



Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Newsletter May 8th 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 08.05.25

In This Issue



This week we include:

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- **Musician of the Month**
- **Digital Leaders**
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- **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**
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Heads Up - VE Day 80th Celebrations!!



What is VE day and when was it?

On 8 May 1945, people in Britain and across the world celebrated Victory in Europe, now known as VE Day. This marked the unconditional surrender of Germany and meant an end to nearly six years of a war. Some people celebrated early. Many people in Britain didn't wait for the official day of celebration and began the festivities as soon as they heard the news on 7 May. After years of wartime restrictions and dangers – from food and clothes rationing to blackouts and bombing raids – many were finally able to let loose and enjoy themselves.

The day became a public holiday, with parties on the streets across the nation, running late into the night. Villages, towns, and cities were decorated with flags and bunting.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed a crowd of thousands from the balcony of the Ministry of Health in Whitehall. The future Queen, Princess Elizabeth, secretly joined in the festivities, while servicemen, servicewomen, and civilians from Britain, the USA and other Allied Nations celebrated together in a day of unity.

In school we had a 2 minute silence to commemorate the 80th Celebration of VE Day and children were invited to wear red, white and blue.

Y6 SATs

Next week Y6 Children take their SATs tests - these tests will not determine their time at Prior's Mill their character and memories will do that as will the values they take with them. It is important that Y6 pupils have a relaxing weekend and get plenty of sleep ready for a busy week ahead. A bit of light revision is all that is needed - as a reward for their hard work there are a number of school rewards that Y6 will be eligible for in the coming 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.

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.

Prior's Pedal Power

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

On Thursday 22nd May, our staff will be doing a 24-hour Bikeathon to raise money for school playground equipment. Our plan is to cycle the equivalent distance from John O'Groats to Land's End, a massive 603 miles!

The Bikeathon will begin at 9:00am on the Thursday until 9:00am Friday 23rd May. We will be posting regular updates during the day and well into the night on our progress.

603 miles is a very long way! This is where we need your help. Over the next two weeks, 9.05.25 to 23.04.25, we would like you to get out and cycle, scooter, run or walk as much as you can! Every child will receive a tracking sheet to fill in and bring back to school so that we can add all of the miles completed together at the end.

We would love it if as many of you could get involved as possible! Of course, we are doing this to raise money for school playground equipment. If you or anyone you know would like to donate, please do so on the School Gateway app.

Thank you for your support. Let's complete this together!

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

Gate Opening Times

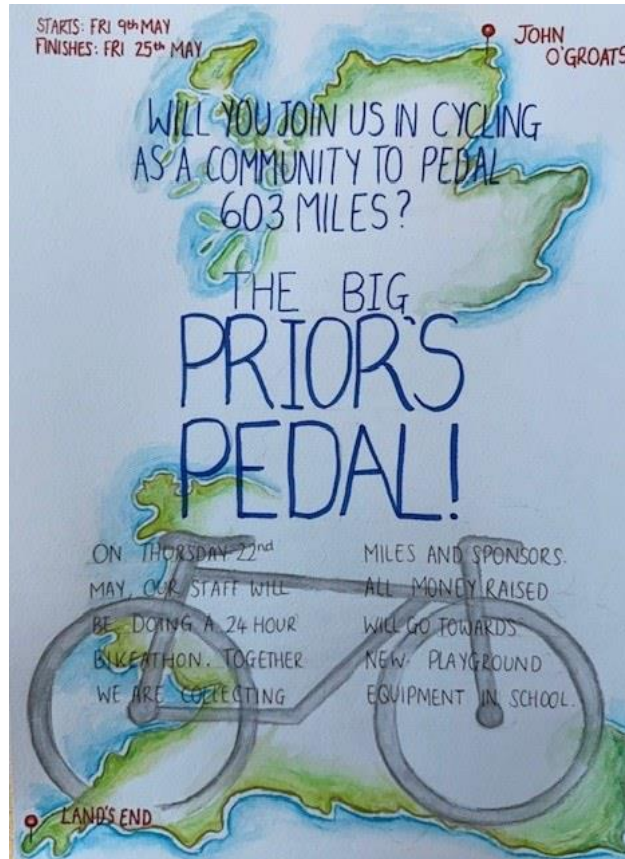
Children from the Breakfast Club will be transported from the KS2 Hall to KS1 Hall just before 8:30am a member of staff will be on the KS1 gate at 8:30 to allow parents to leave the site.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and enjoys the SAFC game tonight!!!!

QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

- 9/5/25 - 23/5/25 - Cycling Fundraiser
- 12/5/25 - 15/5/25 - SATS WEEK Y6
- 14/5/25 - Class 4 Worship

- 21/5/25 - Class 3 Worship
- 21/5/25- Year 5/6 Athletics Event (individual children will be notified)
- 22/5/25- Class 11 Worship



1 - WE NEED YOU!

Family Hub Multi Agency Drop-in

Together for You Multi Agency Drop In

Friday 16 May

Stockton Family Hub

9.30am to 11.30am

The Family Hubs would like to invite any parents or carers who need information or support ranging from children's SEN needs, housing, school nursing team and money worries.

They offer free and impartial advice and can guide you through the steps to get any help that you may need for you or your family.

Here are some of the agencies who make up the Family Hubs 'All Together For You' Multi Agency Drop In:

- School Support Team
- Daisy Chain
- Neurodiverse Team
- CAMHS
- 0-19 Service
- Harbour
- Change Grow Live
- Employment and Training Hub
- Thirteen Housing
- And many more

School can also refer to agencies. If you require support and are unable to attend the Family Hub Drop In, please contact Mrs Hanson (School Welfare Officer) via the school office.

Our School Support Advisor is also in school every Wednesday afternoon, and can be contacted via Mrs Hanson if you feel that you need advice around behaviour, educational needs, emotional needs, attendance etc. (please note that the school support advisor cannot give advice relating to SEN needs)



2 - A huge thanks to Joe from the British Legion for helping celebrate the VE Day celebrations with us!



PICTURE OF THE WEEK!





3 - Red and White Day Celebrations with Mrs Akerman!

School Council



Mr Farrell has agreed (after some persuasion from the school council) to take part in the Great North Run in September and to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind and our other school charities. We are going to be looking at showing our support by organising a summer fun run.



Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN** PARTNERSHIP



4 - This term's topic focusses on the rise of misogyny in society, particularly in the online space, and the continuing issue of violence against women and girls. This term's questions have been developed in line with Cleveland Police and the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner who are both undertaking work on this issue.

Sporting Stars





5 - Sports Leaders

Musician of the Month



Home Information Sheet - Fisherman's Friends



About: The Fisherman's Friends are a folk music group from Port Isaac, Cornwall, who sing sea shanties. They have been performing locally since 1995, and signed a record deal with Universal Music in March 2010. Whilst essentially an a cappella group, their studio recordings and live performances now often include traditional simple instrumentation.

Genres: Sea Shanties & Folk

Active from: 1995 - Present

Origin: Cornwall, England

MAY



Fao, 2016 ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleave_Fisherman%27s_Friends_\(30256689085\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleave_Fisherman%27s_Friends_(30256689085).jpg))

Years Active: 1995 - Present
From: Port Isaac, Cornwall
Famous Song: South Australia

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS



Digital Leaders - A Sense of Belonging



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

Parent guide for this week - Making Friends Online

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>

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

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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.

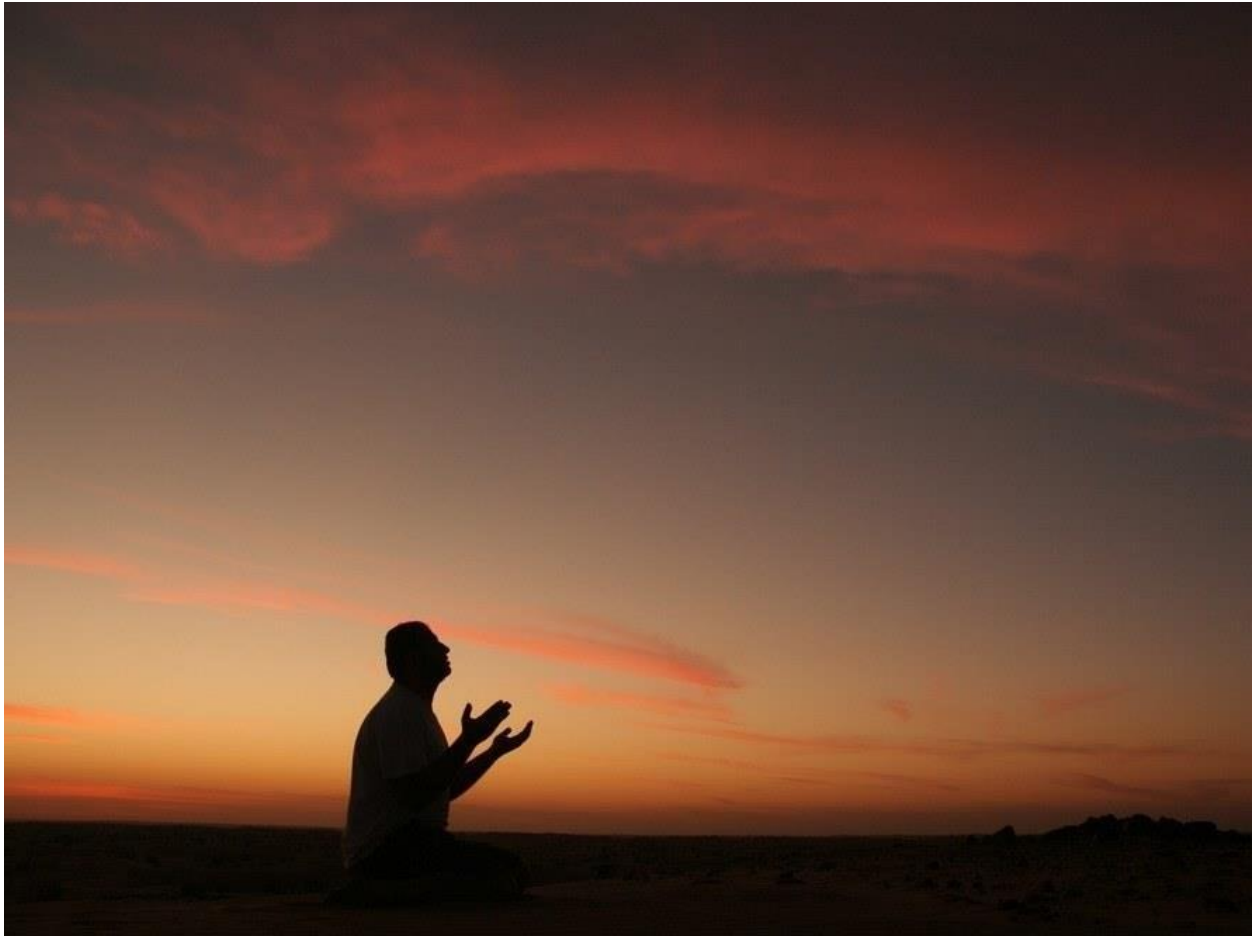
Current School Attendance is 95% this is just below the DFE target of 96%.

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 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE GENEROUS? II
Corinthians 9:11



Dictionary definition – ‘free in giving or sharing’ – does this help explain what generosity means?

The Bible says ... What does this teach us about being generous? What does it teach us about how God wants us to treat others?

‘You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God’.

2 Corinthians 9:11

I wonder if you are generous? I wonder how you are generous?

Being generous is about having the right attitude – having an attitude of gratitude.

I wonder what you think this means? (We are grateful for all we have, so we share what we have with those who do not have enough)

I wonder if we are truly grateful for all sorts of generosity that we have received?



Class News



Class 4 had a wonderful time learning about the animals during our animal session. All the children enjoyed learning and touching the animals as you can see from their faces.









A 'FANTASTIC' Dinosaur Story written in Reception!



7 - Roarsome work from Edie!!

Key Dates



QUICK REMINDER: KEY DATES

- 9/5/25 - 23/5/25 - Cycling Fundraiser
- 12/5/25 - 15/5/25 - SATS WEEK Y6
- 4/5/25 - Class 4 Worship
- 21/5/25 - Class 3 Worship
- 21/5/25- Year 5/6 Athletics Event (individual children will be notified)
- 22/5/25- Class 11 Worship

Picture News



Picture News Special - VE Day 80th Anniversary



What's happening
in the news?



Let's have a look at the poster

VE Day 80th Anniversary





Let's look at the story



On 8th May 1945, people across Britain and other countries around the world celebrated the end of World War II in Europe. This day became known as VE Day, which stands for 'Victory in Europe Day'.

It marked the moment when the fighting in Europe stopped, and peace could begin again after years of conflict, hardship, and loss.

80 years on, we remember this important moment — not just to look back, but to think about what peace means today and why it still matters.

Learn more about this story here¹.

Watch the useful video here².

© Picture News 2025

Resource



¹<https://news.sky.com/story/ve-day-2025-what-are-the-four-day-celebrations-to-mark-80th-anniversary-13344461>

²<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGIR4Ah8nCw>

Read through the information below, which shares more about the impacts of VE Day and the importance of peace.



What changed after VE Day?

During World War II, life was full of danger and uncertainty. People faced rationing, bombings, and long separations from their loved ones.

On 8th May 1945, VE Day marked a new beginning — a day when people could hope for a future without fear. It meant that fighting and air raids stopped, children returned home and families were reunited, shops reopened, and life began returning to normal.



Why does peace

Peace means laughter instead of fear, and dreams instead of danger. When there is peace, families can stay together, children can go to school, and people can build happy, safe lives. Peace gives everyone the chance to grow and

How do we work to protect peace

Today, countries work together through organisations, like the United Nations, to solve problems, send help where it's needed, and stand up for people's rights.

80 years on, we remember VE Day not just to celebrate the end of World War II, but to think about how we can protect peace today and in the future.



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Main question

Why is peace worth celebrating?



 Listen  Think  Share

- Look carefully at the poster image. What can you spot? Have you noticed any decorations or signs of VE Day celebrations in your local area?
- Look at the resource, which shares a little more about VE Day and its significance. What might life have been like during World War II, and how did things change after VE Day?
- Why do you think VE Day was such a big celebration in 1945? Why do we still celebrate VE Day today, even 80 years later?
- Are there still wars happening in the world today? Why might that be?

- How do people and countries try to build and protect peace today? How can values like respect, cooperation, and kindness help prevent conflict? What does 'peace' mean to you?
- After watching the useful video, what can we learn from the experiences of people who lived through World War II and VE Day?

Useful Weblinks



News story:

VE Day 2025: What are the four-day celebrations to mark 80th anniversary? | UK News | Sky News³

Useful video:

80th anniversary of VE Day this year (WWII) more from people who lived through it (UK)⁴

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³<https://news.sky.com/story/ve-day-2025-what-are-the-four-day-celebrations-to-mark-80th-anniversary-13344461>

⁴<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGIR4Ah8nCw>

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/>⁵

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

⁵<https://priorsmill.org.uk/>

EMERGENCY HELP DURING THE WEEKEND / HOLIDAYS

During the weekend / holidays, whilst your children are playing outside with friends, we would recommend that your child knows where to go to for help if they need it. This might be a grandparent or family friend, as well as at home. It is important that your child knows how to call the emergency services for help.

We have been advised that you talk to your child about risk-taking behaviour and the potential consequences of any decisions that they make whilst away from home. Give your children the confidence to say “no” to taking part in any risky or anti-social behaviour with their peers.

Of course, we want the children to enjoy the weekend and part of that is becoming more independent from parents; however, we want all our children to return to school fit, well and safe after the weekend.

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

There is a new system and people must call 111- option 2 - this is the 111 Mental Health line & call handlers will transfer to the local crisis team appropriately.

The Children’s Hub is the first point of contact for anyone who has a concern about the welfare or safety of a child or young person.

The Children's Hub

Stockton: 01642 130080

childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk⁶

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

⁶<mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk>

Billingham TS23 2NH

07583 575522

<https://billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk>

info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk⁷

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

⁷<mailto:info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk>