

Dear Parents/Carers

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.

PREES SCHOOL NEWS

Monday 11th December	PE - Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 ** There is no Afterschool Football Club**
Tuesday 12th December	PE - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 5 Guitar Lessons
Wednesday 13th December	PE - Year 4 and Year 6 Christmas Choir for Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 until 4pm
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Dinner — Wear your Christmas Jumper Christmas Disco (Tickets are on sale £1 each) PE - Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 ** There is no Afterschool Netball Club**
Friday 15th December	Christmas Choir visiting Elmhurst Nursing Home PE - Reception and Year 3 Piano Lessons (please note change of date for this week only)



Holiday Club



Holiday Club will take place on

Thursday 21st December, Friday 22nd December and Wednesday 3rd January.

Bookings are made on sQuid and the cut off date is midnight on

Thursday 14th December.

Parents/Carers using the Childcare Scheme/Vouchers, should book by emailing
knight.j@prees.shropshire.sch.uk

*** School Admissions Dates ***

Applications for Reception School Places

Children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 can start primary school from
September 2024

Applications must be made online by the 15th January 2024.

To apply please visit: <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>
click on: Apply to start or transfer school.

If you have any queries or would like support with your application
please contact Mrs Powell.

Christmas Choir Performance



You are invited to
join our wonderful
Choir for their
Christmas
Performance
13th December 2023
4pm—4.30pm
in the School Hall.

Our Carol Service

Monday 18th December at 6pm. Please join us in
church. Children in Reception Class will be
creating the nativity scene. Year 6 will be telling
the nativity story and the whole
school have been learning songs for
the service. It is a lovely occasion
and we ask that all children return
for 5.45pm to church to take part.



Dates for your Diary

14.12.23	Christmas Lunch – children welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper School Disco - more details will follow shortly
15.12.23	School Choir visiting Elmhurst Nursing Home
18.12.23	Carol Service in Church at 6pm - please come and join us.
20.12.23	Last day of the Autumn Term – children break up
21.12.23 – 22.12.23	Holiday Club (Thurs and Fri)
03.01.24	PD Day – children not in school (however, Holiday Club will be available)
04.01.24	Spring Term Begins – children back to school

Christmas Hamper

Raffle tickets have been sent home this week. If you would like any further books of tickets please contact the office.

The draw will take place in the school hall after our Carol Service on Monday 18th December; we hope you can all join us for a coffee and mincepies.



Outdoor Learning

There will be no outdoor learning for Nursery and Reception Class on Thursday (for this week only) as we have our Christmas lunch and party. Children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumper.



At Prees C.E. Primary School, we continually focus on the importance of attendance and punctuality to ensure that your child has the best possible start in life. Attendance has a direct link to attainment; there is clear evidence that poor attendance has a very negative impact on children's learning and progress at school. If a child is not in school regularly, they are not fully accessing the curriculum and learning opportunities available to them. Children are required to attend school for 190 days each year. There are 175 days for holidays and other activities. We expect attendance rates to be 96% and above.

Attending school every day equates to 100% attendance.

We believe that 'Every Minute Counts!' When a child arrives late at school, they miss teacher instructions and lesson time; and their learning begins to suffer. Children also feel embarrassed at having to enter the classroom late. This can seriously disadvantage children and disrupt the learning of others. Please help your children to be punctual.

Attendance during 1 year	Days lost	This equates to
95% attendance	9 days	nearly 2 weeks
90% attendance	19 days	nearly 4 weeks
85% attendance	29 days	nearly 6 week
80% attendance	38 days	nearly 8 weeks
75% attendance	48 days	nearly 10 weeks
70% attendance	57 days	nearly 11.5 weeks
65% attendance	67 days	nearly 13.5 weeks

Coat, Wellies and Water Bottle

Can we please ask that your child brings a coat, wellies (if they do not have a pair in school), and water bottle labelled with their name, to school each day please. Thank you.

Piano Lessons

Piano lessons will take place on Friday next week (for one week only). This will be the last lesson for this term; they will restart on the Wednesday 10th January 2024



The SEND Local Offer



Lots of information and support for children and young people with SEND and their families, including:

- Education
- Health and wellbeing
- Family support
- Social care
- Preparing for adulthood
- Early help
- Things to do
- Education, health and care plan (EHCP)
- Travel and transport
- Financial support

local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk 0345 678 9063
www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/



If you need help accessing the Local Offer please speak to your school or local library.



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](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/) can help you.

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/>



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>

Parenting Helpline

Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. Shropshire Council's Parenting Team is here to support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around child development and parenting?

Why not call our Parenting Helpline where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen?

Call 01743 250950 - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 12.30pm.

If you would like to find out about other services the Parenting Team offers please email: Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

sQuid - our online payment system in school

sQuid is an online payment system that can be used to make a variety of school payments.

Parents/ carers can use sQuid to pay for school payments such as: Dinner Money top ups, Toast, School Trips, Breakfast Club, Wrap Around Club and Swimming etc.

Children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. If you have mislaid your sQuid code please contact the office.

Enable Auto top up on your Catering purse, so your child never runs out of funds.

To enable Auto top up you will first need to make a payment and store your payment card. After you have stored your payment card, select the tick box to enable Auto top up and select the amount that you would like to add when the balance falls below a certain level, from each of the drop down boxes. Simply untick the box to disable Auto top up, and when you have updated your Auto top up preferences, please click the 'Save' button.

Remember to top up before 21:00 so that funds are ready to be used from 06:00 the following day. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Walking Bus

We are looking to get our Walking Bus up and running again and we need your help. Are there any volunteers who would be willing to help walk with the children starting from the Fire Station and picking up at certain points along the way to School? Please can you let anyone know who does not receive the newsletter and you feel may like to join the walking bus as a volunteer.

If you are able to support us please email Mrs Powell at learningmentor@prees.shropshire.sch.uk letting her know the day/days you are available to volunteer. Thank you.



Primary School Application for September 2024

Children can start school in reception at the beginning of the academic year following their fourth birthday.

Therefore, children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 can start primary school from September 2024.

Applications should be made online. See the attached guidance to help you make your application. If you have any queries or encounter any difficulties completing your application, please contact the School Admissions Team by email - school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk.

Please note that the online facility is open from 2 November 2023. **You must apply by 15 January 2024.** If there is a reason why your application is late i.e. due to a house move, please email school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk to advise.

Applications received after 15 January, without exceptional reasons, are considered late. Late applications won't be processed until all the applications received on time have been allocated. This may result in your child not being offered a school place at you preferred school.

Shropshire Local Authority residents should use the Shropshire online portal to make their application for any English state infant or primary school. If the school you wish to apply to isn't there, please email school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk with the name of the school, and we will get it added

- If you wish to apply for a neighbouring Welsh authority primary school, you should apply directly to either Powys or Wrexham authorities

If you want to apply for a Shropshire school but do not reside in the Shropshire Council authority area, please refer to our [who to apply to](#) page. Telford local authority residents must apply via Telford and Wrekin Council not Shropshire Council.

- Applicants from either overseas, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland can use the Shropshire Council website to make an application for a Shropshire school.

IF AN APPLICATION IS MADE THROUGH THIS PORTAL FROM A RESIDENT IN ANOTHER ENGLISH AUTHORITY OTHER THAN SHROPSHIRE IT WILL BE DISCARDED.

BEFORE MAKING AN APPLICATION

Ensure you read the [Guide to Education in Shropshire](#) This guide provides all the correct information to help you make your application.

- Note the importance of naming more than one school on your application, particularly when not applying for your catchment area school.

Ensure that you're happy with the application before you submit it. The online portal doesn't allow you to change your application once it's been submitted and downloaded by the Admissions Team. If you do need to amend your application after you have submitted it, you must email:

school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk

Get to know Age Ratings

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing. **Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?**



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online, using social media or downloading other apps – check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI include further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence, if accessing the app/game etc.

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls.

Further information

Parent Zone have published this article about why age ratings matter:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

Minecraft

Minecraft remains ever popular and with Christmas ahead of us, maybe your child will be receiving this game as one of their presents. Minecraft Legends is rated as PEGI 7 meaning it is suitable for those over 7 years of age. The App store rate Minecraft as 9+. You should be aware that there is a multiplayer option so players can chat to each other, and in-app purchases are available. Parental controls are available, either within Minecraft or on the console itself e.g. Nintendo Switch or PlayStation. Find out more here: <https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/article/parental-controls>

Toxicity in game play

Safe In Our World and Ubisoft (creators of games such as Assassins Creed) have co-developed the 'Good Game Playbook'. The playbook will be sent to players reporting disruptive behaviour as well as the individual reported. This is to support the person affected as well as to try and educate the person reported about the harm their behaviour might have on others.

You can read the handbook here: <https://safeinourworld.org/news/ubisoft-safe-in-our-world-partner-to-combat-in-game-toxicity/>