



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 18th March 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been an odd few days sitting at home corresponding with the School via phone and computer, while knowing that the colourful life of the place has been going on. Indeed, I was momentarily panicked when I glanced at the Newsletter proofs this evening when it looked as if the School had been taken over by superheroes, but I quickly recognised some familiar faces behind the costumes!

At any rate, it reminded me of the wonderful gift that freedom is, freedom to come and go as we wish, freedom to enjoy the spring in Oxford, to see the March sunlight shine upon the honey-coloured walls. Those who are self-isolating do not have this freedom, temporarily, but those in places such as Ukraine where wars rage, are seeing their freedoms being taken away from them for the foreseeable future, they are seeing their cities pulverised, their communications disrupted, indeed their very way of life destroyed. Those of us who are fortunate enough to live in Oxford or nearby should constantly remind ourselves of our good fortune. There is a great deal about the present moment which is challenging – prices are rising rapidly, there is a war, Coronavirus has unsettled so much, but there is so much to be thankful for and every day that I wait on Brewer Street and see the excitement of so many of the pupils, some running to get to school, others delighted to see their friends, one realises that it is our duty as a school to ensure that we provide a place of stability and hope, of optimism and moral value for our pupils.

One of the advantages about having to self-isolate was that I was able to listen to 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4. Today, it was presented by someone for whom I have great admiration and whom I was privileged to meet, the former Bishop of Oxford, Richard Harries. He always speaks with quiet authority and today's three minute talk was no exception. I would heartily commend it to you. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00szxv6>. Richard spoke of the importance of truth, particularly at a time of war. He said "Truth is essential to a civilised life." Truth is always the first casualty in a totalitarian state because it is the most dangerous thing to the survival of such a regime. I think one of the most important purposes of a school is to teach pupils the importance of truth, that life is about being truthful and that there are truths beyond dispute. We are doing what we can to support the people of Ukraine in practical ways, by raising money and collecting supplies, and we will continue to do this. But we must also play our part in maintaining a world which understands the value of truth.

On Tuesday, just before my 'exile', I attended the Pre-Prep Concert, which was a wonderful event. Indeed, I heard one teacher say that it was the first Pre-Prep Concert for three years. There were a huge number of people playing – all did so with enthusiasm and skill. I asked all those people in the audience to meet again in the Walton Hall in six years time when our Form 2s will be Form 8s and our Form 1 boys, Form 7s - judging by what we heard on Tuesday, it is going to be some concert! Put it in your diaries now...

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Hilary 2022

### Monday 21st - Sunday 27th March

MONDAY 21	
10.00 - 12.00	Forms 3 & 4 trip to Oxford Botanic Gardens
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 22	
2.30	Forms 3 & 4 Concert (WWH)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Pre-Prep) (WWH)
4.30 - 6.30	<b>Pre-Prep Parents' Evening (online)</b>
WEDNESDAY 23	
2.30	U13 A v APS (Away)
2.30	U13 B v APS (Home)
2.30	Colts A v APS (Home)
2.30	Colts B v APS (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 24	
2.00	School Play dress rehearsals (Forms 5 - 8)
3.15	U9 A & B v APS (Away)
3.15	U8 A & B v APS (Home)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 5) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 25	
8.25	Cathedral Assembly, Pre-Prep Mothering Sunday Celebration
4.15 - 5.15	After School Football Club (Forms 6 - 8) (Merton Field)
6.30	School Play (WWH)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 26	
1.30	CC: Friends Concert (Chapter House)
6.30	School Play (WWH)
SUNDAY 27	<i>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>

### CCCS School Play Rehearsals

**Sunday rehearsal from 10.00 am - 3.00 pm. NR**

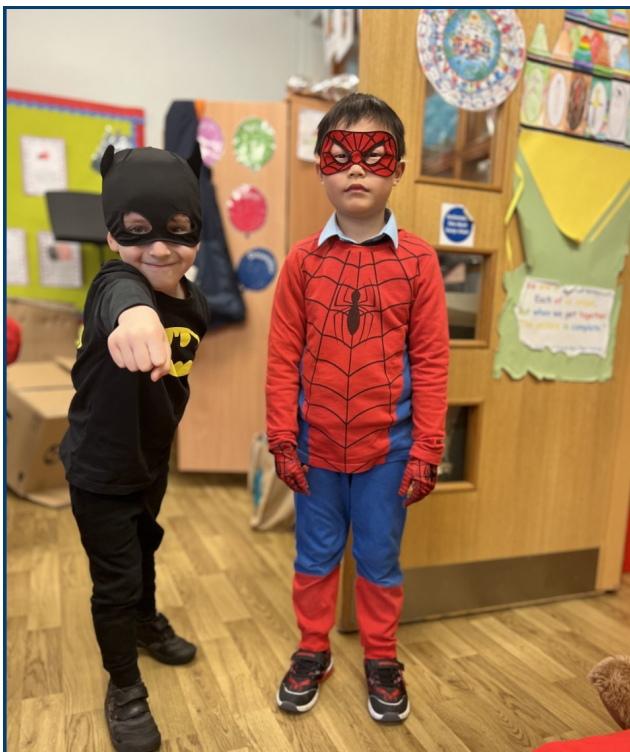




**CCCS**

**Superheros**

**and Red Noses...**







## Flexi-Boarding

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

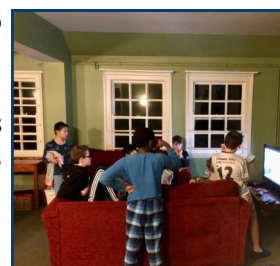
If any of our parents would like to use this facility, please contact Mrs Kemp: [registrar@cccs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk)



This week, the Cathedral Choristers welcomed Milan (Form 4) into the Boarding House, as our very first flexi-boarder.

We watched *The Big Red Dog*, ate popcorn, played Cops and Robbers and Will (Form 6) read one of his own stories to Forms 4 and 5 boys at bedtime.

It was a very energetic night and it was great to have Milan with us. JR



## Music News



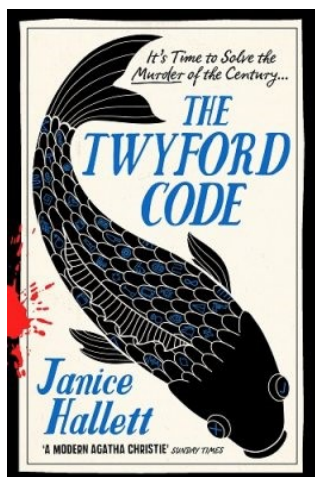
Congratulations to the boys of Pre-Prep, who gave a phenomenal concert in front of their families in the Walton Hall this Tuesday. The concert began with instrumental solos by boys in Form 2, and I cannot remember a more impressive spread of instruments in this year group: lots of terrific pianists, but we also heard cellos, recorders, flute, guitar, bassoon and even a double bass!

We moved onto the choral section, where Madame Williams had coached

Form 2 to perform 'Sur le Pont d'Avignon' in French, complete with actions. To round off the concert, the whole of Pre-Prep showed off their singing skills in a sea shanty with singing in two parts, and a bright rendition of 'I Like the Flowers' complete with round.

I am very grateful to the boys' instrumental teachers for helping them to prepare for this concert, to Madame Williams and to parents for providing such a large, enthusiastic audience. It was also lovely to have Hamish and Merlin with us, Form 8 boys with tremendous skill who helped direct the singers as they performed in groups. There is a huge amount of musical talent in Pre-Prep, and I am so excited to see what these boys will achieve as they grow older. Bravo! SB

## CCCSPA Book Club



We have chosen the novel 'The Twyford Code'. If you're keen to chat about all of it, some of it or a little bit of it, get reading and we shall be meeting in roughly 6 weeks, or come along and tell us about an exciting book you're reading and wish to share.

