



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Newsletter March 21st 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 21.03.25

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 - Red Nose Day!



Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported red nose day in school we had a range of outfits including, non-uniform, some fantastic home printed t-shirts and even a few Newcastle tops (they win one trophy...). The money raised goes to such a fantastic cause and we really appreciate your support.

Traffic Advice

The Local Authority have let us know that parking patrols will be operating in our area over the next term looking for vehicles that are left idling as this has a negative impact on air quality. Leaflets are included below.

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.

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.

The booking system is now open for the first two weeks back after Easter but closes in two weeks time. 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.

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

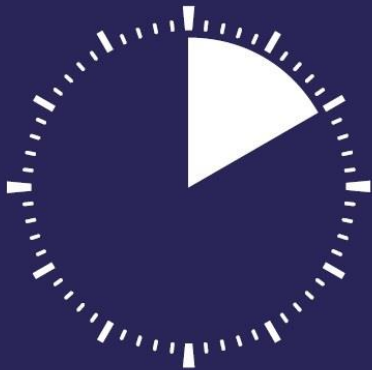
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- 7/4/25 Class 1 Reception Stay and Play 2-3pm
- 8/4/25 Class 2 Reception Stay and Play 2-3pm
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- 9/4/25 Kirkleatham Owl Visit
- 10/4/25 Break Up for Easter Holiday
- 11/4/25 PD Day
- 28/4/25 Return to School

Don't be idle!

Attention Drivers

Avoid idling and help improve air quality, protect our health and save money.



Idling for even

10 seconds

uses more fuel and
creates more pollution
than restarting the
engine.



Idling is bad for your vehicle

When idling, a vehicle's fuel is only partially combusted because the engine isn't at peak temperature.



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Why is Air Quality, Active Travel and Smarter Driving Important?

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has produced this leaflet to encourage smarter driving and use of alternative methods of transport. The aim is to encourage people to be more active, improve air quality and to cut CO₂ emissions.

Why is this important?

Road vehicles contribute to pollution and climate change as engines burn fuel which produces air pollutants and CO₂. You can reduce these emissions by following the simple advice in this leaflet.

Air Quality and Health

Long-term exposure to pollution can cause poor health for everyone, but particularly for children, older people and those living with pre-existing lung or heart conditions.

Poor air-quality is linked to cardiovascular and respiratory disease, lung cancer, dementia and premature death. It also can make asthma worse, can cause coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

High traffic areas and idling cars can increase the levels of pollutants in and around schools and even just short periods of time being exposed to high levels of pollution can impact children's breathing. It is thought this is due to children breathing closer to the source of emissions and their developing lungs.

Improving air quality will have huge benefits for everyone, especially children and young people.

What options are available?

There are many ways in which you can help by considering your transport options. Where possible you should consider:

- 1. Is your journey necessary in the first place?**
- 2. Could you walk instead?**
Walking is a great way to keep fit, protect the environment and save money. See <https://thehubstockton.com/>
- 3. Could you cycle instead?**
Cycling to school or work is fast, environmentally friendly, and it keeps you fit. See <https://thehubstockton.com/>
- 4. Could you use public transport?**
Especially for longer journeys. See <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/public-and-community-transport>
- 5. Could you use environmentally friendly transport, like an electric vehicle?**
See <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/projects/transport/electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-project/>
See <https://www.zap-map.com/live/>
- 6. Could your school or workplace develop a sustainable travel plan?**



Smarter Driving Tips

If you cannot walk, cycle or use public transport and the use of your vehicle is essential then why not consider these smarter driving tips which will not only save you money on fuel but will also reduce emissions and support the local environment.

- 1. Plan your journey**
Combine errands with other trips, like picking children up from school after your weekly shopping trip.
- 2. Avoid short journeys**
Cold engines use twice as much fuel as warm engines. A catalytic converter takes 5 miles to become effective.
- 3. Remove unnecessary weight**
Carrying extra weight in the boot makes your engine work harder and burn extra fuel. Roof racks and bike carriers also reduce fuel efficiency by affecting the car's aerodynamics.
- 4. Avoid air conditioning**
It uses high energy levels and puts huge demands on fuel consumption.
- 5. Service your vehicle regularly**
It will reduce fuel consumption and lengthen your vehicle's lifespan.
- 6. Check your tyre pressure**
Pumping up is cutting down! You can reduce your fuel consumption by about 2%.
- 7. Try car-share**
Sharing journeys with colleagues and friends means less cars on the road and will reduce the cost of journeys too.
- 8. Switch the engine off**
An idling vehicle uses ½ litre of fuel per hour and increases pollution. If you're stuck in a jam switch the engine off.
- 9. Don't warm the engine**
Idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.
- 10. Drive at the right speed**
The most efficient speed depends upon the type of car but it's typically 45-50mph where speed limits permit. At 70mph you will use 15% more fuel than at 50mph.
- 11. Change gear at lower revs**
It will save fuel and create fewer emissions. The optimum gear change is at 2000 rpm (petrol) and 2500 rpm (diesel).
- 12. Drive smoothly**
Sharp acceleration and hard breaking wastes fuel, and increases pollution and CO₂ emissions.

Air quality and Sustainable information

For further information about air quality, please phone: 01642 393939

Email:
environmental.health@stockton.gov.uk

You can visit us at:

Municipal Building, Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1TW

Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
(This is by prior appointment only)

www.stockton.gov.uk



CARE ABOUT YOUR AIR!

Protect the
environment and
children's health,
switch off your
engine when
parked.

- An idling car generates enough emissions to fill 150 balloons every minute. This can lead to poor local air quality, particularly around schools at drop off and pick up times.
- Children breathe more rapidly than adults absorbing more of these harmful emissions.
- Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, which can aggravate conditions such as asthma and can be linked to other lung conditions including respiratory infections.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK!



1 - Fantastic Stop Gap Video Animation from the Boys!

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



2 - 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





3 - Sports Leaders

Musician of the Month



Home Information Sheet - Mozart



About: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791) was a prolific and influential composer of the Classical period. Despite his short life, his rapid pace of composition resulted in more than 800 works of virtually every genre of his time. Many of these compositions are acknowledged as pinnacles of the symphonic, concertante, chamber, operatic, and choral repertoire. Mozart is widely regarded as among the greatest composers in the history of Western music. His Requiem was largely unfinished by the time of his death at the age of 35, the circumstances of which are uncertain and much mythologised.

Genres: Classical, Opera, Chamber, Choral

Active from: 1764-1791

Origin: Salzburg, Austria

Digital Leaders -Streamers



4 - 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>

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMERS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some gaming streamers will stick to family-friendly titles, but others will play more violent games that tend to be more popular. Non-gaming streamers could, in theory, discuss just about anything, and some streamers will often stream in revealing outfits.

NEGATIVE INFLUENCES

While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in scams in the past.

FINANCIAL HARM

Streamers will often have donation buttons on their screens for users to submit money. What can start as small amounts can quickly spiral as streamers engage with paying viewers more often, potentially leading to financial issues.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Influencers often showcase how glamorous their lives are, making some users feel as though they are lesser. However, it's important to stress that, in many ways, this is an act, or at the very least, not common. Logan Paul, who has been successful as a streamer and influencer, has a Pokemon card worth \$5 million, but this is atypical of anyone working in the medium.

MISINFORMATION

Streamers are, in many ways, just like us - and they can get things wrong or reel off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can simply say awful things to get a rise out of viewers or to sway them to their side of a hot topic.

ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME

If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS

For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no small degree of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to speak freely due to sponsors, and influencers are just that - influencing young minds, for better or for worse.

DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION

Streamers can reward donations with additional content, on-camera "shout outs" and more. If you're unsure about who or what your child is watching, consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.

CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS

While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Rumble, which have grown in popularity with moves for big-name streamers - despite many being dogged by controversy.

SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS

You can set screentime limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

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



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.03.2025

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 - KINGDOM GROWING (Matthew 13:1-24, Galatians 5:22-23)



Today's Kingdom parable is about a farmer and his seeds. I wonder if you can think about which seeds grew best and why as you listen.

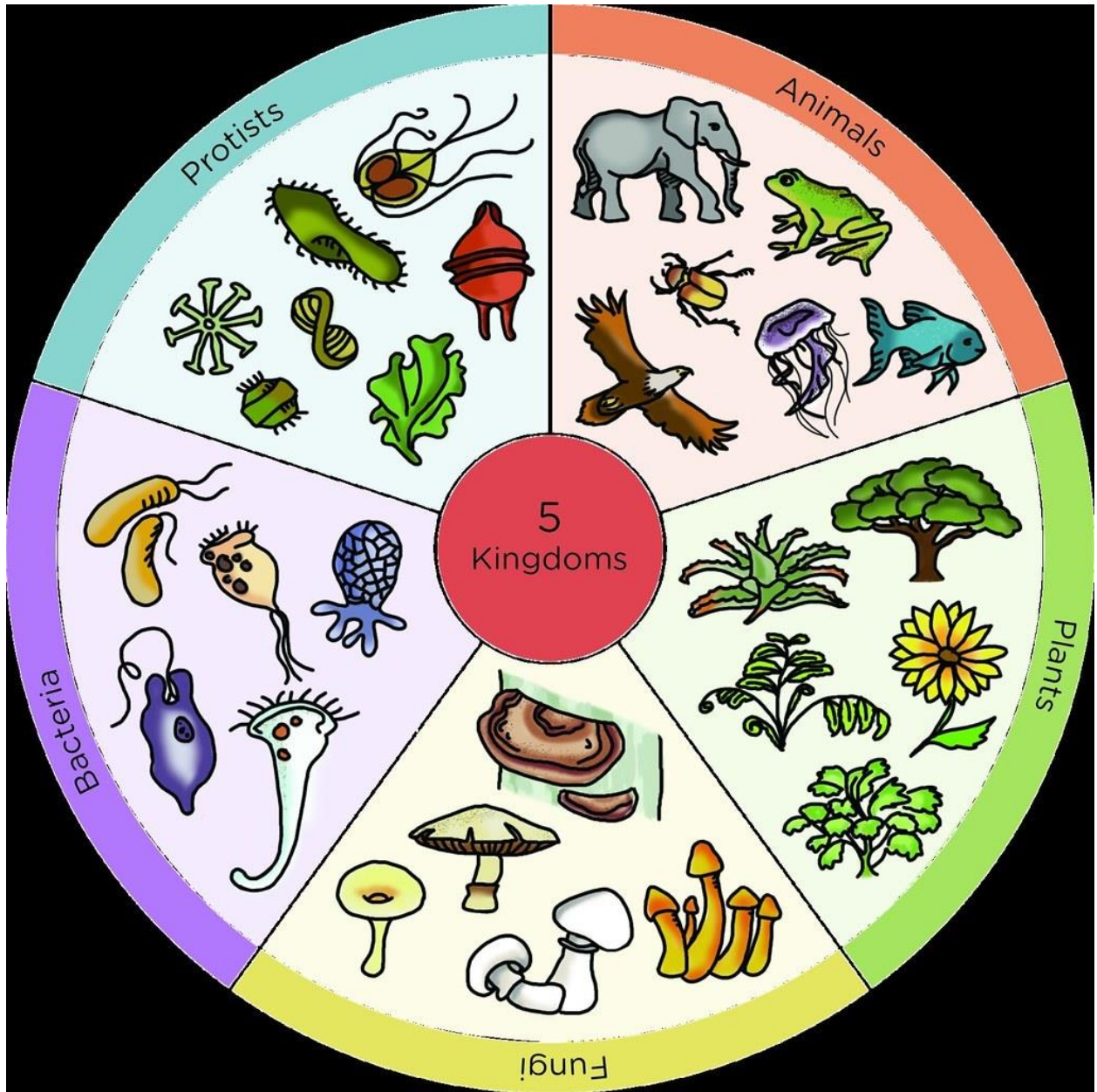
Use one of these or your own version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guDeSYcwRYg> just animation

Jesus wasn't talking about real seeds or real fruit, but things like these [take fruits labelled with qualities from Galatians out one at a time from a fruit bowl.] The Bible calls these words the 'fruits' of God's kingdom and God will help these things to grow in the lives of people who follow him, just like seeds grow into good fruit. I wonder how we can grow these good things in our lives, how our school's values might help us, which of these 'fruits' are hardest to grow, what things might stop them from growing at all?

Dear God

*Thank you for these good fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. Please help us to live our lives in ways that will encourage these good seeds to grow. **AMEN***



