



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter June 28th 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 28.06.23

In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **School Council**
- **Sporting Stars**
- **Digital Leaders - Parent Insight to Dangers of Gambling / WhatsApp**
- **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!



Y6 Heroes

Y6 staff and pupils helped try and save our sports day in a few weeks by clearing some of the dead grass on the field this week. We managed to fill 142 bags and still need to clear lots more grass if anyone has a mower that collects grass or a rake and can spare some time next week - please get in touch as we could use some help! If anyone would like any of the bags of grass before we dispose of them please let me know!

Goodbye (but only for a short while) and Hello (again)

Mrs Stokes begins her maternity leave this week we will miss her but wish her a lovely time with her new family. We welcome back Mrs Wilson who will be covering Mrs Stokes until the end of term. We have plans to cover Mr Stokes with Mr Pickard when his maternity leave starts.

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).

Melrose Learning Trust Visit

Staff and pupils in school were visited by Mr Ward (CEO of Melrose Learning Trust) and Mr Churchill (Deputy Headteacher of Easington Primary) on Wednesday. Staff were observed teaching, and pupils shared their learning. School Council and Worship Group were also interviewed as were a number of school subject leaders as well as myself and Miss Huddart. Our visitors had a lovely day and we look forward to receiving their report. I will share strengths and next steps with parents via the newsletter.

Football's Coming Home?

Last week I wrote the following:

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!!

After watching closely on Tuesday I can confirm that it definitely didn't work! We wish the team all the best for Sunday at 5pm when they play Slovakia!

- The Championship fixtures were released this week I'll be getting nervous on the weekends of September 21st when Sunderland play Middlesbrough at home and then Saturday February 1st when we visit the Riverside!

Every Picture tells a Story....

Thank you to parents who have sent in pictures of pupil achievements at home it is lovely to see how well children are doing! Achievements sometimes don't go as planned - a huge thanks to the Mums of Penny and Joey (next door neighbours) and also nursery creative superstars! I have a feeling this picture might be used again when they are older....

KEY DATES

Transition Day Nursery Tuesday 2nd July

Transition Day rest of the school Thursday 4th July

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).

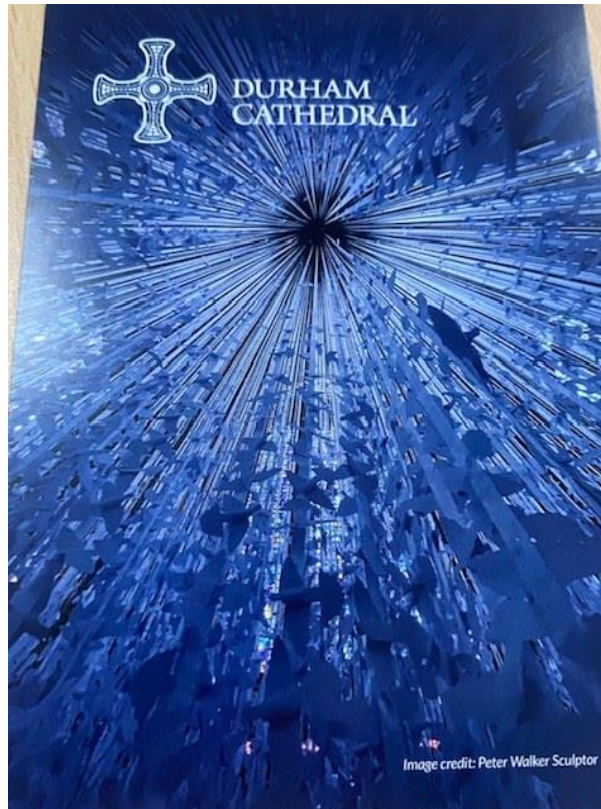
*** Y6 Eucharist Service Thursday 18th July 10am**

Reception Graduation Wednesday 17th July 2pm

*Peace Dove Installation Durham Cathedral (See image below)



1 - Joey and Penny had a lovely time in nursery this week practising their mark-making!!!



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.

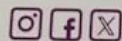
Evensong for the dedication of Peace Doves

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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2 - Henry has made it to the preliminary round of the Stockton District trials as a goalkeeper. He had to attend 3 sessions over 2 weekends.

Well Done Henry!



3 - Well Done to Niamh - showcasing her skills on the Driving Range at Billingham Golf Club!

Digital Leaders



4 - 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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GAMBLING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Gambling can be defined as betting or risking money or something of value on the outcome of a situation involving chance. Under current regulations, gambling is legal for adults in the UK. Its potential impacts on the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities are well documented – emphasising the importance of safeguarding children and young people against these hazards.

MANIPULATIVE ADVERTISING

FREE BET!!

Adverts for online bookmakers and betting exchanges can raise concerns about targeting vulnerable groups, fostering addiction, promoting misleading expectations, impacting mental health, affecting social norms, posing regulatory challenges, influencing minors and other ethical issues. Effective regulation, responsible advertising practices and public education are essential to mitigate these concerns and address the potential harms associated with excessive exposure to manipulative advertisements.

