



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Hoe Lane

Ware, Herts

SG12 9NX

Tel: 01920 462210

Email: admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

I trust that you and your families had a pleasant half term break, even though the weather was not kind to us. I would like to thank Miss Haywood and her team for successfully getting more than 100 students through their DoE Gold practice and Bronze qualifying expeditions over half term. We are pleased that we have been able to continue delivering this important award.

COVID

A reminder that **under no circumstances** should a student be sent into school if they, or anyone in their household, have symptoms and/or are waiting for a test result to come back. It is imperative that this guidance is followed. **You must** inform us if your child has symptoms or has a test result pending.

We are aware that circumstances may have changed for families during the current crisis. If you wish to apply for financial help, such as free school meals, this can be done quickly online by clicking [here](#).

As we have now gone into national lockdown, the guidance which was published late on Wednesday afternoon highlights a few changes for schools (some of which we already have in place)

Face coverings

- Face coverings will be mandatory in communal areas of secondary schools and colleges. They will still not be recommended in classrooms
- Face coverings will be mandatory for students in Year 7 and over on dedicated school transport

Clinically extremely vulnerable staff and students

- Both staff and students who have been identified by their doctor as still considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), will be advised not to come into school or college
- Students and staff who live with people who are CEV, but are not CEV themselves, are still expected to come into school or college

Curricular and extracurricular activities

- PE, sport, music, dance and drama lessons can continue in line with the current guidance – during school time only (During lessons, break and lunch times)
- Schools must only provide team sports listed on the return to recreational team sport framework. Competition between different schools or colleges should not take place
- Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so
- After-school clubs can only continue if their primary purpose is childcare. So wraparound care in a primary school would be fine, but a Year 8 after-school football club would not. However, any activities which are focused on education or training, including 1:1 or group tuition, catch-up clubs, revision clubs, etc. can still go ahead e.g. After school homework club
- The current series of exam resits should continue

Non-uniform day Friday 23rd October

Thank you for the donations which we received for our non-uniform day, which came to £1,312. Half of this money goes to the school council and the other half to our school charity, Herts Young Homeless. Due to not wanting to take in cash in school, we set up the payment on Wisepay. There may have been some teething problems with this, as over 500 students did not contribute, which is unusual at Presdales. We have kept the system open until Monday in case those who did not contribute would still like to. There will also be a collection box in reception for those who can only contribute by cash; then money will be counted at the end of the week. Thank you to those parents who made multiple £2.00 donations (I trust that was intentional!).

Breaktime food

As from Monday, we will be opening the canteen at breaktime for students to purchase snacks. However, each year group will only be able to do this once per week as we will keep them in their bubbles.

Monday	Year 10/11
Tuesday	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 12/13
Thursday	Year 7
Friday	Year 9

We are still using a large amount of throwaway cutlery each day. I would be grateful if parents could purchase reusable cutlery that their child can bring in each day e.g. [all-in one cutlery](#).

PressTales

The latest PressTales can be found on our website [here](#).

Netflix - /the social dilemma

As we seemingly have more time at the weekend for the next four weeks you may want to watch '/the social dilemma' with your children. It is a documentary-drama hybrid from Netflix and 'explores the dangerous human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations'. One of the people who takes part in the programme is ex-Google design ethicist Tristan Harris. He began to worry about the ethics of modern technology in 2013, and has since then has created the Center for Humane Technology. The organisation has some resources for teachers and parents to use when discussing this film which you can find [here](#).

I did find the pace of the programme slow, but it's worth persevering with.

I hope that you all have a pleasant weekend.

Kind regards

Matt Warren
Headteacher