



Welcome from the Principal

As we approach the end of the first half-term of 2024 may I thank you and your children for a fantastic 8 weeks in which all pupils seem to have settled well into school. I hope that this Newsletter conveys some of the great things which have been going on both inside and outside of school.

Have a restful half-term and stay safe. We look forward to welcoming children back on Monday 4th November 2024.

Mrs T Thorn, Principal

Diary Dates

November



- 4 Pupils Return
- 11 Remembrance
- 11-15 Y6 Mock SATs Week
- 15 Children in Need (uniform and CiN accessories)
- 21 Stone Light Switch On
- 25 Y6 Parents' Evening
- 28 Christmas Fayre 3:45-5:00
- 29 Inset Day - School Closed

December

- 1 First Sunday of Advent
- 6 Reports Issued
- 11 Christmas Dinner Day
- 13 Christmas Jumper Day
- 16 KS2 New Vic Theatre Trip
- 19 Christmas Concert
- 23 Christmas Holiday

Reminders!

The new text number for school absences is 07507 270844

Please ensure that your child's uniform is fully named so that we can return any lost property to them.

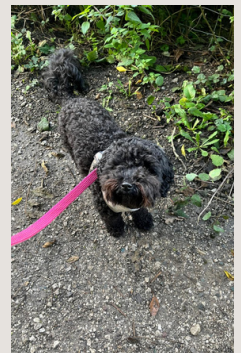
If you are dropping your children off outside of school, please do not park on the zig-zag lines by the zebra crossing - let's help keep our children safe.

Please ensure that your child's uniform is fully named so that we can return any lost property to them.

Message from Minnie

What an exciting half-term it has been. As well as meeting lots of new people at our Open Morning (I got plenty of fuss!) I've also been visiting First Schools as part of CCA on Tour.

It is lovely being in school and supporting so many pupils!



CURRICULUM

ART

A number of Year 8 children visited the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery last week to take part in their 'Growing Cultures' project. The day is fully funded by The Arts Council and enables children to access the museum's exhibitions and practical ceramics activities.



Ceramics has played a vital role in the development of hygiene and this was explored throughout the day.



The children also had the opportunity to create their own 'bacteria' using clay. We are lucky enough to have a kiln in school, so all of their outcomes are currently being fired before being returned to our young artists!

ARTS ON TOUR

This year's 'CCA on Tour' kicked off last week with the Science and Art departments visiting Pirehill First School.

Their Y4 children took part in a clay workshop and explored chromatography, and colour wheels. A number of our Y8 pupils also supported the workshops. Thank you for having us over at Pirehill – we had a great time!

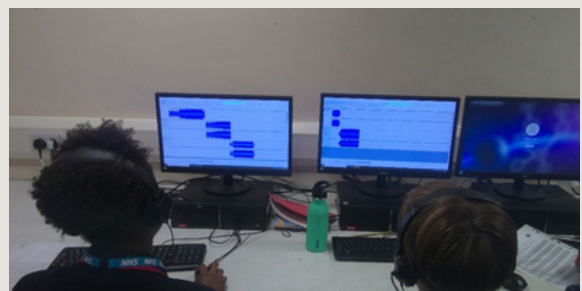


COMPUTING

Year 6 pupils are currently studying various forms of computing animation. In the age of touch screens many pupils struggle with using a mouse so pupils are developing their drawing with a mouse skills and learning about the current Computing hot topic of AI by using Google Quickdraw. The children are then using this new found accuracy and drawing packages to create their own cartoon me's.



In a cross curricular topic, to support pupils use of Garage Band in music lesson, Year 7 pupils will be learning about how computers are used in the music industry. The children have been using Audacity to create their own talking stories and to create their own mp3 music mixes that can be converted to ringtones.



Next children will look at computer graphics in the music industry and the changing role of album covers from vinyl and cassette through to Spotify graphics. They will then use their computer graphics skills from Key Stage 2 to create their own Spotify album graphic.

CURRICULUM

ENGLISH

Y5 Explore the World of Myths and Legends:

This term, students have been diving into the captivating world of myths and legends. From ancient Greek gods to legendary heroes, the students have been exploring stories that have shaped cultures for centuries. Through engaging activities, they've not only been reading famous tales but also analysing the deeper meanings behind them—learning about bravery, moral lessons, and the power of storytelling.

The students have also had the chance to create their own mythological characters (both heroes and villains) and write original legends, blending creativity with what they've learned. It's been a fantastic opportunity for Year 5 to expand their understanding of literature while developing their own writing skills.

We look forward to seeing the imaginative stories they create next!

Y6 EdShed and Spelling Competitions:

Students will be hard at work improving their spelling skills, both in class and at home, using the interactive platform EdShed. In their English lessons, students practice key spelling patterns with their teacher, whilst online, they can challenge each other in fun, competitive spelling games on the site. EdShed has also become a key part of their home learning activities, where students can continue building their spelling knowledge while earning points and climbing the leader boards. This friendly competition has motivated students to push themselves while making spelling practice both engaging and enjoyable. We're proud of Y6 for their dedication and can't wait to see them continue to excel!

Y7 to Explore Poetry from Around the World:

In an upcoming English unit, Y7 students will embark on an exciting journey exploring the theme of places through poetry from across the globe. They will read and analyse poems that reflect different cultures, landscapes, and perspectives, gaining a deeper appreciation for the diverse ways writers capture a sense of place. Through this unit, students will not only enhance their understanding of poetic techniques but also broaden their worldview, discovering how different environments and experiences shape the stories we tell.

We're excited to see Year 7 immerse themselves in the rich variety of global poetry!

Y8 to Explore Conflict through Romeo and Juliet:

In an exciting upcoming unit, Y8 students will delve into the theme of conflict through Shakespeare's classic tragedy, *Romeo & Juliet*. They will explore the intense rivalries and tensions within the play, gaining insight into how Shakespeare portrays conflict between characters, families, and societies.

As part of the unit, students will also have the opportunity to put their creativity to the test by writing their own Shakespearean-style scripts. This hands-on approach will allow them to experiment with language, themes, and dramatic techniques inspired by the Bard himself.

GEARING UP FOR THE RELEASE OF STORIES FROM CCA 2023-2024

Throughout last year, many of our students dedicated themselves to crafting and refining their stories during English lessons, preparing them for this year's edition of *Stories From CCA*. This special school publication showcases a diverse collection of stories written by students from across all year groups.



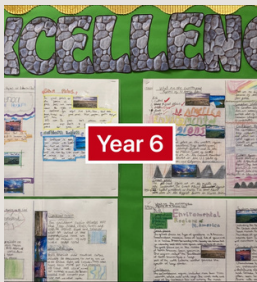
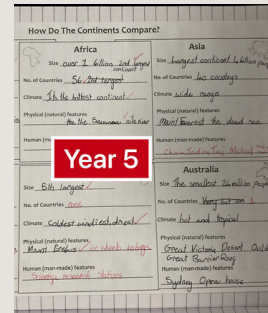
Unlike a competition, this initiative is open to everyone, with no barriers to entry. Whether it's a story, poem, newspaper article, or letter—if it can be read, it can be submitted. Students simply submit their written work to their English teacher for a chance to be published in the school book.

Each year, a new edition is released, adding to the growing collection that holds a place of pride in our school library. We're so excited to see what imaginative and creative pieces our students will share with us this year!

CURRICULUM

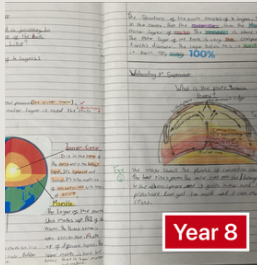
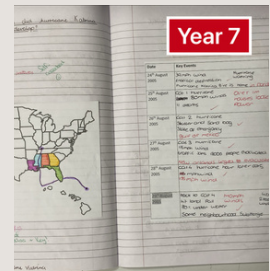
GEOGRAPHY

Year 5 pupils have settled into their Geography lessons with a fascination and enthusiasm for the world around them. All pupils have sat a baseline assessment to ensure we can build on prior knowledge from first schools. They have enjoyed studying their first topic: Location! Location! Beginning right back to the times of the super-continent Pangea and zooming in on our own continent of Europe, pupils have developed their map skills and an awareness of the world around them. What a super start!



Year 6 have continued their journey in Key Stage 2 by studying 'North America - Spotlight on the Caribbean'. They have completed some accurate map work, locating the major countries of North America and the Caribbean. Pupils have then completed an extended piece of writing by producing a factsheet of the environmental regions. There are some super factsheets now taking pride of place on our 'Excellence in Humanities' board. Next stop - Jamaica!

'Troublesome Tropics' and the devastating effects of tropical storms was on the agenda for Year 7. Pupils have developed their understanding of both the location and formation of tropical storms along with the specific case study of Hurricane Katrina. We also took the time to look at Hurricane Milton which has had devastating effects on Florida and our thoughts went out to those affected.



Year 8 have had a 'turbulent' start to their Geography lessons but not in the way you may think! The 'Turbulent Tectonics' topic has given them an insight into tectonic plates focussing firstly on volcanos with a case-study on Eyjafjallajökull. (Yes, they have been practising their pronunciation of this one!). Pupils listened to a witness audio to give them a real feel for the situation, before studying the impacts of the 'volcano that stopped Europe.'

THE LIBRARY

This half term in the library.... our fantastic new team of Y8 student librarians were trained up to and are already helping to organise the library and suggesting new reads for other readers to borrow.

Key Stage 2 'Dived into Dahl', with specially themed lessons in the library. They also voted for their favourite Roald Dahl book, which was 'The BFG' and character, 'Mr Willy Wonka'. Five lucky pupils won 'The Twits Next Door' art competition and were awarded a Roald Dahl book of their choice.

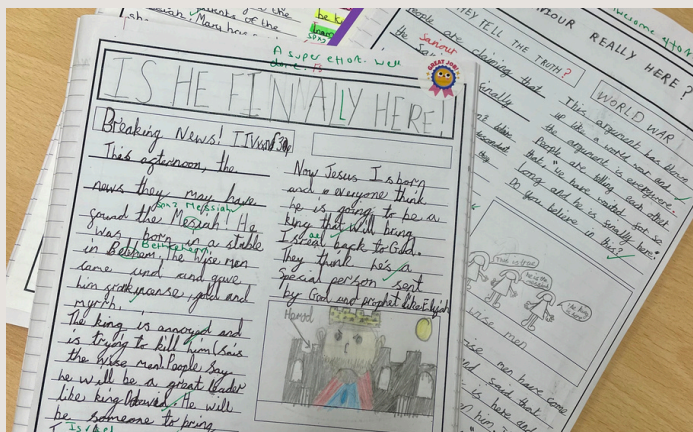
Some of our reading community tried borrowing poetry for a change during National Poetry Day week in the library and the current Spooky Reads displays have been really popular, in preparation for Hallow'een.



CURRICULUM

RE

Our Y5 pupils have hit the ground running in RE! They have been studying what Christians believe about God and have used music, art and architecture to explore. After learning about the features of a church, it was lovely to be able to take the whole school to our local church and see these important items in real life.



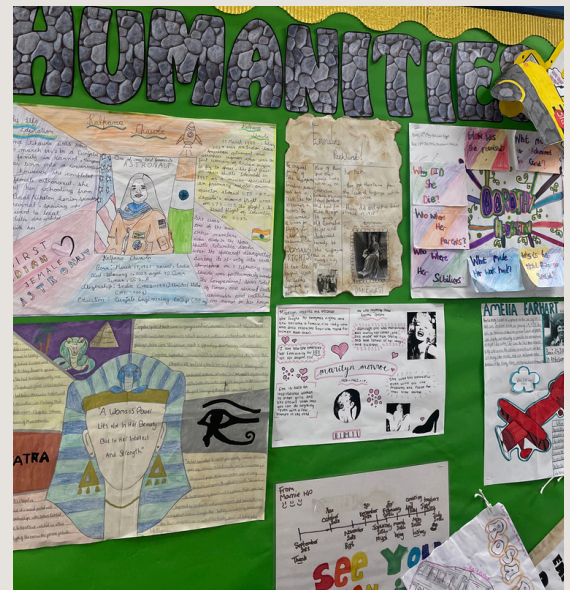
Y6 have been learning about the topic 'Prophecy' this half term and have really impressed with their knowledge and understanding. They have produced some fantastic newspaper reports, imagining what it was like when the birth of Jesus was announced. At Christ Church, we place a big focus on pupils' use of religious language, so much so that lots of our Y6 children are already using key words that are usually expected of GCSE RE students. I'm sure you'll agree that seeing words like 'omnibenevolent' used accurately (and spelled correctly!) in their writing is really impressive!

The Trinity is our first topic in Y7 RE. Pupils have tackled tricky concept with great enthusiasm. They have looked at how people use analogies to explain the Christian belief of God being three in one and have completed some really challenging tasks about the different Christian denominations.

In Y8, pupils have been studying the topic 'Prophecy'. They have learned about the inspiring story of Bishop Dinis who worked to bring about a weapons amnesty in Mosambique. Through his example, they have considered why some people today might be considered to be 'modern day prophets'.

HISTORY

In Year 7, students have been diving into the fascinating events of the Battle of Hastings, exploring its causes, key figures, and lasting impacts on English history. They've engaged in lively discussions and gained a solid understanding of battle tactics. They have also keenly investigated the various elements at play both before and during the battle. Their ability to think critically about historical events and make connections to modern society has been impressive. Keep up the great work, Year 7! Your enthusiasm and analytical skills are truly commendable!



In Year 8, students have been exploring the intriguing history of the Tudor dynasty, focusing on the significant events leading up to the reign of Henry VIII. They've engaged in dynamic discussions about the political, social, and religious factors that shaped this period, demonstrating a keen understanding of the complexities involved. Their ability to analyse historical contexts and draw connections to units of work from previous years has been wonderful to see. Fantastic job, Year 8! Your curiosity and critical thinking skills truly shine through in your work!

CURRICULUM

SCIENCE



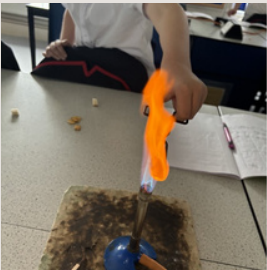
In Science this half term we have been combining learning with enjoyable practical activities!

Year 5 have been learning about what science is, studying the tomato in a new and interesting light! We have been exploring and developing our science skills, learning safety and how to use the equipment in the lab.

Year 6 have had really extended their practical skills, learning how to use a Bunsen burner and focusing on Solids, Liquids and Gases and how we might separate substances using filtering equipment and evaporation. We had a great discussion about how you would survive on a desert island with only dirty water to drink!



Year 7 have started to learn about the 'Big Idea' of Particle Theory, they have begun to explore some complex ideas about how particles behave and move. We have had a fantastic demo of Dry Ice, which has shown the pupils the wonders of Sublimation and how this is used in industry, restaurants and the theatre.



Year 8 have been learning about health, nutrition and the digestive system. We have been burning foods to establish their energy value and have studied the journey of a sandwich using a pair of tights and a food blender! This caused some giggles but a great learning experience was had!

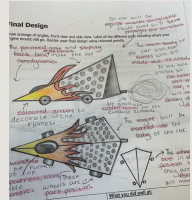
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Pupils studying product design have started to finalise their design ideas for their products and are about to embark on the practical work.

Y8 are completing a team work project to make the fastest motor-powered car learning a range of problem solving and engineering skills.

Year 6 will be making an analogue clock and as part of the project learning how to use basic hand tools and other workshop equipment safely.

We should see some wonderful practical creations on the run up to Christmas!



PE



We always love to keep you up-to-date on all of the PE events going on in school on social media and our termly PE Bulletins.

Keep an eye out for the new Extra Curricular Activities list coming out after half-term with lots to get involved in!



CURRICULUM

MUSIC

We've had a busy first half-term in the Music Department. Year 5 have enjoyed learning the Ukulele. Year 6 have had lots of fun on their classroom keyboards. Year 7 have been introduced to GarageBand and Year 8 have filled the corridors with the sound of African Drumming! Always a favourite of the teachers next to the Music room! We have over 150 pupils learning an instrument this year and they have all made great progress this first half-term. A big well done to the new pupils who are getting used to the instrumental time-tables.



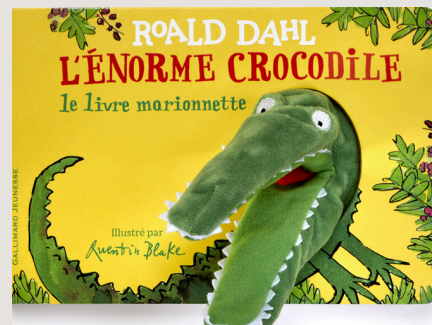
The Choir have had a busy few weeks preparing for the Harvest Service and the Eccleshall Singathon. Both were very successful and myself and Mr Cannon were very proud of their performances. Mrs Dyer, our singing teacher, has worked very hard with them over the last few weeks and it is always lovely to hear the pupils sing and see the progress they've made. We have had record numbers attending this year and we had almost 50 singers in our choir at the Harvest Service.

Our next performance will be at Lichfield Cathedral at the end of November, an annual Christmas Concert that we enjoy performing with Entrust Music Service. We hope to see you there!



FRENCH

Pupils have enjoyed celebrating some special days in the MFL department this half term. The 13th September was Roald Dahl day. There were lots of activities going on throughout the school to celebrate, and the MFL department was no exception! Some of our KS2 classes enjoyed reading and listening to 'L'énorme crocodile'- 'the Enormous Crocodile' in French. On the 26th September it was European Day of Languages. Pupils celebrated in their French lessons by learning all about the day, doing a quiz all about different languages and engaging in thoughtful discussions about why languages are so important! To commemorate 'Black History Month', pupils have been looking at some French-speaking icons of politics, literature and culture- past and present!



MATHS

The pupils have been identifying the use of geometry in football using our new display board by room 62. How many triangles can you find and can you name each type?



VISITS

NETWORK RAIL

Jeevan Kang, the Community Safety Manager from **Network Rail**, visited us in school to discuss rail safety. Both key stages participated in assemblies that highlighted key dangers around railways on railway stations.

We are very grateful to Jeevan for coming in to speak to the children, and we hope that all of our pupils were able to take away key messages about staying safe while out in the community.

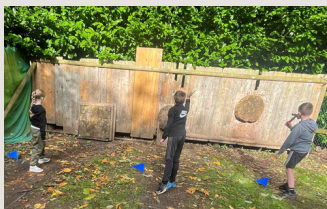


Y5 KIBBLESTONE

Year 5 have visited Kibblestone Scout Camp this week to take part in various activities and develop relationships with their new classmates and form tutors.

All pupils really embraced the challenges of the day and gave every activity - axe throwing, fire lighting, abseiling, climbing - a good go. It was great to see children approach everything with such enthusiasm, even if it was something that they found really difficult. The most pleasing aspect of the day was to see how supportive of one another they were. The levels of encouragement were sky high (as was the abseiling!).

Thanks to all the staff who supported the trips, all the children for taking part so enthusiastically, and all the parents for logistical support!



Y8 WATER PLUS



During October, 30 year 8 pupils have taken part in workplace visits to Water Plus head office in Stoke-on-Trent. These visits form an important part of our careers provision at CCA.

Over the next 9 months, all year 8 pupils will get the chance to visit Water Plus, learning about the different roles within the company, the different routes into employment, and what it is like to work in an office environment.



CHRISTIAN VALUES

COFFEE MORNING

☕ Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Coffee Morning! ☕

Daisie-Rae, Y7 reported:

Y7 Pupils Raise Over £1,200 For A Local Charity



On the 3rd of October, CCA's year 7 pupils organised a coffee morning to raise money for their chosen local charity, Dougie Mac. The year 7 pupils spent their PSHE lessons organising the coffee morning and setting it up.

The event lasted an hour. The food ranged from croissants to doughnuts and even vanilla frappes! The event took place outside in the scorching sun. They raised an amazing £1,285 for the charity!

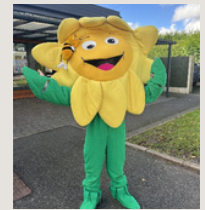
11-year-old Isabel said *"The coffee morning was amazing!"*

Mrs Thomas (Head of PSHE at CCA) said *"I am so proud of our pupils for raising such an impressive amount of money for such a worthwhile cause, in just under an hour!"*

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the event. Sam Holgate, from the Dougie Mac, will be coming into school after half-term, so that we can present her with the cheque.

For more information go to www.christchurchacademy.co.uk or go to www.dougiemac.org.uk

Written by Daisie-Rae Y7



6BE CAKE SALE 🍰

6BE held an assembly and a cake sale to raise money to buy products for the Stone Food Hub. They raised over **£216....** what great role models you are!



We had a lovely
★ Harvest Service ★
at Christ Church Stone in which we reflected on this time of year. It was brilliant to sing and worship together and we enjoyed some fantastic musical and dramatic performances.

Thank you to all those who donated to our Food Bank collection. The Stone Community Hub have received all of the items you generously sent in.

HARVEST



Stay tuned for our next events, and let's keep the momentum going!