



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday the whole school enjoyed Theme Day in which we focussed upon our Antipodean neighbours, Australia and New Zealand. This was done partly in homage to our Gappers, who have come to us from these two countries for a very long time now. The day was full of colour and creativity. I walked up to the top floor of the Walton Centre to find boys flinging boomerangs, which they had made, around the landing. Though some of the boomerangs were clearly flying elegantly through the air, there was not much chance that any animals would have been slain, had there been any in the vicinity. In the room next door, boys were writing stories using Aboriginal signs and symbols, and beautifully illustrating them with vivid colouring. Meanwhile, other boys were being taught the details of Aussie Rules Football, a seemingly complex game involving hitting something like a Rugby ball using one's clenched fist. It seemed surprising to me that any of the boys could actually play the game at all, something which was made even more difficult by the fact that the weather in Oxford was very unlike typical Australian weather. It was raining so hard that we could not go to the Games field to play, but somehow, using the Walton Hall and brief visits to the playground, the skills of the game were learnt and enjoyed by all.

Our present Gappers, Miss Halmerick and Miss Love, told us about Australia. It is a miracle to me that anyone living there survives; we were told about Great White sharks all along the East Coast and crocodiles up in Cairns; we learnt that the country has 8/10 of the world's deadliest snakes, and heard about the lethal jelly fish floating around in the calm waters and spiders which are capable of inducing instantaneous cardiac arrest! How extraordinary then, that our Gappers seem such amiable and easy-going people! This made me think about how benign the English environment is.

Until, that is, we were assaulted by Storms Dudley and Eunice this week. "How are the boys?" I asked the member of staff looking after the Choristers last night. "They are very high," he responded. "Why?" I asked, "Because of the wind!" Had I not been teaching for 32 years I might have imagined he was joking. As it happens, I have witnessed this phenomenon frequently. As the conditions climb up the Beaufort Scale, the mood of the pupils becomes ever more unpredictable. It seems that wind is the condition that most affects them, other than snow, perhaps, where they can hardly contain their excitement. I am always interested in the communal nature of this wildness, something which suggests to me that, despite our healthy focus upon, and nurturing of, the individual, we always exist in a community and take many cues from those around us.

This was brought home to me over the last few days, while we were interviewing as, very sadly for us, Miss Hunt, our Form I Teacher, is leaving us to move back to her home county of Somerset with her fiancé, we will miss her greatly but her departure is for an entirely happy reason. I was very struck by the fact that all of our interviewees remarked that they had been attracted to our School because of its family nature and because of the values of kindness we promote. Their visits to our School, they felt, reinforced this view. Kindness is at the heart of a civilised society and is central to the life of our School. Furthermore, more than one candidate picked up on the fact that we believe that children will achieve most when they are enjoying themselves. We will be able to announce, very shortly, who our new Form I Teacher will be.

Earlier this week, one of our Pre-Prep boys arrived with his mother, who announced: "Mr Murray, my son has decided that he wishes to become the Headmaster of Christ Church Cathedral School!" Of course, there are numerous reasons why the role is an attractive one but I was intrigued to know what particularly animated this boy's wise career choice. "Because he would love to be able to go and read to Nursery and he would find it very exciting to write reports!" Given that the boy in question is himself in Nursery, it will be a while before my successor is ready to take on the mantle. Fortunately, I love reading to Nursery - and writing reports allows me the pleasure of considering all our pupil's achievements at the end of each term. Ultimately it's about attending to the needs of pupils, which is at the heart of education and of being a headmaster. What insight in one so young!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2022

Monday 28th February - Sunday 6th March

MONDAY 28	
8.25	Second Half begins Form 8 Trial CE exams CC: Rehearsals resume WC: Rehearsals resume
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Pre-Prep) (Merton Field)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
TUESDAY 1	
4.00 - 5.00	Form 8 Trial CE exams After School Tennis Club (Pre-Prep) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 2	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> Form 8 Trial CE exams
2.30	U10 A & B v Church Cowley School (Home)
2.30	U11 A & B v Church Cowley School (Home)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 3	
4.00 - 5.00	World Book Day After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 5) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 4	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, including Nursery and Pre-Prep, speaker The Headmaster
10.45 - 12.45	School Play rehearsal (Forms 5 - 8)
4.15 - 5.15	After School Football Club (Forms 6 - 8) (Merton Field)
	GRADES (Not Form 8) CC: OUT
SATURDAY 5	
SUNDAY 6	<i>The First Sunday in Lent</i> <i>University Seventh Week</i>



The Pudding Competition



Please could boys in **Wolsey** bring their puddings on Monday
28th February, in a named container.

Thank you. ADM



The Pudding Competition



Please follow the link below for individual entry information:

[The Platinum Pudding Competition | A Recipe Fit for The Queen - Fortnum & Mason \(fortnumandmason.com\)](http://fortnumandmason.com)

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next term, we are launching a CCCS Pudding Competition alongside the National Platinum Pudding Competition being run by Fortnum and Mason.

The boys in each of the three houses, plus Pre-Prep, are invited to produce a favourite pudding and bring it into school. The puddings will be judged by staff and Mr Kilby. A winner will be chosen from each house and one from Pre-Prep; the winning puddings will be made after Easter, on the day we have our celebration. ADM

In order that all boys are able to take part, we will be holding the judging on the following Mondays. So, please can the puddings (nut free) be brought into school on:

Carroll, Monday 31st January - Sayers, Monday 7th February

Pre-Prep, Monday 14th February - Wolsey, Monday 28th February

CCCS Book Club

Here is a list of books generously put together by Michael Crooks to get us started, If you're interested in participating in this casual meet, please drop us an email: pa@cccs.org.uk stating which book is your preferred choice, and if we have a majority that will be our first book. We will set a meet up date for the last week of March to discuss the book, and failing that, anything we like. KC

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-stasi-poetry-circle/philip-oltermann/9780571331192>

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-twiford-code/janice-hallett/9781788165310>

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-anomaly/herve-le-tellier/9780241540480>

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-week-at-worlds-end/emma-carroll/9780571372485>



Flexi-Boarding

We are now able to offer flexi-boarding for £55.00 per night.

If any of our parents would like to use this facility, please contact Mrs Kemp:

registrar@cccs.org.uk

Music News



Miss Mogridge, our CCCS oboe teacher, gave an oboe demonstration for Form 2 on Friday. This fabulous, elegant instrument makes the most exquisite sound, and is highly favoured at senior schools as players tend to be few and far between! The boys loved the opportunity to investigate how double reeds work, and were enthralled by hearing some sinuous, atmospheric music by Britten.

We are lucky that Miss Mogridge gave up her time to demonstrate her wonderful playing, and I hope that some of our younger pupils might choose to learn this special instrument in the years ahead. If you would like your son to have a taster session, please email biddell.s@cccs.org.uk. (If he becomes an oboist, he will be in demand as a player for the rest of his life!) SB



Charity Plea



Following the lifting of lockdown, children are able to play sport again. However, many children are being turned away from clubs as they do not possess even the essentials, such as football boots or shin pads.

We are working with one of our School charities, AIPFF <https://www.accesssport.org.uk/pages/category/angus-irvine-playing-fields-fund> to collect second hand sports kit that is no

longer needed, so that under-privileged children can have the same chances to enjoy and play sports. Please hand in any equipment (preferably clean) to the School Office and we will distribute. Trainers, football boots, swimming kit and towels are especially needed. Thank you. LC

CCCS School Barber



Men's Haircuts - £17.50

Children Under 16 - £13.50

Over 60s - £13.50

Students - £15.00

Clipper Cut - £10.00

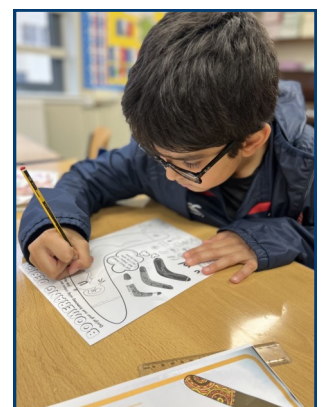
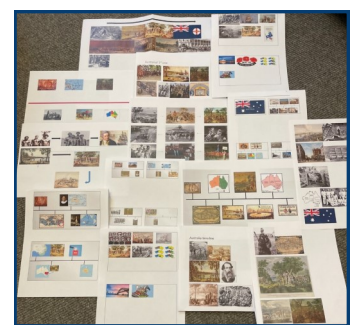
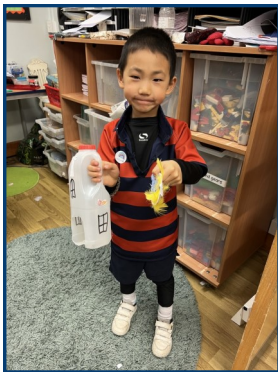
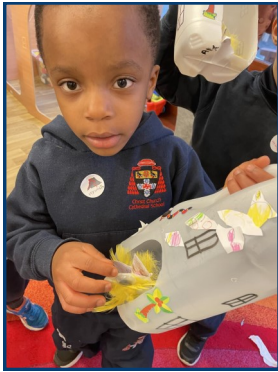
Beard Trim - £5.00

Call Andrea on **07748 105192** to book an appointment.



Theme Day 2022

Australia and New Zealand





Theme Day 2022

Australia and New Zealand



Form 2 boys spent Theme day learning about Australian animals. The following day we looked at examples of Aboriginal dot paintings and the boys created their own pictures of animals, using a similar technique. EF



**Turtle by Pericles,
Reception**



**Sugar Glider by Ted,
Reception**



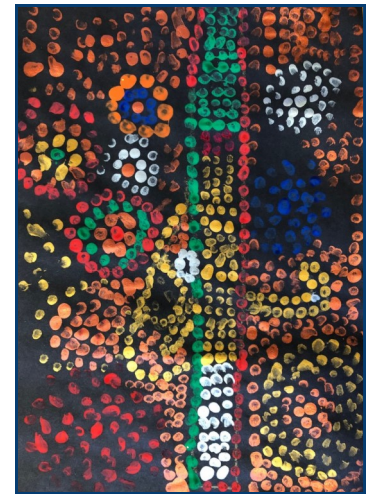
**Koala by Raphael,
Reception**



**Turtle by Richard,
Reception**



**Numbat by Barnaby,
Reception**



**Possum by Hugo,
Reception**

Nursery had a lot of fun celebrating Theme Day.

We painted boomerangs using Q-tips to paint dots; we cut out kangaroos with joeys in their pouches; we made Anzac cookies and listened to lots of stories from Australia and New Zealand.

Miss Rachel lived in New Zealand for several years and brought in lots of exciting objects, toys and books to show us.

We learnt about the special 'red flag' which she shared with us. The 'Red Duster' as it is commonly referred to is flown on non-government ships and was used by the merchant navy on New Zealand ships during both World Wars.

The children were especially impressed with Miss Rachel's Paua shell. NE



ORGAN INSPIRATION DAY

RADLEY COLLEGE CHAPEL, OX14 2HR

Sat, 5th March
10.30–5pm

Aged 9–14?

Having piano lessons?

Curious about the organ?

Wondering how one
instrument can be
that big and that loud?

Leading Cambridge organist
Anna Lapwood will explain and
demonstrate on Radley's brand
new Nicholson & Co organ.

Lunch is included for the
children taking part. During
the afternoon you will have a
chance to play an organ
yourself, helped by organ
teachers from Radley and
Oxford.

The day will end with a recital by
Anna at 4.15pm – family and
friends welcome at the recital
too!

Come along for a
FREE taster day and
find out more.

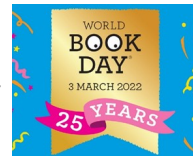


Register at
<https://forms.office.com/r/TskXyAZaGA>
or scan the QR code


RADLEY



World Book Day



We're looking forward to celebrating World Book Day once again on Thursday 3rd March. We have a variety of activities planned for the day and we would like to invite children to join in by dressing as their favourite book character.

With half term next week, we hope that they will have some time to turn their ideas into reality. FF

Meet and Greet

Mme Sophie Loyer - French Teacher and Form 5 Tutor

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? When I was 8-10 years old, I wanted to work in a circus. It seemed that I would be able to travel, meet fantastic people and master many skills while making people laugh. I then hoped to become a detective. I now teach French at CCCS, hoping to make my pupils smile every lesson and trying to help them find their lost equipment and lost tracksuit tops!

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would love to go to the Easter Islands or wrap up warm and go up North to admire the Northern Lights. Having just said that, if I could teleport tomorrow, I would simply go and visit my parents to enjoy a cup of tea with them.

Who is your idol, and why? Nelson Mandela for staying true to his beliefs during his life, fighting institutionalised racism and working towards racial reconciliation.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Cordoba (Spain), in early autumn for its multicultural history, and stunning Mezquita. Ceillac (France), a tiny village in the Alps, the rest of the year. It's the best kept secret in the world - it is unspoilt!

One thing you would change in the world if you could? Domestic abuse and controlling behaviours that are easily hidden since they occur within family settings.

Favourite Book? I enjoy reading but I have to think to answer this question. I normally associate a good book with a time or a place. I recently really enjoyed 'A Gentleman in Moscow' (Amor Towles) and 'Not Everybody Lives the Same Way' (JP Dubois, Prix Goncourt 2019). However, my favourite book would have to be one of the books I loved as a teenager - 'The Count of Monte Cristo' (A Dumas).

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? My father and I seem to find it very easy to talk to complete strangers in random places.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? Learning to dance Rock 'n Roll to a proper standard! Working at CCCS is a constant lesson in humility as I wish I could also sing and perform an instrument to high standards too.

Any advice on how to relax at the weekend? It would have to be spending a day without getting into a car. I love starting my Sundays going for a run accompanied by one of my sons, who cycles alongside me, pretending to be my coach. This has to be followed by a nice lunch and a cup of coffee. Simple pleasures...

Tout s'explique maintenant! For years I've known that something integral has been missing from every circus that I have been to... You would have excelled at both the glamorous trapeze/ringmaster's assistant and as a detective, and indeed it is us at CCCS who benefit from the circus' loss. What lucky strangers they are to come across you and your dad; it's a rare skill to master, and a skill that is a life enhancer and memory maker, for both parties involved. Now, this Rock 'n Roll dancing, I have had to turn the music down so I can think about how we can orchestrate this dream. I know the location of some strobe lighting, smoke machines etc., don't be at all surprised if one day an Elvis impersonator arrives, sliding on his knees outside Beecham, saucisson as a microphone, heading your way leaving a trail of screaming fans along the corridor, All shook up! Merci beaucoup Sophie.

Have a lovely weekend,

Kathryn
PA