ADDICTIVE FEATURES

All gambling products carry safety concerns, but some can be even riskier and more addictive. The frequency with which people can place bets can encourage them to do so often – with rapid spins and multiple betting options, for example. Betting on sports events, especially with live in-play betting options, can be highly engaging and habit forming. The 24/7 availability of online platforms can also increase the risk of excessive gambling, particularly among young people.

PEER PRESSURE

Exposure to gambling through friends, influencers or social circles can normalise risky behaviour and create unrealistic expectations about the chances of winning. Addressing peer influence requires support services, responsible advertising practices and effective education on the subject to minimise the impact on children and promote healthier choices.

IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Gambling can exacerbate mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and stress – especially if it leads to financial loss. Individuals with existing mental health conditions may use gambling as a coping mechanism – but the cycle of gambling can worsen their symptoms, creating a detrimental impact on overall wellbeing. Integrated support services and treatment options are crucial to address these interconnected challenges effectively.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Certain features of other products – such as video games that offer in-game purchases – can lead to gambling among young people. These mechanisms can sometimes be designed to exploit psychological vulnerabilities, encouraging repeated spending to acquire virtual items or advantages. Such practices can normalise the associated risks and desensitise young people to putting their or their family's money in danger.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

The most common impacts of online betting come in the form of financial losses and debt. This, in turn, can lead to distorted perceptions of money, deterioration of relationships, social isolation, and poor academic and career outcomes. Regular gambling can even exacerbate other risky behaviour by making it seem less significant – potentially leading to a cascade of health impacts and financial loss.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Sporting events can be a good opening for conversations about gambling, as some sponsorships may reference and even glamourise it. Talk to children about how these promotions make them feel and encourage frequent conversations about any concerns they may have. Adverts, influencers and online platforms may also feature gambling products. As a child grows, it's important to encourage their critical thinking skills to help them avoid being manipulated by this type of marketing.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

Parents and educators should be vigilant for signs of gambling harm among young people. Look for changes in their behaviour such as increased secrecy, unexplained money issues, mood swings or withdrawal from their usual activities. Open conversations about gambling risks and maintain a supportive, non-judgemental environment. Try to familiarise yourself with resources and helplines for assistance and guidance.

MONITOR SPENDING

In-game purchases can be appealing to children, allowing them to unlock new features or cosmetic items in a fraction of the time it would take to win them by playing. Talk to children about how they spend money online; an interest in what video games they play can encourage the conversation. Consider setting up restrictions on their devices, requiring their parent or carer's permission before making any purchases. Talk about finances regularly and openly.

GET FURTHER SUPPORT

Support and treatment for young people is available via the Young People's Support Service at GamCare, who can be contacted at 0808 8020 133. A link to their website has also been included in the sources of this guide, along with links to several other support networks. Your GP and local NHS gambling clinic are also available if you require additional advice. Don't hesitate to reach out for help if you're concerned about a child's gambling behaviour or their financial situation.

Meet Our Expert

Ygam's mission is to prevent children and young people from experiencing gaming and gambling harms through awareness raising, education, and research. The charity was established in 2014 as a result of the lived experience of their founders.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/gambling>

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

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@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.06.2024

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 - Belt of Truth



Stand Firm and Persevere: Wear the belt of truth

Ephesians 6: 14

This week looks at a picture which Paul painted thinking about the time in which lived - where Roman soldiers were a common sight. Pupils need to understand that it is not about real fighting like a soldier in an army but fighting for what is right and true.

It would be useful to set the context of this time in history. Jesus and Paul lived in the time of the Roman Empire.

I wonder what you know about the Romans? I wonder if you know what a Roman soldier looked like?

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/romans/armour.html>

I wonder why Paul chose the picture of the Roman soldier to help the Ephesian church to understand more about the good news of Jesus? I wonder what the people in the church needed to 'fight' against? I wonder if there are clues when we see what the different parts of the armour represent?


I wonder what we could do with the belt of truth? I wonder if there is a time when you needed the belt of truth?

Use some images of times when people might be tempted not to be truthful. Invite everyone to consider what they might have done.

Thank you, God, that you invite us to wear the belt of truth. Help us to be true to you and true to each other today.

