



PRIORSLEE ACADEMY

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10th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today has been filled with Christmas Jumpers, lots of physical activity and lots of sparkles and positivity! We feel very fortunate that the plan we put in place for September has meant very little change for the children, even with the increased restrictions, so this week has continued to feel full of Christmas cheer!

Our Friday Crossbar Coaching sessions have also been extremely positive. Mr Gibson has brought in a gigantic speaker, so it has created a very active party atmosphere on the MUGA today! We hope all of the children have enjoyed participating in the Santa Dash and that they cherish their medals. Even our youngest members of school community participated in a follow the leader Santa Dash with staff from our Two Room and Pre-School.

This afternoon our choir are going to Priorslee Care Home with Mrs Bailey to perform to residents and staff. The children have been working very hard with Mrs Bailey to learn the songs, and I was very fortunate to manage to sneak into their rehearsal this morning and they sounded wonderful!

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Reverse Advent Calendar, it has been lovely to see so many items coming in, and we will be dropping these off next week to the care home.

We have also welcomed parents and carers to participate in our Pop-Up Nativity with our Reception children, and it was wonderful to see them all dressed up. Next week we will be welcoming the parents and carers from Year One and Two to watch the performances in the hall. We ask that anyone who has booked tickets please **takes a lateral flow test before the performance** and **wears a mask throughout the performance**. We will be opening the windows for ventilation, so you may need to wear layers!

As a school, we have been working extremely hard to promote equality and diversity and our children to be confident, well-rounded adults in the future. Unfortunately, despite lots of work in class, extra workshops and assemblies, we are still having a number of incidents involving children using inappropriate language or unkind words about other children's ethnicity or religion. If this is something you would like to talk to your child about at home you can find lots of helpful information on: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/>, <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/talking-to-your-kids-about-racism>, and <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/talking-your-children-about-racism>. We are continuing to work with our wonderful families in our school community and with the Multi-Cultural and Diversity Team at Telford and Wrekin to discuss, explore and celebrate our children's diversity!

We have also had a number of parents asking for advice about who to talk to when their child is struggling with anxiety or is feeling low. I feel that it is extremely important to recognise our mental health needs, as much as we would our medical needs. At school, we have the wonderful Mrs Richens who is extremely experienced and supports our children in our Nurture Hub, and we also now have the fabulous Mrs Shepherd who is fully trained as a ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), which means that she can work with children to teach them about expressing their emotions, and help to relieve anxiety. If you feel your child would benefit from working with either of these wonderful ladies, please don't hesitate to email me: Jodie.Cooper@taw.org.uk

You can also access BEAM, online counselling sessions, which are delivered by qualified mental health practitioners. You can self-refer your child via: <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/young-people/well-being/services/beam-shropshire-telford-wrekin>.

I think it is extremely important that we recognise our own mental health needs, teach our children the need to reflect when we're not feeling 'great' and give them the tools to support them to feel more positive!

Many thanks,

Mrs Cooper
Head of School

