



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Newsletter May 2nd 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 02.05.25

This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**

- **School Council**
- **Sporting Stars**
- **Musician of the Month**
- **Digital Leaders**
- **Attendance**
- **Worship Theme**
- **Class News**
- **Key Dates**
- **NEW! Picture News (We thought you might like to read 'Picture News' this is shared with children in a class worship every week)**
- **Contact Us**
- **Safeguarding**

In This Issue



Heads Up - Here Comes the Sun!



First Week Back

I hope everyone enjoyed a lovely Easter break the children seemed to have had a great time and had lots of chocolate eggs - I was very jealous! It has been lovely to see the children reconnecting with friends and sharing their experiences over the holidays. I only wish we could have experienced more of the weather we had this week in the last week. Although typically the weather is to get colder as we approach the bank holiday weekend please share the 5 sun safety rules with your child.

5 SunSmart Steps

Take a closer look at the five SunSmart steps:

Slip on sun protective clothing.

Slop on SPF50 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.

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.

KS2 Well-Being Drop In Wednesday 8th May

Key Stage 2 thoroughly enjoyed a Well-Being Drop In with Tori from Alliance on Wednesday this week. They participated in useful and fun well-being activities and were able to have a chat in a relaxed informal environment.

Please contact Mrs Hanson through the school office if you have any concerns about your child's welfare.

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.

VE DAY

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May, we would like to invite all children to come into school wearing something red/white/blue. No donations are required on this day.

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!

In the last two weeks of term we have set ourselves a challenge of trying to cycle the distance from Land's End to John o' Groats a huge 603 miles! We would like to collect miles and sponsors from families, friends and the local community over a 2 week period starting Friday 9th May and finishing Friday 23rd May after a sponsored 24hr bikeathon by staff on Thursday 22nd May! All to raise money for new playground equipment which will be used by all children in school. It might be you bike to and from school, or ride on your bike after school, maybe you can go on a bike ride at the weekend or even use an exercise bike at home. We would love you

to let us know how many miles you have done and see if you can get sponsored as all the money will go towards a sponsored cycle in school - where staff will continually cycle from 9am Thursday 22nd May to 9am Friday 22nd May in order to raise funds for new school play equipment for the children.

Football Fever

Good Luck to the children representing football teams in tournaments this weekend and a big shout out to those parents giving up their weekend to attend the Alton Towers Tournament - enjoy the rollercoasters! Closer to home I've enjoyed going to watch Stockton Town over the past few months hopefully they will make their play-off final against Worksop on Monday if they are successful at their hearing. They played extremely well against Guiseley earlier in the week. Good luck to 'Boro' fans against Coventry it would be good to see two NE teams in the play-offs!

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

Thank you for your patience as we trial different approaches to transporting children from KS2 to KS1 after breakfast club, the increased numbers mean that more staff are needed and we need to ensure the site is secure. This has led to some gates being closed earlier than usual we appreciate that parents with multiple drop offs may struggle but staff will ensure there is enough time particularly at KS1, at the end of next week this trial phase will finish and we will share details moving forwards.

I hope everyone has a lovely Bank Holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 6th May.

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

- 5/5/25 - Bank Holiday Monday

- 6/5/25 - School reopens
- 6/5/25 - Year 1 & 2 Animal Encounter Visit
- 7/5/25 - Class 7 Quad Kids 9.30 - 11.45am
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- 14/5/25 - Class 4 Worship

PICTURE OF THE WEEK!



School Council



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



Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP



1 - This term's topic focusses on the rise of misogyny in society, particularly in the online space, and the continuing issue of violence against women and girls. This term's questions have been developed in line with Cleveland Police and the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner who are both undertaking work on this issue.

Sporting Stars





2 - Sports Leaders



3 - Fantastic Y4 Football Stars - Lee Stephenson Cup at Rockcliffe!

The team did really well and managed to make it out for the group stages and into the semis. They were beaten 2-1 but came third in the whole competition due to goal difference.

Boys were all fantastic and were a credit to our school!





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

[Home Information Sheet - Fisherman's Friends](#)

[Fisherman's Friends - Poster](#)

MAY



Fae, 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 - TikTok



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 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. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

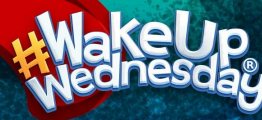
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



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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.

