

# Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School Newsletter July 4th 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 04.07.25

### 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 - Online Safety Alert



### **Online Safety Alert**

A reminder to all parents particularly those with children in KS2 to check any phones that children have to ensure they are not

involved in any unregulated Whatsapp groups particularly one named - Anyone You Can. This involves children in the majority of schools in Billingham including primary and secondary children and may include inappropriate messages and pictures, as a result the police are now investigating.

There is a Whatsapp Parental Guide included in the newsletter this week as well as a Group Chat Guide!

### **School Trips**

We have had a busy week with school trips - Reception Pupils visited the farm 'Big Sheep, Little Cow' in North Yorkshire and Y3 /4 deepened their knowledge of the Romans with a visit to Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum in Wallsend. We would like to thank parents for their support with school trips and making financial donations we always try and keep costs to a minimum and your support allows us to provide high quality experiences for the children to supplement their learning.

#### Apprentice TA Role

We are looking to recruit an Apprentice TA to start in September if you are interested or know somebody who might be then please direct them to the vacancy page on the school website and make an appointment at the office for a visit.

#### 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.

\*Transition to new classes Y1-Y6 will happen in the last week of term.

### 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**

- 10/7/25 Reception Transition Day
- 11/7/25 Teddy Bears Picnic (Nursery)
- 11/7/25 Year 6 Sleepover
- 14/7/25 Reception Graduation 1.45pm
- 15/7/25 Year 6 'Memories and Singing' performance tickets have been allocated (1.30pm & 5.30pm)
- 16/7/25 Transition Day Years 1-6
- 17/7/25 Year 6 Leavers Service 10am
- 18/7/25 Last Day of Term

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 welibeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes.

For further guides, hints and tips, please wist nationalcollege.com.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

# RESTRICTION 13+

### **GROUP CHATS**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider

### **EVOLVING SCAMS**

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data

#### **CHANNELS**

Channels' let users follow topics Vannels' let users follow topics or emoji reactions. However, fake channels ca mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

#### **DISAPPEARING MESSAGES**

Disappearing messages help share sensitive into, but young people may wrongly assume they re fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – of for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

### **FAKE NEWS**

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the with a double arrow. This alerts users that the properties of the properties of the state of the properties of the properties of the state of the properties of properties pro

#### **CHAT LOCK**

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

### **VISIBLE LOCATION**

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

### AI INTEGRATION

teta Al on WhatsApp poses risks to whidren, including exposure to misinformation, happropriate content, and data privacy issues. I responses may be inaccurate, and kids might hare personal information unknowingly, It can iso hinder critical thinking by offering sady-made answers.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

### **EMPHASISE CAUTION**

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of practicion to their WhatsApp account.

### **ADJUST THE SETTINGS**

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this (unction for only as long as they need – and then turn it of the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this (unction for only as long as they need – and then turn it of the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should need to the child needs to be a child need to be a child needs to be a child need to

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ili-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

ONLINE

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### 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



WakeUp Wednesdag

The National College

99

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









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.



# MOST IMPORTANT TO

### YOU!

Hello, I'm Grant White - Your Local Insurance Specialist.

My time is free and I provide complimentary reviews of your current policies to ensure you have the right coverage.

- 07814421175
- G.white@aandrprotectionspecialists.co.uk
- www.aandrprotectionspecialists.co.uk

- Child Critical Illness Insurance
- Sports Injury Cover
- Trusts
- Wills (Complimentary)

SCAN BELOW TO BOOK A FREE REVIEW





A and R Protection Specialists Ltd is an Appointed Representative of The Right Mortgage Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered in England and Wales no. 15677835.

Registered Address: Queens Court, 73 Gilkes Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5EH

### PICTURES OF THE WEEK! Y4 SEGEDUNUM VISIT!









### **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.



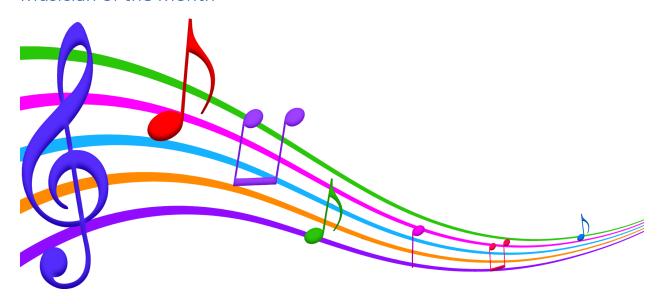
### Sporting Stars





1 - Sports Leaders

### Musician of the Month





About: Gurinder Kaur Kainth (born 4 December 1980), popularly known by her stage name Miss Pooja is an Indian singer and actress who primarily sings Punjabi songs in Bhangra, Pop and Folk genres. She has a master's degree in music and worked as a teacher before embarking on her singing career. She is regarded as reviving Punjabi duet songs and has released over 350 albums and recorded over 2,000 songs with more than 70 male singers, winning many awards. Her music spans many genres and she tours internationally.

Genres: Bhangra, Pop, Folk, Religious, Hip Hop, Dance

Active from: 2000 - Present

Origin: Rajpura, Punjab, India

### Gurinder Kaur Kainth- Poster



Atamjeetk, 2009: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b2/Miss Pooja %40 Canada%27s Wonderland %282009-08-29%29.jpg

Born: Rajpura, Punjab, India

Active: 2000 - Present

Famous Works: Jaan Ton Pyari





### Digital Leaders - Nintendo Switch 2





2 - 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

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!!!

