



Church Hill Middle School Spring term 2 newsletter

A message from Mrs Jarvis





CHURCH HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Communication

Thank you for taking the time to visit and read our half termly swag. Our latest edition was visited 569 times which is fantastic. We endeavour to keep it informative but concise and with a focus on a love of teaching and a love of learning. I also aim to keep our newsletters as visual as possible as so you can look through the pictures with your child.

For daily pictures of student work please visit - [Church Hill Middle facebook page](#)

After Easter break, Arbor will begin to replace all daily communication. If you have not managed to download or get access to Arbor please contact the office on office@churchhill.worcs.sch.uk.

Arbor

Club sign up through Arbor has been launched in the last week of half term (from the 7th April).

If you ever need any help with accessing information through Arbor please contact the school office office@churchhill.worcs.sch.uk.

Great opportunities; great experiences

The students have experienced some fantastic opportunities this half term and proven how capable and hard working they are. These include;

Celebrating **world book day** and their favourite fictional/non-fictional characters - the staff has as much fun as the children!

Year 8's have visited the **Mumbles for Geography** to see coastal erosion for themselves - a headland situated on the western edge of Swansea bay.

Year 7 have experienced a day at **Warwick Castle** for History to tie in with their units on medieval history and the Tudors.

KS2 had real life **zoo experience** on site here at Church Hill to help support their learning around the Jungle.

We have some very exciting trips and dates to add to your calendar so please check out the key dates at the bottom of the Sway.

Lastly I want to thank you for all your support with ensuring the students uniform is meeting our uniform policy. The student are looking smart, well presented and are ready to learn.

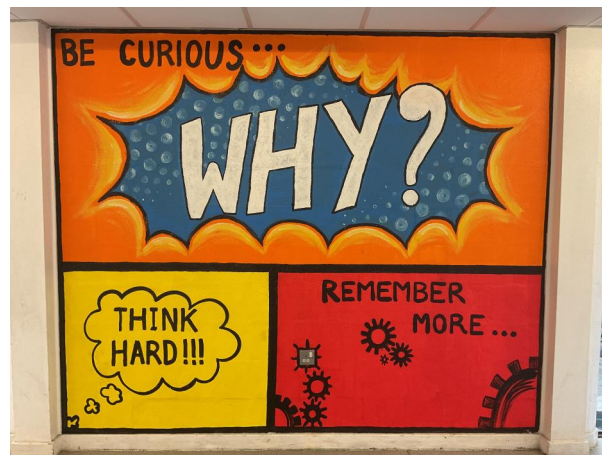
We are Kind

We are Resilient

We are Hard working

Kind regards

Laura Jarvis



WE ARE **Kind**

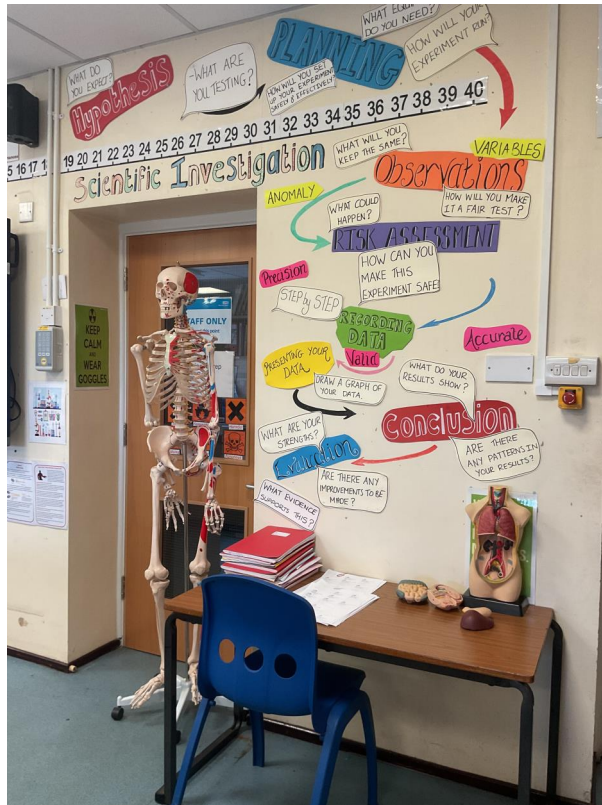
WE ARE **RESILIENT**

WE ARE **HARDWORKING**











 CHURCH HILL
MIDDLE SCHOOL



KS2 News



Key Stage 2 have had an exciting spring term, taking part in lots of learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

We have been learning about:

Year 5 have been learning all about forces in science, taking part in lots of experiments that have taken them outside to find out the impact that friction and air resistance have on the speed of an object. They have been reading a fantastic book called *When the Mountains Roared*, which is all about a family that move to the Himalayas. The children have been producing superb pieces of writing linked to the story.

5MH attended a Trust Music Festival this half term. They represented Church Hill brilliantly, standing up and performing their song in front of all of the other Trust Primary Schools.

Year 6 have learning all about the rainforest in science and geography and were lucky enough to have a visit from the animal man! You can see some pictures below of the children holding some strange and unusual creatures. The text they have been studying is *Journey to the River Sea*, which has helped them gain a greater understanding of life in the rainforest. In science, pupils have also been learning about animal adaptations, and how they are built to survive in the conditions they live in. You can see some examples of work below. You can also see examples of pupils homework from this term.

Key Stage 2 have continued to use the fitness watches to see how many steps they doing each day.

Upcoming events in KS2:

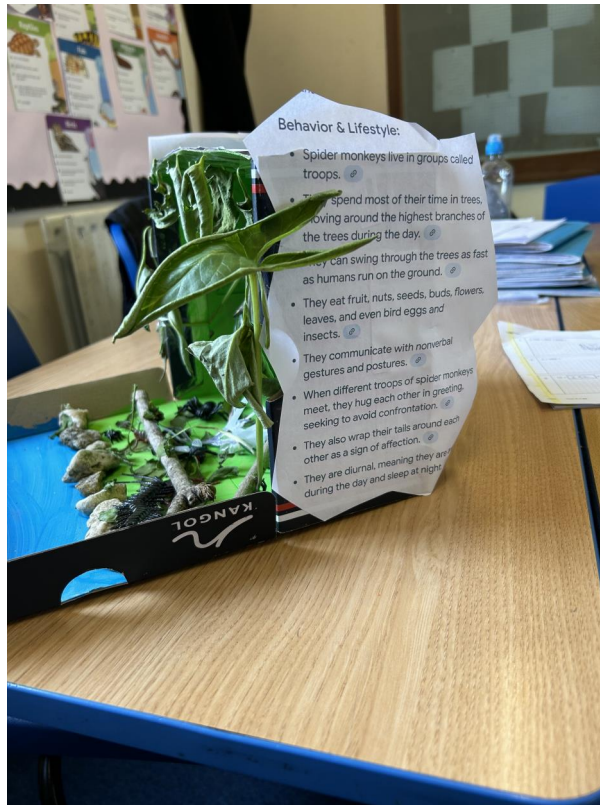
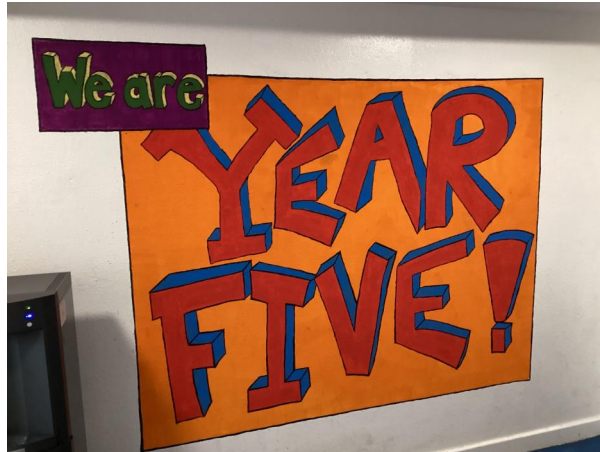
Year 6 are working hard in preparation for their SATs, showing incredible resilience, determination and hard work. Keep it up!

SATs: Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May

Y6 Residential: Friday 4th July - Sunday 6th July

June: Trust Maths Challenge Competition. Watch this space!



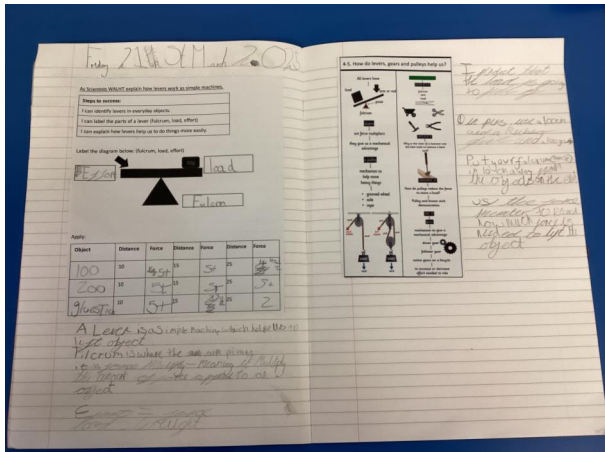
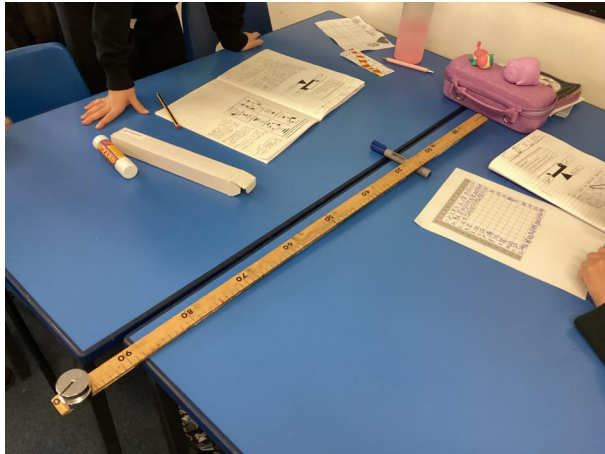


- Starting Position:**
 1. Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart. The plated weight should be on the ground in front of you.
 2. Engage your core and keep your chest up.
 - Grip:**
 1. Bend at your hips and knees to lower yourself into a squat position.
 2. Grip the plated weight securely with both hands at the sides or top, depending on its design.
 - Initial Lift:**
 1. Drive through your heels to extend your legs and lift the weight off the ground.
 2. Keep your back straight and the weight close to your body as you lift.
 - Transition to Overhead:**
 1. As the weight reaches your hips, extend your hips and knees quickly to generate upward momentum.
 2. Use your arms and shoulders to guide the weight overhead.
 - Overhead Position:**
 1. Fully extend your arms above your head.
 2. Ensure your elbows are locked and the weight is stable.
 3. Your body should be in a straight line from your wrists to your heels.
 - Lowering the Weight:**
 1. Carefully lower the weight back down to the starting position.
 2. Maintain control throughout the descent to avoid injury.
 - Repetitions:**
 1. Perform the desired number of repetitions, maintaining good form throughout.
- Tips for Safety and Effectiveness:**
- Start with a lighter plate to master the form before increasing the load.
 - Keep your core engaged throughout the lift to protect your lower back.
 - Focus on controlled movements to prevent injury.
 - If you're new to this exercise, consider working with a fitness professional to ensure proper technique.









Monday 20th January 2025
WALHT identify the layers of a rainforest

Steps to success:
Name the different layers of the rainforest
Colour the different layers of the rainforest
Explain the key features of each layer of the rainforest

Using the picture clues, summarise what the climate is like in the rainforest

Canopy layer
About 80% of sunlight is captured at the canopy layer. Many animals like to live in the high light, but as the forest layers are so thick, it's hard to get through. The canopy layer is also home to many birds and insects. It's very hot and humid here.

Emergent layer
The layer above the canopy and made up of tall trees that rise above the canopy. The trees are very tall and can be up to 100m high. They are often the tallest trees in the forest.

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Using the picture clues, summarise what the climate is like in the rainforest

Understorey layer
The layer below the canopy and made up of smaller trees and plants. The trees are often shorter and have large, flat leaves. They are often found in the shade of the canopy.

Forest floor
The ground level of the rainforest. It is very dark and humid. There is a lot of fallen fruit and leaves on the ground. Many animals like to live on the forest floor.

Emergent layer
The layer above the canopy and made up of tall trees that rise above the canopy. The trees are often the tallest trees in the forest.

Canopy layer
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Thursday 27th March 2025

Date: WALHT identify how adaptations lead to 'survival of the fittest'

Steps to success:
Describe how certain animals have adapted to their environments
Discuss why some animals' numbers are decreasing in the wild
Compare 2 animals and their ability to adapt to survive

Connect

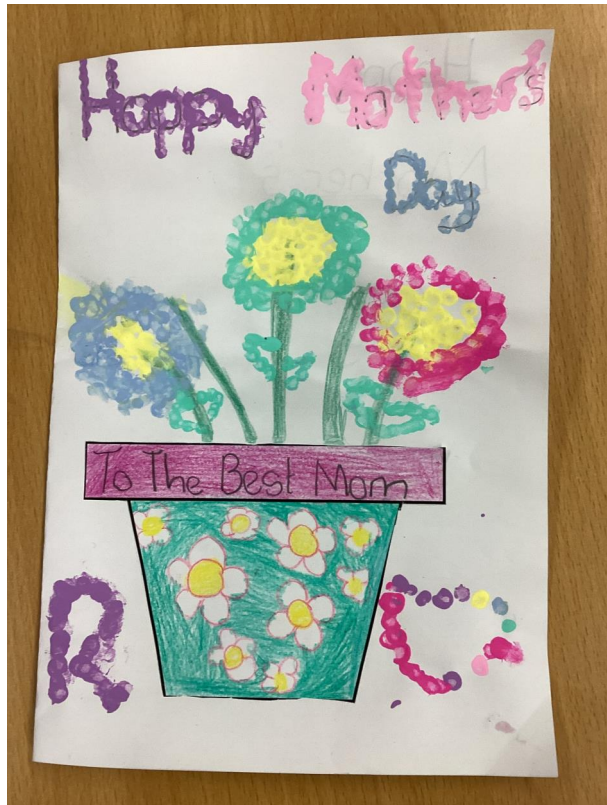
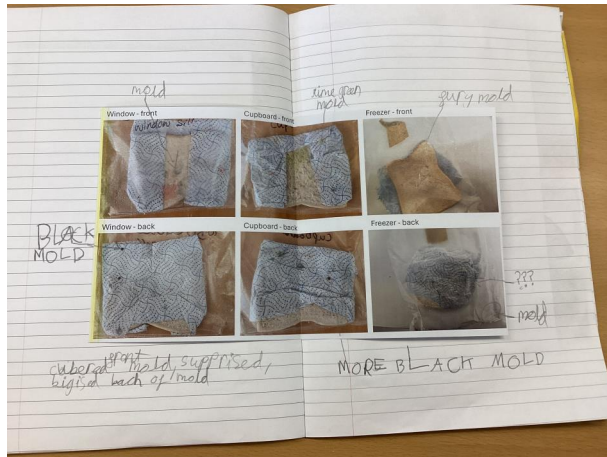
Remembering what we know of classification, what adaptations do these animals have?

Camel notes

- Long shaggy fur to stay warm at night and shed in summer
- Store energy, rich fat in humps

Task 1

Diagram of a camel with labels:
 - Large surface area of feet
 - Store fat in hump
 - Thick fur in the winter and fur sheds in the summer
 - Drink up to 100l of water





When to start a new paragraph

TiP ToP

Time Place Topic Person

Events in the story to choose from:

- ① Find out you are moving to India
- ② Journey to cruise (kangaroo) } Journey to India
↳ ute
- ③ On the cruise
- ④ Travel in taxi to hotel
- ⑤ Arrive at hotel - see state of it (Scorpions)
- ⑥ Made friends with Praveen.

Connect

- 1) 13.4 Billion years old
- 2) Lives it ~~is~~ a bird

bird

1: land plants	1: gold
2: dinosaurs	2: land plants
3: reptiles	3: amphibians
4: fish	4: reptiles
5: amphibians	5: dinosaurs
6: birds	6: birds
7: Modern humans	7: Modern humans

I put the land plants at the start because the dinosaurs came just about world the dinosaurs came and put rivers at the end of the timeline because it separates modern and the first dinosaurs were 1. nearly modern and everything else in the list wasn't already developed before dinosaurs

Now

200,000 years ago - humans

150 million years ago - birds

220 million years ago - mammals

230 million years ago - dinosaurs

310 million years ago - reptiles

360 million years ago - amphibians

470 million years ago - land plants

550 million years ago - fish

3.5 billion years ago - first life - microbes

Oldest

KS3 News



KS3 students have had an exciting spring term with trips to Warwick Castle for Year 7 and The Mumbles (coastal) for Year 8, along with some in school experiences, including World Book Day. Students have been working hard in lessons and the KS3 spring assessments have seen more students reaching their target grade across all subjects, when compared with autumn attainment.

We have been learning about:

Year 7: In Art students have begun their enquiry based project where they have a choice of mediums to work with, and topic ideas. Students have really enjoyed being able to choose their own focus! In geography students have been learning about extreme weather events including hurricanes, and in history they have been learning about life in medieval England. In English students have been studying the power of spoken language through the words of Malala Yousafzai, a school girl who survived being shot by the Taliban to later gain a degree at the University of Oxford. In computing students have been making their own games using Scratch software.

Year 8: In English students have been learning how to be persuasive by using a range of rhetoric techniques. In art students have been practicing their portrait skills, including creating some fantastic caricatures. In food technology students have been making the school smell amazing whilst making focaccia bread, and in music students have been using online music technology to compose their own musical master pieces. In Science students have been learning about the wonders of the human body and energy transfers.

Summer term Ebacc Assessments:

In the summer term all students in KS3 will be completing end of term assessments for their EBacc subjects. These will be 45 minute assessments in English, mathematics, science, French, geography and history. Teachers will prepare students by planning and delivering

revision lessons and by providing students with resources to revise with at home. The assessments will take place in lessons between Monday 12th May and Friday 6th June, teachers will decide when is best to complete the assessment for each class and will inform students ahead of time.

If you would like to see what students will be learning about in more detail please visit the Church Hill website curriculum page. [Church Hill Middle School - Curriculum](#)

Summer Home Learning:

All students in KS3 will be set regular home learning tasks in the summer term. These will be set by subject teachers according to the schedule below:

English and Maths

Weekly

Up to 30 minutes

Science Languages + Humanities

Fortnightly

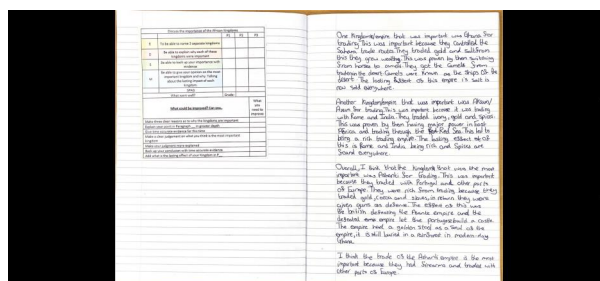
Up to 30 minutes

Drama/RE/Music/Art

Every 4 Weeks

Up to 30 minutes

Completing home learning tasks is an important part of preparing students for high school. Students will be rewarded for excellent home learning by their class teachers. We will also be tracking those students that do not complete their home learning tasks and the Phase Team will contact parents and carers of these students to discuss the barriers to completing home learning tasks and to offer support to ensure that all students build healthy habits around completing learning at home.



VINCE LOW

is a contemporary artist who is an advocate for students with learning disabilities. He struggled with undiagnosed dyslexia throughout his childhood. Low used art as a way to develop his fine motor skills and to express himself.

STYLE

Low uses biro to create his final skills. To create areas of shadow, he builds up scribble lines, and to create highlight by leaving areas blank.

MY OPINION

I like his art because I haven't seen it before and it is easy to pick up. Also it's cool to see how he turns scribbles into realistic photos.



EVALUATION

In this study, I was using scribble art to draw David Bowie. I used a black biro and a white biro.

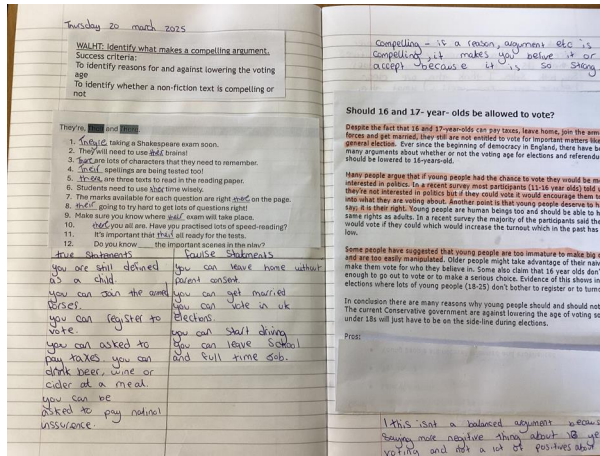
first time it looked like David Bowie and my tones were good. I felt it the month could be better.

inspiration from vince low
I found it fun and relaxing but I can see how others found it hard.

I like the price of work that I made because I feel that for my

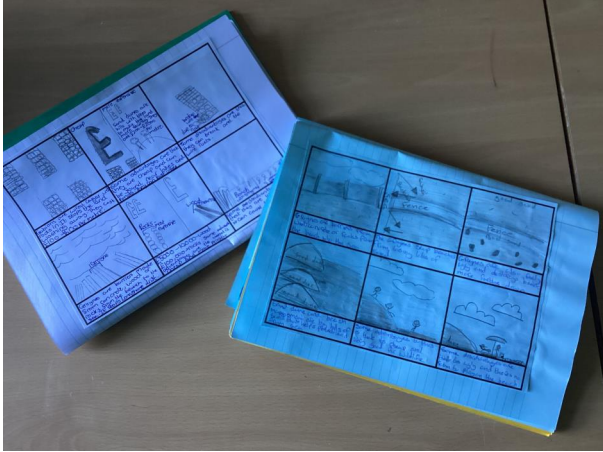


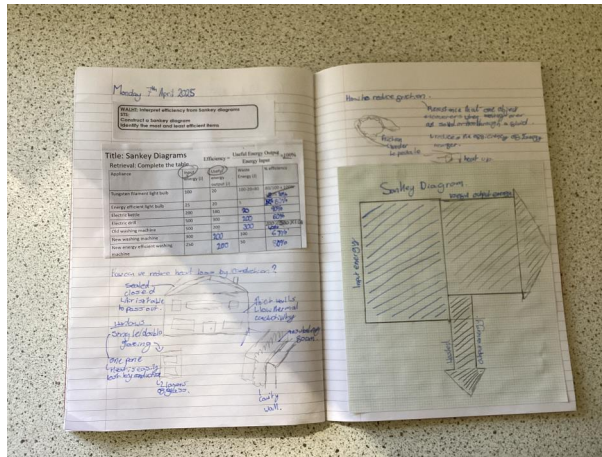
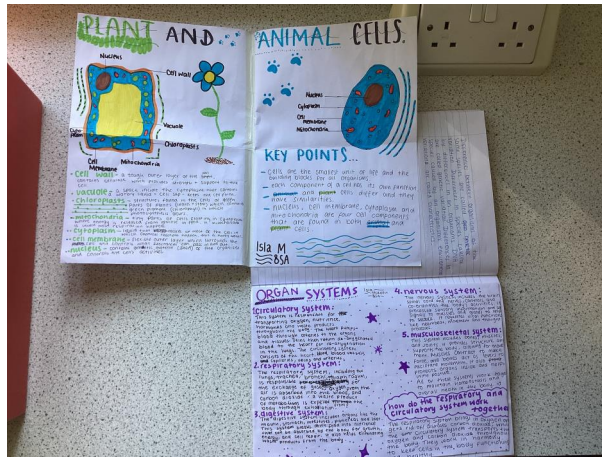



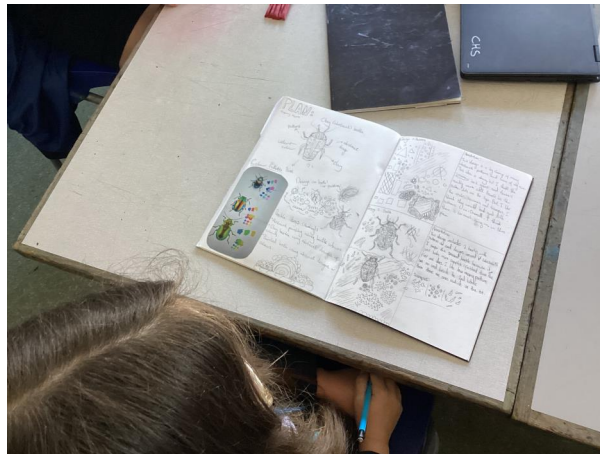
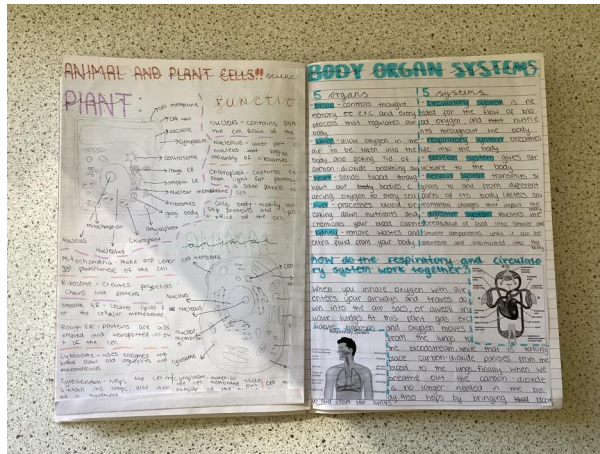












Church Hill Sports events and upcoming fixtures



Sporting events from Spring term 1

- Year 8 boys' football continued to represent the school well, making it to the quarter finals of the Worcestershire county cup, where they sadly lost out to St Johns.
- Our Year 8 girls' football team continued to display their dominance in the Worcestershire County Cup, defeating a strong St. Johns team 1-0 in the quarter final. A semi-final against either Ridgeway or St. Bedes now awaits them.
- Both Year 5 boys' football team were successful in their respective tournaments/festivals, with both teams coming out as winners on the day. It looks like we have got a strong team on our hands moving forward!
- The Year 5 girls' footballers also had their first taste of competitive games with friendlies and a tournament.
- Earlier in March, our KS3 girls hosted a Year 3 and 4 girls' football festival for students from Abbeywood and Moons Moat. We also had some of our KS2 girls attend a football festival hosted by Arrow Vale.
- In hockey, our Year 5 and 6 team won silver in the Redditch district competition, narrowly missing out on gold.

- Also in hockey, our KS3 girls' team walked away with the gold in the Redditch district competition. For many of the girls, it was their first time playing hockey but they were able to apply their football brains to come out victorious.
- Both boys and girls from Year 8 were successful in the CRST Trust Handball Competition with both teams bringing home silver medals. This is fantastic given that most the other teams were made up of Year 9 students.
- Despite the Year 8 netball tournament being postponed to May, all other years still had theirs and Mrs Clarke-Dyer, Miss Gallagher and Miss Johnson were super impressed with the effort on display from all the girls. The Year 5 team, in their first ever tournament, came away with silver medals!
- Our KS2 also saw success in the district boccia tournament, coming second and narrowly missing out on a chance to represent Redditch at the school games in the summer.

With the summer fast approaching, we will soon be selecting our teams for the upcoming district athletics competitions, as well as other sports such as rounders. Let's finish what has already been a year filled with success, with a bang!

Keep fit; join a team; make friends; enjoy sport!

Speak to the PE staff to find out how you can take part.







Church Hill and Abbeywood Bake off



On Tuesday 8th April the Church Hill and Abbeywood students worked together collaboratively to enter a joint cake for our 'Bake off' event! Well done to all involved.













Church Hill fundraising for Birmingham Children's hospital



Well done to Church Hill for raising **£699.08** for Birmingham Children's hospital! This a fantastic achievement and you should all be very proud of your contributions.

A massive thank you and acknowledgement to the organisation and maturity shown by the year 8 Prefects; they ran all the events beautifully and showed genuine leadership and team work skills.







Rewards for attendance and positive behaviour





Rewards at Church Hill



Epraise Points
Epraise points can be earned at any time during the school day for showing any of our school expectations.

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe
- Taking Responsibility.

Epraise points can also be given for **excellent effort in lessons and during sporting fixtures and clubs.**

Rewards for Epraise Points

Rewards for Epraise points are given half termly and are tiered.
Each half term, spendable Epraise points are reset to give students a fresh start. This does not delete, their overall points. Overall points will then be used to reward children at the end of the school year.



Postcards
At the end of each lesson, a staff of the lesson will be chosen to receive a postcard from the teacher.
Children who receive a postcard will be entered in a raffle to choose a prize from the key stage prize box.

SLT Postcards
SLT postcards will be awarded to children when they are noticed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team for going above and beyond.
Children that receive an SLT postcard do not need to be entered into a raffle. They automatically receive a prize.

100% attendance rewards

Weekly Raffle
Each Friday, pupils that have received 100% attendance that week will be entered into a raffle to win a prize. Our weekly raffles include prizes like sweets, chocolates, and fidget toys.

Monthly Raffle

Each month, a larger raffle will take place. This will be for children that have received 100% attendance for one month. These raffles will include larger prizes. These have included vouchers for local companies like days out, an air fryer, hair curlers, amazon vouchers, tickets to mascot day at Redditch United game and many more exciting prizes.



Achievement Assemblies
Each week, teachers will nominate students from their classes to receive a mention in our achievement assemblies.
Children that receive a mention in the achievement assembly get to spend 20 minutes with their phase leader talking about their achievement over some biscuits or cake.

1 - This term, we have given out 36 awards for 100% attendance during our weekly raffles! These have include, chocolate and sweets, amazon vouchers and vouchers for days out, including at Atwell Farm, No Limits Trampoline Park and Wythall Transport Museum. This term has seen our highest number of children achieving 100% attendance and 50 more children have achieved 98% or above than last term - well done, Church Hill! Next term, we will continue with the attendance awards. We look forward to seeing who the winners are. Please note, that children attending medical appointments, where evidence is shown to school will still be including in attendance raffles.

We know being a parent/carer can be challenging at times. We are here to help if there are any problems affecting your child. Do please speak with your child's class teacher/form tutor in the first instance or the phase leader of their key stage.

To assist parents deciding whether their child is too ill to attend school or otherwise, the NHS have produced a weblink you may also find useful: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Behaviour rewards have taken place this week, including Key Stage reward afternoons, a pizza party with Mr Harrison-Webster and a behaviour raffle for any children achieving more than 50 Epraise points this half term. Well done to all of the children that have worked hard to achieve these rewards this week!

New KS2 and KS3 homework policy (coming Summer 1)



We are currently reviewing our home learning policy with staff and students. We are looking to launch this with parents/carers next half term. In the interim the following home learning will be set for KS3 and KS2 pupils.

KS2 Home Learning:

Maths and English tasks will be set weekly on the Learn by Questions website: [Learning by Questions](#)

Additional homework will be project based and set on a half-termly basis.

KS3 Home Learning:


Maths tasks will be set weekly on the Learn by Questions website: [Learning by Questions](#)

English students will be set a project based activity. This activity will be issued to students by their English teacher after half term.

Uniform expectations

Non-PE Days


- A navy blazer with 'Rio' piping and the school logo.
- A formal white collared shirt.
- Church Hill Middle School tie.
- Formal black trousers or tailored shorts – chinos, jeans, skinny trousers or leggings are not acceptable. The trousers must not have external buckles, rivets, zips or logos. Plain black, white or grey socks must be worn with trousers.
- Formal black school skirt which must be knee length and must not be of a stretchy or Lycra material. Plain white socks, or black opaque tights must be worn with skirts. The skirt must not have external buckles, rivets, zips or logos.
- Formal plain black low-heeled shoes – these must not have a logo or branding. Trainers or pumps are not allowed.



PE days

- Navy/Rio shorts
- A navy blazer with 'Rio' piping and the school logo (**not to be worn in PE lesson**).
- Navy Jogging bottoms under shorts
- Navy/Rio polo shirt
- Navy/Rio rugby shirt (this is optional, but may be preferred during colder months)
- Trainers
- Navy blue socks
- Football boots

Hoodies and coats are not to be worn in lessons.



Key dates

Year 6 SATs week: Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May

Church Hill Disco: Festival theme - Thursday 22nd May - KS2 4-5pm KS3 5.15 - 6.15pm

KS3 EBACC Assessments: All assessments will take place between Monday 12th May and Friday 6th June,

Church Hill and Abbywood Summer fete - 27th June - 3.30 - 4.30pm

Year 6 Residential (Culmington Manor): Friday 6th July - Sunday 8th July.



Community Links



The CTA (Community teachers association) has now been set up and we are starting to organise our first events!

We are organising a disco for both Church Hill and Abby Wood as well as a joint Summer fete. All proceeds raised will go towards both schools.

If you would like to join the CTA team please e-mail the office office@churchhill.worcs.sch.uk

Support for parents



Easter can be a wonderful time together as a family, it can also bring about its challenges. Worcestershire County Council have a virtual family hub to a wide range of support for you and your family. [Virtual Family Hub | Worcestershire County Council](#) . Being a parent is hard work and there are no instructions. Sometimes, you or your children may need extra support. This may be before your children are born, when they are very young, or throughout their school years. There are also support and resources to help you if you are struggling with housing costs, finance or debt. There is nothing to be ashamed of in asking for help



2 - Emoji's explained - support to help understand your child's messages

Secret slang to coded messages, emojis are often used to convey meanings that parents might not recognise. Understanding these hidden messages can help bridge the gap between generations and ensure open, informed conversations.

Link to [Emoji's explained](#)

