

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter January 31st 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 31.01.25

In This Issue



This week we include:

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

- Contact Us
- Safeguarding

Heads Up - Feeling Woof!



Dogs Trust

Today we had a visit from the Dogs Trust who did assemblies at KS1 and KS2 and then worked with Y4 Children after Alice displayed her courageous advocacy skills and asked them to come and talk to children at Prior's Mill. Thanks Alice - A Fantastic Day!

Parent Governor Opportunity

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Kelly Chilton for her time and dedication while serving on the school governing body, a new job role means that she is unable to continue and will be stepping down. If you would like to be a parent representative on the Governing Body then please look out for the letter being distributed or check out the website next week. For an informal chat about the role please speak to myself or Miss Huddart. You can also speak to Mr Kevin Cooper Chair of Governors. CLOSING DATE NEXT FRIDAY 31st JANUARY.

Online Safety

In the Online Safety section this week I have included parent guides for Snapchat and Whatsapp we are aware that children in school are using these apps even though they are under the recommended age limit. We always advise parents to closely monitor phone use of all children and share any concerns with members of the safeguarding team. I've also included a guide to Roblox as we have been made aware by Parents in Y1 that Children are using it. Roblox has a 7 years old rating but does have opportunities for areas within the game to be created and used by older children / adults which contain unsuitable content.

Please ask a member of staff if you have any concerns. We regularly teach children about how to stay safe online but it can be difficult for them to do the right thing if they feel pressure from their peers.

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. Check out the pictures below of Children enjoying the Nursery outdoor setting earlier in the week.

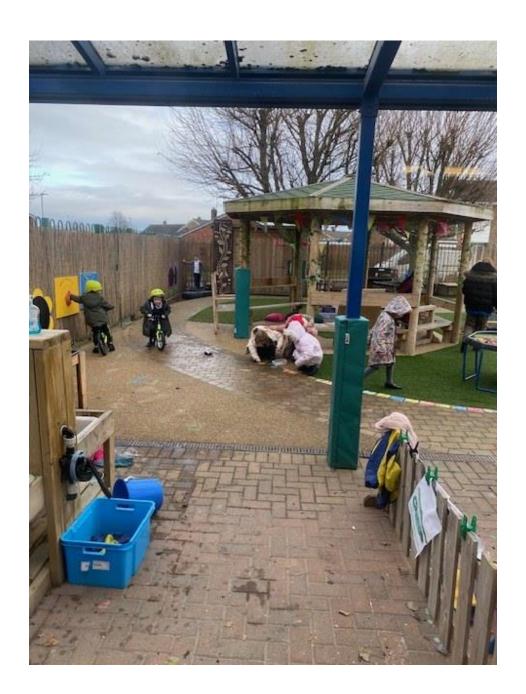
Monday Night

Some of the children and staff have been very keen to remind me that there is a big match happening on Monday night at the Riverside Stadium for Middlesbrough! I shall be keeping a low profile next week if things go wrong for Sunderland!

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

- 3/2/25 Swimming Class 11 2 weeks
- 3/2/25 Mental Health Week
- 6/2/25 Class 11 Worship
- 10/2/25 Bikeability Class 12
- 11/2/25 Safer Internet Day
- 13/2/25 Class 10 Worship
- 13 &14/2/25 NHS Checks Reception and Y6
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- 21/2/25 PD Day
- 3/3/25 Return to School
- 3/3/25 National Careers Week

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- 26/3/25 Parent Consultation
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- 2/4/24 Parent Consultation
- 10/4/25 Break Up for Easter Holiday
- 11/4/25 PD Day
- 28/4/25 Return to School











School Council



The school council have been very busy meeting with Mr Farrell to look at ways we can raise money in school to support our charities and become courageous advocates! Watch out for more details next week.....





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.

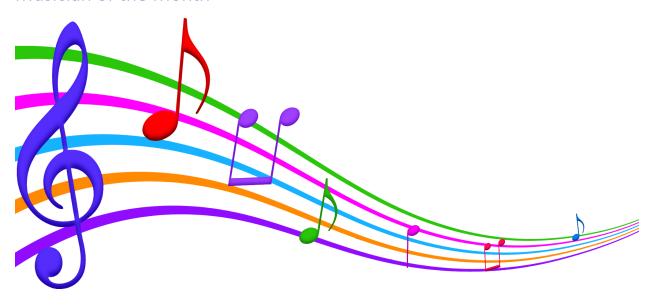
Sporting Stars



Sports Leaders



Musician of the Month



Price Poster

日馬馬馬哥



Born: U.S.A., 1887

Died: U.S.A., 1953

Famous Composition: I am Bound for the Kingdom

萨凡岛黑色





Digital Leaders





1 - 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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

s tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides am of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half o sh children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benian, Ofcom considers it the app where



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high — especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source — so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an overage of 127 minutes per day on the app. that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to intribality – and distract them from other, healthler activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

THE RISKS?

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You's a collection based on a user's previously watched cilps. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably sins through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on Tilk Tok. One extreme example o the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against Tilk Tok over the tracic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy tikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering \$99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't shore any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs, increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.



The National College

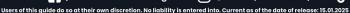
Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025











...MSG ME...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

FAKE NEWS

CHAT LOCK

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

VISIBLE LOCATION

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

97

THINK BEFORE SHARING

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Meet Our Expert



...HEY

The **National** College®









What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a sandboy (tile), thogame lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to Dulid custom levels, which can then be shared online.

PEGI 7

RETATIVO

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid—for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value—or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect; players can still send unpleasant messages, while predators can reach out to children directly.



kobiox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs mone; usually a one-off payment. Most Robbers phot anyone can join server to the server of the server of

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'Obers' and are quite common in Roblex. An Ober is an intention of finding someone to date online intention of finding someone to date online dating is against the Roblex communities guidelines, but this doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblex levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

IN-APP PURCHASES

proy, but bear in wind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for Robuw' (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchases a private or VIP server.





COUNTY JAI

SNAG

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply appropriate that filters. The game also allows parents and cares to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's

DISABLE PRINATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harrassment, toxicity and scam attempts. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends liet can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing with

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes i harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block unit report any users who are upsettling them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's okey to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

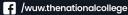




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Sources https://www.theverge.com/2000/7/21/21333431/roblew.cver-hall-of-us-tids-playing-virtual-parties-fortrite intrps://corproblew.com/parents/









Attendance Matters



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

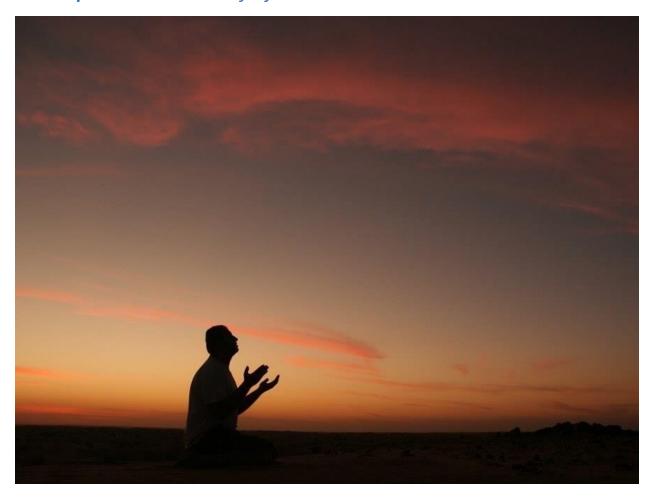
Current School Attendance is 95.5% this is just below the DFE target of 96%.

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 - Bread of Life



I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6: 32-35

https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/most-important-staple-foods-in-the-world.html

Bring in some of these staple foods, including bread, and ask what they have in common. I wonder why they are called 'staple' foods? I wonder what would happen if these foods became unavailable in the parts of the world where they are the main foodstuff eaten?

I wonder if you have eaten any bread today? I wonder how often there is a type of bread in one of your meals?

Look at the words in the John 6:32

I wonder why Jesus would describe himself as the bread of life?

Christians believe that, when Jesus used this description, he meant that he can satisfy people's needs. If we eat some bread, we will get hungry again a few hours later. Christians believe that Jesus will satisfy them forever, bringing peace, forgiveness and a purpose to their lives, that he will be their Life Sustainer.

Dear God, thank you for the food that we enjoy every day. Help us to remember those who have little to eat. Thank you that you provide the right food so that we can live well but that you also promise to fill us with love and joy and peace. AMEN



Class News



LOVELY COOKING FROM AFTERSCHOOL CLUB WHO MADE SAUSAGE ROLLS!



























































Mr Chris Macdonald MP Visit

Children in KS2 had the opportunity to ask a Mr Macdonald a number of questions when he visited the school this afternoon - he was very impressed with how much thought they had put into the questions and said that he really enjoyed the visit - we will share pictures in the newsletters next week.









Key Dates



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- 3/2/25 Mental Health Week
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- 13/2/25 Class 10 Worship
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- 21/2/25 PD Day
- 3/3/25 Return to School
- 3/3/25 National Careers Week
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- 26/3/25 Parent Consultation
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Picture News



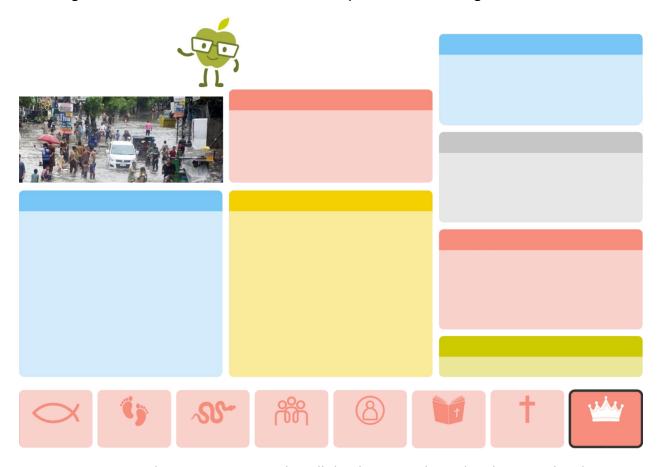
Collective

Worship

Pupil involvement

Ask the children to imagine there's a big decision in your school, such as how to design a new outdoor area. Who do they think should be involved in making that decision, and why?

Encourage them to think about fairness and the importance of listening to different voices.



Act out a scenario, where one person makes all the decisions about the playground without consulting anyone else. Ask the children if they think this is fair and how it might feel to be excluded. Then, discuss how involving everyone leads to fairer and more inclusive decisions. Link this to democracy, where decisions are made by involving and representing many people. Conclude by connecting this idea to the world, explaining that big decisions about issues like the environment should also involve many voices to ensure the best outcomes for everyone.

Bible Link: Micah 6:8 Christian Value: Justice

Theme: Making Decisions

Pupil talk

- Why is it important to listen to different people when making decisions?
- What qualities should someone have if they are making decisions for others?
- How can we make sure decisions are fair and helpful for everyone?

Think

New data has shown that 2024 was the Earth's hottest year on record, warming by 1.5°C. Around 200 countries had agreed to help keep the temperature rise below this figure because scientists say that increases could cause more extreme weather. This includes events such as heatwaves, storms, and wildfires.

The Kingdom of God invites us to imagine a better future, where everyone works together to care for each other and the world around us. When people come together to make decisions for the good of all, especially for those who are most vulnerable, it reflects the values of the Kingdom of God. This reminds us that our actions, no matter how small, can play a part in building, or rebuilding, a better world.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us the chance to be part of making the world a better place, Help us to listen to others, act fairly, and work

together when making decisions that affect everyone,

Amen

Key stage 1 class discussion

- Who helps make decisions in your school?
- Imagine you are deciding what to put in the playground. Who would you ask for ideas?
- What could happen if one person said they get to pick everything, but no one else gets a say?

• How do you feel when someone listens to your ideas?

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Why do you think people from different countries need to work together on problems like climate change?
- How can we make sure people from different places and backgrounds are heard?
- How can you make sure your voice is heard when decisions are made?

Worship song

Be Bold, Be Strong

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

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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

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