



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the penultimate edition of the Link for autumn term. There is a perception sometimes that the end of term period in schools is a time of winding down, however this week in school has seen the polar opposite!

This morning over 40 pupils and accompanying staff departed for the ski trip to Italy. Mrs Davis, trip organiser informed us that there is plenty of snow, so we wish them a safe journey and hope that they all have a fantastic time! Meanwhile, today is the final day of the year 11 mock exams with a group of GCSE art pupils sitting their mock exam. The standard of work in art is always such high quality and this year is no exception. Well done to all!

In the Creative Arts faculty, the school choir have been busy performing for local community events. Alongside the Church Stretton Christmas lights switch on, the choir supported by Ms Chapman, teacher of music has taken part in Carols in Carding Mill Valley on Monday and then entertained the residents of Ley Gardens on Wednesday, whilst some of our pupils helped to serve lunches to the residents, supported by Ms Gajny, Head of Years 8 and 10. Also this week, St Lawrence Church visited school, invited in by Ms Qyue, SENCO and member of the Senior Leadership Team to help pupils make Christingles during lunch time.

On Thursday, over 40 pupils visited Birmingham for an urban studies geography field trip, led by Mr Elkins. Pupils were excellent ambassadors of our school throughout and the visit helped to bring their learning to life. Well done to all for such a positive day out.

Finishing off the events of this week, we welcomed numerous primary school pupils to Church Stretton School to participate in a dodgeball competition. This was expertly led by Ms Dillon, School Games Organiser for South Shropshire and Mr Jew, Trusted Sports Alliance Head of Service, supported by our fantastic year 9 sports leaders as referees, coaches, scorers and timekeepers. These pupils were exceptional in their approach and attitude, working hard all afternoon to make the event so successful - well done and thank you!

Phew! A busy week indeed I am sure you will agree.

Next week we look forward to Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day on Tuesday, with celebration assemblies taking place across the week so that we can end the term with recognition of the fantastic achievements of our pupils in each year group.

Finally, and with a heavy heart, we say farewell to two members of staff at the end of term. Mr Lowe, teacher of maths and careers coordinator is leaving us for a new post in one of our other Trust secondary schools. We wish Mr Lowe well for his new post and thank him for his excellent contribution to the education and support for our pupils. Also leaving us after 13 years is Mr Clarkson, teacher of computing and science. Countless pupils will have benefitted from Mr Clarkson's teaching and I am sure that pupils and parents alike will join us in wishing him the very best for the future. Joining us in January are Mrs Williams as Head of Maths Department and Mr Mottram as teacher of computing, both experienced teachers who we look forward to welcoming to Church Stretton School.

May I remind you that we end term on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, with buses arriving for a 1:30pm departure of pupils from site.

Enjoy the weekend

John Parr Headteacher

### Next Week will be Week A

### **Tutor Time Take-away**

This weeks' focus was on start of day routines. Please do ask your child about the topic and get them to explain to you what was discussed.

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or time take-away



**Christingle and Santa Lucia** 

### **TrustEd Student Parliament**

Congratulations to Dora Turner and Thomas Wright-Smith on their election as Trust Parliament members for Church Stretton School. The Parliament represents 5000 students across the 9 schools that make up the TrustEd schools partnership.



### **Lost Property**

If your child/ren have lost any items of clothing, please ask them to check lost property in W1.

Please can we also ask parents and children to check at home whether they have the correct labelled PE kits as a few have gone missing in recent weeks.

Thank you



**Dates for your Diary** 

15th Dec - 23rd Dec - Ski Trip
19th Dec - Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
22nd Dec - Last day of term - Finish at 1.30pm
Tuesday 9th January - New Term Starts

### Pupil Absence Procedure

Please click <u>here</u> for information regarding reporting a pupil absence. Thank you.

### <u>Reminder</u>

A polite reminder that aerosols/perfumes are not allowed on school site due to respiratory

conditions.

Thank you



Please can you ensure that you top up your ParentPay account for school lunches. There is also a top up machine in the lunch hall where students can use coins or cash.

Lunch Money

Thank you.





# <u>News</u>

Please can students collect lunch passes for their PE lunch time clubs from the PE office at the start of the week. Students can then show this pass to enter the queue on first calling.

A reminder that students who cannot take part in PE should always bring <u>a note</u> and <u>their PE kit</u> to take part in other roles.

### **Sports Leadership**

We have had a very busy 2 weeks, starting off with 13 of our year 9 sports leaders planning and delivering a session of basketball for 86 KS2 pupils from 8 different schools, this session goes towards their overall sports leader's level 1 award that they are currently doing. The Ks2 children got to learn several rules of basketball and improve in their skills for dribbling and shooting. The leaders also refereed friendly games as part of the overall experience. Following that CSS hosted the year 3 4 dodgeball – this had 110 pupils and 11 teams all competing for a place in the county games in Feb, the year 9 leaders who had a challenging job to stay focused for 90 mins in what is a difficult sport to officiate did an amazing job. And well-deserved Burford and St Lawrence teams managed to be the top two placed to represent the South area!

We also had 3 year 9 leaders Izy Lowe, Ivy Goode and Rachel Beever taking part in the county leaders training day – the aim of this is to train the leaders in preparation for running the school games county day in May. The girls joined forces with other leaders from the county and were incredible not only at leading the Netball but to show confidence and teamwork with new people.

This week did not slow down, Tuesday we had a KS1 Santa workshop where 3 of our local schools – Stokesay, Longnor and Wistanstow brought 82 finely dressed pupils from year 1 and 2 to take part in lots of multi skill games based on Christmas theme, this event was led by our year 7 sports leader team, they practice and plan during Tuesday lunchtimes to run events for the KS1 pupils, once again they did not let me down, their enthusiasm, fun and kind manner with the KS1 children made for a brilliant afternoon !

Lastly this Thursday CSS hosted the year 5 6 Dodgeball again a School Games Qualifier meaning the competition was intense, we had 120 pupils from 16 teams from all over the South taking part. Our year 9 sports leaders from the sports leader course had to be in top speed for 90 mins, some of the games were so tight we had to go to extra time! With over 38 games played we finally had our top 2 teams that will represent the South – huge well done to Cleobury Mortimer and Ludlow.

In summary it has been a busy couple of weeks with 390 plus pupils from over 14 primary schools from years 1-6 taking part in events held at CSS ran by 45 of our amazing young leaders! I am very proud and ready for a break! Thanks to the support of staff for letting the leaders out to support and to the PE dept for the facilities and general support.

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Miss Dillon SGO







Winners and nominees for this week are listed below ....

### This week's winners

### KS3 Winner

Louis Asbury nominated by Mr Seager for Louis has been working extremely well in lessons and is showing an excellent knowledge and understanding of the novel 'Oliver Twist'. Well done Louis!

### KS4 Winner

Isabel Strelitz nominated by Mr Patrick for doing well in the mocks and working hard in lessons.



This week's nominations:

### **KS3 Nominations**

Student Name Nominated by		Reason for Nomination		
Mia Young	Mrs Quye	Resilience in writing assessment		
Frankie Wright	Mrs Quye	Wonderful creative writing		
Eden Pope	Mrs Quye	Amusing creative writing		
Youssef Aoufi-March	Mr Seager	Youssef has been working really well in lessons and is showing a good understanding of our set text 'Oliver Twist' Well done Youssef!		
Rosie Cashmore	Mrs Quye	Great use of language techniques in creative writing		
Harley Cooke	Mr Seager	Harley has shown a very positive attitude to his learning in English lessons this week. Well done Harley!		
Sam Cornehls	Mr Seager	Sam has worked incredibly well in lessons this week. His work has been of a high quality and shows he has a very good understanding of our set text 'Jane Eyre' Well don Sam!		
Demi Leigh-Waterfield	Miss Evans	Demie works so hard in English and has a real thoughtful approach when discussing texts. Demie is an unsung hero who quietly beavers away and never fails to produce fantastic classwork and homework. Well done Demie!		
Isabella Whale	Miss Evans	For continued hard work and effort in English. Isabella's confidence in the subject is starting to grow and she wil always give it a go. She is now more reliable regarding homework and it is clear that she doesn't like to disappoint. Well done Izzy- keep it up!		
Sophie Randles	Mrs Scott	For a positive attitude to all maths work		
Esther Scurtu	Mr Patrick	Great work in Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics - and an excellent range of knowledge.		
Benjamin Bradley	Mr Patrick	For working very diligently and hard in lessons - as well as his polite and friendly attitude.		
Elizabeth Vernon	Mr Patrick	For working very hard in RPE - as well a recognition of		

0 <u>0</u>			
Beau Salisbury	٢	<b>Miss Dillon</b>	Making a very impressive start to sports leadership -
			positive contributions

### **KS4** Nominations

Student Name	Nominated by	Reason for Nomination		
Kayla Hunt	Mr Lowe	Persistent high effort in Maths, as well as always		
		showing positivity and just being a generally great person!		
Rosie Frankel	Miss Chapman	Thank you for supporting other students and 'High School Musical' rehearsals!		
Leila Jones	Mr Balmer	Leila has had a brilliant week in English. She has worked in really hard on her English assessment and unsurprisingly, as a result she has done really well!		
Jake Edwards	Mr Balmer	Jake has an exemplary English book which shows his brilliant attitude to his studies!		
Lowri Morris	Mr Seager	Lowri has demonstrated a good understanding of the key skills required to complete an English Language Paper 1 Section A. Well done Lowri!		
Jack Wright	Mr Seager	Jack has displayed a positive attitude to his learning and is showing a good understanding of the texts studied thi week. Well done Jack!		
Denis Barker	Mrs Scott	Excellent effort and work on currency conversion		
Ruby Jammaz	Miss Evans	Continuous commitment and improvement in English. Never complains and always does as expected. Well done Ruby!		
Adam Wise	Mrs Scott	Outstanding dedication to mastering very hard algebra and overall attitude to learning.		
Finley Hall	Miss Evans	Fin's effort and progress in English is gradually improvin and this is starting to show through his examination responses and homework. Fin is always so polite and is joy to have in the room.		
Maddie Davies	Miss Evans	Maddie's hard work and contributions to English have continued to improve and she thrives on succeeding in the subject which is just lovely to see. Well done Maddie- keep up the excellent work and attitude!		
Owen Rushton	Mrs Scott	Persevering to learn Trigonometry showing a high level of resilience		
Harrison Parry	Miss Evans	For always trying so hard, never making a fuss or moaning and completing everything expected of him. A pleasure to teach!		
Aisha Raza	Mr Patrick	For doing well in the mocks and working very hard in lessons.		



# Biology: KS3 Autumn Term

What are we learning, why are we learning it and how you can support.

#### Dear Students and Parents,

The Church Stretton science department aims to help our students become scientifically literate, where they can describe, define, investigate and ultimately try to understand the world in which they live and how it works. We have been busy this term focussing on some key concepts, which, as outlined below are revisited and extended on a regularly basis. Here's a breakdown of what each year group has been getting up to this half-term alongside some useful links that will help you support their study.

### Year 7 'Working scientifically' 💥

#### Why are we studying this?

Working scientifically underpins all that we do in science with students developing their practical skills in all science topics. In this topics students are introduced to variables and why it is important to control all variables when investigating a hypothes is. Students will look at the importance of a detailed method, and why we repeat all practical work to remove anomalous results. Students will also develop graph skills, drawing lines of best fit which they will use to predict outcomes. Students will embed their working scientifically skills in all future scientific topics.

#### Links

- <u>Knowledge Organiser</u>
- Tracker sheet

### Year 9 'Adaptation and inheritance'

#### Why are we studying this?

'Adaptation and inheritance' introduces the idea of competition between species and how certain adaptations can provide one organism with an advantage over another (survival of the fittest). Students will study how organisms interact within a community, predator prey cycles and how the extinction of an organisms affects an ecosystem.

At Key Stage 4 students will develop these ideas in the module 'genetics'.

#### Links

- Knowledge Organiser
- Tracker sheet

#### How can you support?

- Below each unit description you will find links to useful resources that can be used to increase students' knowledge and help them read around the subject.
- Don't forget to look at our <u>curriculum page</u> which includes the Programme of Study and all our us eful links and resources.

### Year 8 'Reproduction'



CHURCH

STRETTON SCHOOL

Why are we studying this?

This topic will build on the Year 7 topic 'cells' where students were first introduced to specialised cells. Students will have an opportunity to learn the role these cells play in animals and plants reproduction. Throughout the topic students will learn about the male and female reproductive organs, how parts are adapted for their function, and what happens after a cell is fertilised. Students will next revisit some of the fundamental concepts again in Year 9 in the topic 'adaptation and inheritance'.

### Links

- Knowledge Organiser
- Tracker sheet

# Biology: KS4 Autumn Term

What are we learning, why are we learning it and how you can support.

GCSE biology provides students the opportunity to extend and deepen their understanding, providing a firm foundation for studying biology beyond GCSE.

### Year 10 'Genetics'

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Why are we studying this?

Animal adaptations, and the discovery of DNA will be built upon in this topic when students explore the structure of DNA and learn about the DNA code that produces our features and the processes that allow the features to be passed from parents to their offspring. Students will understand the advantages and disadvantages between sexual and asexual reproduction and the role of DNA in protein synthesis, and how mutations come about and cause genetic variation. Students will revisit and build upon many key principles listed above in their next topic 'natural selection and genetic modification'.

### Links

Knowledge Organiser Tracker sheet GCSE Bitesize Link

### **Extracurricular**



Year 11 'Animal co-ordination, control and homeostasis' and 'Exchange and transportin animals'

#### Why are we studying this?

CHURCH

STRETTON SCHOOL

The topic 'animal coordination, control and homeostasis' focusses on the endocrine system, looking at key hormones and their effects on the body. Students will discover which glands secrete hormones and how hormones are transported around the body to their target organs. Students will look at diabetes in detail and the role insulin and glucagon has on regulation blood sugar levels. Students will also focus on how the menstrual cycle is controlled by hormones and how hormones are used in contraception.

There are nearly 100,000km of blood vessels in our bodies, which interconnect the circulatory system. Exchange and transport in animals is a fascinating topic, allowing students an opportunity to revisit specialised cells and look at how organs work in conjunction with one another to form a system. Students will discover how the lungs, heart, blood vessels and blood are all adapted for their functions, and more about diffusion and how this process is integral for the movement of substance between cells.

### Links

Knowledge Organiser – Animal Coordination Knowledge Organiser – Exchange and transport Tracker sheet – Animal Coordination Tracker sheet - Exchange and transport GCSE Bitesize Link – Animal coordination GCSE Bitesize link – Exchange and transport







We were invited by Rev Steve Johnson, the Rector of Stretton, to take part in the 'Carols in Carding Mill Valley', which took place in the café on Monday 11th December.



### Work with the community

The 'Stretton School Singers' have been really busy in the lead up to Christmas, performing at a number of events in the Community. The first event was the 'Light Switch On' in the town square and the Frost Fair at the Mayfair Centre, both on Saturday 25th November.



Residents of Ley Gardens were entertained by the singers on the 13th December before their Christmas lunch and sang along to some festive favourites.

The final performance this term will take place during the school's annual Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper day, where the School Singers will be joined by Year 11 band 'Fortyfive' to provide entertainment to celebrate the end of term festivities.

St Lawrence's church came to make Christingles with our young people at lunch time.





Residents at Ley Gardens were entertained by our 'Stretton singers' on Wednesday during their Christmas lunch. A number of the children who sang with the Choir stayed to help serve Christmas lunch to the residents.

Thank you

There was lots of positive feedback from residents, who praised the beautiful harmonies of the Choir, as well as the politeness, behaviour and attitude of the children. They commented on how well the children had done in serving the food and said that they are all a credit to the school.

It was a really lovely afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by both the children and the residents at Ley Gardens.

We would also like to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone at Ley Gardens for their very kind donation to the school.

### Church Stretton School Presents HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Students involved in 'High School Musical' have been working really hard this half term, getting the show ready to go on stage in February.

The show starts when Troy Bolton, the star athlete at a small-town high school, falls for nerdy beauty Gabriella Montez at a holiday karaoke party. When they return to campus, Troy and Gabriella audition for the upcoming school musical. Meanwhile, the jealous Sharpay Evans conspires to squelch their chances. The two must struggle to make it to auditions while also meeting their existing obligations to the basketball team and the academic decathlon.

Tickets will go on sale after Christmas.



# Stretton Live Lounge

Yesterday was our second 'Stretton Live Lounge', with three bands performing from Key Stage 3. It was fantastic to see the students supporting each other, and well done to everyone who took part and came to watch.

Look out for our 'Love' themed 'Stretton Live Lounge' in February!



### What's on In Music - 18/12/23

Monday after school – Monday Night Noise

Tuesday Lunch – Choir & 'FortyFive' performing at School's Christmas lunch

Tuesday after school – High School Musical rehearsal (B9)

Practice Rooms are not available this week

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Thank you to everyone who has participated in extra curricular music events this term!

Merry Christmas



# Stretton School Big String Project

Starting in January on a Thursday lunchtime for students who already play violin, viola or cello and students who would love to learn!

© Get free loan of an instrument (unless you have your own)

© Free Group tuition © Learn to read music © Learn to play in an ensemble © Have lots of fun



*Places are limited, so if* you would like to learn violin, viola or double bass from scratch, reserve your place with Miss Chapman.



## **Online Safety Update**

Keep your child safe on YouTube



### What's the problem?

- Videos that look like they're child-friendly can include violent or disturbing content, and it's difficult for YouTube to catch all of these videos before children see them.
- Inappropriate videos may be suggested videos, or appear in search results.
- Adults may use YouTube to contact children and 'groom' them into sharing explicit pictures or videos of themselves.
- Children might see videos with extremist content.
- Children can share personal information, e.g., the street they live on or their school, which could put them in danger.

### 5 steps to take

## 1. Turn on 'restricted mode' to help hide videos that may have inappropriate content

### On the website:

- Click on the icon in the top-right corner that represents your YouTube account.
- At the bottom, click 'Restricted Mode'.
- In the top-right box that appears, click 'Activate restricted mode' to on.

### In the iPhone and iPad app:

- In the top right, tap your profile picture.
- Tap 'Settings' > 'General'.
- Tap 'Restricted Mode' on or off.

### In the Android app:

- In the top right, tap your profile picture.
- Tap 'Settings' > 'General'.
- Turn 'Restricted mode' on or off.

### 2.Keep autoplay turned off and manage recommendations

Autoplay is turned off by default for users aged 13 to 17.

To check autoplay is off, check the 'Autoplay' toggle in a video page and make sure it's toggled to off. Depending on your device, this may show in the top right of the screen, or below the video.

You can also use the 'Don't recommend channel' option to remove channels from your recommendations. To do this:

- Click the 3 dots next to a video's title.
- Select 'Don't recommend channel'.

## 3. Tell your child not to share any personal information in videos or comments

This is anything that could identify them or give away their location, like the name of the street they live on, their school's name or their school uniform.

### Check for comments on videos your child uploads

YouTube disables comments on videos of children, but videos can be missed – so do still regularly check for comments made on any videos your child shares. Look out for comments asking for specific videos or personal information.

### Flag inappropriate videos and comments to YouTube

Use the 'flagging feature' to prompt YouTube staff to check content and decide whether to block or restrict it in line with its community guidelines:

- On the page with the video, tap the 3 dots ('more') icon next to a video or comment.
- Select 'Report' (this is a flag icon in Android and iPhone and iPad apps).
- Select the reason for flagging, and provide any extra details you think will help YouTube staff.

### Sources

Reporting and enforcement, YouTube YouTube bans comments on all videos of children, BBC News Exclusive: adults using YouTube to groom children into making inappropriate videos, 4 News I'm worried about the related videos that show up next to what my kid watches on YouTube. Is there any way to filter out what shows up in that section?, Common Sense Media

Extra-curricular activities Autumn term 2023-24					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	KS4 Drama Workshop KS3 Netball- HH KS3 Boys Rugby- GK Y7 DT engineering club	Year 8 and 9 Drama Club Art Club KS3 Table Tennis - JS Volleyball- GK Fitness- HH Leadership Club- LD Orchestra – B9 - AJC	Choir – B9 – AJC KS4 Netball- HH KS4 Basketball – GK Dance Club- AB Year 7 STEM club in B3-DF & KC	Year 7 Drama Club KS3+4 Football – JS Sport Studies Catch Up- G4	KS3 film club W6 LS Sport Studies Catch up- G4- HH
			Horrible Histories W5		
After school 3.30 start	Girls Rugby –GK Hockey – MW Sport Studies Catch Up- G4 Monday Night Noise – B9 – AJC/TR	9,10 &11 Football – GK Girls Football – HH + JS X Country - YG	Netball all Years – HH + AB Gym Club – TW/AR Dungeons & Dragons Club	School Show Rehearsal (KS4) Boys Basketball – GK Sport Studies Catch Up- G4 <i>Chess Club</i> Portfolio Workshop (KS4)	School Show Rehearsal (KS4)
PE Activities Drama Activities (Studio) Art Activities (B10) Music Activities (B9) Other Activities					

# Church Stretton School Chrome book leasing programme

### Lenovo 300e Flip & Touchscreen Chromebook



#### Specification:

- AMD 3015CE Processor
- 11.6" IPS Touchscreen Display
- 4GB Memory
- 32GB SSD
- Lenovo Pen (Garaged)
- Dual Band Wireless-AC & Bluetooth
- Rugged & Flip Design (Turns into a Tablet)

The Chromebook leasing scheme was launched on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, which you will have received a letter and flyer about, which explain how the programme works, the specification of the Lenovo 300e Chromebook that is available for purchase or lease and details of how to order the device. The Lenovo 300e Chromebook's are ordered through, and supplied by, Freedom Tech, which is a technology leasing company that provides students with access to the latest devices in a way that is cost effective. Should you have any questions about the device or how the purchase/leasing scheme works please contact Freedom Tech via email: tech4learners@freedomtech.co.uk or by phone: 02038575632.

By joining this programme students will have a School ready device exclusively for their own use at home, with 3-year extended warranty, accidental damage, and theft insurance, both with £0 excess for a one-off payment of £448.65. Orders can be placed using the portal at <u>www.tech4learners.co.uk</u>, you can logon by providing your email address, the username: **CSS23** and password: **S3cure02!** The portal is open now and the deadline for orders will be Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December and the first direct debt payment will be taken on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December. We would expect delivery of the devices to be in early January.

Joining the programme is optional, we are simply offering parents/carers the chance to purchase a 'school ready' device that we know would have all the necessary software installed, antivirus protection and security settings to keep students safe. There is no financial gain to Church Stretton School from this scheme and we have worked with several technology suppliers to negotiate the most favourable price. We understand that this cost may not be easily affordable which is why a leasing option is available via monthly direct debit payments over a range of payment terms in addition to the option of outright purchase, for example 31 monthly payments of £17.02. At the end of the leasing period, you will have full ownership of the device. Further details of the programme and the payment options available can be found on the portal at <u>www.tech4learners.co.uk</u>.



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

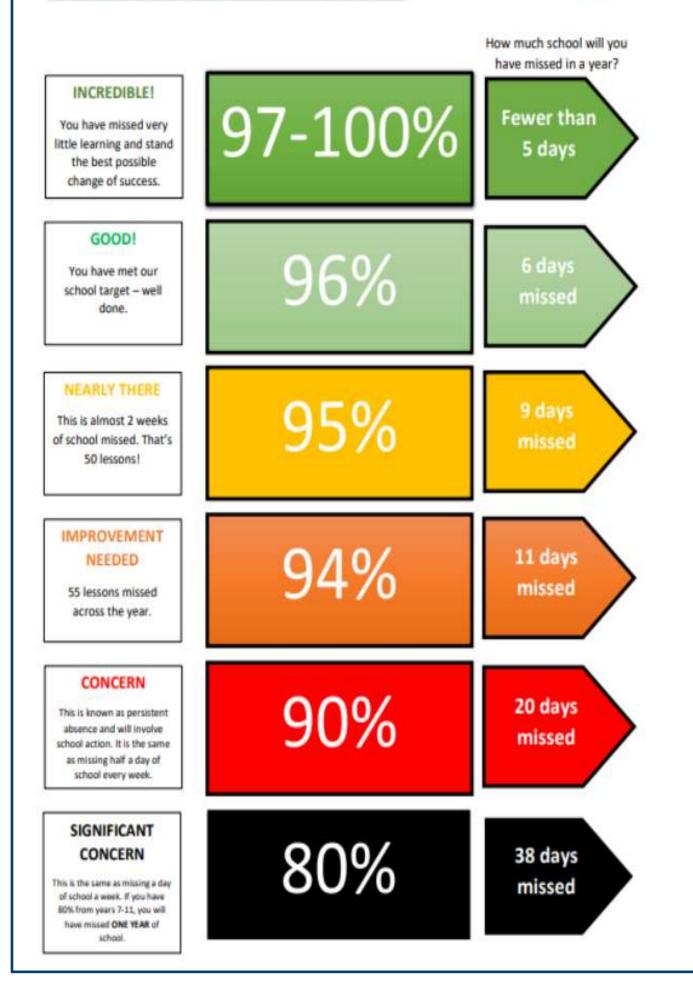
We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.



### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS





# Pick up the phone... you're not alone We'll be open throughout the festive period

Call Samaritans for free – 116 123

For anyone struggling to cope Text SHOUT – 85258

• For young people under the age of 35 or concerns a young person is thinking of suicide Call Papyrus Hopeline247– 0800 068 4141 or Text 07860 039967

 For more support and advice visit http://bit.ly/3SSbK9M

Scan me You're not alone









Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

# Ludlow Community

### Free information, advice and support

### Helena Lane House

20 Hamlet Lane, Ludlow SY8 2NP

Every Monday 9:30-11am

And

Every Wednesday 1:30 -3pm **Running from** Monday 6th November to Wednesday 20th December

You can chat, have a coffee and see how we can

- Housing support
- Children's health and wellbeing Domestic abuse support

and lots more!

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- Healthy living advice
- **Dementia support**
- Family life

- Home fire safety
- Drug & alcohol support
- **Financial advice**
- **Getting older**