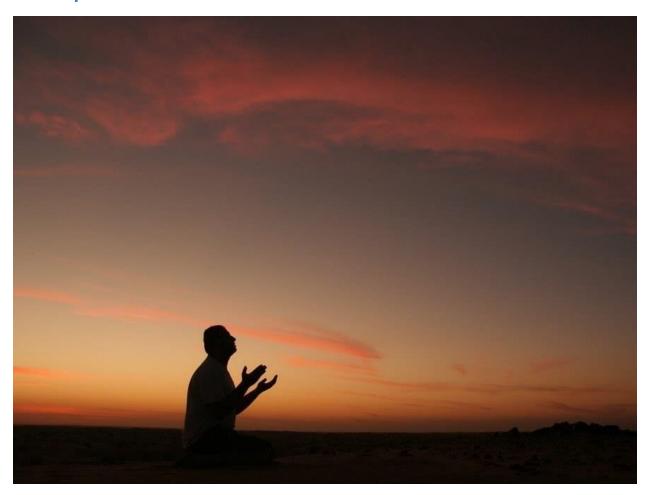


We strongly advise that any holiday in term time should be avoided due to the impact of lost learning time on children. Please be aware that leave of absence (holiday) during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. It is school policy to refer any unauthorised absence due 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**



**FORGIVE US OUR SINS** 

Matthew 6:12

"Forgive us our sins"

I wonder what this might mean?

It's a beautiful, but sometimes confusing, part of the prayer The Lord's Prayer. Some pray it every day. Some several times a day. Some in church. Some in private. It is a prayer which says that those who pray it want and need forgiveness. In fact, when Jesus modelled this for his followers, he linked asking for daily bread with asking for forgiveness. "Forgive us" comes right after "Give us this day our daily bread." It's a hint that we might need both, every day—food and forgiveness, and should pray for both on a daily basis.

Video link for story:

### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe7dTNID6h8

Look at the story of Zacchaeus. I wonder why Zacchaeus felt he had sinned? I wonder why he needed to see Jesus? I wonder why Jesus forgave him?

When Zacchaeus knew he had made a mistake, he said he was sorry. Jesus forgave him for all he had done, even though all those watching didn't think he deserved it.

I wonder how we can ask God to forgive us and I wonder how that feels?

Dear God,

Please forgive us when we do things that hurt or upset people. AMEN



https://youtu.be/3iw5ZAeV5i8

### Class News



Reception Colour Run!

































### Key Dates



### **QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES**

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### **Picture News**



### Collective

### Worship

### Pupil involvement

Start by playing this movement game: Human or robot? First get the children on their feet and challenge them to move like a robot! Think: straight arms, small steps, mechanical noises. After 5-10 seconds, have them stop, then invite them to move like a human. How might this look?

Follow this activity up with a discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of humans and robots. What are some things robots or machines can do really well? E.g., following instructions, moving precisely, doing things quickly. What are some things humans can do that robots can't? E.g., show kindness, make difficult choices, be creative, care for others.

Explain that driverless cars are like robots. They can follow instructions, get you to a place quickly, and don't get tired, but they possibly can't make thoughtful choices in the same way a person can.

God Creation Fall

**Bible Link: Exodus 31:1-5** 

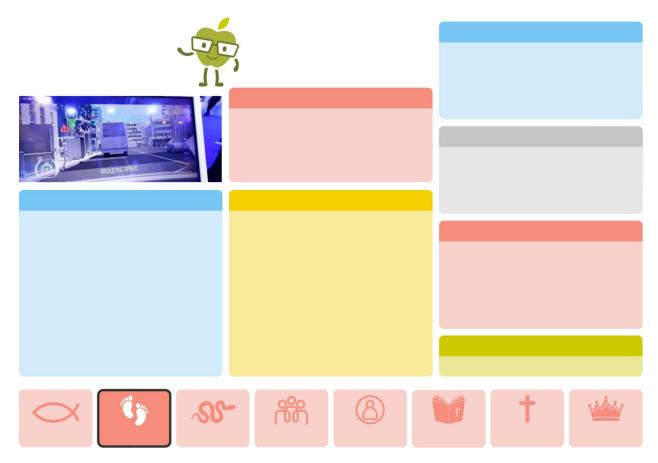
**Christian Value: Wisdom Theme: Future Thinking** 

### Pupil talk

- Can you think of any inventions? What are they, and how do they help the people who use them?
- Why do people invent new things?
- How can we be wise about using new technology?

Why might this be important?

### Think



Taxi company, Uber, wants to test cars in London that can drive by themselves, without a person at the wheel. The UK government has changed the rules to let this happen sooner. Many believe the service could bring new jobs, but others are worried about human drivers losing work. The cars have performed well in tests, though checks are still needed to make sure they are safe. Some people have already tried riding in these cars to see how well they work.

God created humans with the ability to learn, build, and innovate. Christians believe people are called to use these gifts with care, thinking about how our inventions affect others. As technology advances, we are encouraged to be thoughtful and responsible with the tools we create.

### **People of God Incarnation**

### Invitation prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the amazing skills and creativity you've given to people.

Help us to use our knowledge wisely and kindly.

Guide us to make choices that help and protect others. Amen.

### Key stage 1 class discussion

- What would it feel like to ride in a car with no driver?
- Who do you think driverless taxis might help the most?
- Can you think of something that makes life easier for you?

### Key stage 2 class discussion

- How could driverless taxis affect people who drive for work?
- Why do you think God gave humans the ability to invent things? What do you think He hopes we'll do with those inventions?
- Do you think technology can go too far? Explain your thoughts.

### Worship song

God of Science

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 <a href="https://priorsmill.org.uk/">https://priorsmill.org.uk/</a> 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.uk<sup>2</sup>

**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

<sup>2</sup>mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk

Billingham TS23 2NH

07583 575522

https://billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk

info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>mailto:info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk