



PRIORSLEE ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Our children looked fabulous today dressed for NSPCC Number Day. It has been lovely to see so many maths activities being carried out this morning, and lots of practical games. The children have thoroughly enjoyed challenging themselves and explaining their outfits.

Our children in the choir have thoroughly enjoyed participating in a Singing Workshop this morning, which was organised by Mrs Bailey. It was fascinating to listen to the different warm-ups and vocal activities.

The building work is progressing, and it has been fascinating the children. Our Pre-School children now know the team on a first name basis and have been asking lots of questions about next steps and about what the different pieces of equipment do.

Miss Brown and Miss Biddulph are taking a group of our footballers to play against Redhill tonight - we wish them the best of luck in their matches!

We have been alerted to inappropriate content being shared and inappropriate language being used by our pupils on WhatsApp groups. This seems to mostly be between Year Six pupils. The legal age to use WhatsApp is 16. As with ANY app, it requires careful monitoring, as our children are often more confident with technology than we may be - you can use this guide to support you when checking WhatsApp ([Helping your child with WhatsApp - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)). We have been told about children deleting messages before their parents check their phones. Please ensure you are checking your child's devices regularly. I have been horrified to read in the press about children encouraging others to eat food they are allergic to. Bullying and peer pressure can happen on social media and technology, more so than potentially face to face, and in comparison to many years ago where children would not have been able to interact with each other at home, technology lets others into their homes, and bedrooms and even when parents believe they are not accessing devices.



Safer Internet Day is next Tuesday, and we will be welcoming PC Karl Jolly to school to talk to the children about using devices and the internet. This is in addition to the regular internet safety sessions we hold in computing. I often find Safer Internet Day extremely alarming, as it can highlight

- how many children talk to strangers on games,
- the potential for strangers following children on social media,
- how many children play on violent or sexual 16+ and 18+ games,
- how many children have their own Tik Tok accounts (a 13+ app) where strangers can see the children in their bedrooms.

Please take time to read Miss Biddulph's letter about how to help your child stay safe in a digital age.

Next week is mental health week and you will be receiving a letter about this from Mrs Bagshaw on Monday.

Finally, to end on a very positive note our lovely Miss Richards in Year One is getting married today and she will be coming back on Monday as Mrs Jones. We wish the newly weds a lifetime of happiness!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Many thanks,

Mrs Cooper

Head of School