PREES SCHOOL

# Dear Parents and Carers

**Issue 07**
**9th October 2026**

**We demonstrate our Values of *Trust, Respect, Honesty, Kindness, Friendship and Generosity* at Prees C.E. Primary School and Nursery in all that we strive to achieve each day.**

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|---|---|
| **Monday 12th October** | **PE - Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6**<br>**Forest School - Nursery** |
| Tuesday 13th October | PE - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 |
| **Wednesday 14th October** | **Parent Consultations**<br>**PE - Year 1 and Year 2**<br>**Stay, Play and Chat in the hall, 9.00am – 10.30am** |
| Thursday 15th October | Parent Consultations<br>Swimming - Year 5 and Year 6<br>PE - Nursery, Year 3 and Year 4 |
| **Friday 16th October** | **Wear It Pink! (see below for details)**<br>**PE - Reception and Year 3**<br>**Children Break Up for Half Term** |

***** School Admissions Dates *****

**Online applications for Secondary School places are open**

****Applications must be made online by 31st October 2026 (final day for applications)****

**To apply please Ctrl+Click to follow link: Transferring to secondary school | Shropshire Council**

**Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on 'Apply here'.**
**If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact school, we are happy to help.**

## Holiday Club

**Holiday Club will run again during October half term**

**Monday 19th October – Friday 23rd October**
**Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October and Monday 2nd November**
**9am—3pm, £12 per session.**
**Children need to bring a packed lunch and water bottle please.**

**Bookings for Holiday Club are now open on ParentPay. Parents and Carers wishing to use voucher payments please contact Mrs Knight on knight.j@prees.shropshire.sch.uk**
**The contact Telephone Number during Holiday Club is 01948 800 307**

## Get Ready to Wear It Pink!

**on Friday 16th October**

**We are excited to support Wear It Pink! We invite all children to come to school wearing their PE jogging bottoms and trainers with a splash of pink—think t-shirts, tops, jumpers, trainers, caps, bobble hats, or scarves. If you are in a position to do so, we would welcome a voluntary contribution to help fund life-saving breast cancer research and support.**
**Thank you for helping us make a difference!**

## Diary Dates

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|---|---|
| **Wednesday 14th October** | **Stay, Play and Chat in the hall, 9am – 10.30am**<br>**Parent Consultations** |
| Thursday 15th October | Swimming for Year 5 and Year 6<br>Parent Consultations |
| **Friday 16th October** | **Wear It Pink! (see details on page 1)**<br>**Break up for Half Term** |
| Monday 19th October – Monday 2nd November - Holiday Club (see details on page 1) | |
| **Monday 2nd November** | **PD Day – children not in school** |
| Tuesday 3rd November | Children return to school |
| **Wednesday 4th November** | **Stay, Play and Chat in the hall, 9am –**<br>**SEND Parent and Carer Coffee and Chat 9.15am – 10.15am** |
| Friday 6th November | Open Day<br>Educational Visit to Chester Zoo – Year 3 and Year 4 |
| **Tuesday 10th November** | **Dancer visiting Year 5 and Year 6** |
| Wednesday 11th November | Stay, Play and Chat in the hall, 9am – 10am<br>Whole school visit to the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day |
| **Monday 17th November** | **Bikeability for Year 6** |
| Tuesday 18th November | Bikeability for Year 6<br>Individual Photograph and Family Photographs (more details to follow) |
| **Wednesday 19th November** | **Bikeability for Year 6**<br>Play, Stay and Chat in the hall, 9am – 10.30am |
| **Wednesday 25th November** | **Stay, Play and Chat in the hall, 9am – 10am** |
| Friday 27th November | Pantomime visit to Theatre Severn |

**Our Harvest Service**

**Heartfelt thanks to everyone who was able to join us for our Harvest Service.it was so lovely to see so many of our families and community. We are immensely grateful for the overwhelming response to our appeals: your generous food donations will greatly assist the Whitchurch Foodbank.**

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity.**

**Lego and Board Games**

**If your family has any Lego or board games that are no longer being used, we would be delighted to receive them as donations for our school. Thank you very much for your generosity.**

**Important Reminder**

**We are a nut-free school. For the safety of children with severe allergies, please ensure no nuts, peanut butter, or nut-based snacks are brought into school.**
**Thank you for your support.**

**Parking around the school**

**A polite reminder to all drivers: please park with consideration around the school and avoid reversing or parking into local residents' private driveways.**
**Thank you for helping keep our neighbourhood safe and accessible.**

## Breakfast Club and Wrap Around Club

We have a daily Breakfast Club (during term time) from 7.45am. Breakfast is supplied and the children are taken to join their classes at 8.40am. The cost for the daily session is £4 payable via ParentPay. If you are able, we ask that your book in advance, but the club is also available on an ad hoc basis to suit your needs.

Wrap Around Club (during term time) runs from 3.10pm—6pm daily. The cost is £4 per hourly session, payable via ParentPay. A snack can be provided if your child is staying after 5.10pm for an additional cost of £1, you need to let us know in advance if you would like this please. Again, if you are able, we ask you to book in advance, but the club is also available on an ad hoc basis to suit your needs. Both clubs are for children aged 3 years and above. Vouchers can be used to pay for Breakfast and/or Wrap Around Club.

The contact Telephone Number for Breakfast Club and Wrap Around during term time is 01948 800307

## School Meals

Hot school meals are available daily at a cost of £2.65 (£1.85 for Nursery children) and payable via ParentPay.

Please note children moving into Year 3 will need to pay for school lunches.

*Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Please apply, if you are eligible, for children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 even though they will receive universal free school meals. Please visit the site below to check if you are eligible to apply.*

https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

*Thank you.*

## Toast

Toast is available to the children at first playtime at a cost of 10p per slice, this is payable via ParentPay.
Children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 have free fruit on a daily basis.

** Please let us know if you do not want your child to have toast on a daily basis as some of our children may not understand and may order without you knowing. **

Children are more than welcome to bring in their own healthy snacks, i.e. raw vegetables, fruit etc. to eat at playtime. Nuts are not allowed in school due to allergies.

## School Transport

Your child may be eligible for school transport if they are in Reception Class to Year 6 and fulfil certain criteria.

Applications can be submitted online at https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/available-support/

Scroll down and click on Primary.

## Homework

Your child's homework is accessed via our online Seesaw program.
Spellings and homework are set on Seesaw each week.
Login details have been sent home with your child.
Any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office.

## Child Absence

Please telephone school (01948 880330) by 9.00am if your child is unwell and will not be attending that day. If leaving a message, can you please provide the exact reason why your child is absent. If we have not heard from you by 9.15am, we will telephone you and follow-up with a text message. If we have still not heard from you by 10.30am we will telephone and text again as this becomes a safeguarding concern.

We shall also be contacting parents of Nursery children who do not attend, for whatever reason, on days that we are expecting them. This is a health and wellbeing safeguarding check.
Thank you for your support.

## Facebook

Our school has a Facebook account - Prees CE Primary School and Nursery

We use the account to share some of the amazing things that the children undertake in school. Thank you.

## Wellies

Please can your child bring a pair of wellies into school (labelled with their name) that can be left in school.
We play outside at lunchtimes on the field as often as possible, and they will then also be available for use when they are taking part in Outdoor Learning.
Thank you.

## Water Bottles

Please can children bring a water bottle, labelled with their name to school each day.
If your child is bringing juice to drink with their lunch, can they also bring a bottle with water in so that they can remain hydrated throughout the day.
Thank you.

## Shropshire Family Information Service

Cycling is a great way to keep active and boost your wellbeing. Why not plan a bike ride with the family, Shropshire has some great family friendly cycle routes, check them out here: https://orlo.uk/FufJf
You can find more inspiration and a list of all things cycling on our Family Information Directory https://orlo.uk/nkm7E

## Shropshire Larder - a resource for people in Shropshire

The Shropshire Larder is a community information resource, bringing together the support available in Shropshire for people on low incomes.

Take a look at their website for further information on the following:

- How to access emergency food
- Where to access low cost or free food in Shropshire
- Advice on eating well on a budget
- Where to get local help with money issues

https://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk/

Cost of Living Support - Increases in the cost of food, fuel and utilities will continue to affect most households across Shropshire this year. If you find yourself worried about money or you are struggling right now, you are not alone. But do not wait to get help. Shropshire Council and many support organisations are seeing rises in the number of people seeking help, and as winter approaches you may see more delays in getting responses.
The good news is that there's help available.
The website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/ was created in partnership with trusted community organisations to help you find the help you need, whether it's to get through a short-term crisis or to find more long-term support.

## Support for parent carers of children with SEND
## Shropshire's Local Offer

Having access to good quality information to help you understand the world of SEND is important when making decisions about your child's life. This is where websites such as the Shropshire's SEND Local Offer can help you.

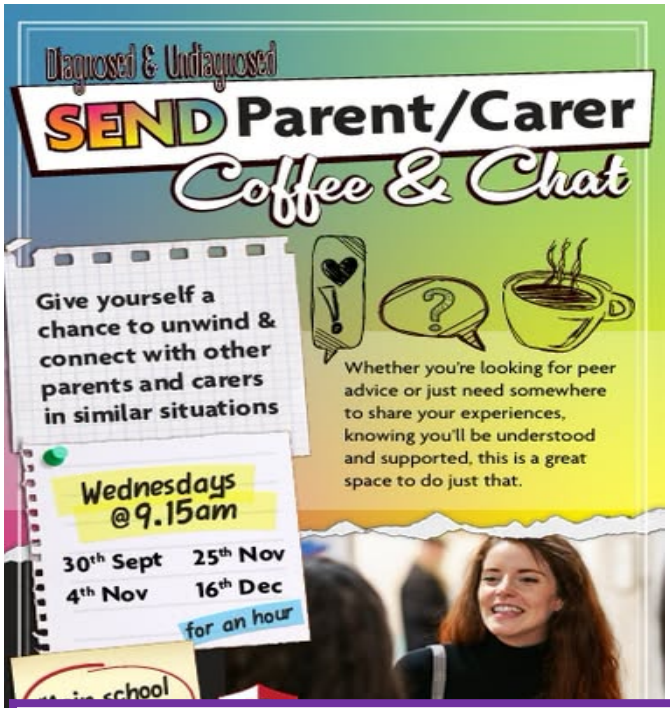


If you are concerned about someone's safety in an emergency dial 999, but for other calls to the police please ring 101. To report a safeguarding concern by phone ring the First Point of Contact team on 0345 678 9044 Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm, and Friday 9am to 4pm. If you have urgent adult safeguarding concerns outside of these hours, please phone the Emergency Social Work Duty Team on 0345 678 9040.

**Worrying About Money**

**Worrying about Money? Please use the link below to find guidance and advice regarding money worries that may be affecting you and your family: https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/shropshire**

**Leaflets are also available from: https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets**







**What's on over Half Term in Shropshire**

- https://www.visitshropshire.co.uk/what-to-do-with-the-kids-this-october-half-term-in-shropshire/
- **Jet and Space Week at RAF Museum Midlands (Cosford)** — Runs from October 26 to November 1, 2026. Children can build Lego balloon jets, view real Apollo moon rock and meteorites, and attend planetarium shows (aimed at ages 6 and up).
- **Pumpkinfest at Park Hall Countryside Experience (Near Oswestry)** — Runs daily through November 1, 2026. Features heavy Halloween and pumpkin-themed activities suited for younger kids and primary-age families.
- **The Mere at Ellesmere -** Free to walk around the lake, feed the ducks, and enjoy the surrounding green spaces (parking fees may apply).
- **Local Shropshire Libraries**: Free admission to local branches (such as Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Wem or Whitchurch) offering children's books, free Wi-Fi, and holiday craft or treasure hunt activities.

## AI companions

## What are AI companions?

AI companions are artificial intelligence services designed to interact with users to simulate friendship or romantic relationships. There are many different AI companions available, accessible via apps or websites. **Many of these apps are intended for adults and have an age rating of 18+.**

## Why are children using AI companions?

There are many reasons a child might want to use an AI companion, including:

- To ask advice and questions that they may be embarrassed to ask another person. It may be easier to talk to an AI companion, so it is imperative children understand the difference between AI and real people.
- They feel lonely and are looking for friendship.
- Children may just be curious and want to try new technology.

## What should I be aware of?

- **Age restrictions:** it is important to check the age rating to see if it is appropriate for your child.
- **Inappropriate content:** there is often a lack of moderation so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- **Emotional dependence:** AI companions are designed to act as a friend, encouraging an emotional dependence. This may lead to your child becoming over reliant on the service A chatbot should never replace a parent, a medical professional or other trusted adult.
- **Relationships:** repeated use of AI may influence a child's understanding of relationships and consent in real life.
- **Privacy and personal information:** children should not share personal or confidential information with AI companions.

## What can I do?

- Check the age rating and any privacy settings.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online. Ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

## Further information

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ai-chatbots-and-virtual-friends-how-parents-can-keep-children-safe/

**Would you like to read the above information in a different language?**

You can use the translate tool on the web version:

https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/october-2026/