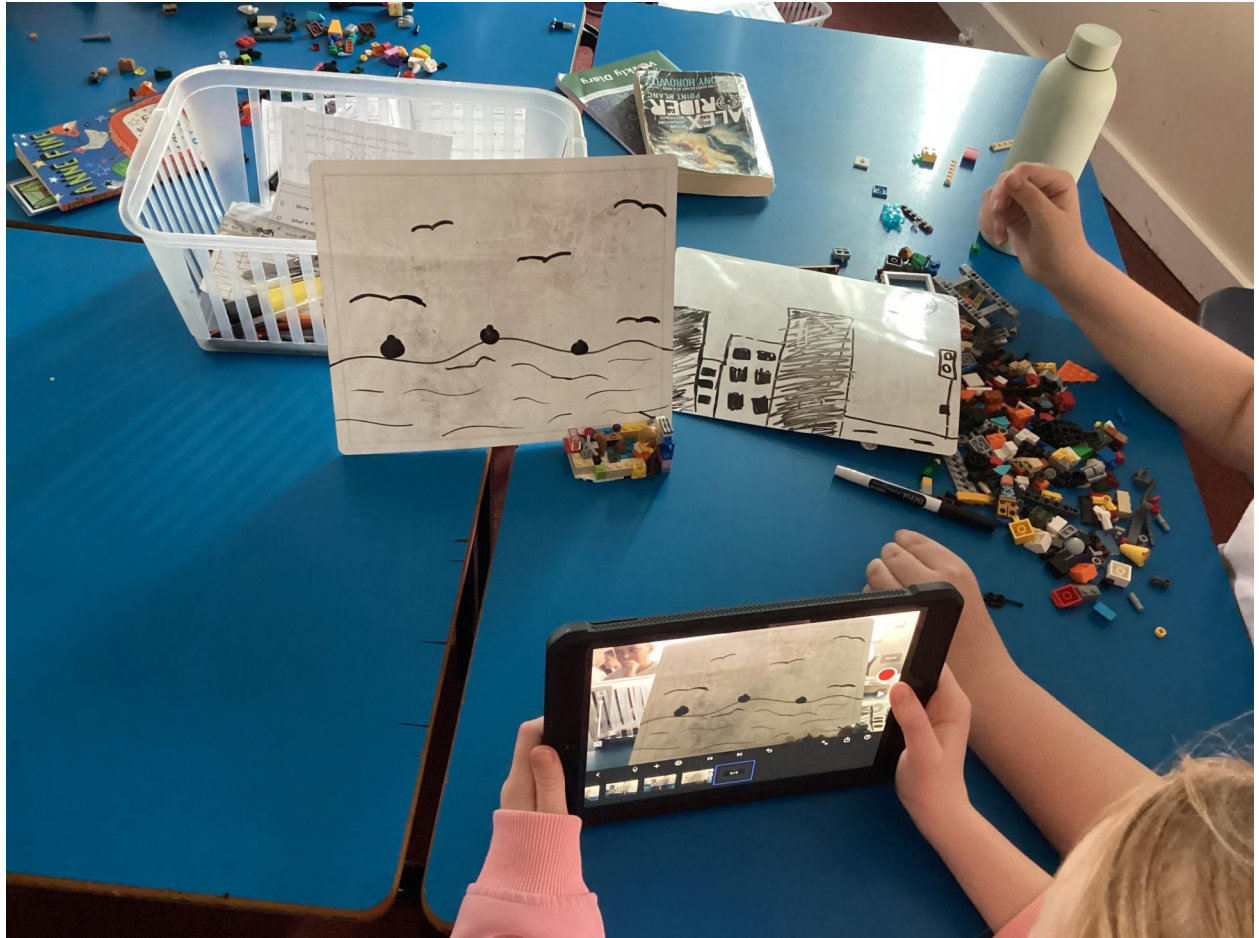


Class News



Stop-Gap Lego Animation Fun in Y5 with Mr Ainsley!

















Red Nose Day Fun in Miss Jones Class!









After School Club made some lovely pizza whirls with Mrs Hitchen!























Key Dates



QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

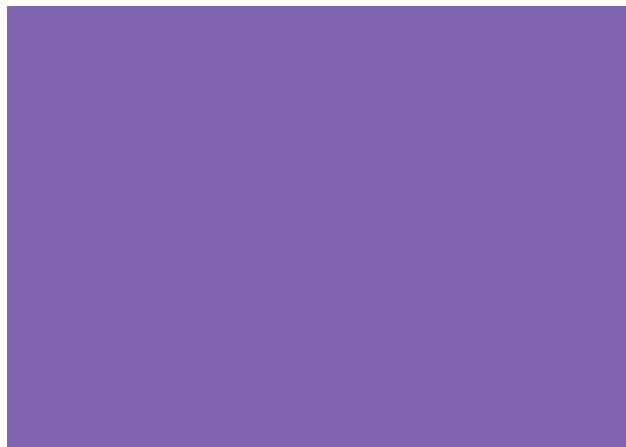
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Picture News



Collective Worship PowerPoint



What's happening
in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's

17th – 23rd March 2025



© Picture News 2025

750 schools in England have been chosen to trial free daily breakfast clubs, to see whether they could work for all schools. Starting in April, the schools will provide breakfast and activities for children. Schools are encouraged to offer healthy, varied and nutritious breakfasts, such as wheat cereals, porridge, fresh fruit and yoghurt, as well as activities, including educational puzzles, reading and crafts.

Think together
and talk



Think together and talk

What's the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? What happens if your morning is rushed or chaotic?

Jesus chose to start His day by taking time alone to pray. Why do you think that helped Him?

Why might having a morning routine help us feel ready for the day?



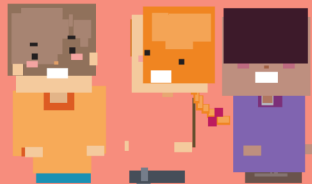
What does the Bible have to say?

Jesus' life and teachings encourage us to show care and compassion towards others, making sure that everyone has what they need to thrive - including a good start to the day. Free breakfast clubs remind us of our duty to care for others.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.
Mark 1:35



What do others think?



☐ If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed ☐

Admiral William H. McRaven – retired US Navy four-star

Time to be quiet and to pray



Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for each new morning and the
chance to start afresh,
Help us to be responsible in caring for
ourselves, so we have the strength and
kindness to also care for others,
May our routines bring us closer to you and
one another,
Amen.

Continue thinking



Key Stage 1 class discussion

What do you like to do before coming to
school each morning?
What is your ideal breakfast?
How does eating breakfast make you feel?
Who could you help in the morning, so
their day starts well too?

Key Stage 2 class discussion

Are you a morning person? Why might some
people find mornings challenging, and how can
routines help?
What's the most important part of your morning
routine?
How does looking after ourselves each morning
enable us to look out for others later in the day?
Why might this be important?


Time to worship

This Is The Day
Click here for the hymn online




There's a light that shines with hope and grace;
Fills the sky with new mercy each day,
We're alive. let your glory pour out Jesus!


There's a joy that overwhelms our souls,
'Cause we know our God is in control,
Overflow. let your favour pour out Jesus.




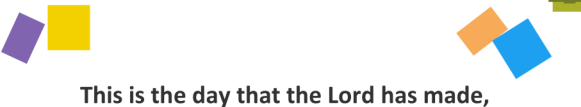
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We'll rejoice, we'll rejoice and be glad in it,
We'll rejoice, we'll rejoice and be glad in it,
Hev!



There's a joy that overwhelms our souls,
'Cause we know our God is in control,
Overflow. let your favour pour out Jesus (Jesus)!



This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We'll rejoice, we'll rejoice and be glad in it,
We'll rejoice, we'll rejoice and be glad in it,
Hev!





Leave behind what happened yesterday,
'Cause today there's a new thing happening!
Leave behind what happened yesterday,
'Cause today there's a good thing happening!
x3



This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We'll rejoice. we'll rejoice and be glad in it.



This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We'll rejoice, we'll rejoice and be glad in it,
We'll rejoice, we'll rejoice and be glad in it,
We'll rejoice. we'll rejoice and be glad in it.



Collective

Worship



Pupil involvement

Ask pupils to take a minute to think quietly about what they do first thing in the morning.

Invite some volunteers to act out one part of their morning routine. Can the other children guess what they are doing?

In pairs or small groups, encourage pupils to share any parts of their morning routine that help them have a better start to the day. You could share some images to support discussion, such as children having breakfast, tidying their room, praying or meditating etc.

Share ideas as a group and discuss which things the children think are top tips for creating a positive morning routine. Gather ideas on a large board or piece of poster paper, and display these on a special

Christian Value: Responsibility

Theme: Rise and Shine

Pupil talk

What's the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? What happens if your morning is rushed or chaotic?
Jesus chose to start His day by taking time alone to pray. Why do you think that helped Him?
Why might having a morning routine help us feel ready for the day?

Think

750 schools in England have been chosen to trial free daily breakfast clubs, to see whether they could work for all schools. Starting in April, the schools will provide breakfast and activities for children. Schools are encouraged to offer healthy, varied and nutritious breakfasts, such as wheat cereals, porridge, fresh fruit and yoghurt, as well as activities, including educational puzzles, reading and crafts.

Jesus' life and teachings encourage us to show care and compassion towards others, making sure that everyone has what they need to thrive - including a good start to the day. Free breakfast clubs remind us of our duty to care for others.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for each new morning and the chance to start afresh,
Help us to be responsible in caring for ourselves, so we have the strength and kindness to also care for others,
May our routines bring us closer to you and one another,
Amen.

Key stage 1 class discussion

What do you like to do before coming to school each morning?
What is your ideal breakfast?
How does eating breakfast make you feel?
Who could you help in the morning, so their day starts well too?

Key stage 2 class discussion

Are you a morning person? Why might some people find mornings challenging, and how can routines help?
What's the most important part of your morning routine?
How does looking after ourselves each morning enable us to look out for others later in the day?
Why might this be important?

Worship song

This Is The Day



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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

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>