

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter June 27th 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 27.06.25

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Heads Up - DT Week ends with a Splash of Colour!



DT Week at Prior's Mill CofE Primary School

We've had a fantastic DT Week here at Prior's Mill! Our children have been busy exploring a wide range of skills, from cooking delicious recipes and developing their sewing abilities to building chassis for their own design projects. They've loved experimenting with different ways to join materials together, and it's been inspiring to see their creativity, teamwork, and problemsolving skills in action. The excitement and pride in their achievements have filled our school with a wonderful buzz – well done to all our brilliant pupils!

Vibrant Success: Colour Run Raises Funds for School Charities

Today school was awash with colour and excitement as our pupils took part in a fantastic Colour Run to raise money for our chosen school charities. Children from every year group donned their outfits and ran, jogged, or walked around the school field while being showered with bursts of colourful powder – all with huge smiles on their faces!

The event was not only a joyful celebration of community spirit but also a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to make a positive difference. Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our families and friends, we raised an impressive amount to support our school

charities. We are so proud of all the children for their energy, determination, and willingness to get involved for such a good cause.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, or donated. Together, we made this event a memorable and meaningful success!

Early Years Charity - Blue for Jackson

KS1 - World Wildlife Fund

KS2 - Guide Dogs for the Blind

School Council did a fantastic job at organising everything and Mr Farrell will be running the Great North Run in September to raise money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind KS2 Charity.

Visit from Directors of the Melrose Learning Trust

Today we had a visit from two directors of the Melrose Learning Trust - Mr Paul Mackings (Chair of the Trust) and Rev David Brooke (School Associated Director) took time to meet with staff, leaders and pupils and had a guided tour of the school by members of the school leadership team. They had a lovely visit and were impressed by the pupil tour and the learning activities they saw going on in school.

Online safety - Snapchat

i would encourage all parents to read the snapchat guide attached in the newsletter this week - we've had to deal with a number of issues involving online groups created on snapchat that have impacted on friendships and learning in school. Primary aged children are not old enough to access snapchat and if they do they should be supervised by Parents. Some children in Y5/Y6 have told me that this is not the case and it has led to issues in school today. If we can help then please get in touch with the office.

Reception New Starters Meeting

Miss Thompson and Miss Jones held their Reception open evening event on Wednesday evening and it was lovely to meet parents both old and new to the school. Packs were given out and if you were unable to attend please get in touch to collect your pack. If you still require a Reception place for September then please get in touch as soon as possible.

Next Year

Planning has already started in school for next year and we are looking at class sizes and the placement of staff. We will still be operating a Nursery and 2x classes in R - Y6. We are currently looking at the classes as there is the potential that some classes will be changed to better provide for the needs of the children. Y6 have a number of different transition days depending on their secondary school.

*PLEASE NOTE THE ORIGINAL DATE FOR Y1-Y6 CHILDREN OF JULY 7th HAS HAD TO BE CHANGED AND WE WILL SHARE THE NEW DATE WHEN WE CAN.

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

• 27/6/25 - Colour Run

- 30/6/25 Reception Visit to 'Big Sheep Little Cow'
- 2/7/25 Y4 Visit to Segedunum
- 4/7/25 Y3 Visit to Segedunum

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

SNAP STREAK



SNAPCHAT

13+

...

DAYS

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'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My Al is Snapehat'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 Al 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 'SnapMape' – 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. Tens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a Pilk. 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 Snapchot.

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

Snapshat'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 massurerating 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 Al's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're furred 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 platfarm gan baye 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.





The National College

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









Billingham Show 2025 along with all the key event information. The Billingham Show 2025 Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th September - 10am till 4pmJohn 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! 2 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!



We are happy to support 'Local Business' in the area please get in touch if you would like to advertise in the newsletter.



PICTURES OF THE WEEK! LUNCH READING FOR PLEASURE STARS!







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.



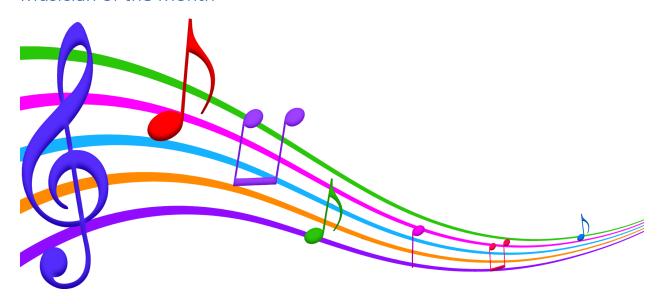
Sporting Stars





1 - Sports Leaders

Musician of the Month



Home Information Sheet - Aretha Franklin



About: Aretha Louise Franklin was an American singer, songwriter and pianist. Referred to as the "Queen of Soul", Rolling Stone twice named her as the greatest singer of all time in popular music. As a child, Franklin was noticed for her gospel singing at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, where her father C. L. Franklin was a minister. She went on to sell over 75 million records worldwide and received 18 Grammy Awards. From her time growing up in the home of a prominent African-American preacher to the end of her life, Franklin was immersed and involved in the struggle for civil rights and women's rights.

Genres: R&B/Soul, Gospel and Jazz

Active from: 1954-2017

Origin: Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A.



orn: Memphis, U.S.A. 1942 Died: Detroit, U.S.A. 2018

Famous Sov





Digital Leaders - Nintendo Switch 2





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

Parent guide for this week - Emoji use

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



Attendance Matters



In accordance with School and Trust Policy any unauthorised absences (that are not subject to exceptional circumstances) will be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

Current School Attendance is 96% this is in line with the DFE target of 96%. FANTASTIC!!!

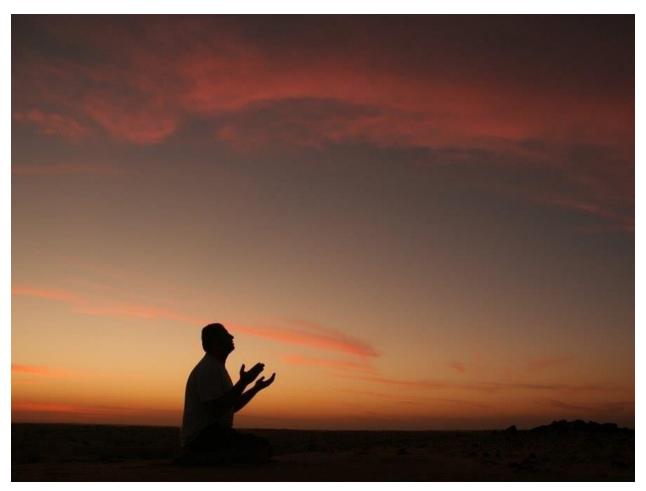


We strongly advise that any holiday in term time should be avoided due to the impact of lost learning time on children. Please be aware that leave of absence (holiday) during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. It is school policy to refer any unauthorised absence due to holiday to the local authority who may issue a fixed penalty notice. This is a penalty of up to £120 per child, per parent and so can add up to a significant amount. The school does not receive any revenue from fines; the money is paid to the Local Authority. In addition, we now have a new system in school for pupils who are late. Pupils must be escorted to the office in the main building and a form completed by parents/carers to sign the pupils in

and indicate the reason for the lateness. This is for our records and also to avoid pupils becoming distressed.

LATE MARKS ALSO IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON ATTENDANCE PLEASE TRY TO BE ON TIME!

Worship Theme



OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Matthew 6:9

Imagine a competition for 'the world's 10-star dad'. I wonder what sort of person might win this 10-star gold award? Alternatively start an alphabet of words to describe a good parent. Or an acronym for 'FATHER'.

When Jesus taught his followers the Lord's Prayer, he told them to start 'Our Father'; he used the word 'abba' which means 'daddy. But this was no ordinary everyday 'dad', but a heavenly father, even more wonderful than a 10-star dad.

Tell or show the story of the Lost Son (Luke 15) What do you like about this 'dad'? I wonder what some of his star qualities might be?

May God who loves us like a father and knows every hair on our head, bless us this day.

AMEN



Class News



DT Week in Mrs Casey's Class









Fantastic Writing from Alex in Reception



Key stage 1 had a fantastic afternoon yesterday, when they were visited by Trunk Theatre Company who performed their show all about The Great Fire of London. The children loved it! They learnt lots of new information about the fire after watching the event being brought to life. The children also worked together to design a new London for the people who were left homeless after the fire.











Class 4 have thoroughly enjoyed DT week, looking at different vehicles, axels and wheels. The children designed their own vehicles and constructed them from their own designs. As you can see they are very proud of themselves, and rightly so!!









Key Dates



QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

- 27/6/25 Colour Run
- 30/6/25 Reception Visit to 'Big Sheep Little Cow'
- 2/7/25 Y4 Visit to Segedunum
- 4/7/25 Y3 Visit to Segedunum

Picture News

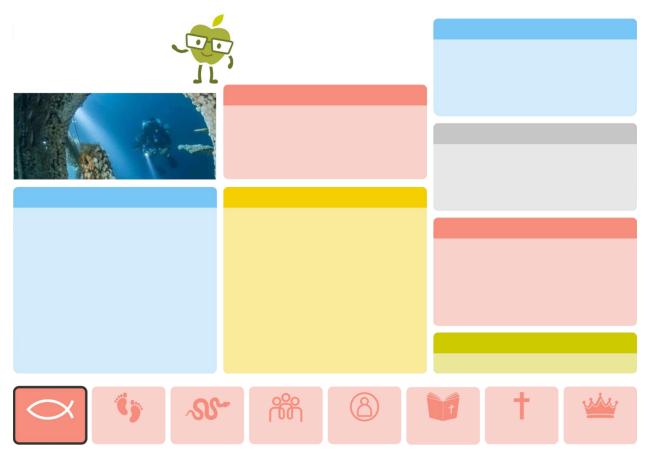


Collective

Worship

Pupil involvement

Show the children a zoomed-in or cropped photo of something linked to the sea or exploring the past, such as part of a shipwreck or an artefact. Gradually reveal more of the image, encouraging the children to guess what it might be. Ask the children what they think the photo could be of, why they think that, and what clues they can see.



Explain that uncovering the past is often like this - we see small pieces at first and build up the full picture over time. Link this to the idea that God is wise and mysterious. We can only glimpse parts of Him, for example in the beauty of nature, moments of peace, or in the love we share with others, but we are encouraged to keep exploring and learning.

Finish by asking the children how it felt to discover the full image. Do the children think it's exciting that some things in the world - and about God - remain a mystery?

God Creation Fall

Bible Link: Proverbs 25:2

Christian Value: Wisdom

Theme: God and His World

Pupil talk

• How do you think it feels to discover something new or exciting?

- Why do you think people enjoy trying to solve mysteries? Would you like to go on an adventure to find out something new?
- How can solving mysteries or making discoveries help us understand more about the past?

Think

Nearly 140 years after it sank, a team of divers has identified the wreck of a ship, called the SS Nantes, off the coast of Devon, in southwest England. The ship sank in 1888, after crashing into another boat. The shipwreck could finally be named when a diver found a plate with the ship's company logo (or crest) on it.

God is wise and mysterious. Christians believe that we can't fully understand everything about God, but we are encouraged to explore and find answers in the world that He made. When we keep looking for answers, it shows we care about people from the past and respect the stories they left behind.

People of God Incarnation

Invitation prayer

Dear God.

Thank you for creating a world full of wonder and mystery. Help us be curious, respectful, and patient as we learn more about your amazing creation. Guide us as we explore, reminding us that you are with us in everything we discover. Amen.

Key stage 1 class discussion

- Can you think of a mystery or puzzle you've tried to solve? What did you do?
- Why do you think it's exciting to find answers to things we don't yet know?
- Can you name something amazing that God created which you want to learn more about?

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Why do people work so hard to uncover stories from the past? Do you think this is important? Why?
- Have you ever seen something that really amazed or puzzled you? Did you understand it straight away, or not? Do you think it's okay if some things stay a mystery?
- How might this story help us understand more about God and the world He created?

Worship song

Morning has broken

Gospel Salvation Kingdom of God

© Picture News 2025

Individual Liberty





Individual liberty means that we each have the freedom to learn about things that interest us. We can think of and



ask our own questions to find out more about historical events.

Protected Characteristics

By exploring history, we can uncover stories from all different cultures. Every story deserves to be heard and retold authentically, no matter who it's from.

























Every child has the right to learn and share information. Exploring the past can help children make sense of the present and give them knowledge to shape the future.



Contact Us



If you would like to contact us about anything in the newsletter or need an additional conversation then please don't hesitate to catch me outside on the yard or through making an appointment at the office.

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk

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

Safeguarding

The school safeguarding policy is on the website and a paper version can also be requested from the office. Safeguarding is at the heart of all we do at Prior's Mill CE Primary School.

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mr Linsley

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Huddart

¹https://priorsmill.org.uk/

EMERGENCY HELP DURING THE WEEKEND / HOLIDAYS

During the weekend / holidays, whilst your children are playing outside with friends, we would

recommend that your child knows where to go to for help if they need it. This might be a

grandparent or family friend, as well as at home. It is important that your child knows how to

call the emergency services for help.

We have been advised that you talk to your child about risk-taking behaviour and the potential

consequences of any decisions that they make whilst away from home. Give your children the

confidence to say "no" to taking part in any risky or anti-social behaviour with their peers.

Of course, we want the children to enjoy the weekend and part of that is becoming more

independent from parents; however, we want all our children to return to school fit, well and

safe after the weekend.

TEWV Crisis team (CAMHS & Adults) has now changed.

There is a new system and people must call 111- option 2 - this is the 111 Mental Health line

& call handlers will transfer to the local crisis team appropriately.

The Children's Hub is the first point of contact for anyone who has a concern about the

welfare or safety of a child or young person.

The Children's Hub

Stockton: 01642 130080

childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk²

Crisis support line

If someone you know, is experiencing a mental health crisis call NHS 111 and select the mental

health option.

Billingham & Stockton Borough Foodbank

4-6 West Precinct

Billingham Town Centre

²mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk

Billingham TS23 2NH

07583 575522

https://billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk

info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk³

If you have any welfare or safeguarding concerns relating to a child in school during term time, please do not hesitate to contact —

Mrs ALLISON HANSON

PUPIL WELFARE & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Prior's Mill C/E Primary School

Billingham TS225BX

01642 650426

office@priorsmill.org.uk

School Vision

As an inclusive Church of England primary school, we welcome children and families of all faiths and none to be part of our school family which has a distinctly Christian character and ethos. At Prior's Mill, we encourage everyone to discover, flourish and grow in their talents, nurturing their God given gifts and potential. We work with passion to foster a love of learning, a love of community and personal resilience. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we are a school where kindness, forgiveness, respect and honesty underpin our words and actions.

Biblical Narrative - The Parable of The Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." **School Values**

We give our best - We are kind - We are honest - We are respectful - We forgive

³mailto:info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk