

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter April 11th 2025

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 11.04.25

This week we include:

• Message from Mr Linsley

- School Council
- Sporting Stars
- Musician of the Month
- Digital Leaders
- 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

In This Issue



Heads Up - Happy Easter



Easter Activities In School

A HUGE THANKS to all the families that were able to attend any of the school activities that were provided this week in school, stay and play sessions in Early Years, Easter Breakfast in KS1 and the Y6 Crown for Christ Service. Your support and time are very much appreciated.

Easter Foodbank Donations

If you have any donations for the Easter Foodbank then you can send them in from Monday - all donations will be used within our local community. It has been a lovely day with pupils in non-uniform today all money raised will go to the local foodbank. **We raised a fantastic £....**

Easter Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for our Easter Raffle we managed to raise over £200 towards school fund, which will be used to support activities for all the children in the school.

Traffic Advice

The Local Authority have let us know that parking patrols will be operating in our area over the next term looking for vehicles that are left idling as this has a negative impact on air quality. Leaflets are included below.

School Starters September 2025 - If you have a child who is eligible to start Reception in 2025 then please get in touch as we can provide you with the contact details for the admissions team at Stockton Local Authority.

Breakfast Club - Early Adopter Scheme We have been selected by the DFE to be one of the pilot schools for the free Breakfast Club Scheme being put in place by the new Labour Government. This will start after the Easter Holidays and last until the end of the summer term, we are currently working out what the implications are and will be getting in touch with parents soon to gauge interest in the scheme. The scheme will be open to all parents and it will provide free breakfast club provision from 8 -8:30am.

The booking system is now open for the first two weeks back after Easter but closes in today. If you want a space either paid or free please book on as it will help us understand staffing levels. We'll not be able to admit any pupils who are not booked in so please make use of the booking system. If you have any questions please ask the office.

I hope everyone has a lovely Easter Break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 28th April.

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

- 10/4/25 Break Up for Easter Holiday
- 11/4/25 PD Day
- 28/4/25 Return to School
- 28/4/25 Final week of Class 12 swimming
- 28/4/25 Year 3/4 Football Finals at Rockliffe Park (individuals informed)

Don't be idle!

Attention Drivers

, turning

Avoid idling and help improve air quality, protect our health and save money.

Idling for even 10 seconds

uses more fuel and creates more pollution than restarting the engine.



When idling, a vehicle's fuel is only partially combusted because the engine isn't at peak temperature.



Why is Air Quality, Active Travel and Smarter Driving Important?

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has produced this leaflet to courage smarter driving and use of alternative methods of transport. The aim is to encourage people to be more active, improve air quality and to cut CO₂ emissions.

Why is this important?

Road vehicles contribute to pollution and climate change as engines burn fuel which produces air pollutants and CO₂. You can reduce these emissions by following the simple advice in this leaflet.

Air Quality and Health

Long-term exposure to pollution can cause poor health for everyone, but particularly for children, older people and those living with pre-existing lung or heart conditions.

Poor air-quality is linked to cardiovascular and respiratory disease, lung cancer, dementia and premature death. It also can make asthma worse, can cause coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

High traffic areas and idling cars can increase the levels of pollutants in and around schools and even just short periods of time being exposed to high levels of pollution can impact children's breathing. It is thought this is due to children breathing closer to the source of emissions and their developing lungs.

Improving air quality will have huge benefits for everyone, especially children and young people.

What options are available?

There are many ways in which you can help by considering your transport options. Where possible you should consider:

- 1. Is your journey necessary in the first place?
- 2. Could you walk instead? Walking is a great way to keep fit, protect the environment and save money. See https://thehubstockton. com/
- 3. Could you cycle instead? Cycling to school or work is fast, environmentally friendly, and it keeps you fit. See https:// thehubstockton.com/
- 4. Could you use public transport? Especially for longer journeys. See https://www.stockton.gov.uk/publicand-community-transport
- 5. Could you use environmentally friendly transport, like an electric vehicle?

