

Check with Ceri

Accessible Version

A resource to help schools cut costs for families



Check with Ceri

We've created a fictional character called Ceri to help schools think about the costs of the school day and how they could affect families living in poverty. Ceri is a young person in your school whose family struggles to pay for the things they need to fully enjoy school life. Children and young people can be supported to use Ceri as a focus to talk about any concerns they have about school costs, helping create a safe space for all.

There are two parts to this activity. Part one asks children and young people to identify costs of the school day, and costs of the school year. It also asks children and young people to identify support your school already provides to families and make suggestions for change.

The second part is a tool for the school to recognise the areas of concern for children and young people and address their ideas for change. It also allows you the opportunity to consider current policies and the help you offer and notice areas for improvement.

Ceri's Champion

As part of the recommendations set out in our report, we asked every school to appoint a "Ceri's Champion"; a governor or member of staff who makes sure that our resources are used to make sure that the school day is as affordable as possible for families. This resource will help Ceri's Champion to look at ways you are already supporting families who are living in poverty and also help you to identify areas of the school day that could improve to better support children, young people and their families.

Calendar of costs

- pupils

In this activity, children will be exploring the cost of going to school, and costs over the school year. Children will be introduced to a character called Ceri, who lives in poverty. Children will be asked to identify aspects of school life that may be difficult for Ceri and their family. This information can then be used by 'Ceri's Champion' to complete the second part of the resource and to discover what children consider to be the most expensive elements of school.

Links to children's rights

Article 3 - Adults should always do what is best for you

Article 12 – The right to be listened to and taken seriously

Article 15 – The right to join groups and make friends

Article 26 – My family should get the money they need to help bring me up

Article 28 - The right to an education

Article 29 – The right to an education which develops my personality respect for others rights and the environment

Timing:

This activity takes 40 - 60 minutes to complete.

Resources:

- Prompt cards
- Paper and pens/ pencils
- Ceri Outline

Introduction:

- Start by explaining that Sally Holland, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, has been speaking to children and young people all across Wales about living in poverty, which means not having enough money for the things they need to grow up happy, healthy and safe. Lots of children told the Commissioner that they aren't able to fully enjoy school life because of the cost of activities and essential equipment. Today we are going to look at the extra costs in our school.
- Use the **prompt cards** to go through the school day asking children to consider what the costs associated with that activity were, if any.
- Next, ask the children to get into small groups.
- Ask them to draw a picture of an activity that maybe happens once a year. For example, World Book Day, sports day, trip to Llangrannog. Ask groups to also consider the cost of the activity.
- Ask children to feedback the activity they have drawn.

Calendar of costs

- pupils

- Once you have finished discussing all the things that cost money in school, introduce Ceri to the class by explaining the following:

"I would like to introduce a character to you all, Ceri is the same age as you, Ceri could be a boy or a girl, Ceri goes to this school, Ceri's family don't always have enough money for the things Ceri needs like a warm home, food and appropriate clothing."

- Hand out the outline of Ceri to each member of the class
 - Ask pupils to draw the character of Ceri.
 - Ask pupils to think about what they think Ceri will miss out on at your school. Ask them to write their answers around Ceri.
 - Collect up the Ceri sheet and explain to the class that you will hand it over to 'Ceri's Champion' who is going to think about how as a school you can better support families like Ceri's.
 - Remind pupils that if anything in today's lesson has worried them they can come and talk to you after the lesson.
-

Calendar of Costs

- adults

This activity should be done by Ceri's Champion, a member of staff your school has chosen to lead on ensuring changes in your school always consider those families that live in poverty. Ceri's Champion should be given support from governors/senior leadership team within the school.

Use the pupils' drawings of 'Ceri' to complete the Calendar of Costs sheet. Begin by looking over the things that children said they felt they would miss out on, make note of any support you already offer children and their families.

Next, look at the school calendar and identify any activities/events or even policies that may cost money that the children haven't mentioned. Again, think about any support that you currently offer to ensure these activities are available to all pupils. For any activities that don't already offer support think about how you could help families that may struggle to partake.

If you do already offer support think about how you can best advertise this to families in the school. Use our "You Said, We Did" template to feed this back to the pupils who did the Cost of the School day activity so they understand how their ideas have helped the school think about support you offer pupils like Ceri.

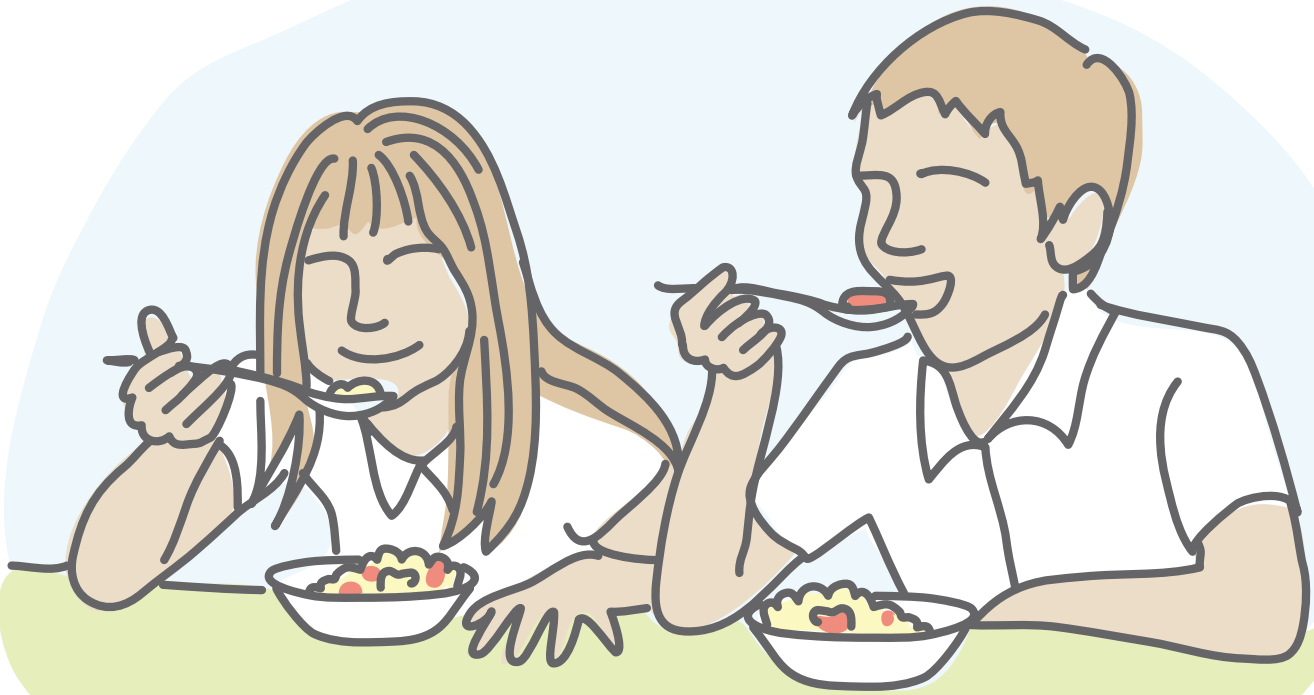
Share with us

Scan this QR code and complete a short survey about your Calendar of Costs and if it has helped you to support your pupils.

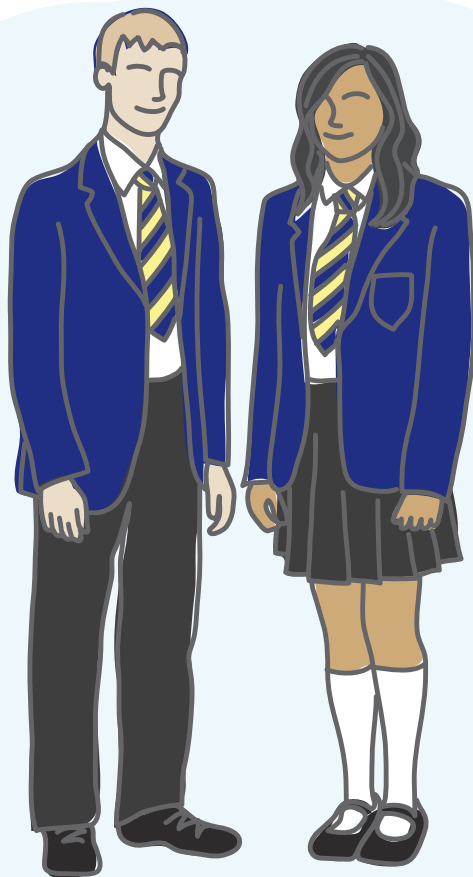


Prompt Cards

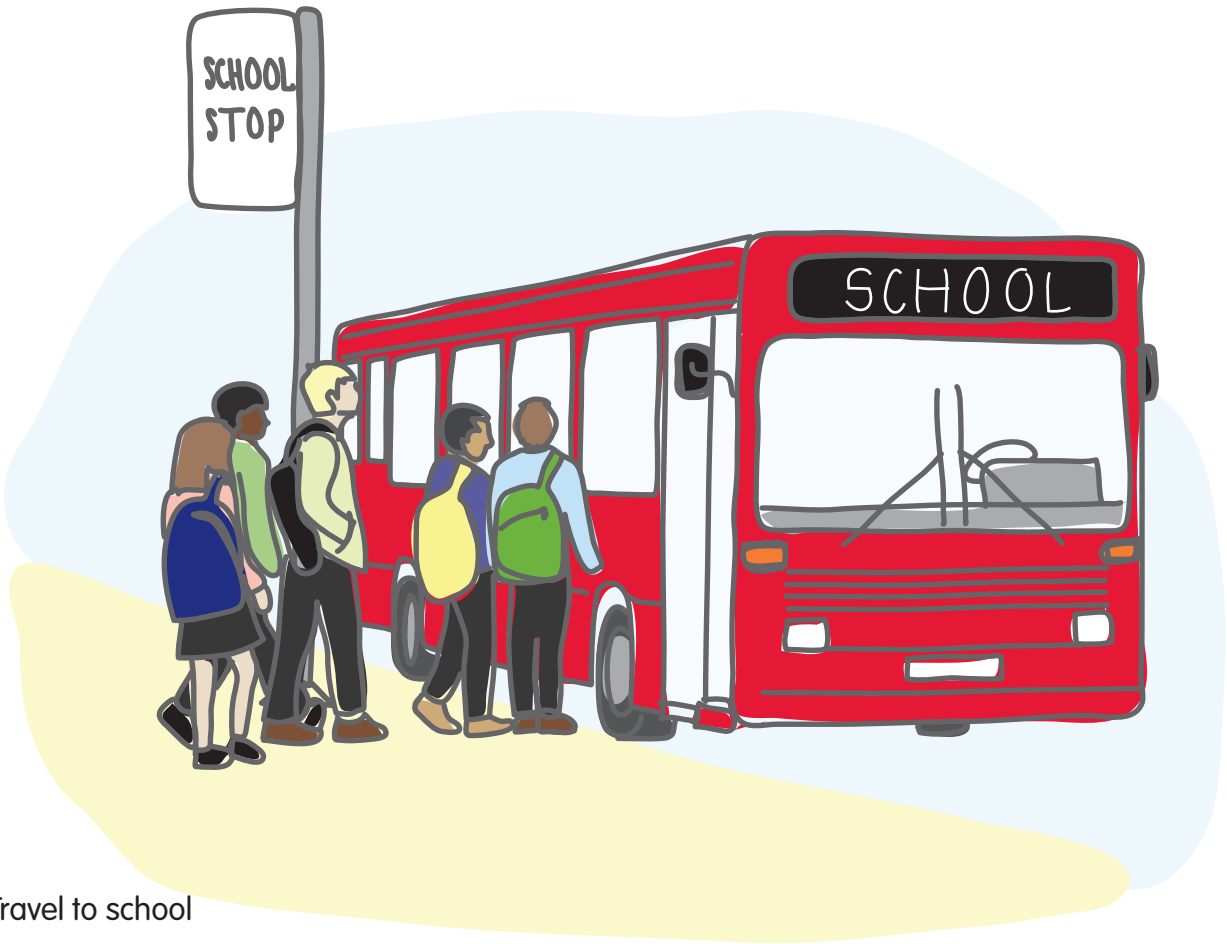
- Breakfast
- School Uniform
- Travel to school
- Equipment needed for school
- Snack time
- P.E.
- Lunch Time
- After School Clubs



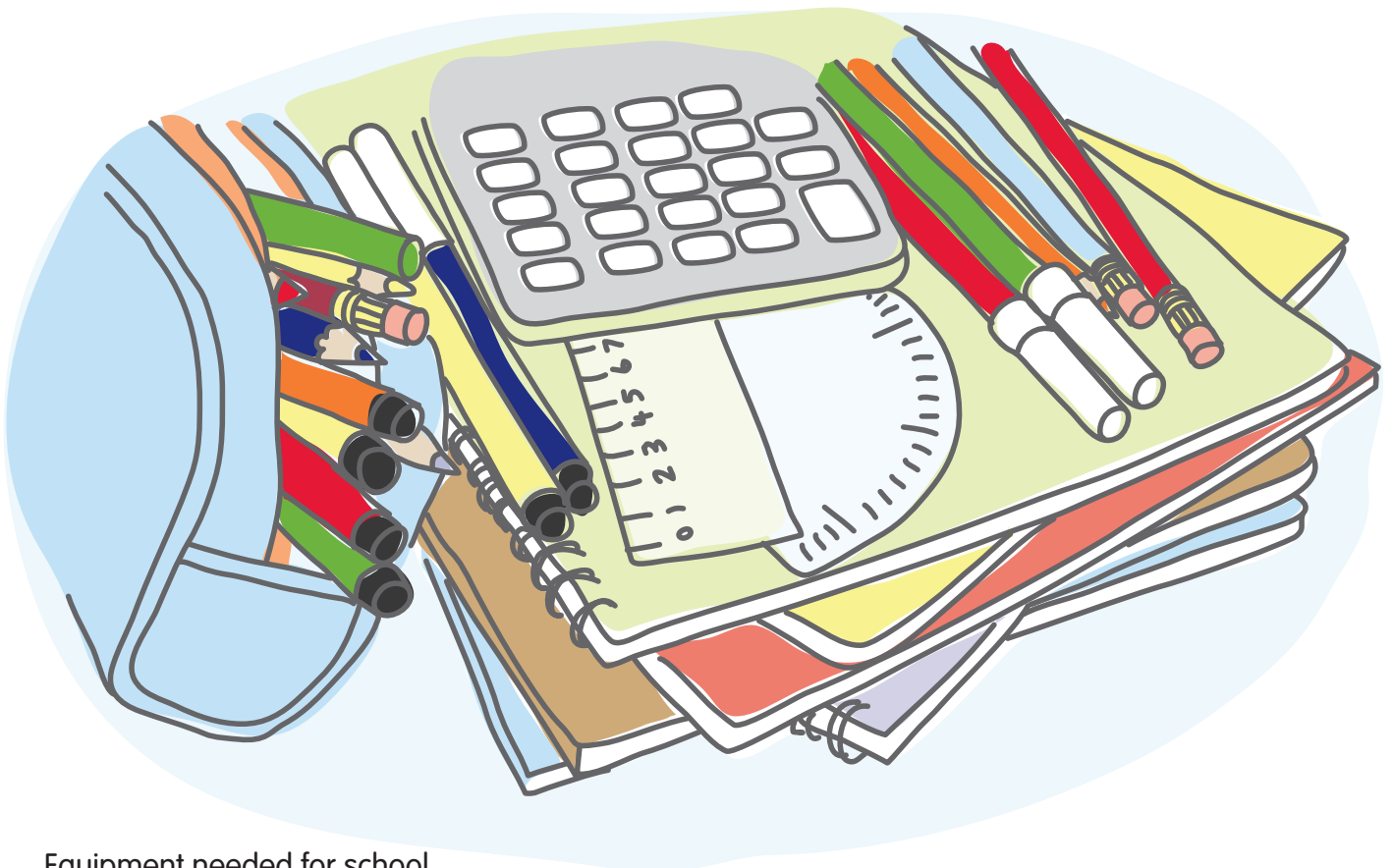
Breakfast



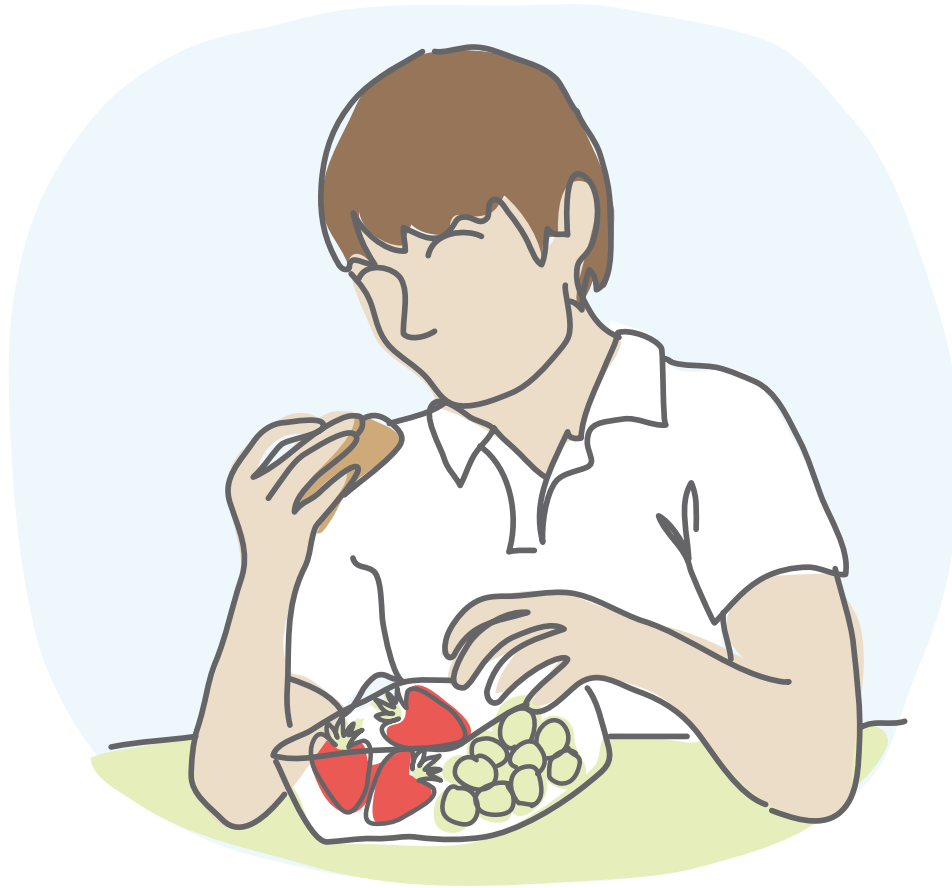
School Uniform



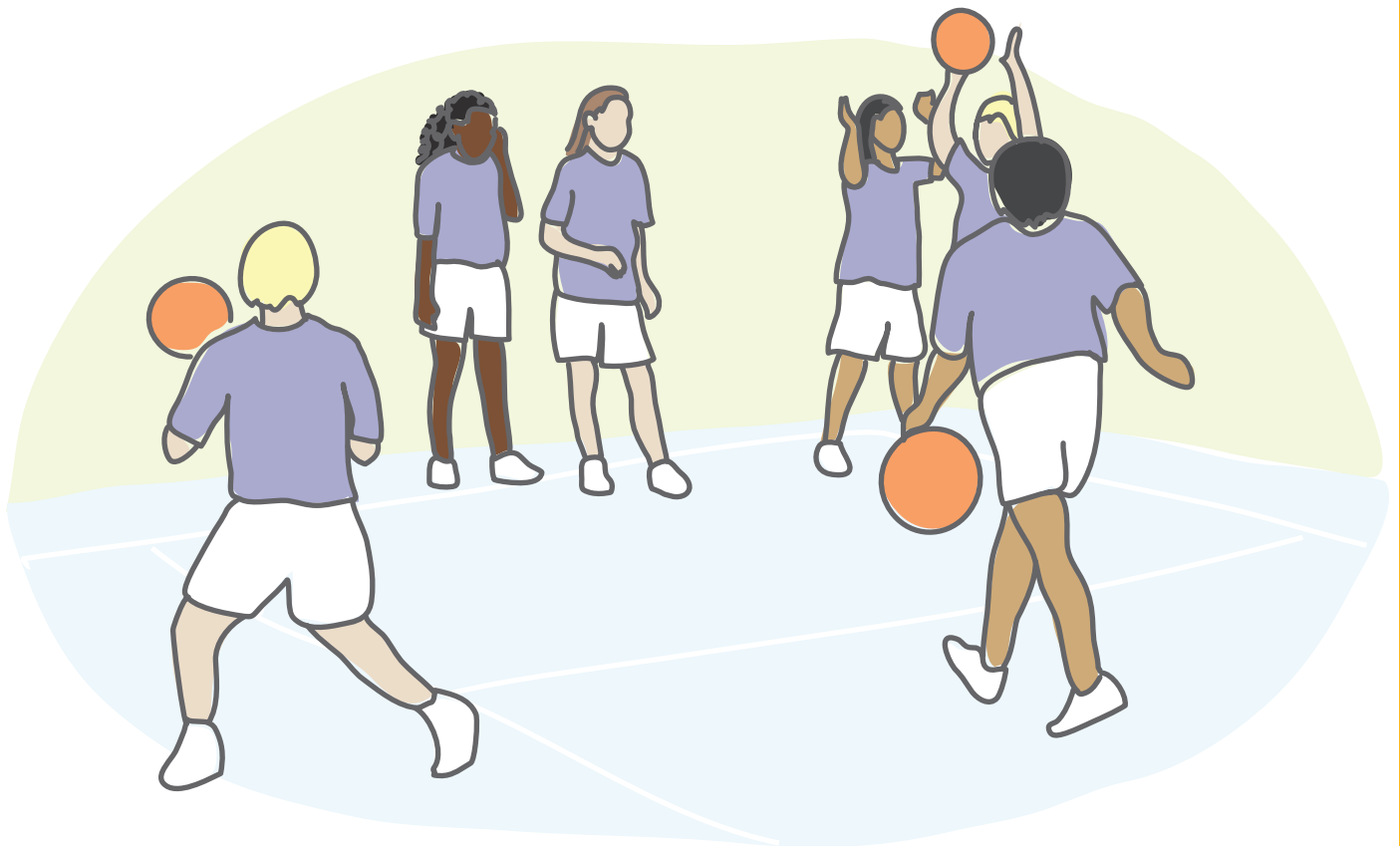
Travel to school



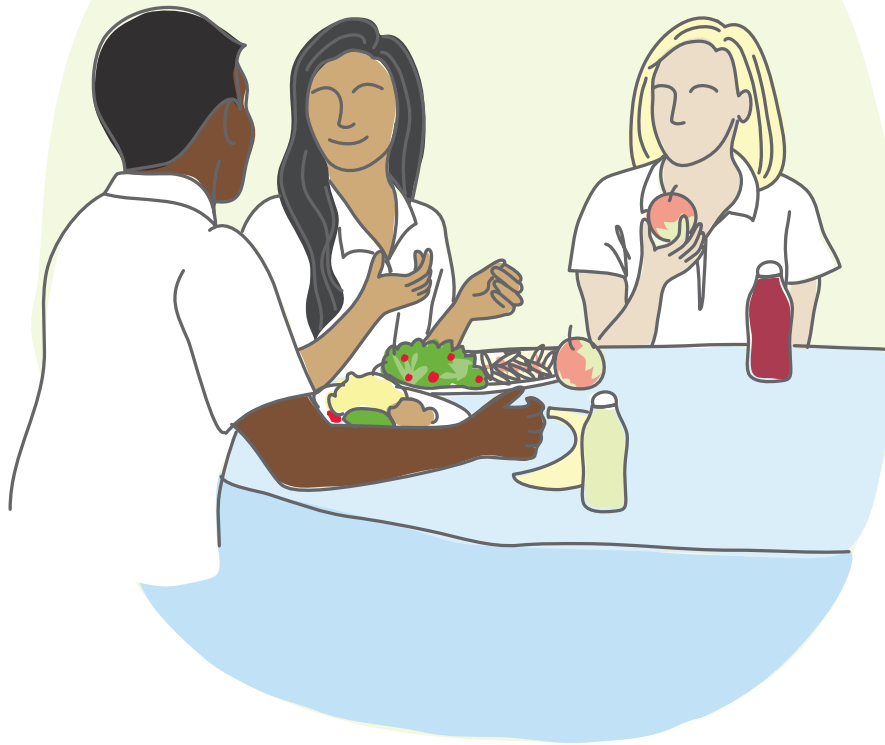
Equipment needed for school



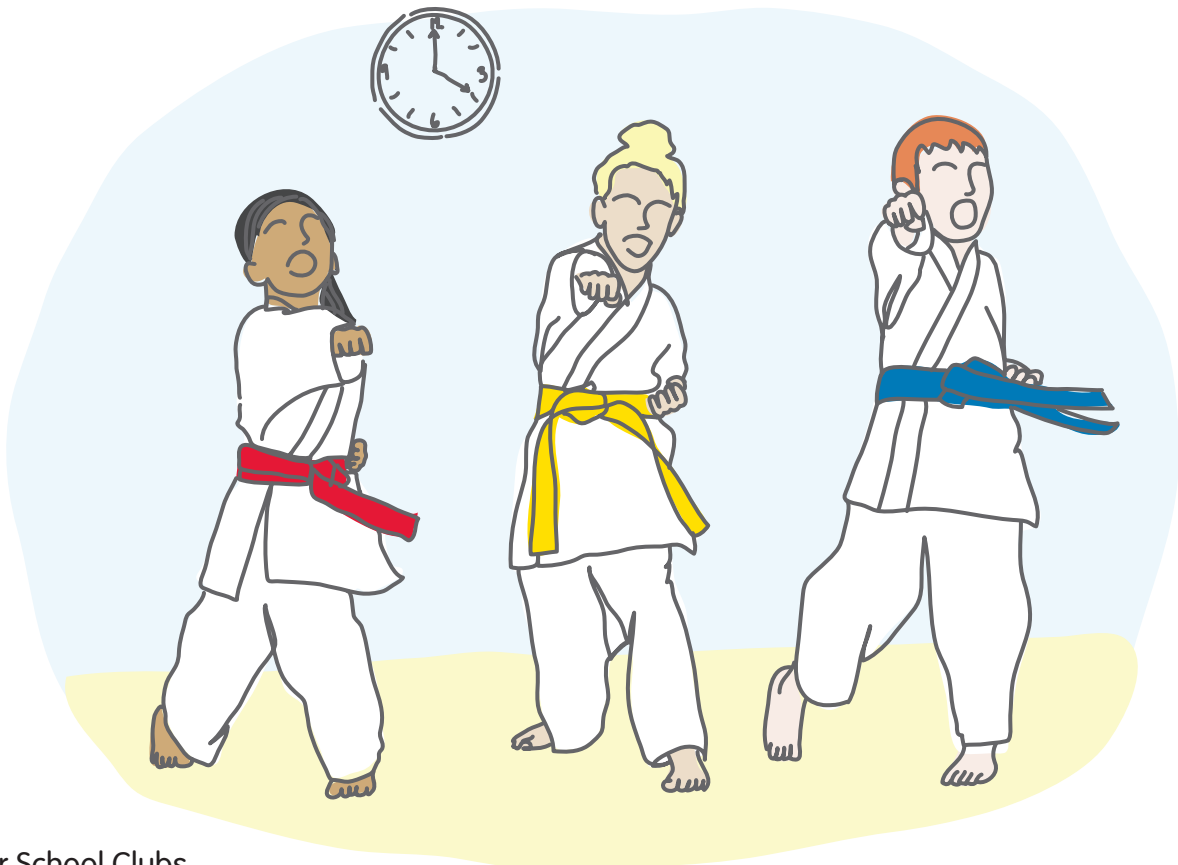
Snack time



P.E.

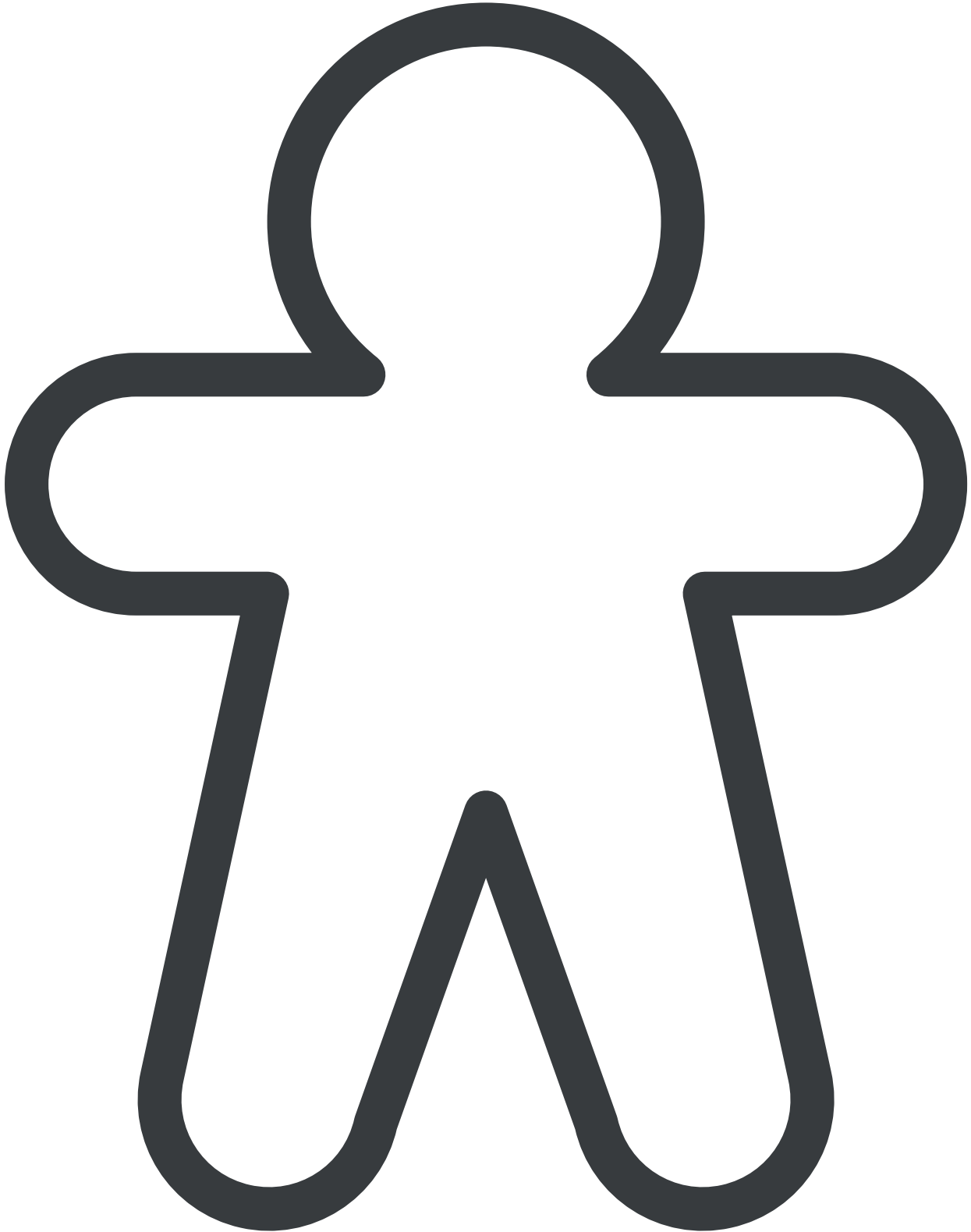


Lunch Time



After School Clubs

Ceri Outline



You Said, We Did

A sheet to hand back to pupils to show what you have done as a result of their suggestions

You Said	We Did