



PRIORSLEE ACADEMY

Head of School: Mrs J Cooper

Priorslee Avenue, Priorslee, Telford TF2 9RS
Telephone: 01952 387927

School Business Manager: Miss J Hart

e-mail: joanne.hart@taw.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr S Tilley

9th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year Two are currently rehearsing in the hall, and it is feeling rather Christmassy! We now have all three Christmas trees up around school, which are sparkling and making it feel rather festive!

The children look fabulous in their Christmas Jumpers, and I believe they have had a fabulous time during their Santa Dashes today. Miss Brown has created a certificate for each child, and we hope they enjoyed their day! Don't forget you can donate to Save the Children if you wish via: [Jodie Cooper is fundraising for Save the Children \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com) Thank you to everyone who has donated so far - we really appreciate your generosity!

Our Pre-School children started the week off for us, with their beautiful first nativity. They sang beautifully and made everyone smile with how well they behaved and how brave they all were performing in front of an audience. They also seemed to thoroughly enjoy the mince pies and chocolates, which were kindly provided by Mrs Harper. Well done to the Pre-School team for organising such a wonderful morning. We were joined by Priorslee Care Home, who brought several residents to the performance - it was wonderful to share the Christmas spirit!

Our Reception children then participated in a Pop-Up Nativity, with Reverend Lisa reading the Christmas story. The children 'popped up' when their character was mentioned. We had numerous angels, donkeys and even two Marys. It was wonderful for the children to participate, and for them to be able to choose their own character. The children then performed songs, including a large number with Makaton. They were truly fabulous and were once again very brave to perform in front of such a large audience.

Next week, our Year One and Two children will be performing to their families, and I cannot wait to see them perform. We will be selling raffle tickets for £1 per strip at the beginning of the performances, for a chance to win a hamper, so don't forget to bring cash if you wish to purchase tickets.

This week our Year Two, Three, Four and Five children watched the Christmas Pantomime at Theatre Severn. It was wonderful to see so many of our children enjoying themselves and laughing and singing. Thank you once again to Miss Hart for her amazing organisational skills!

You will have obviously seen the news relating to Strep A and Scarlet Fever, and then our own text messages alerting you to confirmed and suspected cases in school. It has felt a little bit like we had gone back in time to last year as we have been working closely with the Health Protection Hub to seek guidance about the next steps. We have increased the cleaning measures, as we did during the pandemic, and Stuart, our phenomenal caretaker will be fogging the entire school tonight, ready for Monday morning. Staff are remaining vigilant, and we have also sent the symptoms for you to watch out for this week.

If you are concerned about your child having any symptoms of Strep A or scarlet fever, you should seek advice from your GP. [Group A Strep - What you need to know - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk):

The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature, a sore throat and swollen neck glands (a large lump on the side of your neck).



A rash appears 12 to 48 hours later. It looks like small, raised bumps and starts on the chest and tummy, then spreads. The rash makes your skin feel rough, like sandpaper. The rash will be less visible on darker skin but will still feel like sandpaper. More information on scarlet fever can be found on the NHS website, including photos.

What should parents look out for?

It's always concerning when a child is unwell. GAS infections cause various symptoms such as sore throat, fever, chills and muscle aches.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is 3 to 6 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing - you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Any child with Strep A, or Scarlet Fever cannot attend school unless they have had anti-biotics for 24 hours, as they are contagious for 2 - 3 weeks without antibiotic treatment. Health Protection Hub have advised that if children are diagnosed with scarlet fever, and do not have antibiotics, they should not attend school for 2 weeks.

On a more positive note, next week is our last week before we finish for the Christmas holidays. On Friday, the children can come in Mufti (non-uniform), and they are able to bring a toy. Please ensure that whatever they bring is not electronic, very expensive, very precious or with twelve thousand small pieces that can be easily lost by small children!

On Wednesday, our fabulous FOP have organised a Christmas Fayre, which will be taking place on the school car park and in the hall from 5pm. At 6pm, St Peter's Church will be joining us, alongside the Salvation Army for a Carol Service. We would love if you could join us. You will be able to meet Father Christmas. FOP will also be selling hot dogs and mulled wine and other refreshments, along with a range of games and crafts to participate in. We hope you are able to join us and join a truly magical event. It was wonderful last year, with lots of families bringing torches and lanterns and wrapping up warmly. There really isn't anything quite as special as a brass band at Christmas with carol singing..

The weather forecast is set to be rather cold. With this in mind **you may wish to send your child in with NAMED snowboots/wellies, or sensible outdoor footwear, which they can change into when they go outside or for when they are coming into school.** Please can you also ensure all hats, gloves and scarves are named, as we always seem to have about two hundred single gloves at the end of the holidays, without names in. I have also gathered a large box of unnamed uniform, which I will pop by the Christmas tree in the main entrance. Please help yourself before I donate any unclaimed items to Telford Crisis.

In other news, we are extremely excited to announce that Mrs Bailey in Chestnut Class is expecting her first baby, and it is due in May! The baby bug has truly hit Priorslee this year!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Many thanks,

Mrs Cooper
Head of School

