

# LADYWOOD SCHOOL

## DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a truly magical last few weeks of the Autumn Term, with the children at Ladywood experiencing so many things ... Christmas Dinner with their friends, Snow Globe experience and the Christmas Disco to name just a few. A particular highlight is always the Christmas Performances/Magical Moments when the children shine in the role.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Ladywood who work tirelessly in the background to make such amazing things happen at Ladywood. They really are truly special!

May we take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the festive season!

Susan and everyone at Ladywood

## Upcoming Events

- ★ Tuesday 16th January 2024, 4 - 5 pm - Open Evening for 2024 starters
- ★ Friday 26th January 1.30 - 2.30 pm - Parent Coffee and Chat Session - main site - see flyer below
- ★ Friday 9th February 1.30 - 2.30 pm - Computing - Online Safety and Activities to Support Learning at Home - main site - see flyer below

## Reminder

*School closes at  
**2.00pm** on Friday  
22nd December  
and re-opens on  
Monday 8th  
January*

# Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations for our Christmas Fair, and to everyone who attended and made it such an amazing event. We raised a fantastic £1106.52!



***Merry Christmas from Elsie and Sully***



## Attendance/Leave of Absence

As part of new guidance and monitoring of pupil attendance from the Department of Education, a Leave of Absence form needs to be completed 2 weeks prior to an event, due to authorisation from the Head Teacher.

Parents will need to provide as much information as possible before sending in the form. As a parent, you may wish to take your child, out of school, on holiday in less busier times, to benefit from quieter facilities. Please can you put this level of detail in the Leave of Absence form.

If you are taking your child out of the country for longer than 10 days, school will also require copies of flight tickets, both leaving England and arriving back into England, and an address where your child will be staying.

We realise that sometimes families may need to visit family overseas at short notice. We will still require a Leave of Absence form to be completed, flight tickets and address where the child will be staying.

In addition, we understand that children with Special Educational Needs may need to attend medical appointments more frequently and these will be authorised, however we would still ask that school are informed of these prior to attending.

It is the right of a child to receive an education and school attendance is crucial for children's progress of learning. Attendance is closely monitored at school and if there is an issue Ladywood's Attendance lead may be in touch to offer support or strategies.

If your child is off school for any reason please get in touch with the office to let them know the reasons. It is important we have a full picture of children's attendance throughout the year.



We are saying goodbye to Nancy Seary, wishing her all the very best in her new post. Nancy will be missed by all her friends at Ladywood.

## Welcome

Welcome to Samantha Cooke and Christina Corry who have recently joined the Ladywood team.



# PARENT EVENTS

Free training events and coffee and chat sessions each half term.

- ✓ Meet other parents
- ✓ Get your questions answered
- ✓ Learn new skills

**PARENT COFFEE AND CHAT SESSION**  
FRI 26TH JAN 1:30-2:30PM

**COMPUTING - ONLINE SAFETY AND ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME.**  
FRI 9TH FEB 1:30-2:30PM

**PARENT COFFEE AND CHAT SESSION**  
FRI 8TH MARCH 1:30-2:30PM

**MATHS - ENGAGING ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS TO SUPPORT MATHS AT HOME.**  
FRI 22ND MARCH 1:30-2:30PM

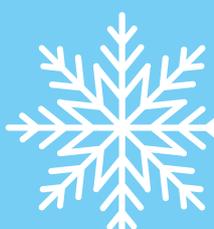
**PARENT COFFEE AND CHAT SESSION**  
FRI 26TH APRIL 1:30-2:30PM

**SCIENCE - ENGAGING AND FUN IDEAS TO SUPPORT SCIENCE AT HOME**  
FRI 17TH MAY 1:30-2:30PM

**PARENT COFFEE AND CHAT SESSION**  
FRI 14TH JUNE 1:30-2:30PM

**HOW TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION AND BEHAVIOUR AT HOME**  
FRI 28TH JUNE 1:30-2:30PM



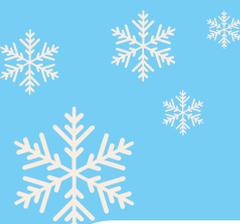
# *Christmas Experience Day*



*On Monday 18th December the children had an amazing Christmas Experience Day where they took part in lots of lovely activities.*

*They enjoyed a Snow Globe Experience, got to choose a Christmas film to watch in class, had a popcorn station in the Wild and Free area and got to visit Santa in the Hideaway*





**Bolton**  
at **Home**

## Bolton at Home - Cost of Living Support

Click on the link below to see the support services offered by Bolton at Home and their partners, to help families with the rising cost of living. There is support which some families may want to access such as accessing food support and tips to reduce household bills.

<https://www.boltonathome.org.uk/cost-of-living/#FoodSupport>

## Is my child too ill for school?

As we head into the Winter months we have been asked to share the guidance on 'is my child too ill for school'. Please click on the link to read:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



**NHS**  
nhs.uk



## Texting Service - Adverse Weather Conditions/School Closure

Please can we remind parents of our procedure if we need to close the school due to adverse weather conditions or for any other reason. If school is not going to be open we will make a decision and send a text message out as early as we possibly can. If for any reason transport is not running, they will contact you directly. Please ensure that the main contact number for your child is up to date at all times and check for texts on a regular basis. School closure messages will also be put on:

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/schoolinformation/school-closures>, Facebook and our Website.





# LADYWOOD OPEN EVENT

For Reception children September 2024

We would like to invite prospective families along to our Open Event where you can see our Outstanding provision.

Families will have the opportunity to tour the school and speak to staff. It is a chance to find out more about how we deliver a high quality education for all of our pupils.

**TUESDAY**

**16TH JANUARY 2024  
4:00 - 5:00PM**

Ladywood School,  
Masefield Road,  
Little Lever,  
Bolton,  
BL3 1NG



**PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL ON  
01204 333400 TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!**



# Early Help Parenting Drop-in

For all families with children under 18

We know that being a parent is not always easy and that families need extra support at some stage as children grow up.

Targeted Early Help Workers will be on hand to offer advice and support.

We can offer signposting to helpful services, organisations and community groups.

Are you struggling with your child's behaviour?

Not sure what services there are available that can help to support you?

Are they anxious or struggling with self-esteem?

Poor school attendance?

Are they being excluded from school?



Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat if you want any advice or information about parenting.

**Drop-in sessions, 9.30am - 3.30pm**

Farnworth King St Centre | 20 Jan | 10 Feb | 2 Mar | 23 Mar | 20 Apr

Oxford Grove Children Centre | 6 Jan | 27 Jan | 17 Feb | 9 Mar | 6 Apr | 27 Apr

Tonge Children Centre | 13 Jan | 3 Feb | 24 Feb | 16 Mar | 13 Apr



For more information please contact:  
Targeted Early Help Tel: 01204 337390  
Email: [earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk)



# Early Help Parenting Drop-in

For all families with children under 18

We know that being a parent is not always easy and that families need extra support at some stage as children grow up.

Targeted Early Help Workers will be on hand to offer advice and support.

We can offer signposting to helpful services, organisations and community groups.

Are you struggling with your child's behaviour?

Not sure what services there are available that can help to support you?

Are they anxious or struggling with self-esteem?

Poor school attendance?

Are they being excluded from school?



Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat if you want any advice or information about parenting.

**Drop-in sessions, 9.30am - 3.30pm**

Farnworth King St Centre | 20 Jan | 10 Feb | 2 Mar | 23 Mar | 20 Apr

Oxford Grove Children Centre | 6 Jan | 27 Jan | 17 Feb | 9 Mar | 6 Apr | 27 Apr

Tonge Children Centre | 13 Jan | 3 Feb | 24 Feb | 16 Mar | 13 Apr



For more information please contact:  
Targeted Early Help Tel: 01204 337390  
Email: [earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk)





## Online Payments

We are moving to School Gateway with regards to the payment of school meals, tuck and a way in which we can communicate with parents. Please see the letter on Class Dojo with guidance on how to download the School Gateway app to your mobile phone. To ensure you can make payments online and receive communication from school, please download the School Gateway app.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## Parent Partner

Sarah Travis is the School's Parent Partner and will be able to provide guidance, advice and support for parents/carers.

She will be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.

Should you require any help then please contact Sarah either on the school office number:

01204 333400

or via email [parentpartner@ladywood.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:parentpartner@ladywood.bolton.sch.uk)





# Friends of Ladywood



## What is FOL?

Friends of Ladywood are a group of parents/carers (who wish to have a more involved role in school) and staff, that get together regularly to discuss and plan upcoming fundraising events.

## When do we meet?

We meet once every half term.

## What if I cannot commit to attend every meeting?

Do not worry if you cannot attend every meeting, we understand that parents and carers will have a busy home life also. We will keep in regular contact with you over email to inform you of any outcomes and future meetings you may be able to attend.

## What does it involve?

Being a friend of Ladywood involves a wide range of things. Here are a few:

- Attending meetings to discuss upcoming events (Easter Raffle/Christmas Fair) & bringing new ideas to the table.
- Sourcing raffle prizes from local businesses.
- Helping to put on large events at the school to fundraise for Ladywood.



**If you are interested in becoming a member of 'Friends of Ladywood' but cannot attend please email:**

[friendsofladywood@ladywood.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:friendsofladywood@ladywood.bolton.sch.uk)

one of our team members will be in touch.



In the UK, an estimated 350,000 tones of clothes end up in landfill every year! Join us and our ECO council in working towards reducing carbon emissions.

We would love any donations of nearly new or good quality Ladywood uniform for our uniform bank

*Items can be donated via the school office*



## Ladywood Social Media

To keep up to date with all our latest news, please follow us on our various social media platforms.



Instagram: @ladywoodschoo



Twitter: @ladywoodschoo



Facebook: Ladywood School



Youtube: Ladywood School

## Ladywood Blog

Please don't forget to check the blog for daily/weekly updates on the children's learning and all the exciting activities that have been happening around school. The blog is a great way for everyone to communicate and to keep up to date.

<http://blog.ladywood.bolton.sch.uk/>

# Internet Safety

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



## What parents need to know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**  
Requires over the age of 13 to create an account

Instagram is a hugely popular social networking app with over 1 billion users worldwide. The app, which is accessible on iOS and Android devices, allows users to upload images and videos to their feed, create interactive 'stories', exchange private messages or search, explore and follow other accounts they like. Images and videos can be transformed with an array of filters to edit the shot before sharing and anyone with an account can see others' online galleries if their account is not private. To make posts easier to find, users can include searchable hashtags and captions to their uploads. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what Instagram is about.

### HOOKED ON SCROLLING

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, have been designed in a way to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. Behavioural economist, Nir Eyal, calls this the 'Hook Model' and the Instagram feed is a great example of this. Children and adults may find themselves scrolling to try and get a dopamine release. Scrolling may become addictive and it can be difficult to stop until children find that 'something' they are looking for, quickly losing track of time as they get deeper into their Instagram feed.

### SLIDING INTO DMS

Direct messages (or DMs) on Instagram allow users to share posts, images, videos, voice messages and calls between each other privately (or in a private group). Even if your child's account is set to private, anybody has the option to message them and send them content. If the person is not on your child's friends list, the message will still be sent to their inbox but the user has to accept their request to see the message.

### INFLUENCER CULTURE

Influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote a product, service, app and much more on social media. When celebrities or influencers post such an advert, they should add a disclaimer somewhere in the post which states that they have been paid for it. Commonly, this is well-hidden in the hashtags or in the comments of their post, making it unclear that their photo/video is actually an advert. This can be very misleading to young people who may be influenced into buying/wanting something promoted by somebody they admire, creating a false sense of reality and potentially affecting their mental health and wellbeing.

### IMPACT ON WELLBEING

In a report by the RSPH, Instagram was ranked the worst for young people's mental health. Using filters on photos on Instagram can set unrealistic expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Children may strive for more 'likes' by using realistically edited photos. Judging themselves against other users on the app might threaten their confidence or self-worth. In early 2019, Instagram banned images of self-harm and suicide, following the suicide of 14-year-old Molly Russell, who had reportedly been looking at such material on the platform. They since extended the ban to include drawings, cartoons and memes.

### LIVE STREAMING TO STRANGERS

Live streaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real-time and comment on videos during broadcast. If your child's account is private, only their approved followers can see their story. It's important to note they may have accepted a friend request from someone they don't know, which means they could be live streaming to strangers. Children also risk sharing content they later regret, which could be re-shared online for years to come. Public accounts allow anybody to view, so we suggest your child blocks followers they don't know. In early 2019, data gathered by the NSPCC found that sex offenders were grooming children on Instagram more than on any other online platforms.

### IN-APP PAYMENTS

Instagram allows payments for products directly through the app. It operates under the same rules as Facebook. Payments, which state that if you are under the age of 18, you can only use this feature with the involvement of a parent or guardian.

### EXPOSING LOCATION

Public locations can be added to a user's photos/videos and also to their stories. While this may seem like a good idea at the time, it can expose the location of your child. This is particularly more of a risk if it is on their story, as it is real time. A photo which includes landmarks in the area, their school uniform, street name, house and even tagging in the location of the photo uploaded to Instagram can expose the child's location, making it easy to locate them. If their account is public, anyone can access their account and see their location.

### HIJACKED HASHTAGS

Hashtags are an integral part of how Instagram works, but they can come with risks. One person may use a seemingly innocent hashtag with one particular thing in mind, and before you know it hundreds of people could be using the same hashtag for something inappropriate or dangerous that your child shouldn't be exposed to.

### IGTV

Instagram TV (IGTV) works similar to YouTube. Users can watch videos from favourite accounts on the platform or create their own channel and post their own videos. It's important to note anyone can create an Instagram TV channel and doesn't have to be friends with a person to follow an account and watch their videos. In 2018, Instagram apologised and removed some of its TV content which featured sexually suggestive imagery of children. As the feature may encourage spending more time using the app, it's important to set time limits to avoid children's sleep or education being disturbed.

POLL

## Top Tips for Parents & Carers

### RESTRICT DIRECT MESSAGES

If your child receives a message from somebody they do not know, encourage them not to accept their message request and block this person; this is the only way to stop them messaging your child again. Children can also 'tap and hold' the individual message to report it directly to Instagram as well as reporting the account itself.

### LOOK OUT FOR #ADS

In 2019, the UK's Competition and Markets Authority launched an investigation into celebrities who were posting adverts on social media and not declaring that they were paid for. Influencers must clearly state that they have been paid for their posts, for example using a hashtag like #ad or #sponsored. Teach your child to look out for the signs of a paid post/advert and discuss with them that not everything they see from celebrities is their personal choice and opinion.

### MANAGE NEGATIVE INTERACTIONS

If your child is receiving unwanted or negative comments, they can block that account so that they can't interact with them. This stops them seeing and commenting on their posts, stories and live broadcasts. In addition, your child can instantly delete unwanted comments from their posts, turn them off completely and control who can tag and mention them in comments, captions or stories, from everyone, only people they follow, or no one at all.

### MANAGE DIGITAL WELLBEING

Instagram now has an in-built activity dashboard that allows users to monitor and control how much time they spend on the app. Users can add a 'daily reminder' to set a limit on how much time they want to spend on Instagram, prompting them to consider if it's been too long. In addition, once users have caught up with all the previous posts since they last logged on, they'll receive a 'You've completely caught up' message. Both features can help you have a conversation with your child about how much time they are spending on the app and to set healthy time limits.

### PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Your child may unknowingly give away personal information on their profile or in their live streams. Talk to them about what their personal information is and make sure that they do not disclose anything, including their location, to anyone during a livestream, comment, direct message or any other tool for communication on the platform, even to their friends.

### USE A PRIVATE ACCOUNT

By default, any image or video your child uploads to Instagram is visible to anyone. A private account means that you have to approve a request if somebody wants to follow you and only people you approve will see your posts and videos. Children should also use a secure password and enable a two-factor authentication to add an extra layer of security to their account.

### FILTER INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS

Instagram has an 'anti-bullying' filter, which hides comments relating to a person's appearance or character, as well as threats to a person's wellbeing or health. The filter will also alert Instagram to repeated problems so that they can take action against the user if necessary. This is an automatic filter, which should always be enabled. Children can also report abusive behaviour or inappropriate/offensive material directly to Instagram from the app. This includes posts, comments and accounts.

### TURN OFF SHARING

Even though this feature will not stop people from taking screenshots, it will stop others being able to directly share photos and videos from a story as a message to another user. This feature can be turned off in the settings. We also recommend turning off the feature which automatically shares photos and videos from a story to a Facebook account.

### REMOVE PAYMENT METHODS

If you are happy for your child to have a card associated with their Instagram account, we suggest adding a PIN which needs to be entered before making a payment; this will also help prevent unauthorised purchases. This can be added in the payment settings tab.

**DON'T FORGET TO BE VIGILANT & TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITIES!**

### Meet our expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience of working in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks, a web resource helping parents and children thrive in a digital world.



### \*NEW FOR 2020\* INSTAGRAM REELS

Instagram Reels is the latest update from Instagram that gives users the ability to record and edit 15-second multi-clip videos with audio, effects, and new creative tools. It is the app's answer to TikTok and can be accessed via the Stories feature. Reels can be shared with friends and family, however, if your child has a public account, it could be shared wider via 'Explore' and viewed by millions of strangers online.



National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

CONTACT: [info@nationalonlinesafety.com](mailto:info@nationalonlinesafety.com) | <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com> | <https://www.nos.co.uk> | 0749 4794 000

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.06.2020

## Sickness

Please be aware that if your child has an episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea they need to be kept off school for 48 hours from the last bout of sickness.

All schools are expected to adhere to this guidance from The Community Infection Prevention and Control Team.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support

## Communication with Home

We are continuing to use Class Dojo as the main form of communication with parents/carers.

However, we appreciate that there may be times that you feel you need to speak to someone in person or urgently and the office team are always available and welcome calls from parents/carers.



## Tuck

May we remind parents of non-pupil premium children, of the voluntary contribution of £1.00 a week towards your child's snack. This can be paid in cash or via your School Gateway account. If paying by cash, please send into school in an envelope with your child's name on. Thank you.

## Parking

Could we please request that parents who drop/collect their child by car, ensure when parking that you do not block other cars in, and also that you do not park in a Masefield School parking place.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## Appointments

If your child has an upcoming appointment, could we please ask that you notify school in advance of when the appointment is taking place. Could a copy of the appointment letter also be sent to school prior to the appointment.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## Contact Information

Please ensure that contact details and medical information for your child are up-to-date. If you are unsure please contact the main office on 01204 333400.

Could we please ask that parents keep their phone switched on throughout the day so that we are able to make contact with you if needed. Thank you.



## Good Attendance Matters

At Ladywood we provide a safe learning environment which encourages all pupils to attend and be punctual whatever their level of ability or specific needs. We pride ourselves on high standards of pupil attendance and we expect that all children will attend school as long as they are fit and well enough to do so in line with the expectations of 380 half days (190 full days) for an academic year.

A child's attendance at school is the responsibility of parents/carers. Ladywood School will continue to actively work with parents/carers to encourage a regular pattern of attendance is maintained to ensure our children:

- Benefit from the educational opportunities provided at Ladywood
- Experience a broad and balanced creative curriculum
- Build on their learning experiences to achieve their full potential
- Develop their social and personal skills
- Promote children's welfare and safeguarding, failing to attend school on a regular basis will be considered as a safeguarding matter
- Have their legal entitlement to education; ensuring regular attendance at school is a legal responsibility and permitting
- Absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law

The Government have brought out new guidelines that requires schools to ensure all children attend well. This includes:

- Attendance meetings if attendance falls below acceptable levels
- Daily contact when your child is absent
- A requirement to show proof of medical appointments
- Door stop visits

## LADYWOOD HOLIDAY LIST 2023-2024 - PUPILS

September 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35					1	2	3
36	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
38	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
39	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
39							1
40	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
41	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
42	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
43	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
44	30	31					

November 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44			1	2	3	4	5
45	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
46	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
47	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
48	27	28	29	30			

December 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48					1	2	3
49	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
51	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
52	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5	29	30	31				

February 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5				1	2	3	4
6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	26	27	28	29			

March 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9					1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

May 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18			1	2	3	4	5
19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

August 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO PUPILS ON ALL SHADED DAYS