

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 16th December	~ Christmas Journey Day with Christingle Service All children to come to school in school uniform
Tuesday 17th December	~ Christmas Lunch and parties everyone welcome to wear a Christmas jumper ~ Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are having an extra special forest school on Tuesday morning. Could the children please come to school wearing forest school trousers or waterproof trousers and bring school trousers/skirts to change into for lunch and the parties ~ Nursery Nativity for families 2pm in the hall ~ Friend of Prees School Elfridges (please see poster attached for more details)
Wednesday 18th December	~ PE - Year 2 , Year 4 and Year 5 ~ Stay, Play and Chat 9am –10.30am ~ Christmas Choir performance at Elmhurst
Thursday 19th December	~ PE - Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6 Swimming has finished for this term.
Friday 20th December	~ Last day of the Autumn Term ~ PE - Reception, Year 2 and Year 4

Please can children come to school in their PE kit on PE days and bring a spare pair of socks to change into as the grass can be wet. Can children come to school in Outdoor Learning clothes (a long sleeved top, long trousers, wellies and a waterproof coat) on Outdoor Learning days. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Monday 16th December	Christmas Journey Day with Christingle Service
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch and parties - children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper Nursery Nativity for families – 2 p.m. in the hall Friends of Prees School Elfridges—Christmas Shopping for the Children—(please see attached poster for details)
Friday 20th December	Break up for Christmas Holiday
Monday 6th January	Children return to school

Our Carol Service

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Carol Service and a coffee and mince pie in school after the service.

The children again shone through as the stars they are. Thank you so much for your support with the Christmas Hamper Raffle you raised an amazing £610.



Friends of Prees School Disco

It was a fantastic, fun-filled evening with children looking amazing in their disco clothes. Thank you to everyone who supported the event, the children who danced the night away, and to the volunteers who gave their time to make it such a success for the children.



Swimming Sessions for Year 3 and Year 4

Swimming sessions begin for children in Year 3 and Year 4 for 10 weeks on Thursday 9th January 2025 until 20th March (with no swimming on February 20th).



**** Attendance ****

There is currently a Government drive to improve attendance in all schools. Our school is no exception. Measures that are currently in place are:

1. The holiday code for attendance has been removed and there is an expectation that headteachers will not authorise holiday requests and any unauthorised requests will be fined.
2. The procedure for the Education Welfare Officer becoming involved with children's attendance has become a much shorter process.

We understand that children do have illnesses but wanted to explain that the Education Welfare Officer linked to our school is monitoring attendance much more closely.

Child Absence

Please telephone school (01948 840209) by 9.00 am 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 9.30am we will text you and then follow-up with a telephone call if we have still not heard from you by lunchtime.

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.

MESSAGING

Most communications are sent by email 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. 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 your child can remain hydrated throughout the day.



Coat and wellies

Can we please ask that during the cold weather your child brings a coat, and wellies (if they do not already have a pair in school) to school each day.

We like to take the children out at playtimes whenever the weather allows. Thank you.



Facebook and Twitter

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

We also have a twitter account @preesschool. 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.

We use the accounts to share some of the amazing things that the children undertake in school.

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 our **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.

Important message

'Due to a recent change in policy, sQuid will now be penalising school for the dinner money arrears in each child's dinner money purse. Consequently, ALL dinners must be paid in advance or on the day they are taken.

From Monday 25th November, children will not be able to order a school meal if they are more than one meal in arrears.

If your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, please can you also check your child's account as those ordering toast will be charged 10 p per day.

Please can all parents check their sQuid catering purse as a matter of urgency and clear any arrears and consider putting 'auto top up' in place. Auto top up will automatically top up your child's catering purse if the credit falls below a preset amount.

We appreciate your help with this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office, if you have any queries.

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 don't 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.

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/>



Tips to help you talk about cyberbullying

Internet Matters have collated their tips to help you talk about cyberbullying with your child based on different age categories. The information is divided into four sections:

- Before you start the conversation
- Things to talk to them about such as how to deal with cyberbullying
- What to do next
- Where to get further help

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/cyberbullying-conversation-starter-guide>

Positively online

The NSPCC have published six tips to help you improve your family's online wellbeing. They also provide you with a guide on how to talk to your child about what they are doing online as well as a quiz that you can play together. You can find out more here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>

Roblox

You may have seen the recent investigation about Roblox by Hindenburg, which highlights very worrying concerns about the content that can be seen on Roblox, even when users have listed their age as under 13. You can read the full report here: <https://hindenburgresearch.com/roblox/>

What is Roblox?

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls.

PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is difficult to rate due to the huge level of user generated content.

What should I be aware of?

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child.

Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other. You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

Age Categories

This article discusses the difference in accounts based on age (under age 13 and aged 13 – 17):

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428367965460-What-happens-as-I-get-older-on-Roblox>

Roblox accounts with Parental privileges - NEW

Roblox have just launched a new system to manage your child's experience on Roblox through 'Roblox accounts with parent privileges.' The new format allows you to view and update parental controls from your own device. Controls include setting content restrictions, managing screen time and setting a spending limit. You can find out more here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428248050068-Parental-Controls-FAQ>

Content Labels - NEW

Roblox have begun labeling experiences based on the type of content rather than by age. You can set limits on which content labels are accessible in parental controls. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted. You can find descriptions of each here: <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

