



# Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

## Newsletter November 29th 2024

*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 29.11.24*

## In This Issue



This week we include:

- **Message from Mr Linsley**
- **School Council**
- **Sporting Stars**
- **Musician of the Month**
- **Digital Leaders - Social Media Age ratings**
- **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 - Friendship



### ***Friendship***

We had two lovely class worships this week from children in Mrs Legenders class and Mr Farrells class. Mr Farrel's class talked about Friendship and their best friends and what makes a best friend. Mrs Legender's class talked about

### **Reception Open Events**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Reception Open afternoon this week we will be repeating the experience next Wednesday evening and on Saturday 11th January - please help spread the word.

**\*Tea and Talk - Join us in the KS2 (Bede) Hall for refreshments - including biscuits and a chance to chat informally - open to all members of our community to catch up with friends, Mrs Hanson will also be on hand. Tuesday 26th November at 2:15pm.**

**Thank you to everyone who attended the tea and talk event on Tuesday we will be repeating the event in the new year.**

### **Online Safety**

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>

***Homework: A New Homework Club has begun on Tuesday for Y4/Y5 pupils - 30 spaces available for pupils to have a quiet place to complete any homework tasks including reading / learning spellings and times table rockstars - sign up at the office.***

### **Safeguarding**

***If you have any safeguarding concerns then please get in touch with school, I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the school and Miss Huddart the Deputy. We also have a number of staff who are DSL trained:***

***Mrs Legender***

***Mr Farrell***

***Mrs McHale***

***Mrs Hanson***

***Mr Richards***

***The Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Christine Brentnall***

### **Governors**



***We had our first Governors meeting of the year this week, we said goodbye and thank you to Mr Mike Boyle who has served for 11 years and was previously our safeguarding link Governor. Mr Boyle has given up lots of his time to support the school and we wish him well in the future.***

***Chair of Governors - Mr Kevin Cooper***

***Mrs Christine Brentnall***

***Mrs Norma English***

***Mrs Clare Craggs***

***Staff Governor***

***Mr Farrell***

***Parent Governors***

***Mrs K Chilton***

***Mr L Dale***

### ***Packed Lunch Reminder***

We acknowledge that it is impractical to enforce an allergen-free school. However, we would like to encourage pupils and staff to avoid certain high-risk foods to reduce the chances of someone experiencing a reaction. These foods include:

- Packaged nuts
- Cereal, granola, or chocolate bars containing nuts
- Peanut butter or chocolate spreads containing nuts
- Peanut-based sauces, such as satay
- Sesame seeds and foods containing sesame seeds
- Pine nut-based foods, such as pesto

### ***Road Safety***

A reminder to children and parents that as the nights are getting darker the dangers on the road intensify, please think about crossing roads safely and if you come on a bike or scooter please make sure, where possible, that you have lights, wear a helmet and can be identified by other road users. The safety of children in and out of school is our main priority.

### ***Times Table Rockstars***

Mr Farrell is encouraging all children to complete Times Table Rockstars activities through the week and to achieve 21 minutes of time. This can be done in one go or as 3 minutes per day. We offer an after-school homework club for pupils in Y4/5 where it can be done and Mr Farrell is providing Ipads during a lunchtime for children to complete their time if they are unable to do so at home. Learning times tables is a key skill that helps children develop their mathematical reasoning and problem solving. Please support us by providing opportunities for your child to complete 'Rockstar' tasks. If this is difficult please get in touch and we can help.

***Please remember to look at the Christmas Dates section at the end of the newsletter for Christmas performance times.***

An important message from Cleveland Fire Brigade.

Do you know someone  
who is **STRUGGLING** to  
**STAY WARM** in their  
home?

Our award winning Stay Safe and  
Warm scheme can help - it is a  
completely **FREE** service for  
Cleveland residents.\*

SCAN ME



Stay Safe  
& Warm!

EST 2008



**01429 874063**

[www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/ssaw](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/ssaw)

\*Following a free home assessment. You must live in Cleveland.





**To stay warmer this  
winter follow some of  
the advice below:**



- Move furniture away from radiators to allow heat to circulate
- Curtains should be thick or lined and closed at dusk to keep heat in
- Use heating controls to help manage room temperatures and times
- Turning the room thermostat down by 1°C can save 10% off your bill
- Room temperatures should be set between 18°C and 21°C (64°F and 70°F)
- Remember a room stays warm for 45 minutes after you switch off the heating
- Setting your hot water tank thermostat to 60°C (140°F)
- Place aluminium foil behind the radiators to reflect heat back into the room
- Draught proof windows and exterior doors with brush or PVC seals
- Fit a brush or spring flap to letterboxes and cover keyholes

**01429 874063**



[www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk)



## School Council



**School Council met this week again and have been asking children in their class about what equipment they would like to use on the playground. Updates on final proposals of equipment and playground markings will be shared in the next few weeks.**

**Thank you Mrs MacKay for organising the group.**

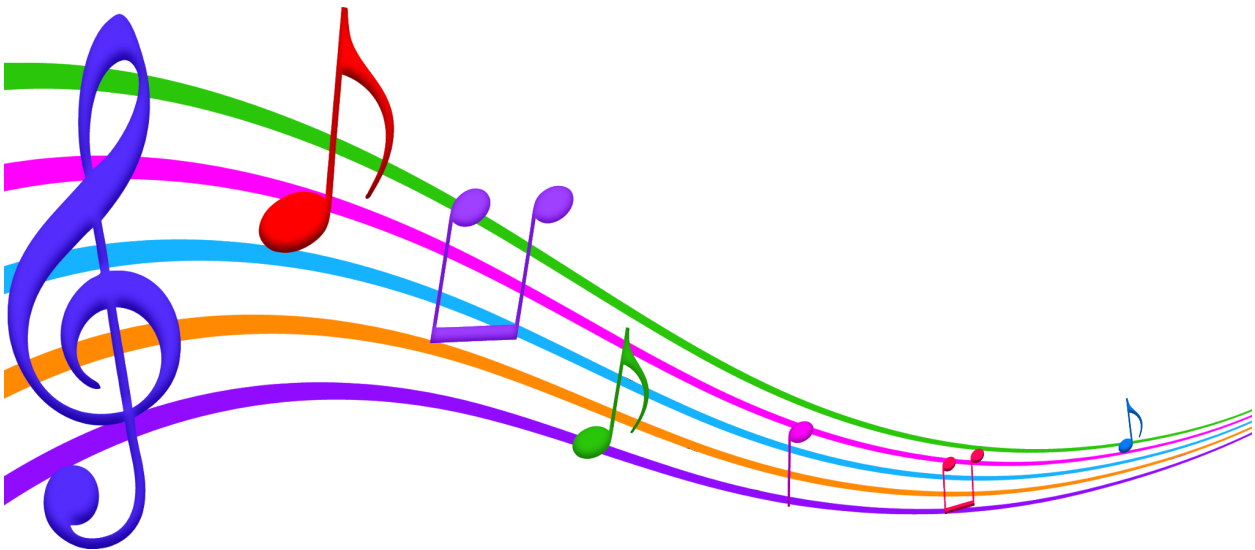




## Sporting Stars



## Musician of the Month



## Ethel Smyth Poster

# NOVEMBER



Adam Cuordan, 2020 ([https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f8/Ethel\\_Smyth.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f8/Ethel_Smyth.jpg))

Born : Sidcup (U.K.), 1858

Died: Woking, 1944

Famous Composition: The March of the Women

# ETHEL SMYTH





## Home Information Sheet - Ethel Smyth

Books to read...

If you like Ethel Smyth, try...

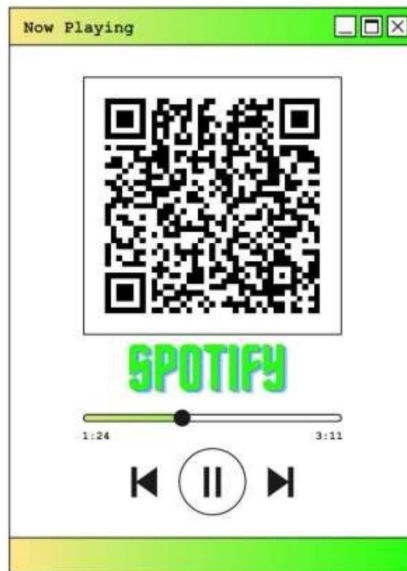
- Johannes Brahms
- Augusta Holmès



# HOME INFOR

## November's Musicia

*Ethel  
Smyth*



**About:** D  
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and opera  
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honoured

**Genres:**  
**Active fr**  
**Origin: S**



Musician of the Month

- Louise Farrenc

## Digital Leaders



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

*Hugo and Joey have chosen the parent guides for this week - QR Codes / Roblox.*

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>



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

#### SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

#### NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

#### NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

#### INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

#### LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

#### TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

#### BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

#### AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

#### CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

### 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.



<https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety

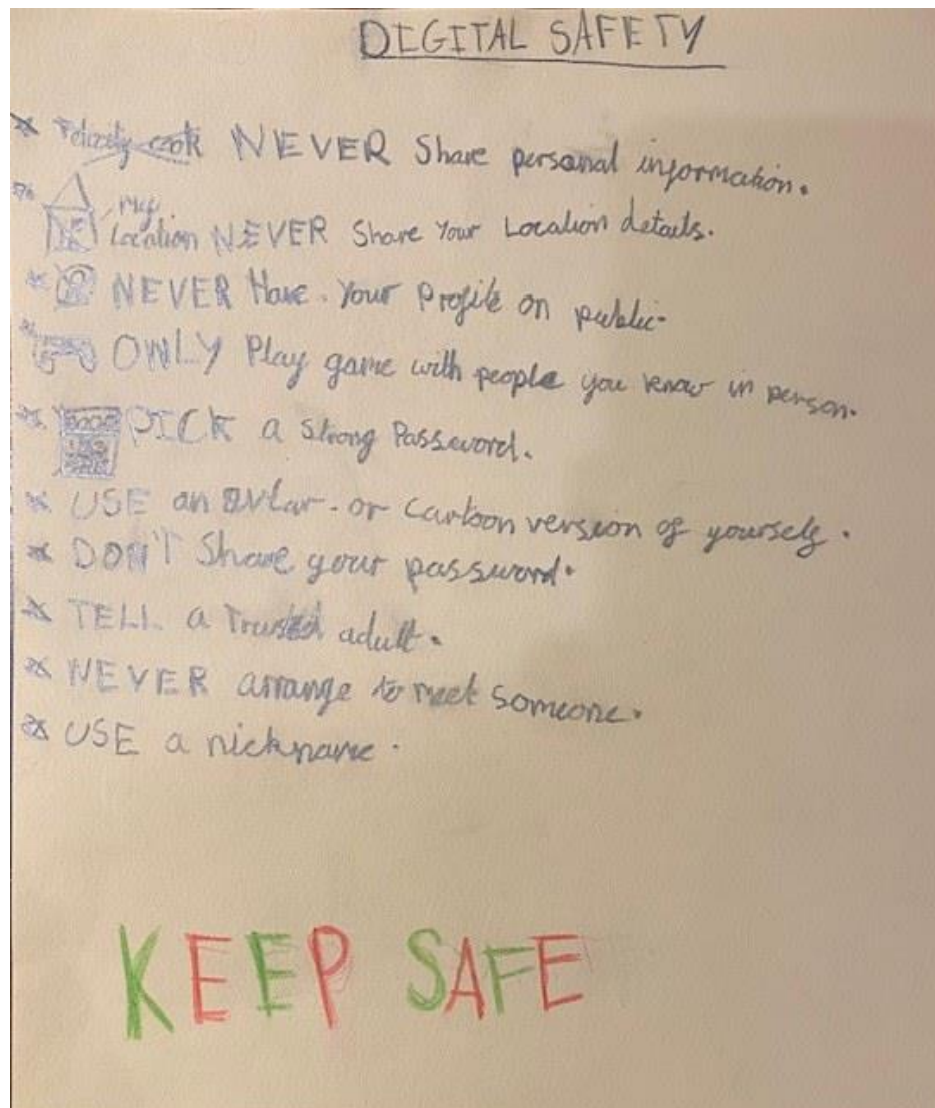


@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.12.2022



2 - We highlighted the dangers of the Talkie app in a message to parents this week. HiPal is something similar please take time to check out the information.



3 - A Fantastic Digital Safety Poster from Hugo in Y3

## 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 - Friendship***



#### **DAVID AND GOLIATH**

**I Samuel 17**

***Be sensitive to pupils' needs in asking some of the questions today.***

I wonder if there has ever been something in your life that feels like a big barrier that you cannot get over or around? I wonder if you ever felt that you needed some sort of shield to protect you from something that was difficult for you?



Today's story features an enormous barrier/problem and also shows that we do not always need a real shield for protection if God is on our side.

There are many ways to tell the story of David and Goliath – remember that he was simply delivering food to his older and stronger brother who were serving in King Saul's army when he found the courage and the cleverness to face and defeat Goliath.

This is a classic story about the small guy defeating the bigger guy. I wonder what it was that actually gave David the power to win? (David's powerful faith in God, which is a key point for Jewish believers and Christians. I wonder what this story is saying to you about courage, or hope, or perseverance, or taking on responsibility for something in ways that will act as a shield or as a help in overcoming a big problem?



# David & Goliath



## Class News



LOVELY COOKING FROM AFTERSCHOOL CLUB WHO MADE ROCKY ROAD! DELICIOUS!!



























































## Key Dates



Half - term - Friday 25th October - last day - reopen Monday 4th November

### ***Christmas Dates***

Friday 6th Dec 9.00 am - KS1 Christmas Performance 1/3

Monday 9th December (AM) - Greediest Elf Pantomime in School for EYFS

Monday 9th December 1:30pm - KS1 Christmas Performance 2/3

Tuesday 10th Dec 1.30pm - - KS1 Christmas Performance 3/3

Tuesday 10th December (AM - 9:30am) - LKS2 (Y3/4) Christmas Service

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 12th December (PM) - KS1 Pantomime in school (Dib and Dab) / (PM - 1:30am) - LKS2 (Y3/4) Christmas Service

Monday 16th December (AM) - KS2 Pantomime at the Forum

Monday 16th December (PM - 1:45pm) - Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance

Tuesday 17th December (AM - 9:30am) - Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance



Wednesday 18th December (10 am) - Y5/6 Carol Service for Y5 Parents

Thursday 19th December (10 am) - Y5/6 Carol Service for Y6 Parents

Friday 20th December - last school day before Christmas

Monday 6th January - School reopens for Spring Term

## Picture News



2-07--picture-news-at-home-2024-11-22



## In the news this week

This year's Earthshot Prize winners have been announced. Prince William, who launched the prize in 2020, closed the award ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa. The Earthshot Prize celebrates and supports people and companies working to provide innovative solutions for climate and environmental issues. The winners include projects to protect animals, handle rubbish and prevent wasted energy.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Can you tell someone at home a bit more about the Earthshot Prize?
- Do you believe awards are a good way of raising awareness about important issues?
- Have you ever taken part in or contributed to a project with the aim of helping protect and look after the world? Ask others at home whether they have.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

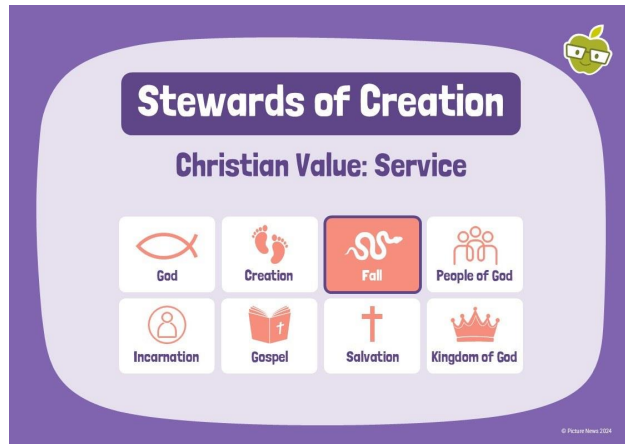
[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



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2-14--collective-worship-powerpoint-2024-11-22





## Stewards of Creation

Christian Value: Service

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <br>God         | <br>Creation | <br>Fall      | <br>People of God  |
| <br>Incarnation | <br>Gospel   | <br>Salvation | <br>Kingdom of God |

© Pickle News 2024



This year's Earthshot Prize winners have been announced. Prince William, who launched the prize in 2020, closed the award ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa. The Earthshot Prize celebrates and supports people and companies working to provide innovative solutions for climate and environmental issues. The winners include projects to protect animals, handle rubbish and prevent wasted energy.



## Think together and talk







### Think together and talk

- Share some of the wonderful places in our world and what makes them so special to you.
- How do you care for the world?
- Have you ever made a mistake and not cared for somewhere as you should?



### What does the Bible have to say?





God made our wonderful world and everything in it. Sometimes we make mistakes and do not care for God's Creation as we should. God offers forgiveness even when we fall short. The Earthshot Prize celebrates and supports those caring for the world. We have a responsibility to Creation, as stewards, and we can all play our part in looking after it.



The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

**Genesis 2:15**



**What do others think?**





“Never doubt that a small group  
of thoughtful, committed  
citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that  
ever has.”

**Margaret Mead  
– anthropologist**



**Time to be quiet  
and to pray**



### **Prayer**

Dear God,  
Thank you for the wonderful world,  
that you made,  
We are sorry for any times we may  
not have cared for it as we should,  
Help us to take responsibility and  
take action to care for all Creation,  
Amen





## Continue thinking



### Key Stage 1 class discussion

- What a wonderful and beautiful world we live in! Can you look out of the window and share some of the wonderful and beautiful things you see?
- Make a list of some of the things that make our world so special.
- What can you do to look after these special things?



### Key Stage 2 class discussion

- Are you aware of any climate and environmental issues we currently face? What are they? Can you find out more about them?
- Think about your daily lives. What actions do you take to care for the Earth? What else could you do?
- How could you raise awareness of climate and environmental issues in your local community?



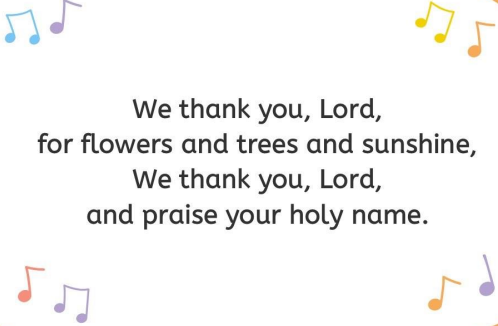

## Time to worship

Think of a world without any flowers  
Click [here](#) for the hymn online

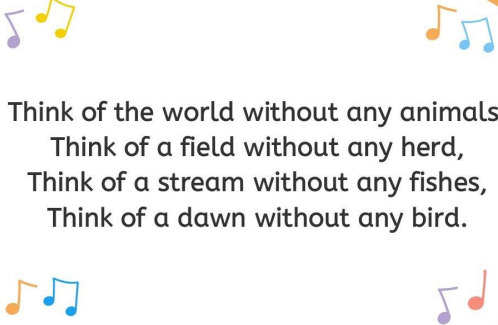



Think of a world without any flowers,  
Think of a world without any trees,  
Think of a sky without any sunshine,  
Think of the air without any breeze.

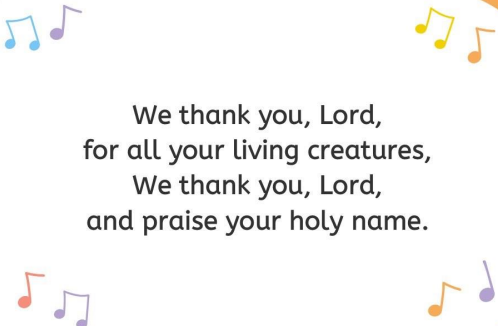





We thank you, Lord,  
for flowers and trees and sunshine,  
We thank you, Lord,  
and praise your holy name.

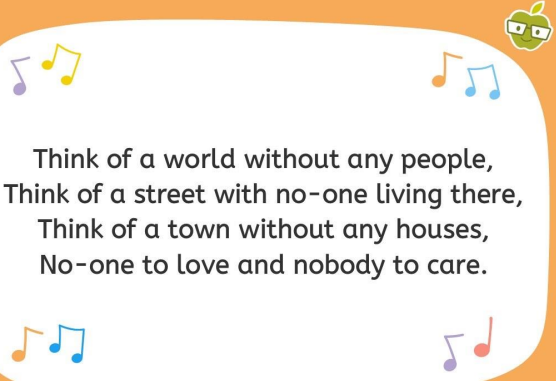


Think of the world without any animals,  
Think of a field without any herd,  
Think of a stream without any fishes,  
Think of a dawn without any bird.

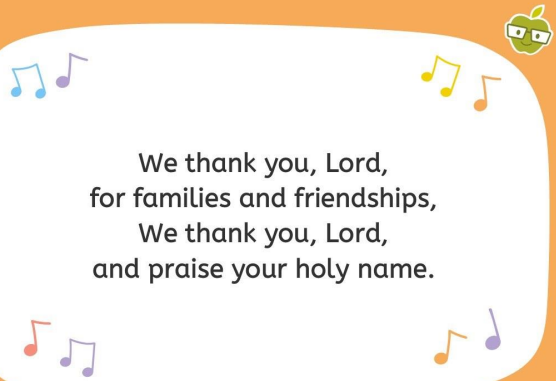


We thank you, Lord,  
for all your living creatures,  
We thank you, Lord,  
and praise your holy name.





Think of a world without any people,  
Think of a street with no-one living there,  
Think of a town without any houses,  
No-one to love and nobody to care.



We thank you, Lord,  
for families and friendships,  
We thank you, Lord,  
and praise your holy name.

## 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**

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<sup>1</sup><https://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