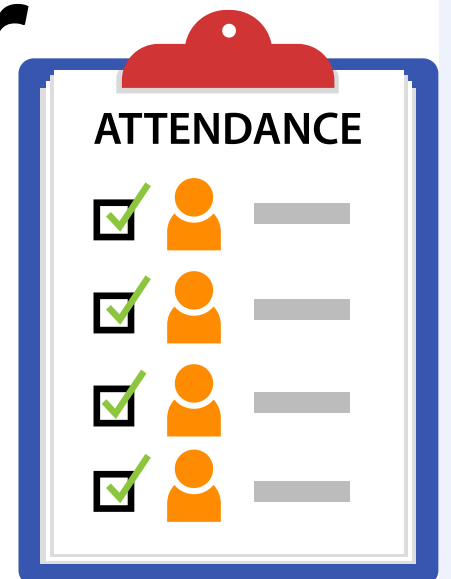




April Newsletter

Attendance Matters



Regular good attendance (96% and above) is essential for helping children succeed at primary school. The benefits of being in school every day include:

- Stronger learning and progress – children who attend regularly are less likely to miss key teaching in reading, writing and maths, helping them keep up and achieve their best.
- Improved confidence and wellbeing – consistent attendance helps children feel more confident in lessons and secure in their friendships and routines.
- Better social skills – being in school every day allows children to build friendships, learn teamwork and develop communication skills.
- Positive lifelong habits – good attendance supports the development of routines, resilience and responsibility that benefit children throughout their education.

We have created some helpful posters that you will see around school to help you understand what your child's attendance percentage means.

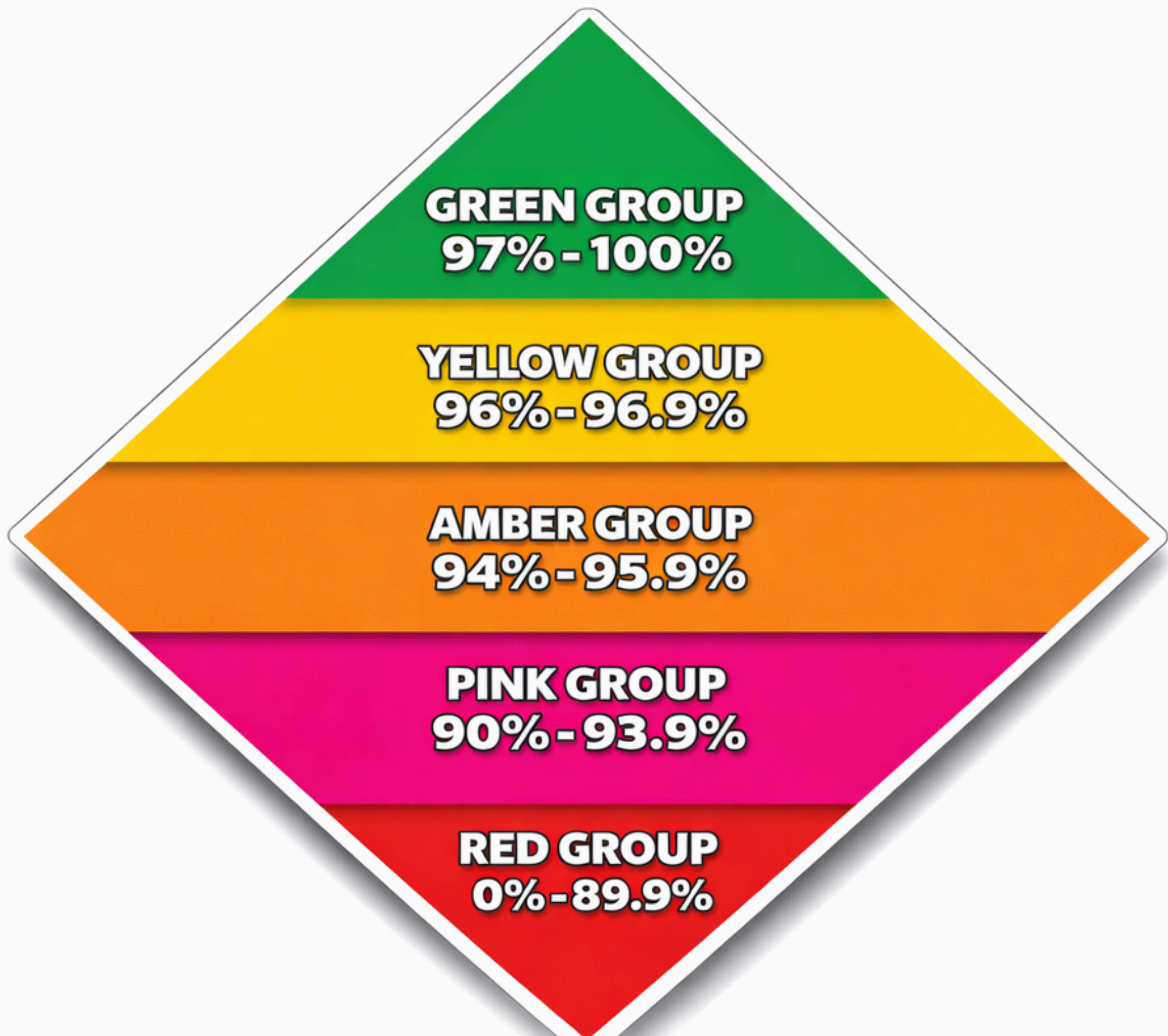
If you would like to discuss your child's attendance or find out their current attendance percentage, please phone or contact the office and they will be happy to help.

We would like to remind parents that pupil attendance is being monitored very closely. Please ensure your child attends school every day unless there is a genuinely unavoidable reason for absence.



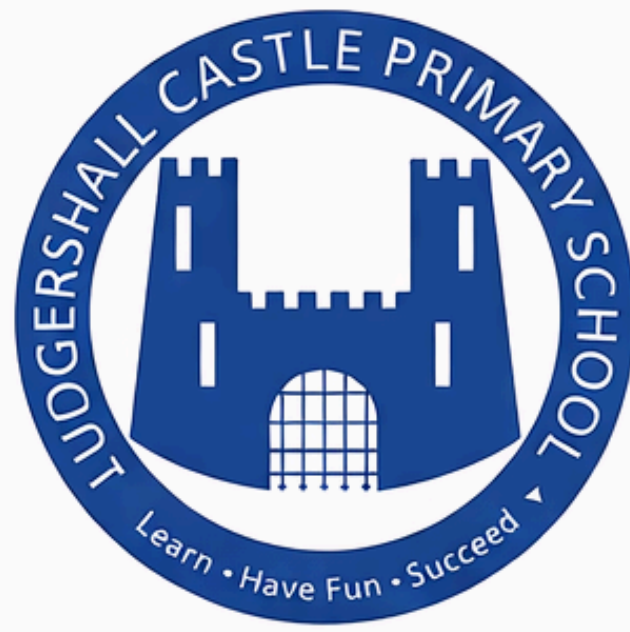
Ludgershall Castle Primary School

Attendance Matters



ATTENDANCE GROUPS

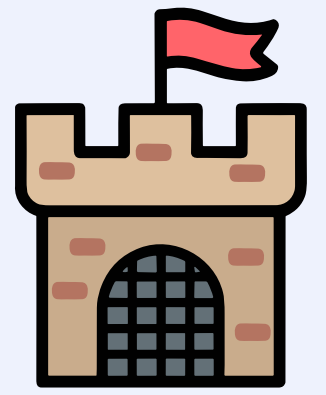
GREEN	BEST CHANCE OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS
YELLOW	RISK OF UNDERACHIEVEMENT
AMBER	SERIOUS RISK OF UNDERACHIEVEMENT
PINK	SEVERE RISK OF UNDERACHIEVEMENT
RED	EXTREME RISK - PERSISTENT ABSENTEE



Ludgershall Castle Primary School

Attendance Matters

100%	0 DAYS	0 DAYS MISSED
99%	1 DAY	1 DAY MISSED
98%	3 DAYS	3 DAYS MISSED
97%	1 WEEK	5 DAYS MISSED
96%	1.5 WEEK	7.5 DAYS MISSED
94%	2 WEEKS	10 DAYS MISSED
93%	2.5 WEEKS	12.5 DAYS MISSED
92%	3 WEEKS	15 DAYS MISSED
90%	3.5 WEEKS	19 DAYS MISSED



English Heritage Visitors

On Thursday 16th April we welcomed two special guests from the English Heritage, who brought the fascinating history of Ludgershall Castle into our school, giving us a vivid glimpse into what life was truly like in medieval times.

Each class had a session, which was packed with surprising facts that completely changed how we think about the Middle Ages. Here are some of the most memorable things the children learned:

Dining Habits: Instead of ceramic plates, wealthy people often ate their food off trenchers—thick slabs of stale bread that soaked up the juices from their meals. Our modern table settings would have been very unfamiliar to them, as they only used a knife and a spoon; forks were not yet common!

Surprising Vegetables: We discovered that the carrots we know today would have looked quite strange to a medieval child. Back then, most carrots were purple! To add to that, common fruit and vegetables such as bananas and potatoes were not part of our diets yet.

Growing Up Medieval: Perhaps the most startling realisation was how quickly childhood ended. Many young boys were sent away from home at the age of seven to begin training as squires, the first step on the long path to becoming knights, while girls would've been learning traditional roles of sewing and cooking. All the children were shocked to learn girls could be married at thirteen!

It was a brilliant opportunity to connect with the amazing history sitting right on our doorstep here in Ludgershall.

A huge thank you to the English Heritage team for bringing the past to life and we hope to welcome them back soon to get a hands-on approach of being an Historian!



Milestone Trip

On Tuesday 28th April, the children in Rabbit, Hedgehog and Squirrel enjoyed a wonderful trip to Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, which linked closely to their Victorians learning.

They explored Victorian streets, homes, and shops, helping them understand what everyday life was like during this period and how people lived and worked in the past.

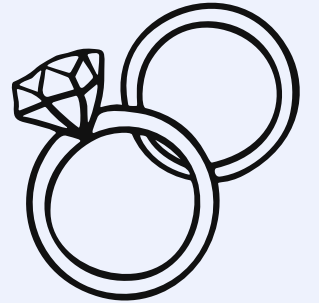
The hands on experiences brought our classroom learning to life, and the children were enthusiastic, curious, and extremely well behaved throughout the day, making the trip a very successful and enjoyable experience for everyone.





Congratulations

Congratulations to Miss Bailey, who got married over the Easter holidays! We are delighted to share that she enjoyed a lovely honeymoon in Italy, filled with memorable moments. We wish Miss Bailey and her partner every happiness as they begin this exciting new chapter together.



Summer Term

As we welcome everyone back for the summer term, we are hopeful of warmer, sunnier days ahead and lots of exciting learning opportunities. Please ensure that children continue to wear the correct school uniform each day so they are comfortable and ready to learn. When the weather is sunny, children should come to school prepared with a named sun hat and have sun cream applied before the start of the school day. We also understand that mornings can still be chilly, so bringing a coat is a good idea for cooler days.



Help Us Reduce Traffic on Short Street

We're asking all parents and carers to avoid travelling by car whenever possible to help reduce congestion on Short Street during drop-off and pick-up times. If you can, please walk, cycle, or scoot to school - it's healthier for everyone and helps keep our school community safer and our environment cleaner. Thank you for doing your part to make our school a calmer, greener place!



Key Dates

Term 5

Monday 13th April - School development day. No school for children.

Tuesday 14th April - First day back of Term 5 for all children.

Tuesday 28th April - Key stage 1 trip to Milestones Museum.

Monday 4th May - Bank holiday. No school.

Tuesday 5th May – Rabbit, Squirrel & Hedgehog Open Classrooms 9-9.30am.

Wednesday 6th May – Butterfly & Bumblebee Open Classrooms 9-9.30am.

Thursday 7th May – Badger, Fox & Otter Open Classrooms 9-9.30am.

Friday 8th May – Kestrel, Buzzard & Kingfisher Open Classrooms 9-9.30am

Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May - SATs week for all Year 6 children. Attendance is mandatory this week.

Thursday 14th May - Year 3 & 4 theatre trip to see Matilda 12.00- 7.15pm. Please bring extra healthy snacks for children.

Wednesday 20th May - EYFS trip to Paultons Park.

Friday 22nd May - Last day of Term 5. Break up at 3.15pm. Non-uniform £1 voluntary contribution to the school fund.

Term 6

Monday 1st June - First day back of Term 6 for all children.

Monday 15th June - School development day. No school for pupils.

Thursday 18th June - Book swap in school.

Monday 6th July – School class photos.

Tuesday 7th July - EYFS/KS1 Sports morning at 9.30am.

Wednesday 8th July - KS2 Sports morning at 9.30am.

****Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July - backup Sports mornings if bad weather is due ****

Tuesday 14th July - Year 6 Leavers Church Service at 9.30am. Parents welcome.

Wednesday 15th July - Year 5 & 6 play performance for parents at 2pm.

Monday 20th July - Year 6 Leavers assembly for parents at 9am.

Tuesday 21st July - Year 6 Leavers party.

Wednesday 22nd July - Last day of Term 6. School breaks up at 2pm. Non - uniform £1 voluntary contribution to the school fund.

Please note some of these dates may be subject to change if needed and we may add more throughout the term.

Digital safety at a glance

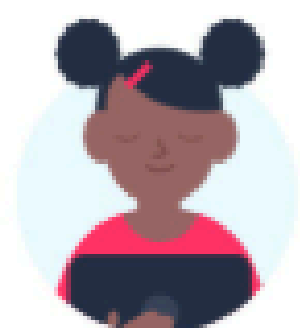
internet
matters.org

Guidance for parents of 5-7-year-olds

Use this quick tips guide to stay on top of your child's online safety needs.

Tech use, issues and tips

Learn about common experiences at this age and what you can do to keep your child safe online as they grow.



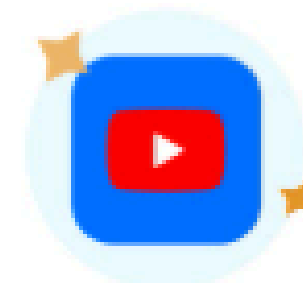
50%

watch livestreaming apps or sites



65%

send messages or make video/voice calls



58%¹

The most popular app is YouTube

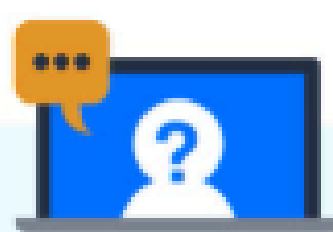


Too much screen time

Too much screen time is the online harm most experienced at this age, and **74% of parents worry about this.**

Set time limits for devices but also help kids experience a range of activities to create and learn to support their wellbeing.

Get more support handling screen time [▶](#)

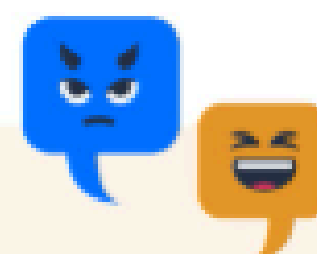


Being contacted by strangers

Children say that being contacted by strangers is the second-most common experience they face online. **73% of parents worry about this.**

Review communication settings on their favourite apps and platforms to limit who can contact them or add them as friends.

Find a guide to review settings [▶](#)



Online bullying²

children know is one of the most common harms among 5-7s, and **76% of parents worry about this.**

Online bullying is difficult to escape or ignore. So, talk about what it looks like so kids know when and how to get help.

See how to talk about cyberbullying [▶](#)

Practical tips to keep 5-7s safe online

Set parental controls on popular apps



1. Create a child's profile
2. Set a parental controls PIN
3. Customise maturity level of content your child can watch.

[Go to Disney+ parental controls guide](#)



1. Set up YouTube Kids for under-13s
2. Use timers to manage screen time
3. Turn off watch history to limit suggested videos.

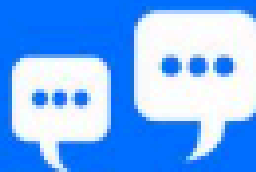
[Go to YouTube parental controls guide](#)



1. Create a separate profile for your child based on their age to manage content.
2. Set a PIN to keep them from changing settings.
3. Turn off autoplay features to manage screen

[Go to Netflix parental controls guide](#)

Are they talking to others online?



[Talk about internet manners](#)

Make online safety a part of their everyday

Conversations to have

Talk about:

- What they're watching; what do they like about it?
- What apps/games they like; what would they like to try?
- How being online makes them feel; what signs tell them they need a break?

[See more conversation starters](#)

Tools to explore together

Build digital skills and play together with:

- The Online Together Project: an interactive quiz with discussion points to challenge stereotypes and hate online.
- Find the Fake: a series of quizzes to help teach children how to recognise and tackle misinformation online.

[Explore age-specific guides](#)

Get personalised advice straight to your inbox

Want support to stay on top of your kids' digital lives? Together, we've got this, with our free personalised family digital toolkit. By completing the form you'll get:

- Age-specific checklists and guides
- Safety information on the latest apps and platforms
- Resources to tackle online concerns by age
- Interactive tools to encourage discussions on key topics

Scan the QR code or go to internetmatters.org/toolkit

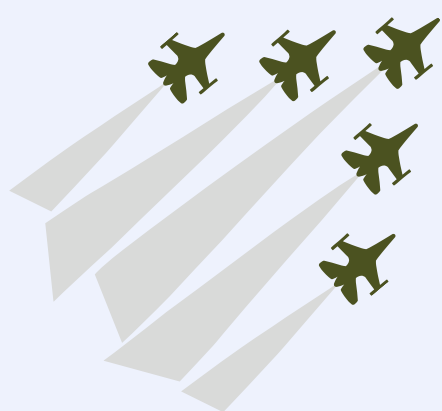


School Book Club

We really enjoyed reading *The Last Firefox* by Lee Newbery at our recent School Book Club meeting.



Our next Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday 9th June from 3.15–4.15pm, where we will be reading *Ghostlines* by Katya Balen. We will ensure copies of the book are available in each Key Stage 2 classroom, but children are also welcome to borrow a copy from the library or bring their own.



Service Premium

If you believe your child may be eligible for Forces Premium - this applies if one or both parents are currently serving in the armed forces or have ever served - please get in touch with the reception office. We will be happy to check eligibility and update our records accordingly.

Thank you for your support.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes such a difference to our school community.

