



# Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

## Newsletter July 18th 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 18.07.25*

## 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 - School is out for Summer!



### ***Thank You***

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term at Prior's Mill CofE Primary School, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year.

Your encouragement, kind messages, and thoughtful gifts (even those Newcastle based) to our staff are always very much appreciated. While there is never any expectation for families to give gifts, your generosity and warm words mean a great deal to us all. Simple gestures such as a conversation/telephone call or a thank you note are equally cherished and remind us of the wonderful community we are part of.

A special mention must go to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare to move on to secondary school. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time with us, and we wish them every success and happiness in the next stage of their journey. We know they will continue to shine. It was lovely to share with Parents their songs and memories as well as take part in the Eucharist service.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in September, ready for another exciting year ahead.

Thank you once again for being such a vital part of our school community.

Please check out the pictures on our Facebook Page.

### ***Staff Goodbyes***

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Eccles who has worked in Year 6 this year and has done an AMAZING job supporting pupils in school and is now leaving us to enjoy some family time. Mr Robson has secured a job closer to home and has helped strengthen systems within the office and has done a GREAT job managing the school site. Finally Mrs Brooks who was only due to complete one day a week yet ended up teaching a whole year in Reception and was FANTASTIC! I'm sure we'll see her next year!

### ***Staff Shoutouts***

A huge thank you to the whole staff team (admin, office, kitchen, Teachers, TAs, kitchen staff, cleaners, caretaker, crossing patrol, MSA's) who have contributed to a successful year at Prior's Mill, we still have lots to do but are continuing to work hard to be the best we can be for the children and parents of our community. I don't like to single out individual staff when we are a staff team but a huge amount of credit deserves to go to Miss Huddart who contributes a phenomenal amount to the smooth running of the school and ensures that children and staff are given the best opportunities to learn. She has also become very adept at ensuring I remain focused and don't become too distracted by football rivalries in school!

### ***Compass***

I would like to thank parents for their understanding and patience as we migrate to a new office system 'Compass' office staff are working incredibly hard to ensure the system works as best it can in time for September. Please contact the office with any issues and we'll try to help.

### ***School Dinners***

I would like to say how shocked I was at the late notice and price increase we received from the LA for School Dinners next year. I find the situation unbelievable as it places a huge amount of pressure on lunch paying parents particularly if you have more than one child at school. I'm speaking to the Trust and LA to explore ways in which we can reduce this happening further in the future.

### ***Breakfast Club***



We have had it confirmed from the DFE that the Free Breakfast Club Scheme is going to be extended until at least March next year so we will still be providing a free breakfast club to all children from 8am to 8:30am on a morning in September. This will run alongside our usual paid breakfast club from 7:20am.

### ***Online Safety Alert (From Last Week)***

A reminder to all parents particularly those with children in KS2 to check any phones that children have to ensure they are not

involved in any unregulated Whatsapp or snapchat groups particularly one named - Anyone You Can. This involves children in the majority of schools in Billingham including primary and secondary children and may include inappropriate messages and pictures, as a result the police are now investigating.

There is a Whatsapp and Snapchat Parental Guide included in the newsletter this week as well as a Group Chat Guide!

### ***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. Miss Wilbraham will be leading the ARP and entry to the ARP is by panel selection via the local authority, being in school will not provide any additional advantage. Please speak to Mrs Williams our SENDCO if you require any further information / guidance.

### ***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***

**Please note that there are no Extra-Curricular Clubs on for the first week of term (these will start up again the week commencing 9th September)**

- 01/09/25 - Teacher Training Day
- 02/09/25 - School Opens for Children

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

### GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

### CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

### CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

### AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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

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**SNAP STREAK**

**97**  
DAYS

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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**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**



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## PICTURE OF THE WEEK!



*1 - By pure coincidence, Y6 and Reception have been practicing the same song to celebrate the end of the year and we couldn't resist the opportunity to bring their voices together. It was an emotional moment as it does not seem that long ago that our Y6s were in Reception themselves! So here are our oldest and our youngest children singing A million dreams from the greatest showman! Check out the video on Facebook! 🎵*

## 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







2 - Sports Leaders

## Musician of the Month





About: Gurinder Kaur Kainth (born 4 December 1980), popularly known by her stage name Miss Pooja is an Indian singer and actress who primarily sings Punjabi songs in Bhangra, Pop and Folk genres. She has a master's degree in music and worked as a teacher before embarking on her singing career. She is regarded as reviving Punjabi duet songs and has released over 350 albums and recorded over 2,000 songs with more than 70 male singers, winning many awards. Her music spans many genres and she tours internationally.

Genres: Bhangra, Pop, Folk, Religious, Hip Hop, Dance

Active from: 2000 - Present

Origin: Rajpura, Punjab, India

Gurinder Kaur Kainth - Poster



# JULY



Atamjeetk, 2009: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/fb/b2/Miss\\_Pooja\\_%40\\_Canada%27s\\_Wonderland\\_%282009-08-29%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/fb/b2/Miss_Pooja_%40_Canada%27s_Wonderland_%282009-08-29%29.jpg)

Born: Rajpura, Punjab, India

Active: 2000 - Present

Famous Works: Jaan Ton Pyari

# GURINDER KAUR KAINTH



Musician  
of the Month





## Digital Leaders - Group Chats



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

### *Parent guide for this week - Group Chat*

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 climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular way young people connect. They can be fun, but they can also be risky. For more information, visit [saferinternet.org.uk](https://saferinternet.org.uk). Group chats can be used to share photos, videos, links, and more. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes be used to bully. Someone might post embarrassing photos or videos of a friend, or make fun of someone's appearance. If you see this, it's important to tell an adult.

#### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and memes with a select group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat is private, anyone in the group can share the content with others outside of the group. If something is shared in a group chat, it's important to think about whether it's something a child intended to be private.

#### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways. For instance, someone might be left out of a chat, or a group chat might be created for a specific group of people, leaving others out. If a child feels excluded or isolated, it's important to talk to an adult.

#### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friendly, but they could also be dangerous. It's important to be cautious and not share personal details with anyone you don't know.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate language, teasing, and unkind comments. These could be harmful to a child's mental health. If you see this, it's important to tell an adult.

#### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer volume of notifications they send to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be pinged with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. It's important to be mindful of this and not let it distract from other activities.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

#### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they are in the chat. The child might want to be funny, but it's important to think about how it might be received.

#### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confuse as you if they feel lured or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who upset them, encourage them to tell you. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

#### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report their person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put them at risk, contact the police. Remind them that it's okay for children to always make any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

#### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Receiving a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating situation – especially if it's happening late in the evening. It's important to teach children that they don't still have to be part of the group chat and that it's okay to turn off notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

#### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Encourage children to understand the importance of not revealing identifiable details like phone numbers, home addresses, or school names. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dr Chloe Southward is a media safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government concerning internet use and wellbeing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**WakeUp Wednesday**  
The National College

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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 95.5% 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***



#### **Going on a new journey Passport – a sense of belonging Luke 19:1-10**

*This week of worship is aimed at your Leavers but has messages for everyone on their journey through life. It is based on some of the things that you might need as you prepare for a journey packed in a rucksack. I wonder if you've ever felt the 'odd one out'?*

Today we meet someone who always felt like that, as if he never belonged. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uL6FuAE2r4>

I wonder what changed how Zacchaeus felt about himself? I wonder what Jesus' words might mean? - 'I have come to search for the lost and make them feel welcome in God's kingdom.' The story of Zacchaeus is a reminder to us that we all need to feel that we belong – but it's also a reminder that God's kingdom is for anyone, even people like Zacchaeus!

Open the rucksack and talk about what a passport is for, and how it shows the country that you 'belong' in. We belong to this school. Wherever you go in the future, you will always have belonged in this school – you will have many memories, learned many new skills and made many friends. So you will continue to carry your 'school passport' with you because of the things you carry within you (like you have a passport from your birth country for your world travels in your life)

## Class News





*4 - Fantastic Lego from James in Y5!*

## Key Dates



**QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES**



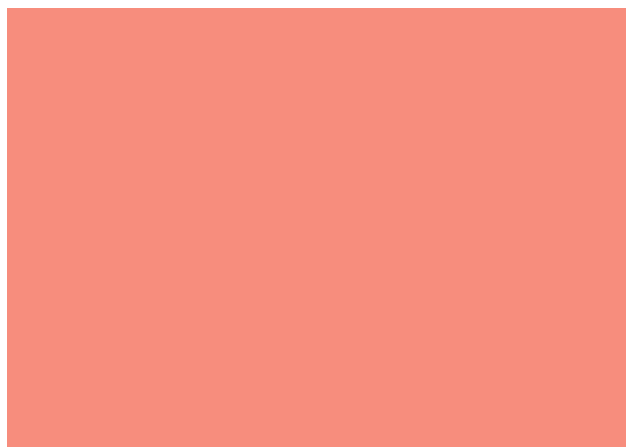
**Please note that there are no Extra-Curricular Clubs on for the first week of term (these will start up again the week commencing 9th September)**

- 01/09/25 - Teacher Training Day
- 02/09/25 - School Opens for Children

## Picture News



## Collective Worship PowerPoint




What's happening  
in the news this week?











Let's have a look at this week's

14th – 20th July 2025





Friendship: A Treasure to Share

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

After fleeing the war in Ukraine, Yuliia Brykailo moved to the Isle of Man with her daughter, Veronika. Yuliia has since written a children's book inspired by Veronika's experience of settling into a new school. The story, Veronika's Treasure Adventures on the Isle of Man, follows a young girl exploring the island and discovering that the real treasure is friendship. Veronika was warmly welcomed by her new school, where pupils even learned Ukrainian words to help her feel included.

Think together  
and talk



Think together and talk

Have you ever been anywhere new? Did anyone help you feel welcome? What did they do?

Why is it important to be friendly and kind to people, especially when they are new or feeling nervous?


How do you think Veronika's mum felt when people were kind, welcoming and friendly towards her family?





## What does the Bible have to say?

The Kingdom of God encourages us to help create a world where everyone feels welcome, valued, and cared for. When people show kindness, include others, and work together for the good of everyone — especially those who might feel lost or alone — they reflect the values of God's Kingdom. This reminds us that even small acts of friendship and welcome can help build a better, kinder world.


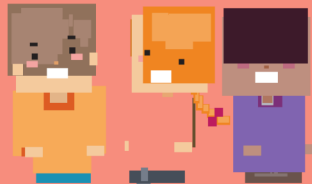


**'The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.'**

Mark 12:31




What do others think?



☐ A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be. ☐

Douglas Pagels – American author and poet



Time to be quiet and to pray



## Prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you for the people who welcome  
us and make us feel like we belong.  
Help us to show kindness to others, especially those  
who are new or feel alone.  
May our words and actions help to build a world  
filled with friendship, love, and hope.  
Amen.

## Continue thinking



## Key Stage 1 class discussion

Do you remember when you first started school?  
How did it feel? What helped you to feel happy  
and settled?  
How do you think Veronika felt when other  
children learned her language?  
What could your class or school do to help  
someone feel welcomed and part of your school  
community?

## Key Stage 2 class discussion

How do you think it might feel to move to a new  
country or school where everything feels unfamiliar?  
If you could give advice to someone starting a new  
school, what would you say?  
What might happen if someone new isn't made to feel  
welcomed or included? How could that affect them?  
In your opinion, why is friendship described as the 'real  
treasure' in Veronika's story?



## Time to worship

When I Needed a Neighbour  
[Click here for the hymn online](#)



When I needed a neighbour,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour,  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour,  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?



I was cold, I was naked,  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour,  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?

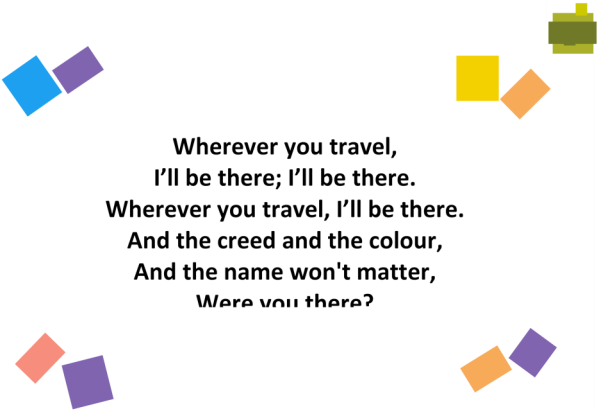


When I needed a shelter,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter were you there?  
And the creed and the colour,  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?



When I needed a healer,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer were you there?  
And the creed and the colour,  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?

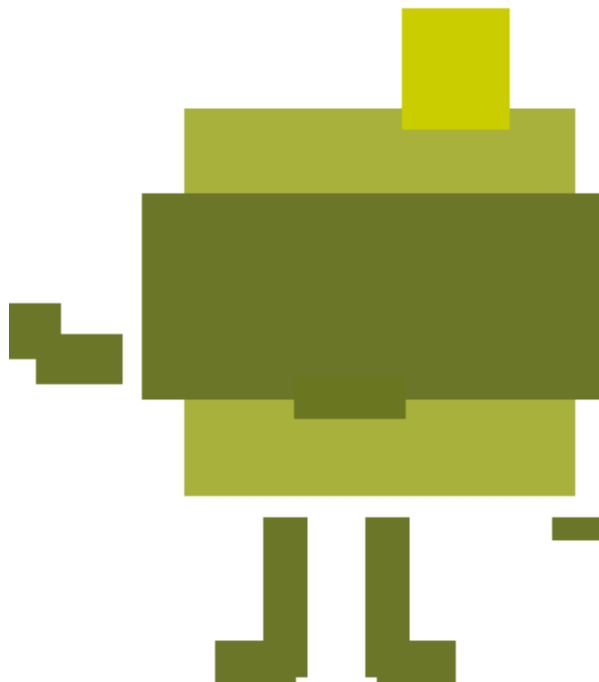




Wherever you travel,  
I'll be there; I'll be there.  
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.  
And the creed and the colour,  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?

Collective

Worship





Remind the children of this week's story and its key message — the importance of welcoming others, showing kindness, and making new friends. Explain that our faces, body language, and actions all play a big part in helping someone feel included.

Ask the children to turn to the person next to them and give their biggest, friendliest smile. Then, turn to the person on their other side and give them a friendly wave. Repeat this with other welcoming actions, such as a thumbs-up, high-five, handshake, or simply saying "welcome."

Invite a small group of children to the front and ask them to stand in a line. Starting from one end, each child chooses a welcoming action and passes it along the line to the next person, like a chain of kindness spreading through the group.

Finish by reminding the children that small, simple actions such as these can make a big difference to someone who is new or feeling nervous.



## Pupil involvement

Bible Link: Mark 12:31

Christian Value: Friendship

Theme: Friendship: A Treasure to Share

## Pupil talk

Have you ever been anywhere new? Did anyone help you feel welcome? What did they do?  
Why is it important to be friendly and kind to people, especially when they are new or feeling nervous?  
How do you think Veronika's mum felt when people were kind, welcoming and friendly towards her family?

## Think

After fleeing the war in Ukraine, Yuliia Brykailo moved to the Isle of Man with her daughter, Veronika. Yuliia has since written a children's book inspired by Veronika's experience of settling into a new school. The story, *Veronika's Treasure Adventures on the Isle of Man*, follows a young girl exploring the island and discovering that the real treasure is friendship. Veronika was warmly welcomed by her new school, where pupils even learned Ukrainian words to help her feel included.

The Kingdom of God encourages us to help create a world where everyone feels welcome, valued, and cared for. When people show kindness, include others, and work together for the good of everyone — especially those who might feel lost or alone — they reflect the values of God's Kingdom. This reminds us that even small acts of friendship and welcome can

## Invitation prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you for the people who welcome us and make us feel like we belong.  
Help us to show kindness to others, especially those who are new or feel alone.  
May our words and actions help to build a world filled with friendship, love, and hope.  
Amen.

## Key stage 1 class discussion

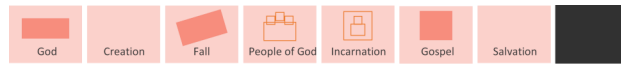
Do you remember when you first started school? How did it feel? What helped you to feel happy and settled? How do you think Veronika felt when other children learned her language? What could your class or school do to help someone feel welcomed and part of your school community?

## Key stage 2 class discussion

How do you think it might feel to move to a new country or school where everything feels unfamiliar? If you could give advice to someone starting a new school, what would you say? What might happen if someone new isn't made to feel welcomed or included? How could that affect them? In your opinion, why is friendship described as the 'real treasure' in Veronika's story?

## Worship song

When I Needed a Neighbour.



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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](mailto:office@priorsmill.org.uk)

Visit us on the web at <https://priorsmill.org.uk/><sup>1</sup>

### **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**

### **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.**

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<sup>1</sup><https://priorsmill.org.uk/>



The Children's Hub

Stockton: 01642 130080

childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk<sup>2</sup>

### **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

Billingham TS23 2NH

07583 575522

<https://billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk>

[info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk)<sup>3</sup>

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](mailto:office@priorsmill.org.uk)

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<sup>2</sup><mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk>

<sup>3</sup><mailto:info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.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