



Dear parents and carers

Welcome to the first edition of The Link this academic year. It was lovely to welcome children back this week and thank you for supporting us by sending them in correct uniform and ready for learning. I must say that Year 7 have made an excellent start, quickly settling in to school life - well done!

Of course, this week's events have been overshadowed by the very sad news of the passing away of Queen Elizabeth II. This morning, pupils spent some time in tutor groups looking at the Queen's reign of over 70 years and all were exemplary during the minute of silence we held in her memory. Please rest assured that should any pupils find this period of time difficult, which is very natural, we are here to provide ongoing support where required.

Whilst it has been relatively short week for our pupils, staff have been working hard since Monday in preparation for the start of term, so that learning can take place immediately. With this in mind, we welcome several new colleagues to our school. In maths, Mr Lowe joins us from a local secondary school. Mr Lowe has also taken on the role of Careers Coordinator. In English we are delighted to welcome Miss Evans and Mr Seager. Mr Fox has joined us as our music teacher and we welcomed Mrs Hodnett as Head of PE. Finally, Ms Gajny and Mrs Fairlie have joined our science team. All colleagues are experienced teachers and we are delighted that they have joined us. Finally, Ms Dillon has joined our staff team in her role as School Games Organiser for the South Shropshire area. Welcome aboard to all!

May I now draw your attention to ongoing difficulties being experienced by Shire Services and other school catering companies. Primarily, these relate to difficulties in sourcing supplies along with the impact of increased energy costs, which are taking a significant toll. We have asked Shire Services to provide some further information for you regarding this and any potential impact on prices. However, we are grateful for the significant efforts that they continue to make to provide food for pupils at break and lunchtime.

For parents and carers of year 7, please do use the Parent Pay facility to track your child's spend at break and lunchtime. Shire Services have brought to our attention that some children may inadvertently be spending more than you would like them to, as pupils might get a bit carried away with what they can buy.

Finally, over the summer there have been significant changes to our school site to make it even better for our children and staff.

A major revamp of the quad area has resulted in a much safer and usable space for children to use; seating for children in corridor spaces to use before school and at break and lunchtime when it is wet weather has been installed in response to what pupils asked for in the pupil survey last year; new flooring, doors and windows have been fitted in several areas and many classrooms have new chairs and tables. An amazing difference in only six weeks – thank you to Mr Coleman, Site Manager and his team along with Mr Morgan, ICT Manager for this superb work!

Best wishes for a good weekend

John Parr

Headteacher

BE EQUIPPED AND READY

TO LEARN

Please can you ensure you have the right equipment for lessons.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Coloured pencils | ✓ Pen -black/blue |
| ✓ Ruler | ✓ Exercise books |
| ✓ Glue stick | ✓ Reading Book |
| ✓ Protractor | ✓ Pencil |
| ✓ Compass | ✓ Rubber |
| ✓ Scientific calculator | ✓ Pencil sharpener |
| ✓ Water bottle | ✓ Scissors |

Trips

The next instalment is due for the year 11 Berlin Trip. Please can payment be made asap. Thank you.

Medications

If your child/ren have any medical needs please can you make us aware of these and of any medication they may need to take whilst in school.

Lunch Money

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.

Upcoming Events - September

- Year 7 Kingswood Residential Trip 14th-16th September

School Uniform

Please can we remind students of the following:-

- Students are allowed natural hair colours only
- Nail varnish and false nails are not permitted
- Students are allowed to wear a watch but no other jewellery other than a single pair of studs
- Clear retainers must be used for nose piercing

Next week is

WEEK B

SEND Links

[https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/
events/](https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/)

Appointment Reminder

We appreciate that pupils may need to have appointments during the school day, please could we ask that we have prior notice and a copy of the appointment card/letter. Thank you.

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.

HOMEWORK

CLUB

In W1

3.10pm to 4.10pm

Every Tuesday

& Thursday

Condover Residential Trip

We had a fantastic time in July 2022 at Condover Hall as part of our Enrichment Week. The pupils were a delight to spend time with (even in the "loud disco"!) and were incredibly brave and supportive throughout all the activities.

A few photos have been put onto the school website and can be seen using the link below.

[Galleries | Church Stretton School](#)

We'll be having adventures and making more happy memories with our new Year 7 cohort next week at Kingswood.

Mrs Su Quye

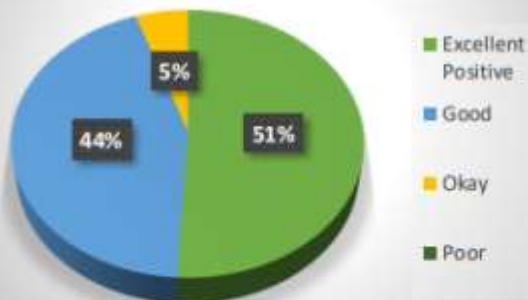
Year 7 Summer School July 2022

The staff really enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many of our new Year 7 pupils at Summer School this year. Below is a summary of the pupils' feedback, a few photos (more can be seen on the website here: [Galleries | Church Stretton School](#))

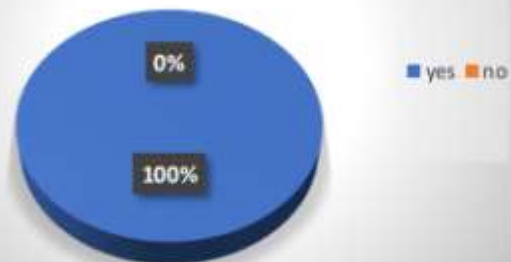
I am looking forward to spending more time with our Year 7's at the Kingswood residential next week.

Mrs Su Quye

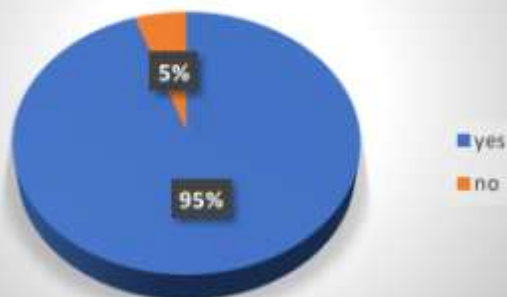
1. How was your overall experience of summer school?



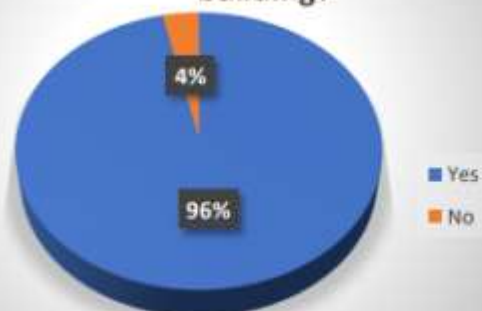
2. Do you feel more confident about coming to Church Stretton School?



3. Did you make new friends?



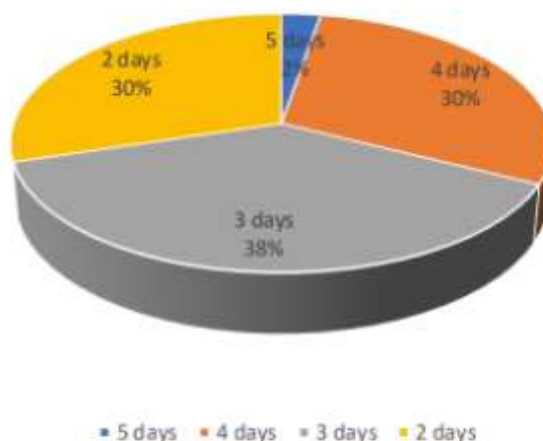
4. Do you feel more confident finding your way around the building?



5. FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES



6. How many days do you think Summer school should be?



Student Comments about Summer School

"The lessons were really good fun and the teachers were super friendly and kind."

"I'm glad I went to summer school. Now, I can't wait to start at Church Stretton School."

"It's made me much more excited about September."



Escape Room

To escape the final room and make it to school the pupils had to write a post card sharing one thing that no one else knows based on the book "Post Secret". We've kept them anonymous but, here are some of the "secrets" they shared....can you guess if one was written by someone in your family?

I stole and ate my brother's Doritos ... but told him he'd left them at the park!



I like to pick loose bits of skin off and eat them.



I broke a vase but said it wasn't me.

I play on my x box when I am supposed to be asleep.



I want to be a Blacksmith but I'm not sure how to tell everyone.



I used to wee behind the sofa when I was little.

I often think about swimming in ice cream.



I can solve a Rubix cube in under 30 seconds



I do flips off my bed even though I've been told not to!



I love the smell of petrol.



I want to be a teacher

I'd like to do a bank heist



My dog licked my tongue!



I think about
eating
laundry pods



I'd like to
own a
supercar



I've been
putting fruit
stickers under
the kitchen
counter for
two years



I paid my brother to
do my house jobs



Sometimes I don't
like my Mum's
cooking, but I don't
tell her

I go to theme
parks but am
too scared to
ride the rides



I'd like to be my dog
for a day



Our use of IT at Church Stretton School has developed rapidly over the last few years, and we aim to teach students to develop the IT skills they will need in the next steps of their education and into the world of work. We make use of a variety of IT platforms, and we have been supporting all Year 7 students and the students who have joined us in other Year groups with logging on to the school network and Go4Schools. They have been given a printout of their username and email address and we encouraged to set a secure and memorable password.

We understand that there are varying levels of computer literacy within our school community and how frustrating it can be for students, parents, and carers when there are difficulties accessing our IT platforms. Therefore, we aim to provide user guides and how to videos for the most common issues students experience, which can be found on the school website [here](#). If your child is still experiences problems with our IT platforms, please contact admin@csschool.co.uk and we will endeavour to help them logon as soon as possible.

Go4Schools is a very powerful online system that allows parents and students to access information about:

- academic data,
- timetables,
- homework,
- attendance,
- reports,
- and behaviour.

User guides, providing step-by-step instructions for logging on to the Go4Schools website and the mobile app, were shared with Year 7 parents in this [letter](#) and can also be found on the school website [here](#). Parents and students must set up their own separate accounts with Go4Schools and not share one. This is because links to relevant information may differ on students' and parents' pages. Without both account types, important information might be missed.

One of the many benefits of having a Parent Go4Schools account is the ability to monitor the homework tasks that your child has been set. The homework timetable has been developed, and is being carefully checked by each department, to make sure that it fits with their planned activities and assessments, without overburdening students. The final homework timetable will be published in next week's Link, as well as on the school website, to allow students and staff to plan for homework tasks.

I have included details of the most frequently used online platforms that we use to set homework and revision activities on, and the logon details students should use to access them.

Year 7 will be completing baseline testing in English, maths, and science. This will be taking place over the next 2 weeks. There is no need for revision, and we are not using this to make any teaching group changes. All year 7 students will receive exactly the same instructions during testing. We look forward to getting to know our students even better to enhance our teaching this academic year.

Office 365

Office 365 – every student at Church Stretton School has an Office365 account, which gives them an Outlook email account that will allow them to communicate with Staff and their peers. It also gives them access to the latest Office apps, like Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Teams, plus 1 TB of cloud storage for their school work. Students can install Office on their home devices free of charge, allowing them to access the Office apps even when they are offline.

Subjects: All subjects will make use of Office365

Year groups: 7 to 11

Username: This is your child's school email address firstname.surname@csschool.co.uk

Password: The first time they logon students should use **Stretton2022** and we encourage them to then set their own secure and memorable password.



Seneca Learning – is an online platform that can be thought of as an effective & engaging interactive revision guide. Summaries, notes, videos, and lots of different types of practice questions will all be found on the Seneca platform. The system is also completely adaptive so your child's learning experience will be tailored to suit their needs. We have signed all students up to Seneca premium, the Seneca Premium package contains additional courses and features to help your child boost their exam grades.

Subjects: All subjects are covered by Seneca

Year groups: 7 to 11

Username: This is your child's school email address firstname.surname@csschool.co.uk

Password: The first time they logon students should use **seneca2020** and we encourage them to then set their own secure and memorable password.



ActiveLearn - is a digital learning space for teachers and students, with teaching and the revision resources for students across a wide range of subjects. It creates a personalised teaching and independent learning experience both in and outside the classroom.

Subjects: Maths, French, Science and Spanish

Year groups: 7 to 11 for French and Spanish, 9 to 11 for Maths and Science

Username: This is your child's school email address firstname.surname@csschool.co.uk

Password: The first time they logon students should use **Stretton2021** and we encourage them to then set their own secure and memorable password.



Kerboodle - is a school subscription service with varied subjects and courses available based on the latest curriculum's.

Kerboodle gives student's access to:

- **Resources** – a bank of learning resources including videos, animations, podcasts, worksheets and much more
- **Digital book** – Online and interactive version of the student books for display and annotation
- **Assessments** – Teachers can set homework through Kerboodle for students

Subjects: Science and Geography

Year groups: 7 to 9 for science, 7 to 11 for Geography

Username: This is your child's school network logon **firstname.surname**

Password: The first time they logon students should use **their username**, they will be prompted to set their own secure and memorable password.

Chess Club

In W2

On Wednesday's
at 3.10pm



PE

Extra Curricular Timetable

	PE	Meeting Point - Make sure you are at the designated meet point by 12.20(lunch) or 3.40pm (afterschool)
Mon Lunch	KS3 Netball (HAH)	PE Office
	Girls Football ALL YEARS (HAH)	Changing Rooms by drama
Mon After School	Years 7 &8 Boys Football (RB)	Changing Rooms by drama
	Table Tennis (HAH)	PE Office
Tues Lunch	Fitness Club (RB)	PE Office
Tues After School	Years 9, 10 & 11 Boys Football (RB)	Changing Rooms by drama
Weds Lunch	KS4 Netball (HAH)	PE Office
Weds After school	X COUNTRY All Years (HAH)	Changing Rooms by drama
	Badminton KS3 (PW)	PE Office
Thurs Lunch	Leadership Training Session- invite only (ABE)	PE Office
Thurs After School	Basketball all years (RB)	PE Office
Fri Lunch	Badminton KS4 (PW)	PE Office
Fri After School		



Badminton for All

Church Stretton Badminton Club invite you to try out our fantastic sport

In these playing/coaching sessions open to anyone.

Come along and have a go

Church Stretton Leisure Centre

Commences 14th September 2022

6.30pm to 8.00pm

All abilities welcome from 7 years upwards

Sports wheelchairs and rackets available FOC

For more info call Alan Fox on 01694725588 or 07977060303

RAISE your wellbeing

Respect + Achieve + Inspire + Skill + Enjoy



PARENTING HELPLINE

Call **01743 250950**

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9am to 12.30pm

If you would like to find out about other services the Parenting Team offers please email
Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

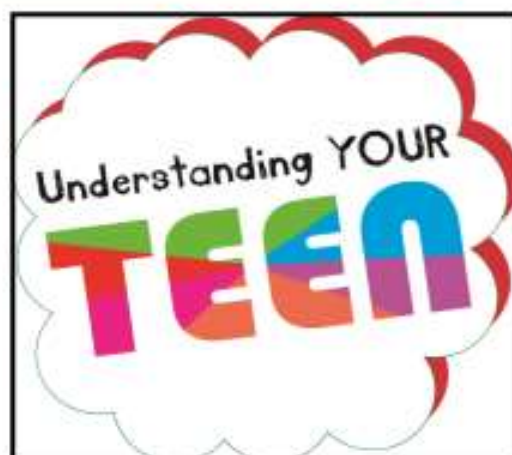
Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. Shropshire Council's Parenting Team is here to support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around child development and parenting?

Why not call our Parenting Helpline where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen.

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being please call

First Point of Contact 0345 678 9021



- *Would you like to know more about your child's development?*
- *Do you need support to understand your child's behaviour?*
- *Would you like a chance to meet with other parents with children of a similar age?*



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD GROUPS

Delivered Face to Face or Virtually

All you need is an email address and an electronic device for the virtual groups, and we'll talk you through the rest

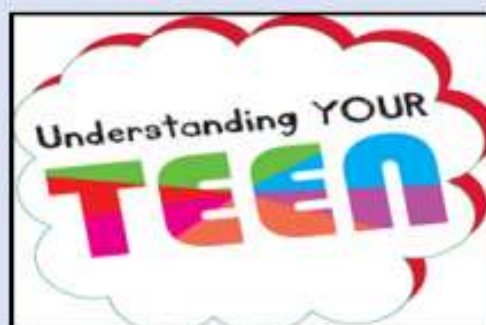
All our groups run for 10 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

Understanding Your Child SEND on Tuesday 27th September 2022 Virtually via MS Teams
from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Understanding Your Child SEND on Wednesday 28th September 2022 Face to Face at
Sunflower House Hub, Kendal Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 4ES
from 9.30am to 11.30am

Understanding Your Child on Wednesday 28th September 2022 Virtually via MS Teams
from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

To book a place on one of our groups or for further information on the groups we run please contact the Parenting Team by:
Emailing: Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01743 250950



- *Would you like to know more about why sleep is important for our health and emotional well-being?*
 - *Does your child struggle with their sleep?*
- *Would you like to access support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines?*
 - *Would you like to meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences?*

SLEEP TIGHT WORKSHOPS

**Come and join us for a 5-week workshop
Starting on**

Friday 23rd September 2022 Virtually via Ms Teams
from 9.30am to 11.30am

Or

Thursday 10th November 2022 Virtually via Ms Teams
From 9.30am to 11.30am

Or

Friday 11th November 2022 at Oswestry Castle View
from 9.30am to 11.30am

To book a place on one of our workshops or for further information on the workshops we run please contact the Parenting Team by:

Emailing Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

Or call us on 01743 250950

