

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 18th December	All children to wear school uniform. There will be no PE on Monday for Years 2, 3, and 4 Carol Service at St Chad's Church 6pm—everyone welcome to join us ** There is no Afterschool Football Club**
Tuesday 19th December	PE - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 5
Wednesday 20th December	There will be no PE for Years 4 and 6. Last day of the Autumn Term.
Thursday 21st December	Holiday Club
Friday 22nd December	Holiday Club

Educational Performance

The national performance tables have recently been published and we are delighted to report that our 2023 results were well above the national average in reading and mathematics due to the progress that our children made. Huge congratulations to all of our children and staff, we are extremely proud of their achievements.

***** 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.

Our Carol Service

Monday 18th December at 6pm.

Please join us in St. Chad's 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.

We hope you will join us for a coffee and mince pies in the school hall after the service when the Hamper Raffle will also be drawn.



Dates for your Diary

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

If you would like any further books or raffle 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 join us for a coffee and mince pies.



Christmas Choir

Thank you for attending the Christmas Choir performance on Wednesday afternoon, and thank you to our amazing Christmas Choir who sang carols at Elmhurst Nursing Home on Friday afternoon.



Holiday Club

Holiday Club will take place on Thursday 21st December, Friday 22nd December and Wednesday 3rd January.

Bookings for Holiday club are now closed.

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

Thank you.

A holiday message from SpaDental Whitchurch

We know this holiday is a busy time of the year for families, and perhaps a trip to the dentist doesn't sound like the best fun. But we'd like to take this opportunity to let you know we have NHS appointments for children available during the holiday on Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st, Saturday 23rd, Thursday 28th, Saturday 30th of December 2023 and Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th and Saturday 6th January 2024.

We would love to see your children during this time! Making an appointment is easy.

Please fill in the website 'Contact Us' form: <https://www.spadental.co.uk/contact/>.

We believe the best present you can give your children is healthy teeth!

St Chad's, Prees Services

Sunday 17th December 6.00pm Carol service

Sunday 24th December 3.00pm Christmas Eve: Crib Service. All are welcome for this informal service. Why not dress up as your favourite Nativity Character: shepherds, angels,

Sunday 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Communion

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.

Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g. 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be concerned about?

There are risks to using Snapchat, including the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

Family Centre features

Family Centre includes features such as allowing you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content. Snapchat have also published a safety checklist to help support conversations about how to use Snapchat safely:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

New safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The first feature is in-app warnings so a pop-up warning will now be displayed if someone tries to add them as a friend that they don't have mutual contacts with, or the person isn't in their contacts.

The second feature is 'stronger friending protections.' Currently 13-17-year-olds must have several mutual friends in common for that user to show up in search results or as a friend suggestion, but this number has been increased. **These two features are available to users aged 13-17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from any such features.**

<https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/new-safeguards-for-snapchatters-2023>

Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It can be difficult to keep up to date with new technologies and to know if there are any related risks that we need to be aware of when using new technologies. AI is being talked about a lot, so it is worthwhile learning more about it now to help support/answer questions if our children show an interest. Twinkl provide a brilliant overview of AI here:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/parents-guide-top-tips-for-navigating-generative-ai-safely-with-kids>