

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.

We hope you and your family enjoyed a very happy Christmas.

*We wish you all a wonderful 2024,
and look forward to seeing you again on
Thursday 4th January 2024.*



PREES SCHOOL NEWS

Monday 1st January	Bank Holiday—children not in school
Tuesday 2nd January	Children not in school
Wednesday 3rd January	PD Day—children not in school Holiday Club 9am—3pm
Thursday 4th January	Spring Term begins—children return to school Outdoor Learning Nursery and Reception Class
Friday 5th	Outdoor Learning Year 1 PE lessons will resume during the week beginning 8th January. Can children come to school in Outdoor Learning clothes (a long sleeved top, long trousers, wellies and a waterproof coat). Thank you.

Fundraising

Thank you so much to everyone who supported various events before Christmas.

The following amounts were raised:

School Disco—£275.85

Thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard with the organisation for the disco and for everyone's help for the event.

Raffle—£558.61

Thank you to everyone for donating prizes for the raffle and for purchasing tickets.

The collection at our Carol Service raised an amazing £143.92 which has been donated to Hope House—thank you so much for your support.

*** 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 via the school office or email: learningmentor@prees.shropshire.sch.uk

Child absence

Can you please telephone school (01948 840209) by 9.30am if your child is unwell. If leaving a message, can you please provide the exact reason why your child is absent. Thank you.

Piano Lessons

Piano lessons will restart on Wednesday 10th January 2024.



Dates for your Diary

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

Swimming Sessions

Swimming sessions during the Spring Term will commence on Wednesdays for children in Silver Birch Class (Year 3) and Thursdays for children in Maple Class and Oak Class (Years 4 and 5). Letters will follow shortly will details and consent slips. Thank you.



SCHOOL DINNERS

Hot school meals are available daily at a cost of £2.35 (£1.65 for Nursery children) and payable via sQuid. Please ensure that your sQuid catering purses are kept in credit as far as possible. Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Please visit the site below to check if you are eligible to apply.

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

sQuid - our online payment system in school

sQuid is our online payment system that is 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.

If your child is just starting our school you will receive a code during their first week enabling you to set up an account. Your child will still be able to have a lunch or stay to Breakfast or Wrap Around Club (from 3 years old) whilst a code is being allocated to you. Children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

If you are not yet using or have mislaid your sQuid code please contact the office.

MESSAGING

Most communications are now being sent by email or text via sQuid. Please make sure that we have the most up to date contact information for you. Please let us know of any changes to your key details. As a matter of routine, any injury above the neck means that a text is sent home as well as the 'bump note'. All other minor accidents will be recorded and a note sent home with your child.

If anything is considered more serious than a minor injury we will always telephone 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 stay hydrated throughout the day.



Thank you.

Homework on Seesaw

Your child's homework is accessed via our online Seesaw program.

Spellings and homework are set on Seesaw each week. If your child is just starting at our school they will bring login details home during their first week.

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

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 can you please let Mrs Powell, Learning Mentor know the days you are free to volunteer at learningmentor@prees.shropshire.sch.uk

Thank you.



Toast

Toast is available to the children every playtime at a cost of 10p per slice, this is payable via sQuid. 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 be ordering without you knowing. ****

Children are welcome to bring healthy snacks into school such as raw vegetables, fruit etc. to eat at playtime. 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

Breakfast Club and Wrap Around Club

We have a daily Breakfast Club (during term time) from 8am. 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 sQuid. 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 sQuid. A light 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. Thank you.

Twitter

Our school has a twitter account @preesschool. We use the account to share some of the amazing things that the children undertake in school. The account is private, but if you would like to follow our account then please request this and as long as we are sure who you are then your request will be accepted.



**** 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:

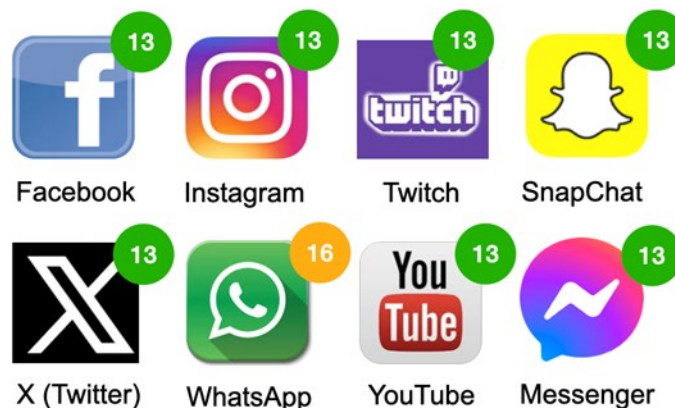
<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/available-support/>

Scroll down and click on Primary.

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>

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/>



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

spa dental
Whitchurch

NHS children's appointments

- ◆ General dentistry
- ◆ Oral health education
- ◆ Saturday opening
- ◆ After-school appointments



Scan & Book your Appointment Here

Corser House, 17 Green End,
Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1AD

www.spadental.co.uk/contact

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>

Shropshire
family
Information Service

Info, advice and support,
for families in Shropshire

Find us on:

