

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter February 14th 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 14.02.25

In This Issue



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

Heads Up - Have a Lovely Weekend



Chimp Management - KS2 Children

This week children in KS2 had the opportunity to take part in work shops based on the successful chimp management approach. Tim did workshops with all KS2 year Groups and delivered a staff meeting at the end of the day. It was brilliant to learn about the impact of the mind on behaviour and attitudes. He shared his experience of being a GB Cyclist and how he now works with current athletes and schools to help them understand the power of the mind. Lots of staff and children told me they enjoyed the day and are taking care to look after their inner chimp. For more information check out the links below.

Professor Steve Peters TED talk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-KI1D5NPJsDiary of a CEO with Steven

Bartlett https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDDNI3irZMgFozcast https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDDNI3irZMgFozcast <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDDNI3irZMgFozcast <a href="https://www.youtub

Podcasts https://creators.spotify.com/pod/show/manor-mat9/episodes/Ep-1---Understanding-Your-Inner-Chimp-Mental-Health-Ideas-for-Parents-and-Children-e2orhq9 Prof Steve Peters on Prof Steve Peters work with him and Liverpool

FC: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qREK8tRC23g&t=189s Chris Hoy on Steve's work with him and why he approached Prof Steve

Peters: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQj3zp alj8Ronnie O'Sullivan on his work with Prof Steve Peters and how he 'no longer breaks down

mentally': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSgfn0Ygk5A&t=21s

Online Safety Week This week included Internet Safety Day and we reinforced the messages about staying safe online.

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.

Book Club

On Monday night the Book Club went really well, children were engaged and very excited to continue the book and the activities that Ms Gordon had planned. The books were very kindly

donated by Drakes Book Store in Stockton. They also donated a bag for the children to carry their new book in.

The book they are reading is called:

The Unexpected Tale of Bastien Bon livre. A tale of young boy with a big imagination and determined to finish the story his parents started! Can he win the race across Paris with his three friends and get the ending he deserves?

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.

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

13&14/2/25 NHS Checks Reception and Y6

20/2/25 Class 9 Worship

20/2/25 Break Up for Half Term

21/2/25 PD Day

3/3/25 Return to School

3/3/25 National Careers Week

7/3/25 World Book Day

10/3/25 British Science Week

21/3/25 Comic Relief Day

26/3/25 Parent Consultation

31/3/25 Easter Foodbank Donations

2/4/24 Parent Consultation

10/4/25 Break Up for Easter Holiday

11/4/25 PD Day

28/4/25 Return to School

Additional dates for newsletter:

- 17.2.25 20.2.25 Bikeability (Class 11)
- 12.3.23 Class 6 Worship (date subject to change)
- 12.3.25 Year 1 Raby Castle Visit
- 13.2.25 Class 8 Worship (date subject to change)
- 19.3.25 Class 5 Worship (date subject to change)
- 20.3.25 Class 7 Worship (date subject to change)
- 26.3.25 Tempest Class Photos (Reception and Class 6)
- 10.4.25 Class 11 Worship (date subject to change)







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.





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.

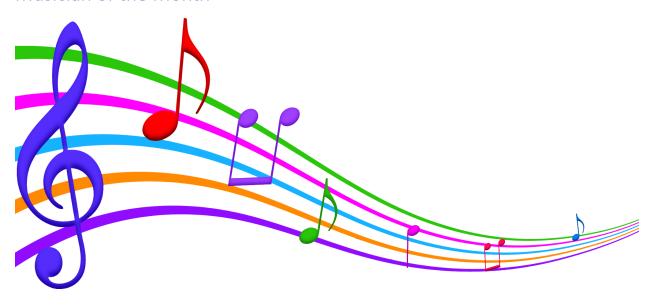
Sporting Stars



Sports Leaders



Musician of the Month





1 - February - Reem Kelani

Reem Kelani is a Palestinian singer, musician, and activist. Known for her powerful voice and dedication to preserving and promoting Palestinian music, she has become a prominent figure in the cultural resistance movement.

Genres: Arabic, Folk & Jazz

Active from: 1990 - Present

Origin: Manchester, United Kingdom

Reem Ke lani





About: Reer Palestinian m England but I influenced by played on his in Palestinian music at a fa maternal hon

Genres: Ara

Active from

Origin: Man

- Lena Chamamyan
- Dhafer Youssef

Digital Leaders





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

Parent guide for this week - Spending and Saving

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

s tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides am of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half o sh children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benian, Ofcom considers it the app where



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high — especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source — so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an overage of 127 minutes per day on the app. that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns—often teading to intribality—and distract them from other, healthler activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

THE RISKS?

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You's a collection based on a user's previously watched cilps. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably sins through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on Tilk Tok. One extreme example o the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against Tilk Tok over the tracic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy tikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering \$99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't shore any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs, increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.



The National College

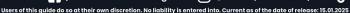
Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025











...MSG ME...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

FAKE NEWS

CHAT LOCK

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

VISIBLE LOCATION

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

97

THINK BEFORE SHARING

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Meet Our Expert



...HEY

The **National** College®









What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a sandboy (tile), thogame lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to Dulid custom levels, which can then be shared online.

PEGI 7

RETATIVO

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid—for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value—or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect; players can still send unpleasant messages, while predators can reach out to children directly.



kobiox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs mone; usually a one-off payment. Most Robbers phot anyone can join server to the server of the server of

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'Obers' and are quite common in Roblex. An Ober is an intention of finding someone to date online intention of finding someone to date online dating is against the Roblex communities guidelines, but this doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblex levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

IN-APP PURCHASES

proy, but bear in wind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for Robuw' (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchases a private or VIP server.





COUNTY JAI

SNAG

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply appropriate that filters. The game also allows parents and cares to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's

DISABLE PRINATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harrassment, toxicity and scam attempts. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends liet can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing with

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes i harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block unit report any users who are upsettling them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's okey to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

Meet Our Expert

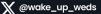
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

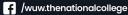




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Sources https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblow.over-hall-of-us-tids-playing-virtual-parties-fortrite https://corproblox.com/parents/









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.

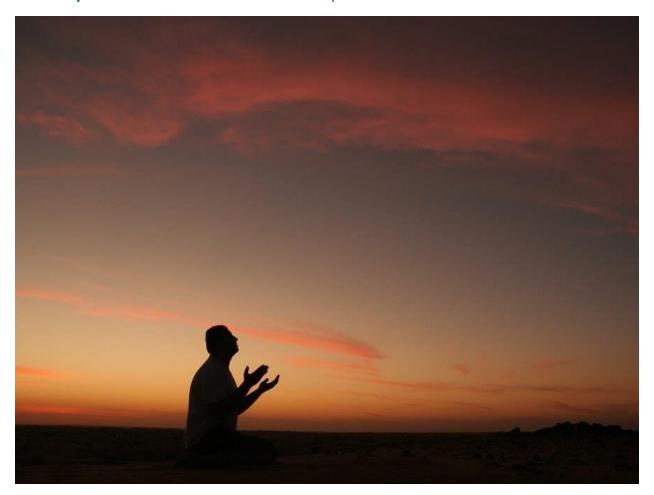
Current School Attendance is 95.5% this is just below the DFE target of 96%.

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 - I am the Good Shepherd



I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10: 1-18 (relevant verses)

I wonder what you know about shepherds?

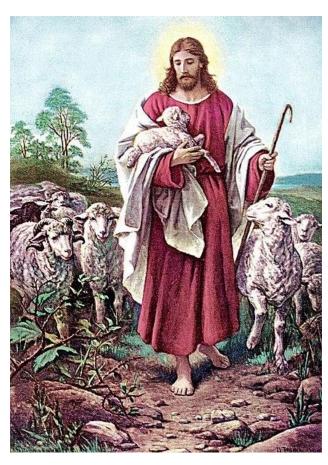
Being a shepherd in Bible times was a difficult and dangerous job. Shepherds were often outside all day and night and had to fend off wild animals. The job of the shepherd was to feed, guide, protect and look after the sheep.

I wonder why Jesus would describe himself as the good shepherd? I wonder what this might teach us about Jesus? I wonder if being a good shepherd might be a good picture of Jesus as a Life Leader?

Watch together:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pu7L0ZwAJOo

Thank you, God, that you know all of our names. Thank you, too for everyone else who knows my name at school, in my family and in the clubs and activities that I go to. Be with them as the help and support me. AMEN





Class News



After School Club made some great Valentines Day Biscuits with Mrs Hitchen!















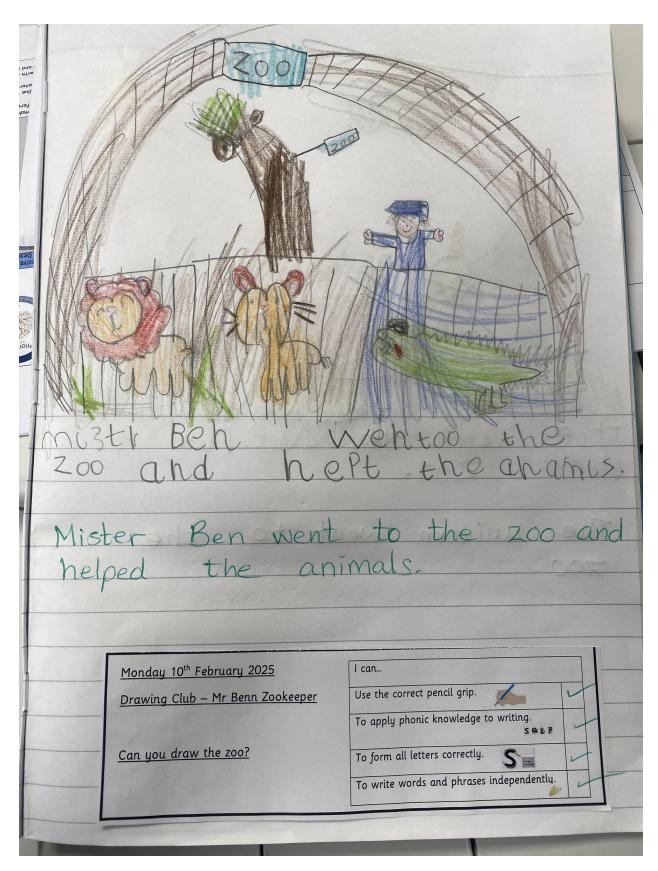


A Lovely worship from Y4!









3 - Wonderful Writing from Class 1 - Produced in Drawing Club!

Class 3 used their current Maths learning when they were working independently in the Maths
area. They found one more and one less that the given numbers.







In their History lesson about 'Who lived in a castle?', Class 3 were learning about the most well known monarchs in British history. They learnt facts about the kings and queens and then ordered the monarchs in chronological order.





Key Dates



- 13 &14/2/25 NHS Checks Reception and Y6
- 20/2/25 Class 9 Worship
- 20/2/25 Break Up for Half Term
- 21/2/25 PD Day
- 3/3/25 Return to School
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 Class 7 Worship (date subject to change)26.3.25
 Tempest Class Photos (Reception and Class 6)10.4.25
 Class 11 Worship (date subject to change)

Picture News



Collective Worship

Pupil involvement

Show some photos of famous places that attract lots of visitors, such as Mount Everest, Venice, coral reefs, or famous landmarks, like the Eiffel Tower. Ask pupils why people like to visit these places.

Encourage them to think about the beauty of our world and why people love to explore it.

Next, invite pupils to reflect on whether they have ever visited a place that was very busy, or had signs asking visitors to protect nature. How did it make them feel?

What can be some negative consequences of travelling, especially in popular tourist destinations? E.g., overcrowding, pollution, damage to the environment.

Finally, encourage pupils to consider how we can balance enjoying the world with protecting it at the same time. Can they think of any solutions that would help people explore responsibly while caring for the places they visit?

Bible Link: 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

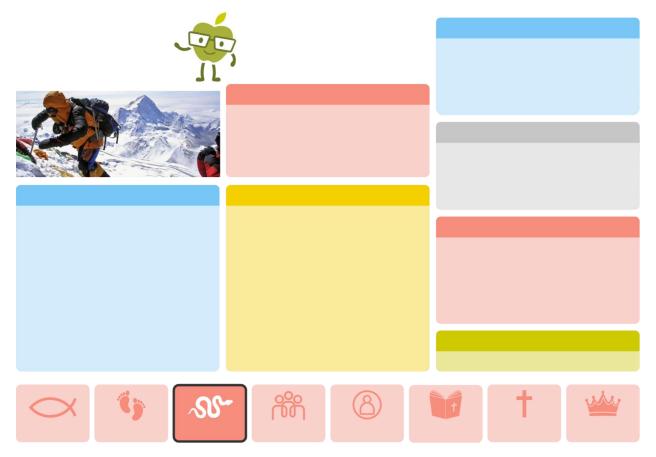
Christian Value: Respect

Theme: Wandering Wisely

Pupil talk

- What do you think God would want us to remember when we travel and explore His world?
- In what ways can travel bring people together and help us understand different cultures?
- How can we, as a school community, show respect for the world even when we're not travelling?

Think



The Nepalese government has announced that, from September, climbers aiming for the world's highest mountain will have to pay just over £12,000 (\$15,000) during the main climbing season. This is over \$4,000 more than the previous permit fee for climbing Mount Everest. There have been concerns that there are too many people climbing the mountain, leaving rubbish and not respecting nature. It is hoped the extra money will go towards protecting the area from tourists.

Our choices can lead to negative consequences for ourselves, others and the environment, especially if we act without care or consideration. Christians want to be close to God, which includes saying sorry for falling short. It is important that we think carefully about our actions and choices when travelling, in order to protect our world and respect all who live here.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the beautiful world you have created,

Help us to make wise choices when we travel,

To think about the people, places, and nature we visit,

Remind us that with freedom comes responsibility, And that we must care for the world and each other, Amen. **Key stage 1 class discussion**

- What is something special about where you live that you would want visitors to respect?
- If you could invite someone to visit your favourite place, how would you want them to look after it?
- God made our world beautiful how can we help keep it that way when we travel?

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Should there be limits on where people can travel? How can we balance our right to travel with our responsibility to protect the world?
- How can tourism affect the environment and local communities?
- Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. How can this guide our actions when we are visitors in other places?

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

¹https://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

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