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

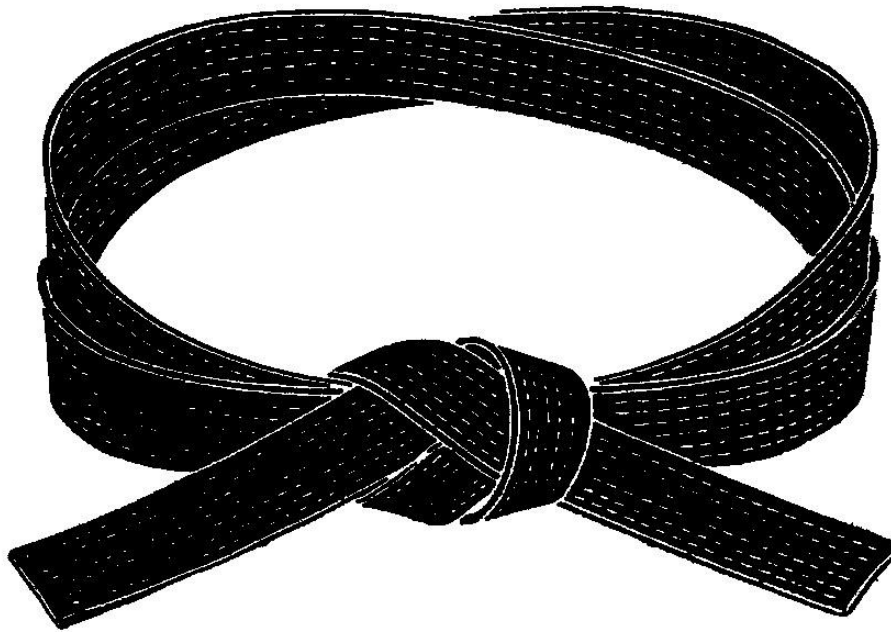


FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS AGE, AGAINST SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES. THEREFORE TAKE UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND.

STAND THEREFORE, HAVING GIRDED YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH, HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ABOVE ALL, TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH WITH WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO QUENCH ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED ONE. AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD; PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, BEING WATCHFUL TO THIS END WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL THE SAINTS—AND FOR ME, THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN TO ME, THAT I MAY OPEN MY MOUTH BOLDLY TO MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS; THAT IN IT I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK.

WWW.FREEBIBLESTUDYGUIDES.ORG 2010 DAWN BOOTH





Class News



Sports Week Pictures





Golf Club Skills! Mr Stokes passing on his driving and putting knowledge - Children A+ Mr Linsley D- I think i need some lessons!





Y6 Visit to the Tees Barrage



Key Dates



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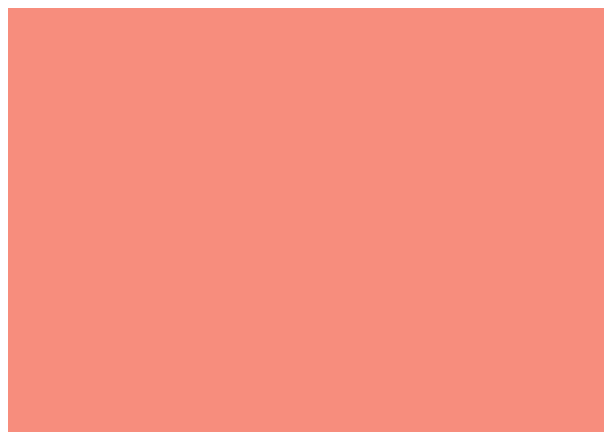
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Picture News



2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2024-06-21



What's happening
in the news this week?





Let's have a look at this week's

24th – 30th June 2024



Fabulous Friendships

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

© Picture News 2024

Singer, Taylor Swift, is in the midst of her Eras Tour, singing to venues all around the world. One superfan has made hundreds of Taylor Swift inspired friendship bracelets to donate to people in care homes. 11-year-old, Devon, came up with the idea to give out the handmade bracelets after seeing how happy her 92-year-old great-grandmother, Margaret, was with the one she gave her. She hopes to inspire all generations to get involved in the bracelet craze.

Think together and talk



Think together and talk

How important are friends to you?

Share some of the things that you love about your friends.

How are you a good friend?



What does the Bible have to say?




The Bible teaches us many things about friendships and being a good friend.

In the Old Testament, a famous saying from Proverbs 17:17 is, 'A friend loves at all times.' Think about how you show love to your friends.


In the New Testament, Jesus teaches how to be a good friend and show love to others.






Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7




What do others think?



Shared joy is a double joy;
shared sorrow
is half a sorrow. 

Swedish Proverb



Time to be quiet
and to pray



Prayer



**Dear God,
Thank you for all our wonderful friendships,
Help us to be a good friend to others,
Help us show love through kindness,
patience, honesty and forgiveness,
Amen**

Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion



**What do you enjoy doing with your friends?
How do you show your friends you care?
Have you ever seen anyone on their own and not
playing with friends?
What could you do to help someone without
friends? Make friends?**

Key Stage 2 class discussion



**Can you think of a time you disagreed with a
friend? What happened? Was it resolved?
How important do you think it is to work at
your friendships?
What do you value most in a friend?**

Time to worship

The prayer of St Francis
(Make me a channel of your peace)
[Click here for the hymn online](#)



Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.



Make me a channel of your peace,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in divine that we're born to eternal life.



Oh, Master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.



Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in 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

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