



Church Hill Middle School

Friday 1st March 2024

Dates for your diary



Please see below a list of key dates for this coming half term. Further information around these events will be sent via EPraise. There are a lot of sporting fixtures this term that do not include all pupils: Please note that you will be contacted if your child has been selected to take part.

Thursday 29th February to 2nd May (Weekly 2 hour sessions) - Understanding Your Child Parent Group, with Starting Well Partnership.

Friday 1st March - Year 5/6 Dodgeball Competition- selected students

Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March - Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday 5th March - Parents' Evening

Wednesday 6th March - Parents' Evening

Wednesday 6th March - Year 7 Netball Tournament - selected students

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Friday 8th March - Girls' Football Festival - selected students

Monday 11th March - Year 8 Netball Tournament - selected students

Thursday 14th March - Keeping children safe online workshop

Friday 15th March - Year 5/6 Swimming Gala - selected students

Tuesday 19th March - Year 6 Netball Tournament - selected students

Wednesday 20th-Friday 22nd March - Year 8 residential to Condover Hall

Thursday 21st March - Year 5 Boys' Football Tournament - selected students

Parents' Evenings

Apologies to those families who have struggled to book with certain members of staff. This issue has now been rectified.

To book with Miss Elvins, Mrs Khan or Miss Greenwood, please use the KS2 booking page for Parents' Evening. Any further issues with this, please contact your child's teacher who can book the slot for you.

Reminder of how to book:

Tuesday 5th March (3.30 - 6.30) and Wednesday 6th March (3.30 - 5.30).

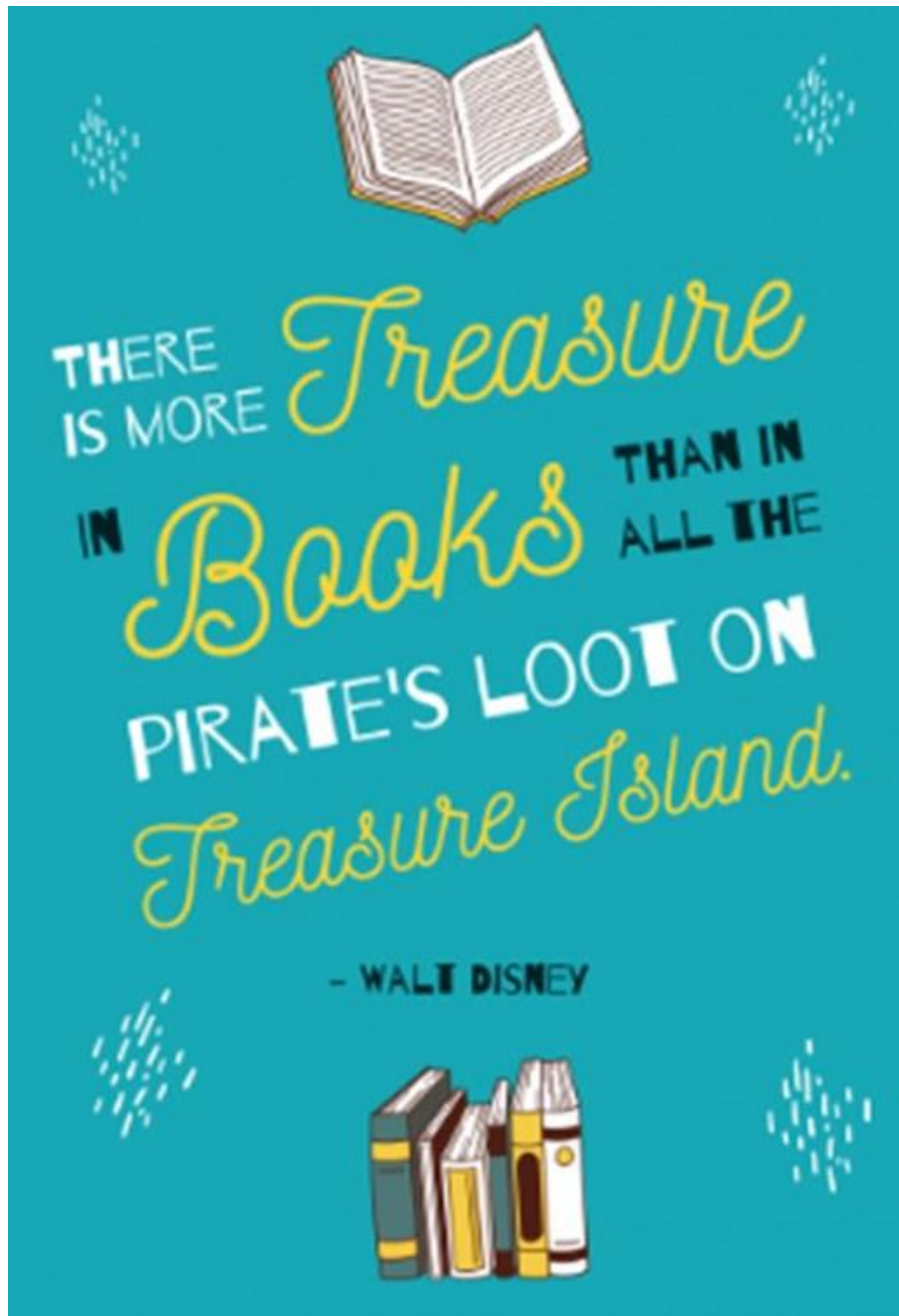
To book your slots with your child's teachers, please log on to EPraise, click the community tab, followed by Parent's Evenings.

Please note the following:

- KS2 parents' evening slots are 10 minutes, to allow for the teacher to discuss multiple subjects.

- KS3 parents' evening slots are 5 minutes in length.

Reading Update



We are very excited to announce some big changes for reading here at Church Hill. We have made the decision to move our library to a genre based system. This means that students will no longer be using Renaissance Reading to select books using their ZPDs or quizzing on books once finished. Our aim, as a school, is to foster a genuine enjoyment of reading by all pupils and this is one of the changes we are implementing to help us fully achieve this goal. We will still be supporting students with their reading progress within their English lessons and through this reading for pleasure initiative. Library sessions over the coming weeks will be focusing on supporting students in how to select books based on their interests to help them find a genre to suit them.

It has been really lovely to walk into the library over the last few days and feel the buzz of children being genuinely excited to pick a new book to read. We would like to thank each and every one of our librarians for all of their hard work in supporting Mrs O'Hare and Mrs Wilson in reorganising the library - it has been hugely appreciated! If you have any questions about how this new system will work, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Wilson.

Workshops

We are going to be putting on a selection of workshops for parents and carers throughout the remainder of the year.

Workshops:

Thursday 14th March (3.30-4.30) - Keeping Children Safe Online with Mr Legg

Wednesday 17th April 2024 (3:30-4:30) - Vocabulary with Mrs Wilson

Wednesday 24th April 2024 (3:30-4:30) - Reading with Mrs Khan

Please let us know by sending an EPraise message to your child's teacher if there is something specific you wish to know more about. This could be linked to your child's learning in school, ways to support their learning at home, support for challenging or worrying behaviours or something else. We are here to help and are keen to work with you and support where we can.

Parental Survey.

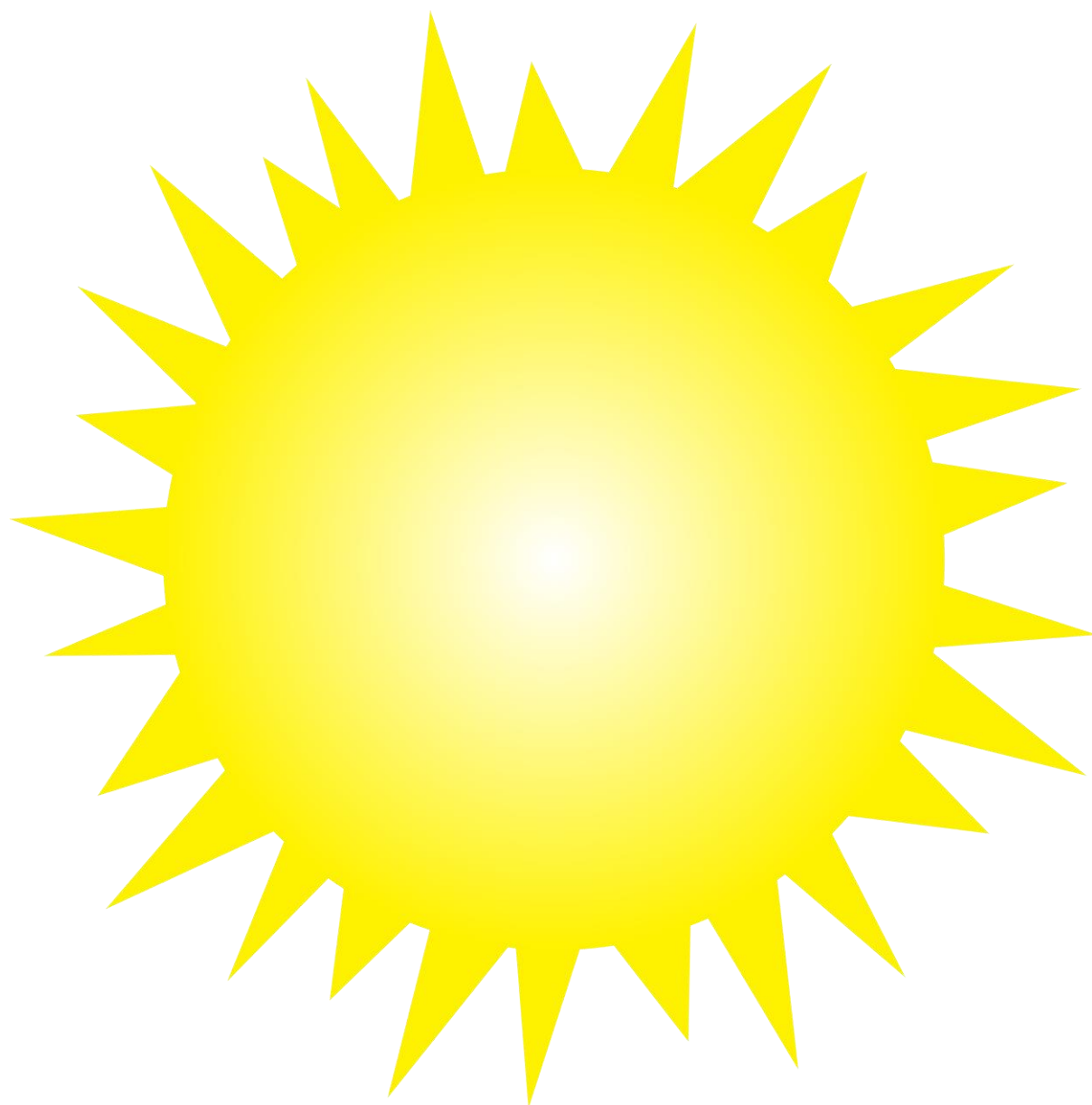


Thank you for all of the responses to the Parent Survey!

We are in the process of collating your comments and putting actions into place. We will send you an update of what we are doing in response to your feedback.

Thank you for your continued support.

School Attendance - Polite reminders.



Polite reminders - Please keep school informed.



Please **contact school by 9am** * to inform us of your child's absence by telephone or email.

This is essential, so we can account for every child as early as possible after our registers close at 9am daily.

Thank you

**On some occasions, our Education Welfare Officers will do an unannounced home visit should we not hear from you for a safe and well check, in line with our safeguarding and attendance Policies.*

The Department for Education has made it clear that headteachers are not to authorise absence for any holidays during term time, except under exceptional circumstances.

We will not therefore grant authorisation for absence in the following instances:

- Day trips and holidays in term time.
- Leaving school unnecessarily during the school day.
- Not attending school for an unnecessary reason such as shopping or birthdays.
- Absences which have not been properly explained or have failed to follow the absence procedure.

Exceptional Circumstances

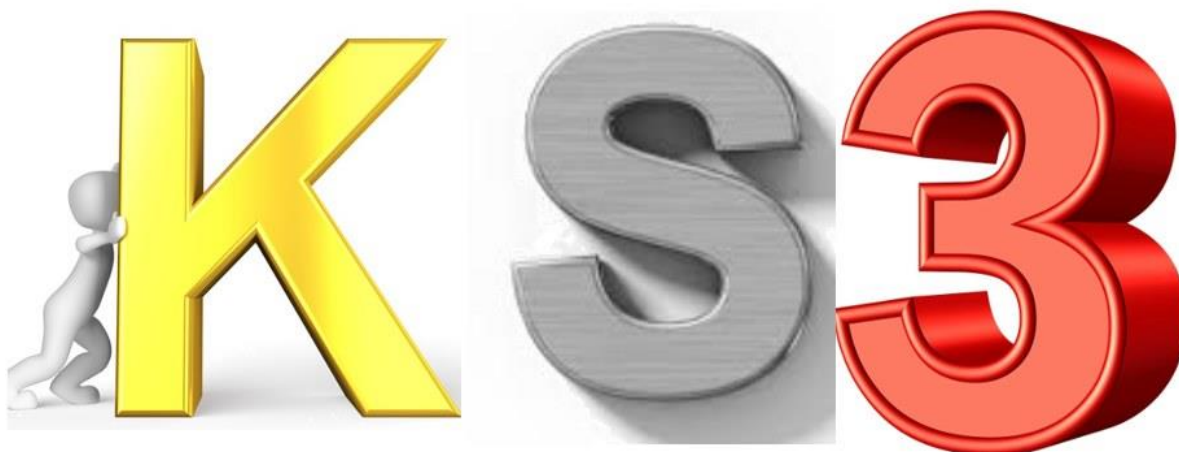
A leave of absence request form must be submitted 6 weeks prior to any planned absence. Parents will be informed in writing if this request has been granted by the Head of School. In emergency circumstances e.g. bereavement, we will be sympathetic to such needs but would ask you to keep us informed so we can help support your child's needs on their return.

Community





Tel : 01905 520 032



7AP – **Imogen plaskett** for showing a really positive attitude and making helpful contributions throughout the week. Well done!

7SK– **Esmae Blantford** for being a superstar in making sure I knew where everything was this week after I took over the form. It has also been reported to me by other staff about her hard work and fantastic work ethos. Keep it up Esmae!

7SF- **Oliver Vujadinovic** for a huge improvement to the effort in his lessons.

7JL – **Elsie Harris** for showing a positive attitude this week and a great work ethic – well done!

8JD – **McKenzie Shakespeare** for always making me smile, always making me laugh, and always being wonderful.

8MO – **Summer Owen** for being her funny caring self. You are having a great year and have shown some real integrity and self belief in lessons and social time.

8FG - **Jake Jones** for always getting it right. Even in times when he could make the wrong choice, he does the right thing and sticks by his morals

Subject Stars

DRAMA – Kai Sullivan, Sonny Bagley, Dexter Yule & Jake Knight 7AP for their enthusiastic and engaged attitude towards their dance lessons this term – you’re doing a super job and are a pleasure to teach! **8MO** for excellent attitudes towards the workshop that was conducted by an ex-student last week – you were polite, respectful and gave it all a good go. Well done!

GEOGRAPHY – Miley Nicholls and Felicity Moody 7BP for being dedicated to their peer assessment and improvements, completing it in a timely manner. **George Groves 8FG** for being a general wonderful person and a hard working student in Geography.

HISTORY – Darcylea Kesterton 7JL for amazing focus and dedication with her work this week being both thorough and meticulous. **George Turner 8FG** is becoming my Wednesday highlight as he’s always the most eager student in the room to learn.

MATHS – Mr Legg’s Year 8 Maths Group – for all having a great attitude towards work, really trying hard and smashing their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages – well done! Shout out to **Marley Bosworth** as well for an excellent Mastery level answer – well done!

Molly McLeod 8FG - for being resilient and always trying her best. We have been doing some tricky learning this week but she has kept trying even when she found it difficult. **Dercy Gurden 8FG** – for being an excellent learning partner and always helping those around her. She never gives answers but always explains her thinking and how to work things out.

ART - Emmy Turrell (7BP) for the fantastic presentation in her sketchbooks. **8MO** for always working hard and being a pleasure to teach. For your focus and effort in lessons.

COMPUTING – Ashton Turner (8MO) for working hard in his end of unit assessment on Binary – well done. **Freddie Thomas (7BP)** for showing great determination to complete his end of unit Scratch assessment – well done.

DT - Fabian Francis & George Holder 8FG for their enthusiasm for cooking this term, they had a rocky start to the topic but have been amazing since. They both have also taken recipes home to make at home which is lovely to see. **Jakub Opechowski & Jakub Przybylo 7SF** for their fantastic teamwork whilst making scones this week. They both used the recipe sheets and followed the method independently, displaying great skill.

ENGLISH – Leo Mountford (7AP) for writing a superb response to the essay question even though he only joined the school recently. I was very impressed with his attitude and he should be really proud of what he has produced!! **Matilda Price (8MO)** for articulating her thoughts clearly during whole class discussions on our new topic. Her ideas created some fantastic class ideas and allowed us to explore the content to fully understand the issues. Great job Tilly!

MUSIC - Jakub Opechowski (7SF) for great recall of prior knowledge when discussing timbre in music. 7SF on the whole – you were fantastic this week! **Brooklyn Bathurst, Summer OWen, Morgan Spacie, Olivia Roberts, Tarlie Davis, Ava Higgins and Matilda Price (8MO)** for their effort with their music artist posters over the last 2 weeks.

P.E – 7JL for amazing effort, focus and sports-personship in their introduction to Tchoukball. **Connor Vasic (8JD)** for his precise and controlled technique when performing a volley pass in volleyball.

R.E – Freddie Thomas 7BP for his improved focus and engagement in lessons. Freddie is putting his hand up more and wanting to answer questions.

French - Amber McIntyre and Sonny Bagley (7AP) for a positive attitude and consistent hard work and dedication during their French classes. They are both becoming great, young role models to others. **Vanessa Wloch and Imogen Flynn (7JL)** for an excellent attitude and hard work. They have both worked very hard and are always keen to improve their French language, learning to new vocabulary and phrases.

Science – Alfie Richards (8JD) for answering 8 questions on Friday morning, he was on fire and made Charlie zesty with envy. **Connor Vasic (8JD)** For always being able to ignore distractions and just get on with his science work in lessons. **7SF** – For having a great attitude in lessons and showing a real maturity when working independently. **Mollie McLeod, FiFi Gurden & Dercy Gurden (8FG)** for their unwavering commitment in lessons & kindness towards others – you will go far. A HUGE **thank you** to my KS3 classes for having pride in the presentation of their books – it's a pleasure to look through them and see your great work – keep it up :)

The CH Factor

Church Hill's very own talent show is returning.

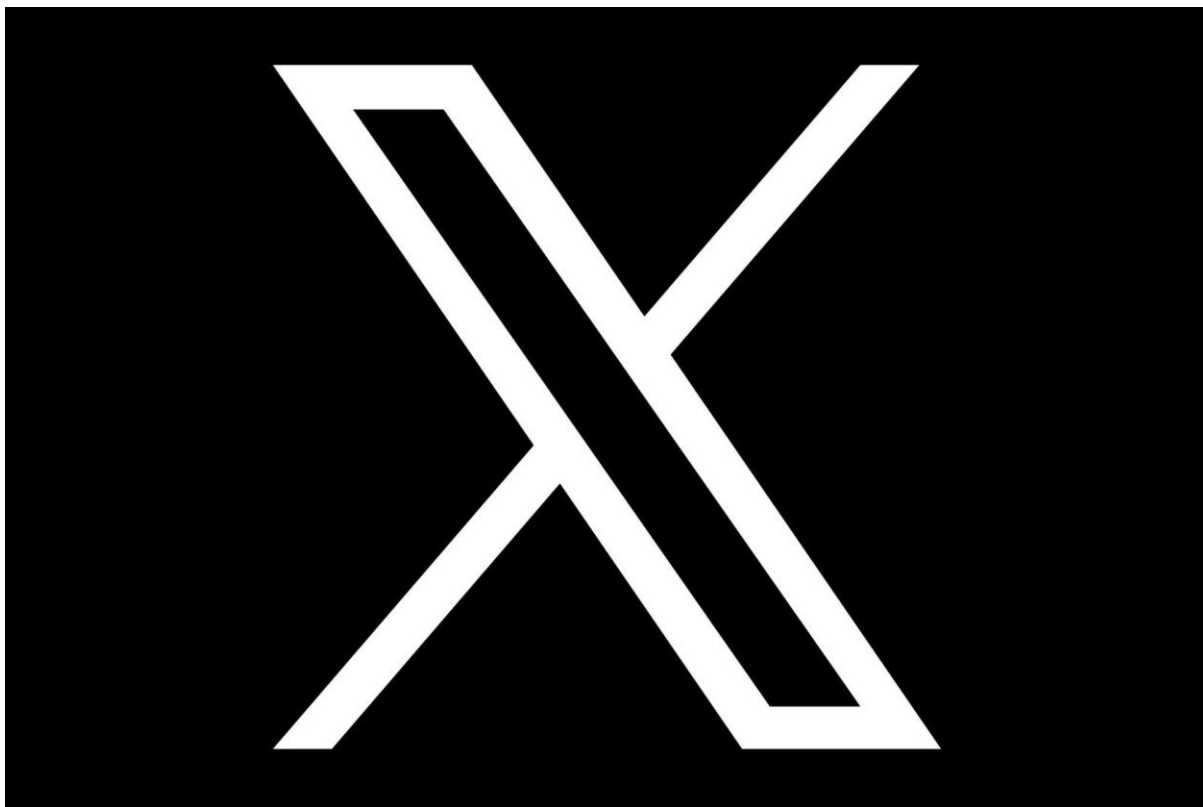
Audition sign up sheets are available around school for those with a well-known or secret talent.

Whether that is a talent for singing, dancing, acting, juggling, gymnastics or performing magic tricks - we welcome all to sign up and audition.

Sign up sheet closes 8th March.

Audition date TBC.

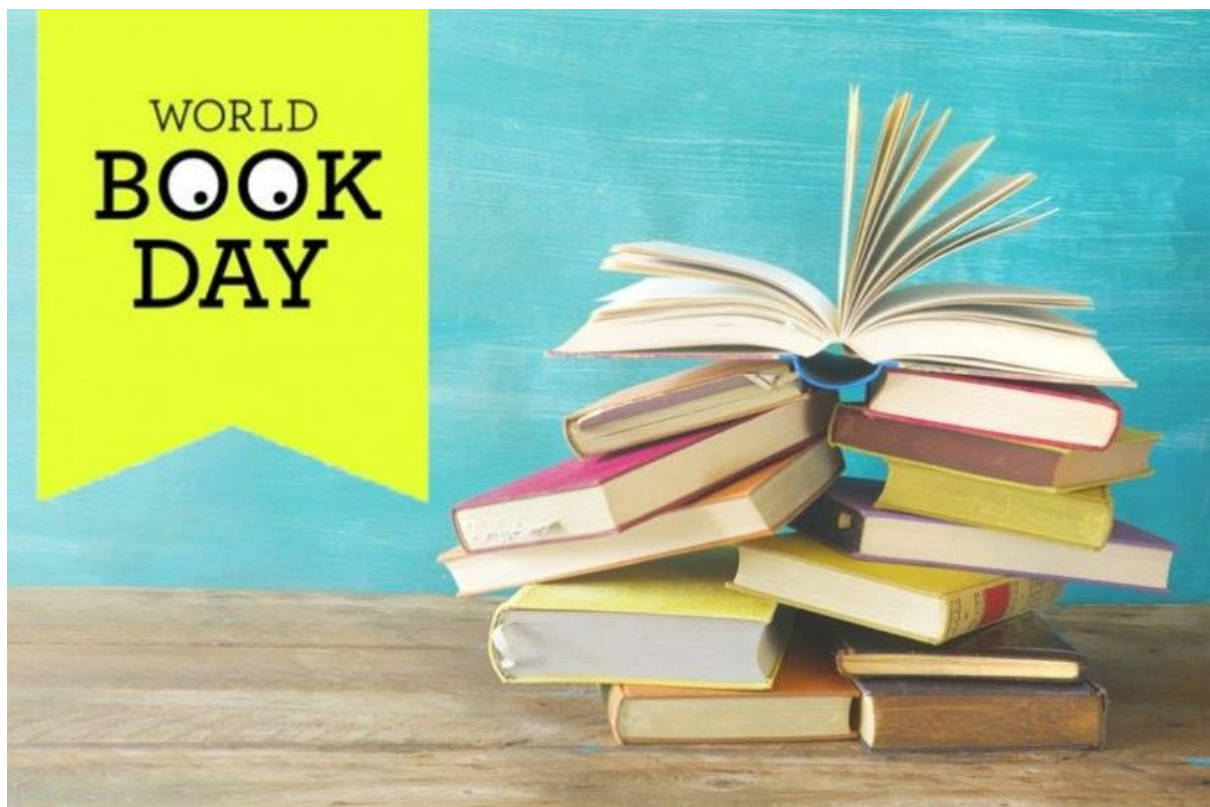
Church Hill PE Department on 'X'



Remember to follow us on 'X' (formally twitter) to keep up to date with all things PE and sport here at Church Hill!

@ChurchHillPE

World Book Day 2024



Thursday 7th March 2024 – World Book Day

Don't forget that students can dress up as their favourite book character on World Book Day – no payment is required. If they don't want to dress up as a book character, they need to come in full school uniform.

There will be exciting activities happening on and around the big day and we look forward to sharing these with you in next week's newsletter!

The Masked Reader!

Students were excited across the school this week when we had an unexpected visit from The Masked Reader. Watch this space for more news about who The Masked Readers are revealed to be over the course of next week. Good luck to students and staff as you make your guesses!

releases to beloved favourites and bestsellers, all at amazing prices. Plus, for every book bought, you help to earn free books for our school. World Book Day tokens can be redeemed against the price of books, and we will be running some competitions in school for the chance to win one of five, £5 gift vouchers – watch this space for more information in the coming weeks! All children will be given the opportunity to browse the book selection during their library sessions and purchase books after school every night from 3pm. The book fair will also be open during Parents' Evening on the 5th and 6th of March so we look forward to seeing you there! Click on the links below to have a sneak-peek at some of the books that will be available:

[scholastic-book-fair-invite-spring-24-2238488.pdf](#)

[spring-2024-secondary-fairs-invite-2236491.pdf \(scholastic.co.uk\)](#)

Times Table Rock Star Day - Friday 22nd March



Times tables are the essential building blocks that underpin every maths curriculum, yet students always find them a challenge. In order to combat this, we are relaunching the Times Tables Rockstars learning platform. To do this in a fun and engaging way, we will be holding a Rock Stars Day on Friday 22nd March. Children are encouraged to dress up as a rock star on the day, rocking their air guitars! During the day, we will be launching an interhouse competition, inviting pupils to learn their tables by collecting as many points as possible for their houses. There will also be a competition for best dressed with certificates and prizes for the winners.

Alongside the Rock Stars Day, we will be encouraging all students to complete 5+ minutes per week practicing their times tables on the website. This will allow students to become fluent in their timetables, which in turn cuts thinking delay, enabling them to become more mathematically confident and excel in all areas of maths. If you want to find out more about Times Table Rockstars, the website has a snappy 2-minute video, which provides an excellent overview of the programme for parents and carers [Resources – Times Tables Rock Stars \(ttrackstars.com\)](#)

We look forward to seeing you all dressed up on the day!