See https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/ projects/transport/electric-vehiclecharging-infrastructure-project/ See https://www.zap-map.com/live/

6. Could your school or workplace develop a sustainable travel plan?

Smarter Driving Tips

If you cannot walk, cycle or use public transport and the use of your vehicle is essential then why not consider these smarter driving tips which will not only save you money on fuel but will also reduce emissions and support the local environment.

1. Plan your journey

Combine errands with other trips, like picking children up from school after your weekly shopping trip.

2. Avoid short journeys

Cold engines use twice as much fuel as warm engines. A catalytic converter takes 5 miles to become effective.

3. Remove unnecessary weight

Carrying extra weight in the boot makes your engine work harder and burn extra fuel. Roof racks and bike carriers also reduce fuel efficiency by affecting the car's aerodynamics.

4. Avoid air conditioning

It uses high energy levels and puts huge demands on fuel consumption.

5. Service your vehicle regularly It will reduce fuel consumption and lengthen your vehicle's lifespan.

Check your tyre pressure Pumping up is cutting down! You can reduce your fuel consumption by about 2%.

7. Try car-share

Sharing journeys with colleagues and friends means less cars on the road and will reduce the cost of journeys too.

8. Switch the engine off

An idling vehicle uses ½ litre of fuel per hour and increases pollution. If you're stuck in a jam switch the engine off.

9. Don't warm the engine

Idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.

10. Drive at the right speed

The most efficient speed depends upon the type of car but it's typically 45-50mph where speed limits permit. At 70mph you will use 15% more fuel than at 50mph.

11. Change gear at lower revs

It will save fuel and create fewer emissions. The optimum gear change is at 2000 rpm (petrol) and 2500 rpm (diesel).

12. Drive smoothly

Sharp acceleration and hard breaking wastes fuel, and increases pollution and CO_2 emissions.

Air quality and Sustainable information

For further information about air quality, please phone: 01642 393939

Email:

environmental.health@stockton.gov.uk

You can visit us at:

Municipal Building, Church Road Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1TW

Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (This is by prior appointment only)

www.stockton.gov.uk



CARE ABOUT YOUR AIR!

Protect the environment and children's health, switch off your engine when parked.

- An idling car generates enough emissions to fill 150 balloons every minute. This can lead to poor local air quality, particularly around schools at drop off and pick up times.
- Children breathe more rapidly than adults absorbing more of these harmful emissions.
- Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, which can aggravate conditions such as asthma and can be linked to other lung conditions including respiratory infections.



PICTURE OF THE WEEK!





1 - Easter Egg Hunt in KS1!

School Council



Mr Farrell has agreed (after some persuasion from the school council) to take part in the Great North Run in September and to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind and our other school charities. We are going to be looking at showing our support by organising a summer fun run.



Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

2 - We have been invited to establish a Children's Safeguarding Council in school. After Easter, Mrs Hanson and Mrs Mackay will work with our School Council representatives to explore the topic set by the Safeguarding Children Partnership. The topic for the next half term is about staying safe in the community. Our School Council will be given the opportunity to ask our KS2 children some questions about feeling safe outside of the home and share their findings with us. All questions and answers will be anonymous.

We are looking forward to working with the Safeguarding Children Partnership with this important topic.

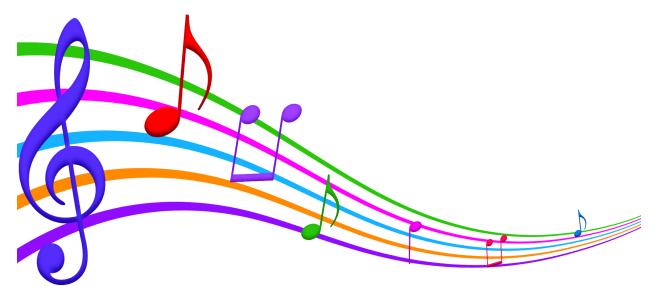
Sporting Stars



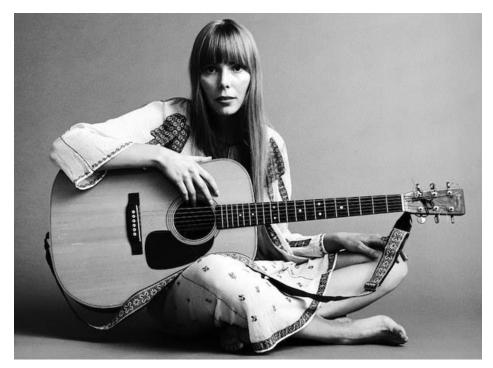


3 - Sports Leaders

Musician of the Month



Home Information Sheet - Joni Mitchell



About: Joni Mitchell, born in 1943, is a Canadian-American singer-songwriter, multiinstrumentalist, and painter. As one of the most influential singer-songwriters to emerge from the 1960s folk music circuit, Mitchell became known for her personal lyrics and unconventional compositions which grew to incorporate pop and jazz elements. She has received many accolades, including ten Grammy Awards and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

Genres: Folk, Pop, Jazz and Rock

Active from: 1964-Present

Origin: Fort Macleod, Canada

Digital Leaders - TikTok



4 - Hugo (Y3), Felicity (Y4), Luke (Y5) and Joey (Y6) are the new school Digital Leaders.

Parent guide for this week - 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

As a parent or carer you play a key role in keeping your child safe online. Find out more about commonly used social media platforms at

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides



Attendance Matters



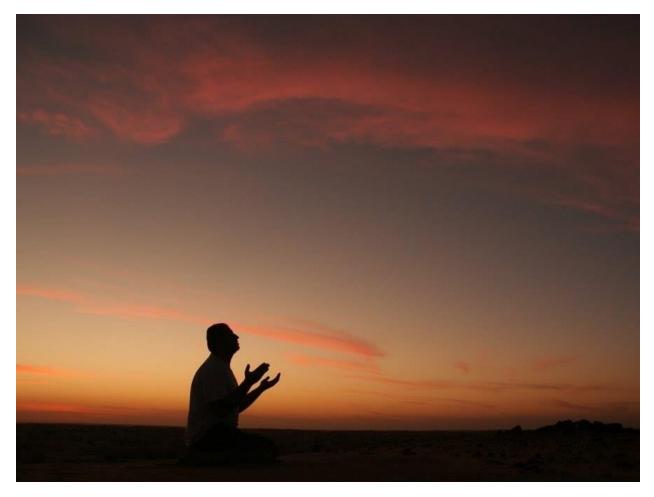
In accordance with School and Trust Policy any unauthorised absences (that are not subject to exceptional circumstances) will be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

Current School Attendance is 95% this is just 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 - JESUS IS ALIVE! Luke 24:1-12



Jesus is Alive

I wonder what the most exciting piece of news you have ever had to give to someone?

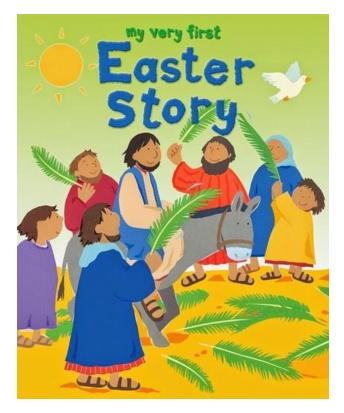
Retell the story of the women visiting the tomb. What did they see / hear? I wonder how they felt when they saw the tomb was empty? I wonder how they felt when they saw Jesus standing

front of them? I wonder what the women said to the other disciples? I wonder what their first words to them were?

How is the Good Friday story changed by Jesus coming back to life?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nfnhv5h0k4M - video clip retelling this story.

God of Creation, we thank you for the wonders in the world around us. We see beauty that takes our breath away. We see amazing sights that we cannot wait to share with others. Help us to open our eyes to see the wonders all around us. Help us to open our hearts to respond to the wonders of the Easter story. AMEN







Class News



Year 1 had a lovely morning, the Easter bunny left all the children a tasty treat. They had to look all over the KS1 playground to find them and everyone enjoyed eating their tasty treat (after dinner).









5 - Y6 Crown for Christ Service

Key Dates



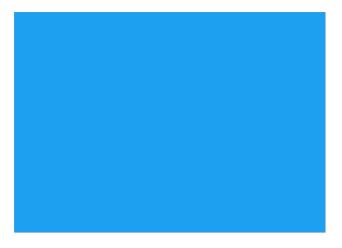
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Picture News



Collective Worship PowerPoint (6)



What's happening

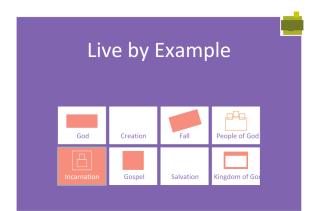
in the news this week?





let's have a look at this week's

7th – 13th April 2025



© Picture News 2025

Ex-England football manager, Sir Gareth Southgate, has shared his thoughts on young people, and his fears that many are spending too much time online, gaming and using social media. He stated how important it is for young people to have positive role models beyond social media influencers. Drawing on his own experiences during a talk for the BBC, he said the UK needs to do more to encourage young people – particularly young men – to make the right choices in life and not be afraid of failure.



Think together and talk

Who do you look up to as a role model, and what makes them inspiring? In what ways do you think Jesus acted as a role model for others? E.g., being kind, listening, helping others.

What simple actions can each of us take to show we care for and support others, following Jesus' example?



What does the Bible have to say?

Christians believe God came to Earth as Jesus to show us how to love and care for others. Jesus is our role model and sets an example of how to live a good life. We can follow in His footsteps, by showing kindness and compassion to those around us, and making the right choices in our own lives to positively impact others.



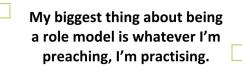
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Philippians 2:3-7



What do others think?





Gigi Hadid – fashion model



Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for sending Jesus to show us what true love and compassion looks like,

Help us to follow His example and to be caring role models for others,

May we support those who guide us and work together for the good of everyone, Amen.





Key Stage 1 class discussion

Who is special to you and why do you look up to them?

Can you think of someone you know who shows kindness or helps others? What do they do that you admire?

How could you be a role model to your friends or younger children in school?

Key Stage 2 class discussion

Is it important to have good role models in life? Why? What sort of impact might a good role model have? What are the most powerful qualities of someone with a positive influence? Do you think people realise how much others notice

their behaviour? How can we make sure we're setting a good example - even in small ways?



Set us free by the truth you now bring us, Shine on me, shine on me.





Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory, Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire! Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy, Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.





Lord, I come to your awesome presence, From the shadows into your radiance, By the blood may I enter your brightness, Search me, try me, consume all my darkness, Shine on me, shine on me.





Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory, Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire! Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy, Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, So our faces display your likeness, Ever changing from glory to glory, Mirrored here may our lives tell your story, Shine on me, shine on me!





Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory, Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire! Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy, Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Collective

Worship



Pupil involvement

Play a game of 'step forward if...'. You could play as a whole school, if space allows, or choose volunteers from each year group to take part at the front.

Read out a series of statements, beginning with 'step forward if you think a good role model...', and follow up with ideas such as, is kind to others, tries their best even when it's hard, admits mistakes and says sorry, helps people who are feeling left out. You could also take ideas from pupils.

After each statement, pause and briefly ask: why do you think that's important? Can you think of a time someone showed that quality to you? Give the children time to think and share ideas.

To finish, can you agree on the top three most important role model qualities for your class or school? You could write these up on a display and challenge children to show them throughout the week.

Bible Link: Philippians 2:3-7

Christian Value: Compassion

Theme: Live by Example

Pupil talk

Who do you look up to as a role model, and what makes them inspiring?

In what ways do you think Jesus acted as a role model for others? E.g., being kind, listening, helping others.

What simple actions can each of us take to show we care for and support others, following Jesus' example?

Think

Ex-England football manager, Sir Gareth Southgate, has shared his thoughts on young people, and his fears that many are spending too much time online, gaming and using social media. He stated how important it is for young people to have positive role models beyond social media influencers. Drawing on his own experiences during a talk for the BBC, he said the UK needs to do more to encourage young people – particularly young men – to make the right choices in life and not be afraid of failure.

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Invitation prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to show us what true love and compassion looks like, Help us to follow His example and to be caring role

models for others,

May we support those who guide us and work together for the good of everyone,

Amen.

Key stage 1 class discussion

Who is special to you and why do you look up to them?

Can you think of someone you know who shows kindness or helps others? What do they do that you admire?

How could you be a role model to your friends or younger children in school?

Key stage 2 class discussion

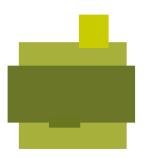
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Do you think people realise how much others notice their behaviour? How can we make sure we're setting a good example - even in small ways?

Worship song

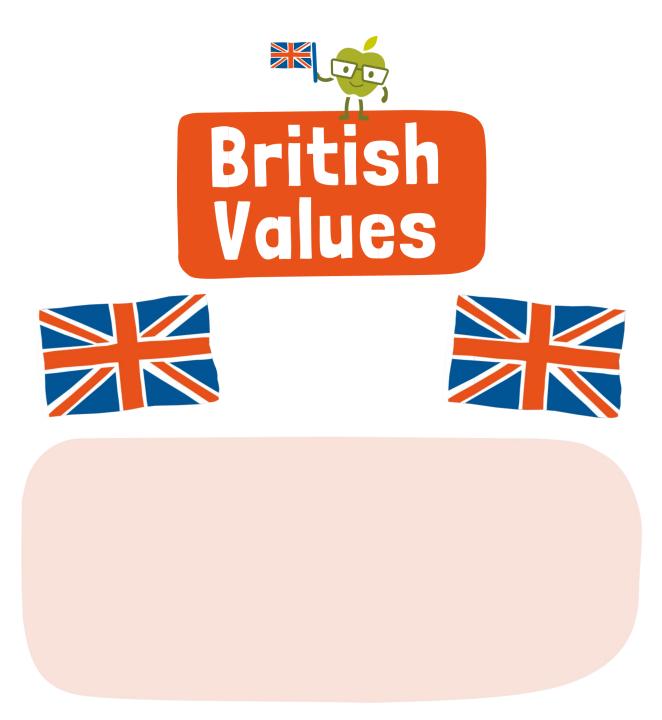


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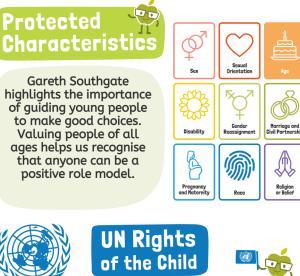


Individual Liberty

We have the freedom to choose who and what influences us. By picking



positive role models and learning from their actions, we show respect for ourselves and others.





By looking up to positive role models and learning from their actions, young people can grow in confidence and succeed. Schools can support this by helping children look for and recognise those who set good examples.



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/1

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.

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mr Linsley

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Huddart

¹<u>https://priorsmill.org.uk/</u>

EMERGENCY HELP DURING THE WEEKEND / HOLIDAYS

During the weekend / holidays, whilst your children are playing outside with friends, we would recommend that your child knows where to go to for help if they need it. This might be a grandparent or family friend, as well as at home. It is important that your child knows how to call the emergency services for help.

We have been advised that you talk to your child about risk-taking behaviour and the potential consequences of any decisions that they make whilst away from home. Give your children the confidence to say "no" to taking part in any risky or anti-social behaviour with their peers.

Of course, we want the children to enjoy the weekend and part of that is becoming more independent from parents; however, we want all our children to return to school fit, well and safe after the weekend.

TEWV Crisis team (CAMHS & Adults) has now changed.

There is a new system and people must call 111- option 2 - this is the 111 Mental Health line & call handlers will transfer to the local crisis team appropriately.

The Children's Hub is the first point of contact for anyone who has a concern about the welfare or safety of a child or young person.

The Children's Hub

Stockton: 01642 130080

childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk²

Crisis support line

If someone you know, is experiencing a mental health crisis call NHS 111 and select the mental health option.

Billingham & Stockton Borough Foodbank

4-6 West Precinct

Billingham Town Centre

²mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk

Billingham TS23 2NH

07583 575522

https://billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk

info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk³

If you have any welfare or safeguarding concerns relating to a child in school during term time, please do not hesitate to contact –

Mrs ALLISON HANSON

PUPIL WELFARE & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Prior's Mill C/E Primary School

Billingham TS225BX

01642 650426

office@priorsmill.org.uk

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

³mailto:info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk