



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Newsletter May 16th 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 16.05.25

In This Issue



This week we include:

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- **NEW! Picture News (We thought you might like to read 'Picture News' this is shared with children in a class worship every week)**

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Heads Up - Girl Power!



Amazing Achievements

We have been sent a number of fantastic pictures and achievements from parents and community dance groups lately and they all feature in the Newsletter this week. I'm incredibly proud of the achievements of all pupils in and out of school but Ava, Rosie, Grace Angel, Poppy and Eden have all achieved fantastic success in May! Well Done Girls!

Y6 SATs

SATs are DONE! A huge congratulations to all Y6 children for your exemplary attendance and attitude to completing the tests. I would also like to thank the parents in supporting with preparation and ensuring all children were in school ready. The deserved treat of an ice lolly/cream was much appreciated. Y6 now have a number of opportunities that they can take part in as we work towards the end of the summer ter. There will be activities during sports week, including climbing and ice skating, sleep overs, swimming sessions and movie afternoons. Although SATs are complete the work doesn't stop and pupils will now start to complete a number of learning tasks that secondary schools have requested.

Dancing Queen Delivers in Blackpool

A huge congratulations to Ava in Y5 who this weekend became Open Schools World Champion in Latin and then Ballroom Dancing after competing in Blackpool with her partner Josie (Bewley School). Ava and her partner had to dance in Manchester to qualify for the final and fulfilled her dream of dancing in Blackpool and becoming a Champion not once but twice!

I just wanted to say thank you for supporting Ava with her dancing, it is much appreciated! It is fantastic for a member of the local community to win such an award and school as well as family and friends are incredibly proud of her achievements. Mum has kindly shared some pictures of the event below! We are trying to arrange a showcase of her dancing skills so the rest of the school can see, Ava will hopefully continue to inspire others with her achievements. Keeeeeeep Dancing!!!

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.

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.

Prior's Pedal Power

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

On Thursday 22nd May, our staff will be doing a 24-hour Bikeathon to raise money for school playground equipment. Our plan is to cycle the equivalent distance from John O'Groats to Land's End, a massive 603 miles!

The Bikeathon will begin at 9:00am on the Thursday until 9:00am Friday 23rd May. We will be posting regular updates during the day and well into the night on our progress.

603 miles is a very long way! This is where we need your help. Over the next two weeks, 9.05.25 to 23.04.25, we would like you to get out and cycle, scooter, run or walk as much as you can! Every child will receive a tracking sheet to fill in and bring back to school so that we can add all of the miles completed together at the end.

We would love it if as many of you could get involved as possible! Of course, we are doing this to raise money for school playground equipment. If you or anyone you know would like to donate, please do so on the School Gateway app.

Thank you for your support. Let's complete this together!

Que Sera Sera....

Mr Farrell and I experienced a rollercoaster of emotions at the SOL on Wednesday evening as Sunderland booked themselves a place in the play-off final at Wembley in the last minute! I think we'll very much be underdogs but we are looking forward to seeing if we play either Newcastle or the Boro again next season!

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

Gate Opening Times

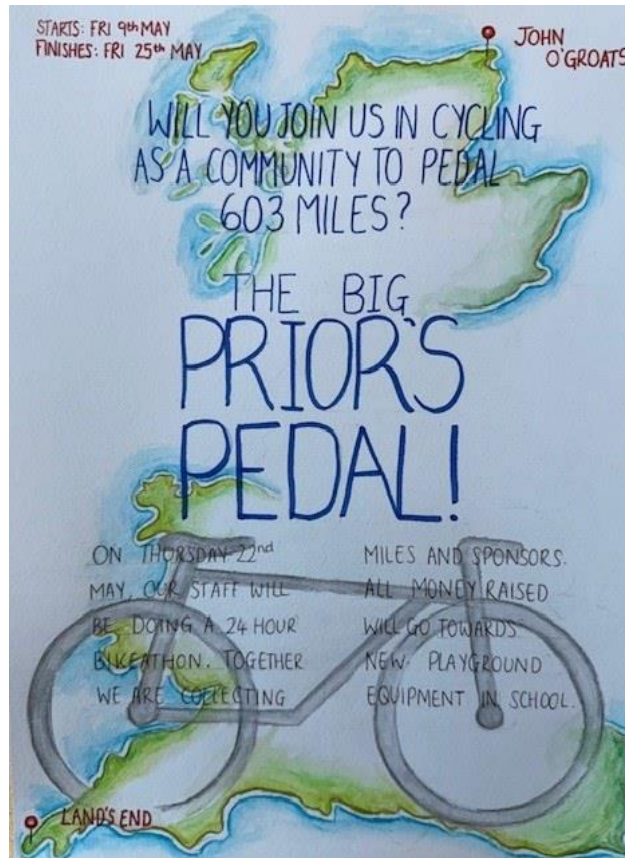
Children from the Breakfast Club will be transported from the KS2 Hall to KS1 Hall just before 8:30am a member of staff will be on the KS1 gate at 8:30 to allow parents to leave the site.

PD DAY

A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON MONDAY JUNE 2nd for STAFF TRAINING (FIRST DAY BACK AFTER HALF-TERM). SCHOOL STARTS TUESDAY 3rd JUNE.

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

- 9/5/25 - 23/5/25 - Cycling Fundraiser
- 21/5/25 - Class 3 Worship
- 21/5/25 - Year 5/6 Athletics Event (individual children will be notified)
- 23/5/25 - Last day of the Half-Term
- 26/5/25 - 30/5/25 - Half - Term Holiday
- 2/6/25 - PD Day
- 3/6/25 - Return to School
- 12/6/25- Class 11 Worship (rearranged date)



1 - WE NEED YOU!

1 week to go - remember to get your sponsorship forms filled and also get out and collect your miles!

PICTURE OF THE WEEK!



2 - So Proud of Year 6 this week they look great in their Leavers Hoodies!





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.



Thank you so much for the incredible donations for the foodbank. We raised an incredible £368.05. School Council used a list provided by the foodbank and we had a fun meeting deciding which items and how much to purchase. Thank you to Mrs Cartman who sorted the online order for us. You can see from the photos, how much we were able to buy (we couldn't put all the items out as there was too many things)! The foodbank have weighed the items and it was 212.10kg and they have done a quick look online and this is the equivalent weight of a female mountain gorilla!

CERTIFICATE

OF RECOGNITION



Priors Mill CE Primary School - 212.10kg

For their incredible fundraising efforts in support of Billingham & Stockton Borough Foodbank.

Their dedication and support have made a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

Claire Jennings

Billingham & Stockton Borough Assistant Foodbank Manager

But seek first
his kingdom
and his
righteousness,
and all these
things will be
given to you
as well.







Sporting Stars





3 - Sports Leaders

Rosie and her partner, Lilah did amazing!

Such an achievement being the British silver medalists for Acro 😊



On Sunday 4th May, Grace Angel represented Razzamataz Stockton-on-Tees at the renowned Can You Dance? Regional Convention in Newcastle!

CYD? is a huge platform in the dance community, travelling across the country each year to offer new opportunities to young dancers. Grace joined Razzamataz teammates from Stockton and South Lakes to participate in three industry-led workshops and perform on the Main Stage!

Grace and her younger sister Poppy Angel also gave fantastic performances at our annual Razzamataz Showcase on Saturday 10th May at the ARC Theatre! This was Poppy's first showcase too and we are immensely proud of her.

As I am sure you can appreciate, these are phenomenal achievements and result of Grace & Poppy's continued hard work and dedication. These are amazing platforms for the girls to have showcased the skills, confidence, and professionalism that they have gained since joining Razzamataz.





World Champion Dancing in Ballroom and Latin!



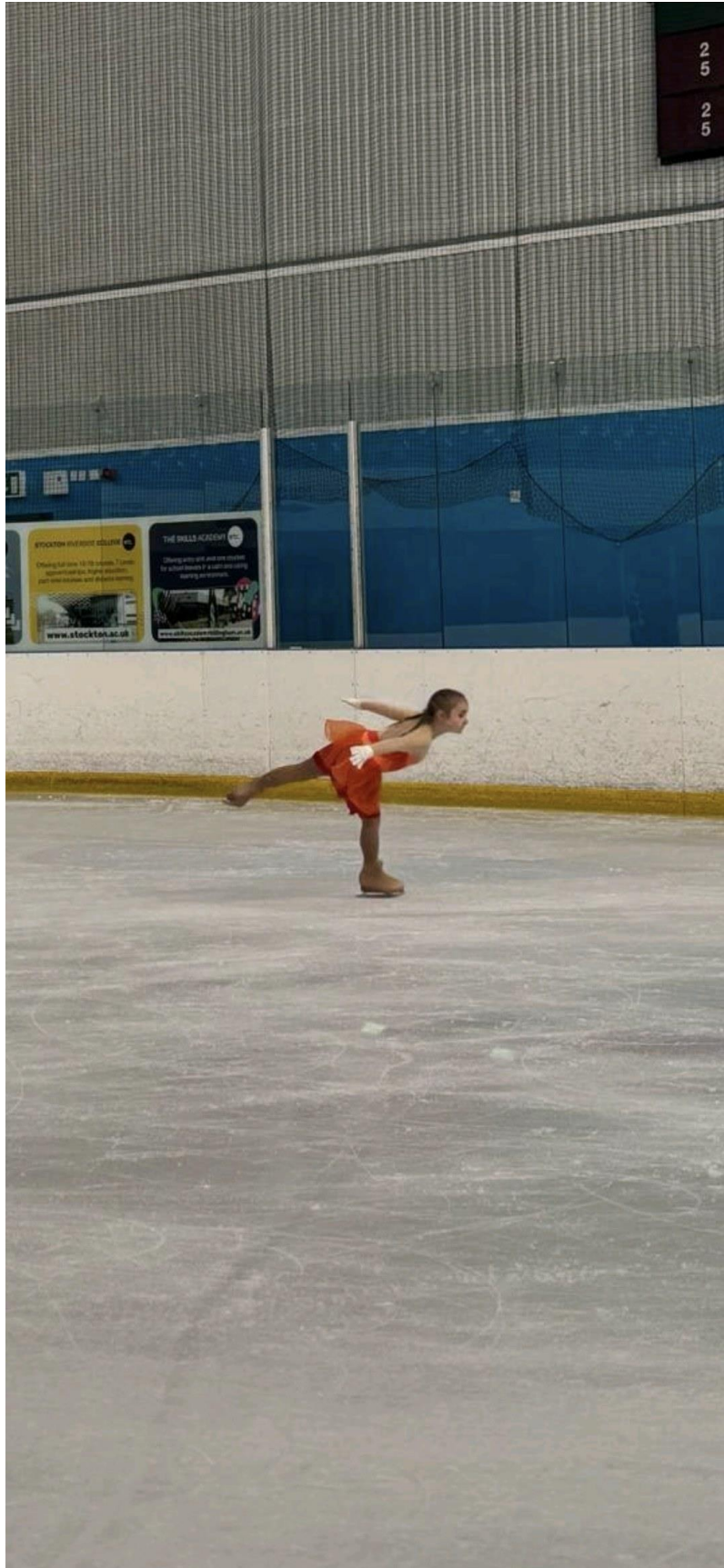






Last Sunday Eden took part in her first ice skating competition called the Spin, spiral and Jump. She had a great time and can't wait to do the next one!!





Musician of the Month



Home Information Sheet - Fisherman's Friends



About: The Fisherman's Friends are a folk music group from Port Isaac, Cornwall, who sing sea shanties. They have been performing locally since 1995, and signed a record deal with Universal Music in March 2010. Whilst essentially an a cappella group, their studio recordings and live performances now often include traditional simple instrumentation.

Genres: Sea Shanties & Folk

Active from: 1995 - Present

Origin: Cornwall, England

MAY



Fao, 2016 ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleave_Fisherman%27s_Friends_\(30256689085\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleave_Fisherman%27s_Friends_(30256689085).jpg))

Years Active: 1995 - Present
From: Port Isaac, Cornwall
Famous Song: South Australia

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS



Digital Leaders - Explicit Messages



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

Parent guide for this week - Making Friends 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>

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What parents need to know about **SEXTING** 18+

Sexting involves sending, receiving or forwarding explicit messages, images, or videos of a sexual nature. Although mobile phones are the most common vehicle for sexting, the term can also apply to sending sexually explicit messages through any digital media such as email, instant messaging, and/or social media sites. They can be sent to or from a friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, or someone your child has met online. Sexting is often described as the new flirting for children, but it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18. Some of the main platforms it occurs on are Snapchat, Tinder, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Instagram and Kik.

IT IS ILLEGAL

Sexting is illegal if you share, make, take, or distribute an indecent image or video of a child under the age of 18. It is an offence under the Protection of Children Act (1978), the Criminal Justice Act (1988), and under section 67 of the Serious Crime Act (2015). Sexting or 'youth produced sexual imagery' between children is still illegal, even if they are in a relationship and any images are shared consensually.

FEELINGS OF REGRET

Although some children willingly exchange messages, images, or videos, many may regret sharing them after they've been sent. Once it's out there, there's no going back and your child may feel ashamed, vulnerable, or anxious about the imagery resurfacing later, especially if a relationship or friendship has broken down.

PERCEIVED AS 'BANTER'

Many young people under 18 see sexting as 'banter' and an easy way to show someone that they like and trust them. Whilst it is a criminal offence, the reasons for taking and sharing can be very innocent and all part of growing up, understanding their own sexuality, and establishing a relationship. However, whilst most images and videos are taken and shared willingly, there can be unintentional consequences, embarrassment, humiliation, and emotional hurt.

NO CONTROL

Once a photo or video is out there, there's no way of knowing how many people have saved it, tagged it, or shared it. Children like to show off to their peers and, suddenly, an image has gone beyond its intended recipient to classmates, friends, and even strangers. Once an image or video has been shared online, there's nothing to stop it being archived and repeatedly shared.

ONLINE BLACKMAIL OR BULLYING

Sexting can also expose young adults to the risk of being exploited by paedophiles or sexual predators, who then use images to extort additional photos, sexual favours, and sometimes money from victims. Your child may also feel pressured into sexting so they don't come across as boring, or think it's a way to show someone they care for them. They may feel under pressure to give in to repeated requests or feel obliged to share sexual messages and imagery which could then be used against them as a form of bullying or intimidation.

Safety tips for parents 18+

THINK ABOUT LANGUAGE USE

Teenagers often prefer to use the word 'nudes' to 'sexting'. One reason for this is the normalising of this behaviour; another is that most children always feel a sense of embarrassment when discussing any issue with the word 'sex' in it. Sexting an image could also be described as an 'inappropriate selfie'. Using this term with your child might make the discussion less embarrassing.

BLOCK & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Show your child how to use the block button on their devices and favourite apps to stop people sending them unwanted messages. You can also set up parental controls with your internet service provider or on your child's phone to stop them from accessing harmful content.

EXPLAIN THE REPERCUSSIONS

Let your child know that once they have sent a message, they are no longer in control of it and the message, images and videos that they may intend to share with one individual may end up where the whole world can have access to them. Even if they completely trust someone, other people using their phone might accidentally see it. And, later in life, it may affect their online reputation, especially if universities, employers or future partners access the imagery.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Encourage open dialogue about appropriate information to share with others, both online and offline. Show that you understand that sexting can be about finding out about nudity, bodies and exploring their sexuality, but explain why it's important to think twice before sharing something. Show that you are approachable and understanding and discuss what a healthy and trusting relationship with a partner looks like.

DISCUSS THE LEGALITIES

Children and young people may not realise that what they are doing is illegal. Ensure that your child understands that when they are aged under 18, it is against the law for anyone to take or have a sexual photo of them – even if it is a selfie and even when the activity is consensual.

LEARN HOW TO RESPOND

If an image has already been shared, either your child or you should speak to the person that the image was shared with and ask them to delete it. You can also use the report button on a website where the image was posted. Speak to your child's school as they may be able to confiscate phones if they know that they have sexual imagery stored. If you believe the child was forced into sending the message, report this to the police. You or your child can also report the content to a child protection adviser at the CEOP.

Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.07.2020

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 - Christian Aid



This is Christian Aid – a reflective journey

This learning journey and PowerPoint have been written to provide ideas for assembly, collective worship or to support SMSC development.

The reflective material has been divided into five sections so that it can be used during Christian Aid Week and provides a different focus to reflect on each day. The ideas can be used flexibly, selected from, and adapted for your particular school context.

This resource and PowerPoint can also be used at other times during the academic year - to fit most appropriately within your assembly/curriculum plan.



Class News



🔥 History came to life in KS1 this week! 🔥 Our young historians have been diving into the dramatic tale of the Great Fire of London. On Tuesday, they discovered how the fire began — and we brought the lesson to life with a fiery experiment! Using wood and hay, we lit a small flame to show just how quickly a spark in a bakery could turn into a roaring blaze. The children were fascinated and loved every moment of seeing history in action! 🏠🔥👧🚒



Choices at the Ice Cream Van for Y6!



Key Dates



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- 2/6/25 - PD Day3/6/25 - Return to School
- 12/6/25- Class 11 Worship (rearranged date)

Picture News





Who is the new pope?



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>