school in just one day? I wonder how you can be the best part of the school body today?

Pray for good team/body working today and think about setting up a school area where thank you and/or please prayers can be added for the parts of the school body (and used in Friday worship perhaps).









Class News



Class 5 Enjoyed a walk at Wynyard Woodland Park!



Class 6 had a great time visiting Wynyard Woodland Park today. They took part in a literacy trail where they had to return Stick Man to his house. There was lots of walking in nature, team work and fun























This week, the children in Y6 have been exploring different flavours of soup as part of their DT unit. They tried broccoli and stilton, carrot and coriander, three bean chilli, Moroccan style chicken, leek and potato and minestrone. Their favourite by far was the three bean chilli



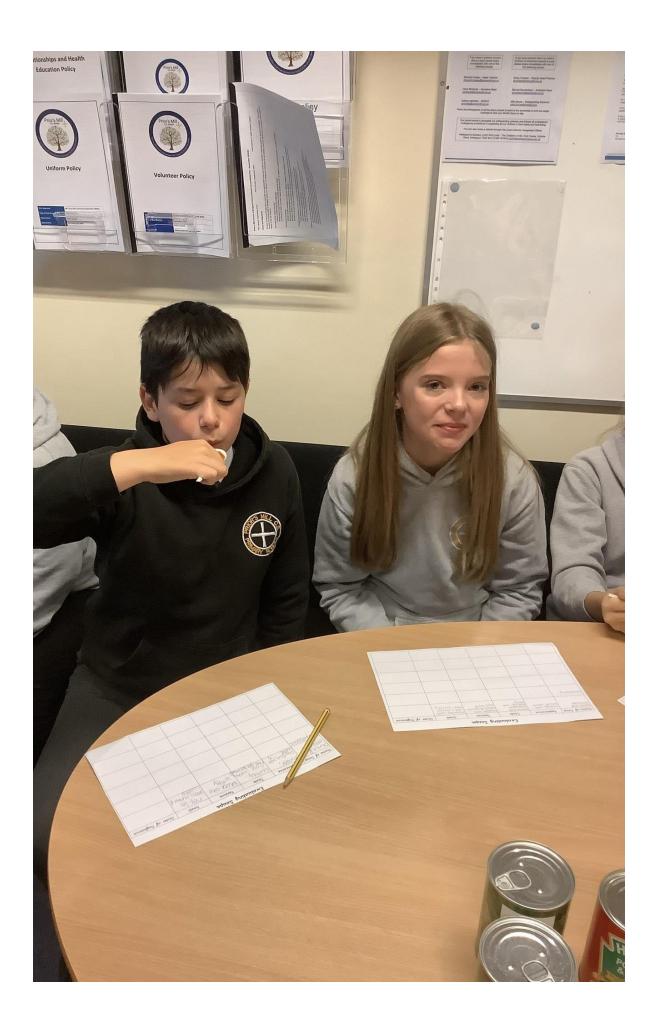














Y3 had a fantastic time at Jarrow Hall today. They took part in Viking battles, royal burials, Gods & Pagans, Viking farming and they also enjoyed The Legend of Beowulf told around the campfire

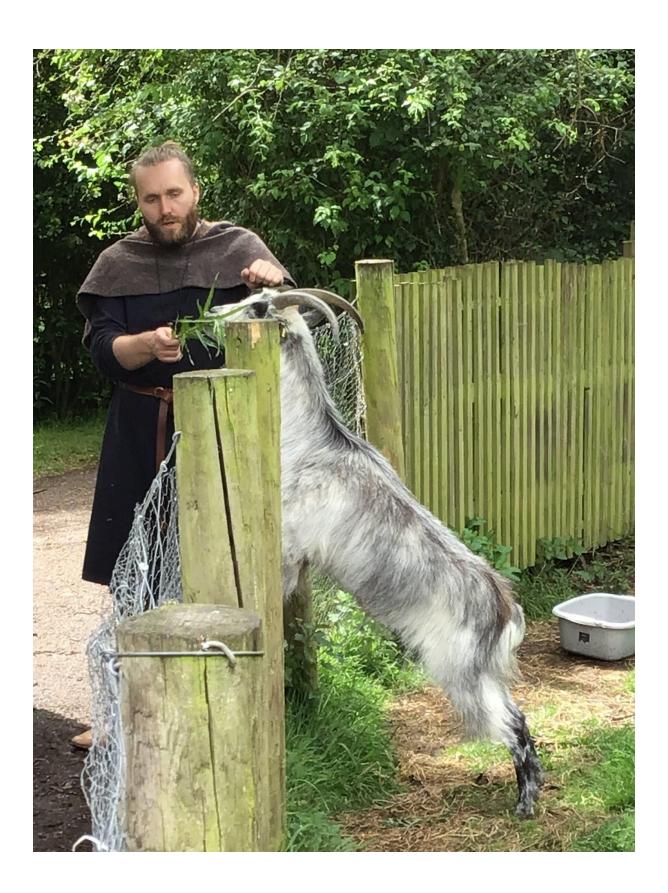


















LEGO FUN FOR OUR NEW 'Y6'!









This half-term the Nursery children have been learning all about the Seaside. They have been sharing lots of stories about the beach and the ocean and explored this theme through our exciting provision areas. On Wednesday they had the FANTASTIC Early Years Guru 'Shonette Bason' join our Nursery class for an outdoor adventure. Shonette brought the seaside to Prior's Mill to explore sandcastle building, fishing, a journey on a submarine and a sea creature Squiggle session!



















Key Dates



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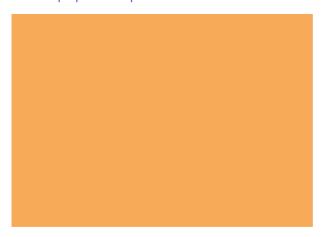
* Y6 Eucharist Service Thursday 18th July 10am

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Picture News

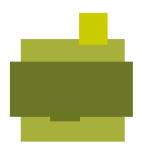


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What's happening

in the news this week?





Let's have a look at this week's

1st - 7th July 2024





© Picture News 2024



This summer, the 2024 Olympics, held in Paris, will run from 26th July to 11th August, and the Paralympics will take place from 28th August to 8th September. The Games will see the world's greatest athletes come together in France's capital city to compete for their place at the top of the podium. For many athletes, these Games are the peak of their sport, with a gold medal as the highest accolade. The competitors are likely to have spent months and years training for numerous hours per day to prepare.





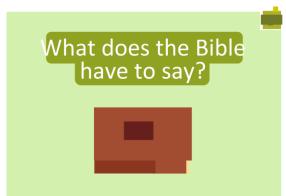
Think together and talk

What does it feel like to win? What does it feel like to lose? Do you think Olympic and Paralympic athletes will experience both?

Make a list of personality traits you think a world-class athlete needs e.g., determination, perseverance, courage.

Is there anything you want to get better at? How will you do it?







Becoming a world-class athlete takes courage and perseverance. Jesus showed incredible courage and perseverance when he went to the cross to save everyone. It would have been easy to give up or perhaps not even start!

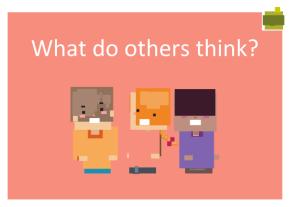




Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2







or me, success isn't about the endpoint; it's about the journey – the growth from where I began and the rich stories gathered along the way. I'm passionate about setting ambitious goals, committing fully, and

Stef Reid, four-time Paralympian





Prayer Dear God,

Thank you for the Olympic and Paralympic athletes and all that we can learn from them,

Help us to work hard to achieve our goals and dreams,

Thank you for helping us to keep going even when things might be tough,

Amen





Key Stage 1 class discussion

Have you ever taken part in a Sports Day?
Which events do you enjoy/not enjoy?
Which would you like to get better at?
Have you ever felt like giving up or not even starting?



Key Stage 2 class discussion

Olympic and Paralympic athletes can inspire us. Why do you think this is?

Who is your inspiration? Why?

Do you have a goal or hope for the future? What is it? How will you achieve it?

Time to worship

Give me oil in my lamp Click here for the hymn online







Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, Give me oil in my lamp, I pray, Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, Keep me burning till the break of dav.









Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King of Kings, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King.









Give me love in my heart, keep me serving, Give me love in my heart, I pray, Give me love in my heart, keep me serving, Keep me serving till the break of day.









Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King of Kings, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King.









Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing, Give me joy in my heart, I pray, Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing, Keep me singing till the break of dav.









Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King of Kings, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King.









Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying, Give me faith in my heart, I pray, Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying, Keep me praying till the break of day.





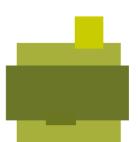




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Contact Us



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