

# 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 20th April**

**PE - Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6**

**Tuesday 21st April**

**PE - Nursery, Reception and Year 1**

**Swimming - Year 5**

**SATs Club for children in Year 6**

**Wednesday 22nd April**

**Play, Stay and Chat in the hall 9am - 10.30am**

**PE - Year 2 and Year 3**

**Thursday 23rd April**

**Swimming - Reception and Year 1**

**PE - Year 2 and Year 4**

**Friday 24th April**

**PE - Year 5 and Year 6**

**Outdoor Learning - Year 1**

Can children please come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE. Can they please bring an extra pair of socks as their feet can get wet if on the field. Thank you.

## Attendance

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. 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.

## 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 the 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 the **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.

### Dates for your Diary

|                                                             |                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 22nd April                                        | Play, Stay and Chat 9am—10.30am in the hall                                  |
| <b>Saturday 25th April</b>                                  | <b>Shrewsbury Half Marathon for children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6</b>       |
| Wednesday 29th April                                        | Play, Stay and Chat 9am—10.30am in the hall                                  |
| <b>Monday 4th May</b>                                       | <b>Bank Holiday — Children not in school</b>                                 |
| Wednesday 6th May                                           | Play, Stay and Chat 9am—10.30am in the hall                                  |
| <b>Monday 11th May</b>                                      | <b>Year 6 SATs week</b>                                                      |
| Wednesday 13th May                                          | Play, Stay and Chat 9am—10.30am in the hall                                  |
| <b>Tuesday 19th May</b>                                     | <b>Open afternoon for families to view children's home learning projects</b> |
| Wednesday 20th May                                          | Play, Stay and Chat 9am—10.30am in the hall                                  |
| <b>Thursday 21st May</b>                                    | <b>Last day of half term</b>                                                 |
| Friday 22nd May                                             | PD Day - children not in school ( <b>Holiday Club will be available</b> )    |
| <b>Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May - Half Term break</b>    |                                                                              |
| <b>Tuesday 26th May to Thursday 28th May - Holiday Club</b> |                                                                              |
| Monday 1st June                                             | Children return to school                                                    |
|                                                             | Trinity Journey Day                                                          |

### MESSAGING

**Most communications are sent by email or text via ParentPay. Please make sure that you have registered via the details sent home to ensure you receive notifications, letters and news.**

**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 contact you.**

### 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 becomes 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.**

### **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

localOffer@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 can help you.**

**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>**




# COFFEE & CHAT

## Wem

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month  
13.00-14.45

Wem Library, 3 High St, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5AA

You can get free information, advice and support on all aspects of family life, at our Early Help Family Drop-In. You can chat, have a coffee and see how we can help. We support families with children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities) We aim to make it easier for you to ask for help and get support when you need it.

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED**  
**\*PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SEALED CUP/TRAVEL MUG\***





[shropshire.gov.uk/early-help](http://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help)



# Kids

## Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service

Kids offer warm, supportive services for parent carers and families of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities across Shropshire. We help provide families with practical tools, emotional support and confidence to help families thrive.

### SEND Sleep Workshop

We invite you to join us for a sleep workshop.

These are held by trained sleep practitioners offering support, advice and guidance for your child/young persons sleep issues.

The workshop consists of :

- Science of sleep
- Potential Triggers causing sleep issues
- Strategies and bedtime routines
- Natural production of melatonin
- Physical and Emotional wellbeing

**Friday 8th May 2026**  
**9.30-11.30am**  
**Online Workshop**



**Kids** Disabled children say we can

Registered office: 249 Birmingham Road, Wyde Green, Sutton Coldfield B72 1EA  
Company limited by guarantee no: 1346252  
Registered charity number: 275535

If you wish to attend, please book a place via phone or email.

**Tel: 01743 644506**  
**Email: [kids.shropshire@kids.org.uk](mailto:kids.shropshire@kids.org.uk)**

## New junior parkrun Whitchurch

"Our Volunteer team has been working hard to bring a weekly 2k junior parkrun to Jubilee Park in Whitchurch.

Since our last update earlier this month we have held our second core team meeting, celebrated our funding donation successes, walked through the park discussing and risk assessing suitable routes and agreed the next steps.

Whilst we have made great progress so far, we simply need, and would love more of you to get involved and join us. The foundations are in place, now we need the Volunteers to make it sustainable and make a lasting impact. By helping set up a local event, you're creating a free, inclusive space where children can build confidence, friendships, a love of exercise and the outdoors. But it's not all about the children. You will discover a network of like-minded Volunteers united by positivity and community spirit. New friendships are guaranteed.

Whether you want to marshal, organise or cheer, your time and enthusiasm will help shape happier and healthier futures for local children and their families.

You can get in contact by email: [sally.mcdonald@parkrun.com](mailto:sally.mcdonald@parkrun.com)

Or..... Come and meet us and have a chat at Whitchurch Food and Drink Festival, Jubilee Park, Saturday 16th May 2026, 10 a.m. onwards. Look out for our stall by the junior parkrun flag.

We look forward to meeting you."

## Fake or Real? Know the Deal

Essex Police have launched a groundbreaking AI Safety Campaign in partnership with BT and EE to tackle the growing risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) misuse and deepfake technology. This is the first time a UK police force is working directly with a global technology firm to provide practical advice to parents, guardians and young people.

AI technology offers incredible opportunities, but it also introduces serious risks when misused. Deepfake content – highly convincing, fabricated images or videos – can be used to exploit young people, sometimes without their knowledge. Artificially generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is one of the fastest-emerging crimes Essex Police is actively investigating.

The campaign is designed to help you understand:

What deepfakes are and why they matter

How to protect children from online harm

What to do if an image is misused

Further information

Find out more here, including advice on how to protect your child:

<https://eephonesmart.co.uk/fake-or-real>

## How to set up parental controls on ChatGPT

Internet Matters have published an article detailing how you can link your own account to your child's account (they must be logged in) to set parental controls on ChatGPT.

You can read the article here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/chatgpt-parental-controls/>

## WhatsApp update: Parent-Managed Accounts

WhatsApp have announced that they are rolling out the option of Parent-Managed accounts for those under the age of 13. The settings will include allowing you to choose who can contact your child and ensuring only you can add them to groups. Find out more here:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

Whilst, these features could be useful, it is important to emphasise that just because the option now exists, WhatsApp may still not be an appropriate platform for your child to be on. We often receive reports of issues, particularly with group chats on WhatsApp. Wayne Denner (online safety trainer) explains more here: <https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-parent-managed-accounts-what-parents-need-to-know/>

## AI and homework

AI can be a useful tool for helping children with homework both in understanding a topic and for research. However, please remember that it should not be used to complete tasks as this would constitute plagiarism.

## 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?



Facebook



Instagram



Twitch



SnapChat



X (Twitter)



WhatsApp



YouTube



Messenger