



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Newsletter June 13th 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 13.06.25

In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
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- **Sporting Stars**
- **Musician of the Month**
- **Digital Leaders**
- **Attendance**
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- **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 - Durham Cathedral



Y6

Our Year 6 pupils attended a special Leavers Service at Durham Cathedral. This significant event provided our pupils with the opportunity to reflect on their time at Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School and celebrate their achievements as they prepared to embark on their next journey. The majestic surroundings of the cathedral created a meaningful backdrop for this occasion, allowing our pupils to embrace their Christian values and the strong sense of community that defines our school. It was a memorable day filled with inspiration and gratitude.

Take a closer look at the five SunSmart steps:

Slip on sun protective clothing.

Slop on SPF50 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen (children can administer their own).

Slap on a broad-brimmed hat.

Seek shade.

Slide on some sunglasses.

REMINDER:

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. Places for September 2025 have already been allocated but please get in touch if you require a place as we have limited spaces left.

Additional Resourced Provision (ARP) - Communication and Interaction

I would like to share with Parents that the school is currently in discussions with the Local Authority to open in September a small 10 place provision for pupils with Communication and Interaction needs on site. We have identified this need within school but also within the local area and think we can provide the support that is needed to help support families who have pupils with this need. Once a formalised agreement is reached we will share more detailed plans about how the provision will work and be an asset to the staff, children and families at Prior's Mill.

Nursery Provision - limited spaces left

Nursery Places Still Available – Apply Now! 🌸

We're excited to let you know that we still have a few nursery places available for the upcoming term. If you're considering a warm, nurturing, and stimulating environment for your child to learn and grow, we'd love to welcome you to our nursery family. To secure your child's place, please complete and return the application form as soon as possible. We look forward to supporting your child's early learning journey!

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.

We have had a really positive first week - thank you for your patience as we have looked at ways of accommodating up to an additional 30 - 40 children on a morning in breakfast club.

The booking system is now open, 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.

After School Club Number

Please use the After School Club mobile number after 4;30pm if you wish to speak to anyone regarding after-school club.

ASC: 07925871542

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES


- 16/6/25 - 20/6/25 - Sport Week (**NO EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS THIS WEEK AFTER SCHOOL**)
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- 17/6/25 - Nursery Welcome Evening 5pm (new starters)
- 19/6/25 - KS1 Sports Day 2pm
- 20/6/25 - KS2 Sports Day 1.15pm
- 25/6/25 - Year 5 & 6 Athletics Finals (individual children have been notified)
- 25/6/25 - Reception Welcome Evening 5pm (new starters)


Billingham Show 2025 along with all the key event information. 🏡 The Billingham Show 2025 🏡 Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th September - 10am till 4pm John Whitehead Park

We're thrilled to announce the return of The Billingham Show—a fantastic weekend of fun for the whole family!


🎡 Turners Funfair will be on site both days from 10am–6pm, bringing all the thrills and excitement.


🛍️ Local traders will be set up in the main marquee, offering a variety of unique goods and handmade treasures.

 Children's Corner is back—and it's bigger and better than ever! This year it's run by Tummyticklers Childcare, with loads of exciting activities to keep little ones entertained.

 Teesside Archery will return alongside the wonderful Sam, Billingham's Tesco Community Champion, who'll be handing out healthy snacks for the kids.

 SUEZ is back with their giant sandpit and fun, educational information about recycling.

 In our Civic Marquee, you'll find local charities and community groups sharing helpful resources. A fantastic new addition is the Creation Station, where children can get creative with hands-on crafts—and there'll be prizes up for grabs over the weekend!

 The ever-popular Fun Dog Show returns on Sunday, proudly sponsored by our friends at Jollyes Stockton. Enter your dog in a variety of fun categories for a chance to win pawsome prizes! 🐾🐾

After a brilliant debut last year, Fly Ball is back and sure to wow the crowds once again! 🐾
And new for 2025—Blackberry Donkeys! Come along to meet and pet these adorable donkeys and learn all about them.

 Keep an eye on our social media for updates—we've got even more in store for this fun, free, family-friendly weekend. If the sunshine joins us, why not bring a blanket, sit back, and enjoy the day relaxing in the park?

 For full show information, simply scan the QR code to visit our website. We can't wait to welcome you all!



THE BILLINGHAM SHOW 2025

JOHN WHITEHEAD PARK



SATURDAY 6TH & SUNDAY 7TH

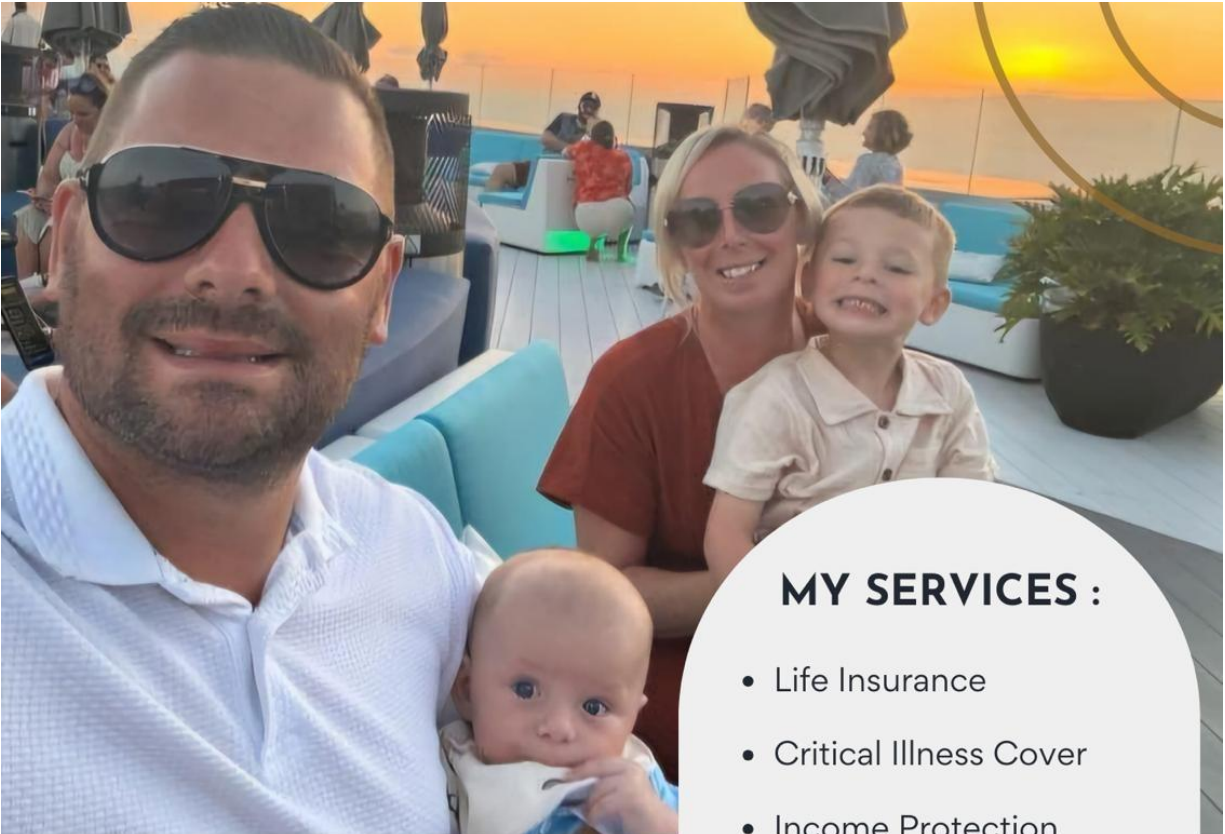
SEPTEMBER 2025

10AM – 4PM

TURNERS FUNFAIR 10AM TILL 6PM



We are happy to support 'Local Business' in the area please get in touch if you would like to advertise in the newsletter.



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Hello, I'm Grant White - Your Local Insurance Specialist.

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 07814421175

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 www.aandrprotectionspecialists.co.uk

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- Child Critical Illness Insurance
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- Wills (Complimentary)

**SCAN BELOW TO BOOK
A FREE REVIEW**



A and R Protection Specialists Ltd is an Appointed Representative of The Right Mortgage Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered in England and Wales no. 15677835.
Registered Address : Queens Court, 73 Gilkes Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5EH

PICTURE OF THE WEEK!



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.



Sporting Stars





1 - Sports Leaders

Tillie has shared some photos from the competition where her gymnastics squad came 1st for best entertainment out 24 other gymnastics squads. Fantastic Tillie!













Musician of the Month



Home Information Sheet - Aretha Franklin



About: Aretha Louise Franklin was an American singer, songwriter and pianist. Referred to as the "Queen of Soul", Rolling Stone twice named her as the greatest singer of all time in popular music. As a child, Franklin was noticed for her gospel singing at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, where her father C. L. Franklin was a minister. She went on to sell over 75 million records worldwide and received 18 Grammy Awards. From her time growing up in the home of a prominent African-American preacher to the end of her life, Franklin was immersed and involved in the struggle for civil rights and women's rights.

Genres: R&B/Soul, Gospel and Jazz

Active from: 1954-2017

Origin: Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A.

JUNE

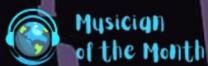


Born: Memphis, U.S.A. 1942

Died: Detroit, U.S.A. 2018

Famous Song: Respect

ARETHA FRANKLIN



Digital Leaders - AI



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

Parent guide for this week - Social Media

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>

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and creative change. Formerly published by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, NNS and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and misuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY**
Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.
- REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING**
Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, create and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or sensitive material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.
- DIGITAL DEPENDENCY**
Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unchecked, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development, blurring a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.
- PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY**
Some AI tools ask for personal details or store user interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be compromised or misused. Regularly check digital hygiene and strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.
- UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES**
Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES**
Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION**
Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.
- PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION**
Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately, and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.
- ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS**
Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Remind them privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert
Brandon O'Neill, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brandon guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

WakeUp Wednesday
The National College

Follow us on social media:
X: @wake_up_weds
Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege
Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday
TikTok: @wake.up.weds

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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 96% this is in line with the DFE target of 96%. FANTASTIC!!! 👍

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 - LIVING IN COMMUNITY Acts 2:44-47



This week we will look at some of the things that happened in the weeks and months after Pentecost – how the early Christian community supported each other and how the good news (gospel) of Jesus was spread by the first believers.

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/anv-early-church-unity/>

Look at the Bible verses. I wonder what the very first Christian community looked and felt like? Make a list of words which describe how they organised themselves and how a community like this was able to be successful. I wonder whether there are ways in which our school community could try and be more like the community just after Pentecost?

Cooperation means recognising our need of other people. It is a key building block for community. This is how a good team, committee or organisation is successful. Explore how a good team cooperates to win, or how a good school council or organising committee works together for the common good. Or think about any piece of machinery with lots of moving and interconnected parts such as a cog and gear. One piece on its own is useless and, if taken out, the whole machine will fail to work. But put back in and working together with all the other pieces, it plays its part, the machine works and the job is done.

Dear God, we pray for our school community; for a spirit of openness and co-operation that we may listen to God's word and have the courage to put it into practice. AMEN





Class News





4 - Y6 VR FUN



5 - Y6 Durham Leavers Service



6 - Y6 Durham Leavers Service

Key Dates



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Picture News



Zoos - Picture News Worship - 9th June



What's happening
in the news this week?

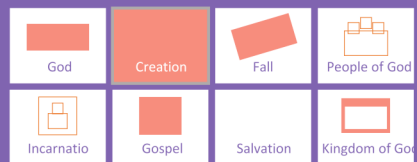




Let's have a look at this week's

9th – 15th June 2025

From Trunks to Tentacles



© Picture News 2025

Zoos, aquariums and safari parks in Great Britain will soon have to follow new rules to help them take better care of animals. These rules say that animals must have bigger and better spaces to live in. The changes will help many different animals, including elephants, stingrays, snowy owls and octopuses. Elephants, in particular, will be given much more room to move around and explore.

Think together
and talk



Think together and talk

Why do you think people care about animal welfare?

How can rules in places where animals live help protect them?

How might the new rules affect zookeepers and visitors?

Can you think of other ways people show compassion to animals?



What does the Bible
have to say?



All animals are part of God's creation and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. He has entrusted us with this task as caretakers of His world. When we care for animals, we are showing love for God's wonderful creation.

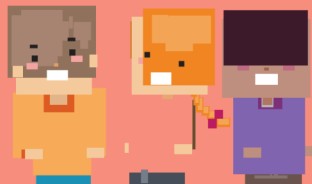


Be sure you know the condition of
your flocks, give careful attention to
your herds

Proverbs 27:23



What do others think?



Animals have hearts that feel,
eyes that see and families to
care for... just like you and me.

Anthony D. Williams -
consultant, researcher, and

Time to be quiet
and to pray



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the wonderful animals you
created.

Help us to care for them with kindness and
compassion, ensuring they have
everything they need to live happy and
healthy lives.

Teach us to respect all your creation,
today and always.

Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion

What animals have you seen at a zoo or farm? What did they need to stay happy?

Why is it important that animals have enough space?

How can you show kindness to animals at home or school?

Key Stage 2 class discussion

Why do you think animal welfare rules need to change over time?

How do you think these new rules will affect animals and visitors?

What responsibilities do we have to care for animals, both in zoos and in nature?

Time to worship

**All things bright and beautiful
Click [here](#) for the hymn online**



**All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.**



Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

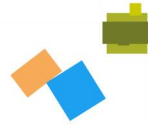


All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.



The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.





All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.



The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.



All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.





He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

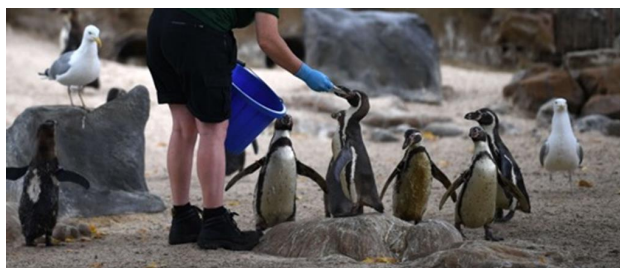
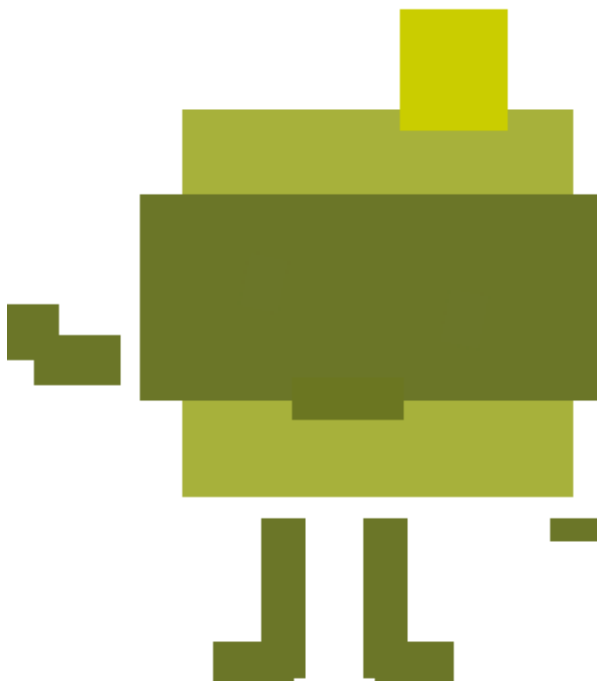


All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.



Collective

Worship



Pupil involvement

Begin with a quick game: ask a volunteer to come to the front and mime or act out one thing animals need to be happy and healthy (e.g., eating, running, playing, resting). The rest of the group guesses the need. Complete a few rounds with different volunteers. Which needs are most important?

Ask the children if they, or anyone they know, have pets at home. What animals do they keep? How are they looked after and kept happy? Share experiences as a group.

Now, ask who has been to a zoo, safari park or aquarium before. What animals did they see? How are those animals cared for? How might this look different from caring for a pet at home?

What about animals living in the wild? What do they need to be happy and healthy, if no one is feeding or cleaning up after them? Can we still care for wild animals? How? Talk about things like protecting habitats, not polluting, and respecting animals in nature.

Christian Value: Compassion

Theme: From Trunks to Tentacles

Pupil talk

Why do you think people care about animal welfare?
How can rules in places where animals live help protect them?
How might the new rules affect zookeepers and visitors?
Can you think of other ways people show compassion to animals?

Think

Zoos, aquariums and safari parks in Great Britain will soon have to follow new rules to help them take better care of animals. These rules say that animals must have bigger and better spaces to live in. The changes will help many different animals, including elephants, stingrays, snowy owls and octopuses. Elephants, in particular, will be given much more room to move around and explore.

All animals are part of God's creation and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. He has entrusted us with this task as caretakers of His world. When we care for animals, we are showing love for God's wonderful creation.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the wonderful animals you created.
Help us to care for them with kindness and compassion, ensuring they have everything they need to live happy and healthy lives.
Teach us to respect all your creation, today and always.

Key stage 1 class discussion

What animals have you seen at a zoo or farm? What did they need to stay happy?
Why is it important that animals have enough space?
How can you show kindness to animals at home or school?

Key stage 2 class discussion

Why do you think animal welfare rules need to change over time?

How do you think these new rules will affect animals and visitors?

What responsibilities do we have to care for animals, both in zoos and in nature?

Worship song

All Things Bright and Beautiful



© Picture News 2025



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<https://priorsmill.org.uk/>

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

²<mailto: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

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