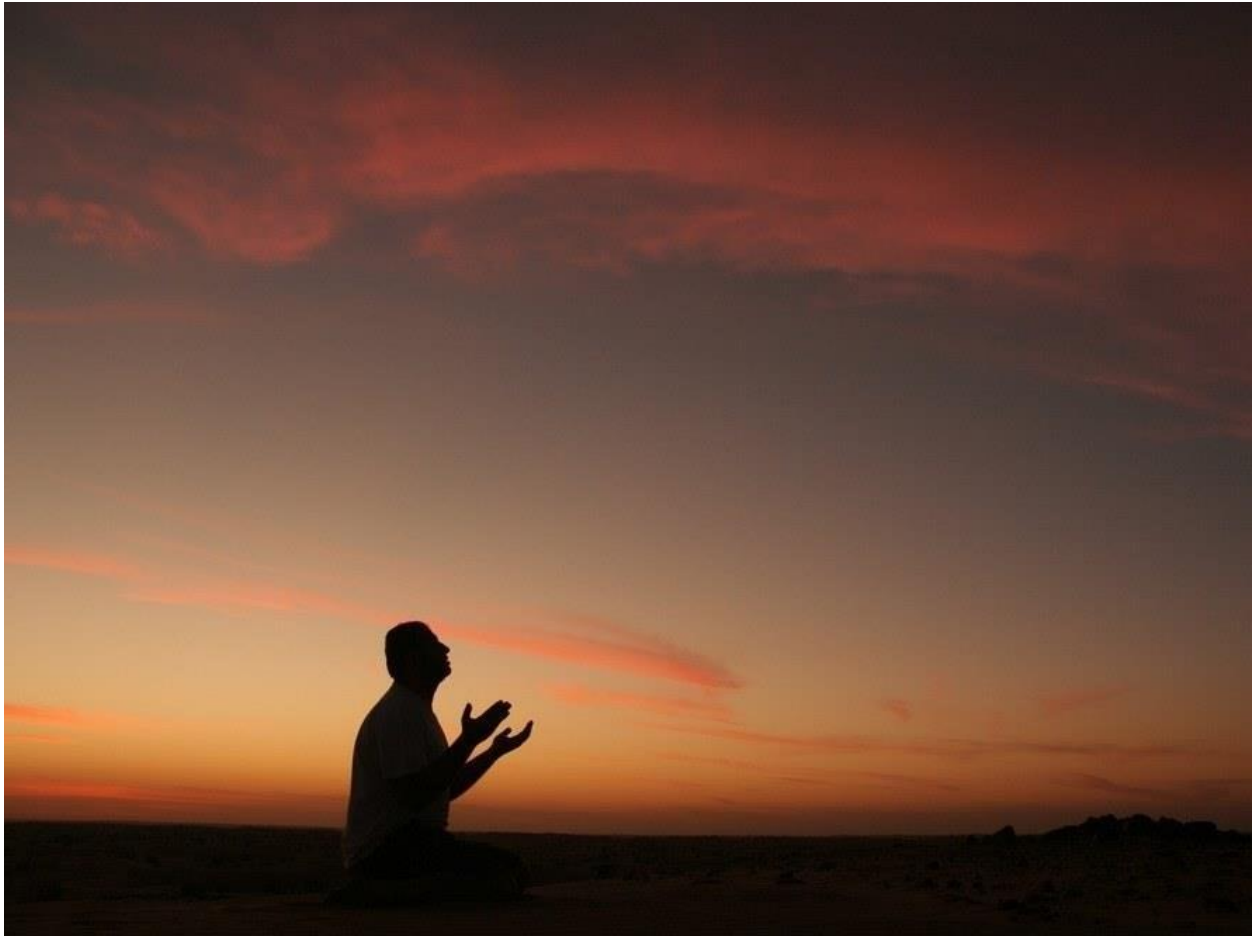
Current School Attendance is 95% this is just below the DFE target of 96%.

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 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE GENEROUS? II
Corinthians 9:11



Dictionary definition – ‘free in giving or sharing’ – does this help explain what generosity means?

The Bible says ... What does this teach us about being generous? What does it teach us about how God wants us to treat others?

‘You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God’.

2 Corinthians 9:11

I wonder if you are generous? I wonder how you are generous?

Being generous is about having the right attitude – having an attitude of gratitude.

I wonder what you think this means? (We are grateful for all we have, so we share what we have with those who do not have enough)

I wonder if we are truly grateful for all sorts of generosity that we have received?



Class News



Great Golfers under the watchful eye of Mr Stokes and Peter the Golf Coach.

Key Dates



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Take Home



In the news this week

Many workers in Birmingham have been on strike (choosing not to work) since January, because they believe they are not being treated or paid fairly. The workers on strike are the people whose job it is to collect rubbish and empty the bins from outside homes and streets. As an all-out strike has now been going on since 11th March, huge piles of rubbish are building up around the city.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Talk to someone at home about what happens to your rubbish. Where do you take it? Do you know where it goes? What about your recycling?
- > Tell someone at home about this week's story. What do you think it might be like for some people living in Birmingham at the moment?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Mutual Respect



Everyone deserves to feel valued and respected at school or work. By showing respect to others, we can help make



**British
Values**

sure everyone feels fairly treated and listened to.

Protected Characteristics



Both men and women work as refuse collectors, but sometimes people wrongly think it's a 'man's job'. It's important not to stereotype. Everyone, no matter their sex, deserves fair pay and respect at work.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



Every child has the right to a clean and safe environment. When rubbish piles up, it can affect children's health and safety. Governments should work to solve problems quickly, so that children have clean places to grow up.



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>