

# 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 17th March

PE - Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6

Tuesday 18th March

PE - Nursery, Reception and Year 1

Wednesday 19th March

PE - Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6

Stay, Play and Chat 9am - 10.30am in the Hall

Thursday 20th March

Swimming Year 3 and Year 4

PE - Year 1 and Year 2

Outdoor Learning Nursery and Reception Class

Friday 21st March

Comic Relief — Non-uniform Wear something **red** for a voluntary donation

PE - Reception and Year 4

Outdoor Learning Year 1 and Year 2

*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.*



## Holiday Club



Holiday club will run again during the Easter holidays on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th April and Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th April for children aged 3 - 11 years.

Cost £12 per day from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Children will need to bring a packed lunch and a water bottle.

Bookings will shortly be made available on ParentPay. Parents/Carers using the Childcare Scheme/ Vouchers should book by emailing [knight.j@prees.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:knight.j@prees.shropshire.sch.uk)

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day 2025

Friday 21st March

Non-uniform - **come to school wearing something red**

A voluntary donation if you are able, to support incredible projects which help children to be happier, families stronger, women safer, communities prouder, and millions of lives fairer.



Join the Class of 2025!

Junior Bake Off

...is looking for brilliant bakers, ages 9 - 15 for the next new and exciting series! Applications close Sunday 23rd March [applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)



### 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.



### Dates for your Diary

<b>Wednesday 19th March</b>	<b>Play, Stay and Chat 9am - 10.30am (in the hall)</b>
Friday 21st March	Comic Relief - Red Nose Day
<b>Saturday 22nd March</b>	<b>Clive Cross Country</b>
Wednesday 2nd April	Early Help Coffee and Chat 12noon - 3pm Everyone welcome Play, Stay and Chat 9am - 10.30am (in the hall)
<b>Monday 7th April</b>	<b>Easter Journey Day</b> <b>Easter Service at St Chad's Church at 2pm</b>
Friday 11th April	Break up for Easter holidays
<b>Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April and Tuesday 22nd April - Thursday 24th April</b>	<b>Holiday Club</b>
Monday 28th April	Children return to school
<b>Monday 5th May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday - children not in school</b>
Tuesday 6th May	Children return to school

### 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 9.00am 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 is then 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.

### 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.

### **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.

Any queries please contact Mrs Powell. Thank you.

### **Free School Meals**

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits.

Children in Nursery to Year 6  
may be eligible

Please visit the site below to check if you are eligible to apply

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

Thank 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 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.

### **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 and 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.

### 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 it is winter you may see more delays in getting responses.

The good news is that there is help available.

The website: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/](http://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/>



Shropshire family Information Service  
Info, advice and support, for families in Shropshire

Find us on:



### 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>

### 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.

## Talk PANTS with the NSPCC

Talk PANTS was developed to help you have conversations with your child to help them understand that their body belongs to them.

You can find out more here as well as a further link to helpful questions:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

## The impact of smartphones

There is a growing concern on how excessive use of smartphones can affect our children.

In addition to the effects of seeing inappropriate content online, the risk of cyberbullying and grooming, it is important that we also highlight the effects of smartphone use on our children's mental health.

If your child is using a smartphone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit.

According to King's College London, "two new studies of smartphone habits in teenagers have identified links between problematic smartphone use and depression, anxiety and insomnia." You can read more about these studies here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-down>

Compass have published an article as well on what effects mobile phones have on children here:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)

### What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to increase, and examples include:

**Virtual assistants** like Alexa and Siri.

**Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat

### Potential Risks of AI?

**Chat apps** - A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of apps already available and just scrolling through, you can see that they are not suitable for children with many rated as 17+.

**Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.

**Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos which can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

Child Rescue Coalition discuss the dangers in more detail here:

<https://childrescuecoalition.org/educations/the-dark-side-of-ai-risks-to-children/>

### How can I protect my child?

As always, to keep your child safe online, it is important to:

Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.

Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.

Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

### Further information

For further information, the NSPCC and Internet Matters provide useful guides on their websites:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>