Details of meet date to follow.

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

*The Twyford Code* by Janice Hallett, Waterstones. "With immense ambition and even greater skill, the author of the bestselling phenomenon 'The Appeal' weaves another completely unique and addictive mystery, revolving around a secret code found in a famous children's author's work by an English teacher who subsequently disappears, and her former pupil who years later decides to discover what happened to her." [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com). KC

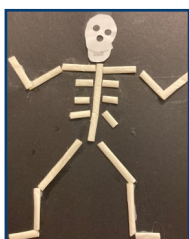
## CCCS School Play



If you would like to attend  
our School Play  
on Friday or Saturday of next week,  
in the Walton Hall at 6.30 pm,  
please collect tickets from the Office. NR



## Reception News



We have been reading *Funny Bones* in our Reception Science lessons and learning all about skeletons.

We have made our own skeleton pictures, created giant chalk skeletons, played in our role-play x-ray machine and played guess the animal skeleton! SG



## Form 3 News

Form 3 had a busy week performing an Assembly about climate change. They transformed into Eco Superheroes and gave top tips about what we can do to protect the planet. SG



## D.T. Corner

Spiral Staircase by Matthew, Form 7





## Football News



On Wednesday, our U10 & U11 teams travelled to an incredibly wet Bruern Abbey for their annual football tournament. Both teams were placed in leagues of six schools with the opportunity to play against each of the other schools.



In very difficult conditions, on increasingly wet and muddy pitches, we knew we would need to be disciplined and play in the style that is becoming more and more natural to us every week. Playing out from the back, we exploited the less muddy and less congested wide areas, then played forward quickly, collecting the ball on our back foot to beat defenders with minimal touches.

Our U11s battled hard all afternoon, winning three of their five matches, drawing one, and losing only one. We finished 2nd overall. Standout performances from Ed H and Max P, who both worked tirelessly. Some great goals from James M capped off an afternoon of very good team performances.



Our U10 team played some fantastic football, coming together as a team very well and winning their first four games. The one game they lost was to the eventual tournament winners. The boys received many positive comments from other schools about their style of play and they all fought really hard throughout the afternoon.



All of our boys deserved their silver medals, and their efforts and performances made the rain bearable. Mr Dickinson and Mr Potts left Bruern Abbey very soggy - but also very proud. PD

## Meet and Greet

### Stephanie Green - Form 3 Teacher

**What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now?** When I was growing up I wanted to be a Blue Peter presenter. I am the proud owner of two Blue Peter badges. Luckily, I feel my role as a teacher is quite similar to that of a TV presenter!

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** I have been fortunate to travel on cruise ships, playing baritone saxophone in my big band, and we have visited some amazing places. My favourite trips were to the Norwegian fjords and exploring Iceland. If I could be in the Blue Lagoon, Iceland, tomorrow that would make me very happy!

**Who is your idol, and why?** My idol is Sir Michael Morpurgo. He has written many award-winning books for children including *War Horse* and *Why the Whales Came*. He also runs a charity, giving children from around the country the opportunity to experience life on a real farm. I was lucky to go to a lecture given by him in Oxford and his love of story-telling was inspiring.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** My favourite place is the Manifold valley in the Peak District, in Autumn when the leaves are changing colour. My family often go walking and cycling and this is one of my favourite places. You can also climb up to the magnificent Thor's cave.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** The destruction of the rainforest. Deforestation is happening at an alarming rate. Tropical rainforests contain far more species of plants and animals than any other biome, and the destruction is also leading to climate change.

**Favourite Book?** This is an impossible question for me! I mostly read non-fiction. The boys I teach would say any book by Roald Dahl. I love how Dahl transports you into a magical world where anything could happen!

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have?** My family all love dogs and I grew up surrounded by Border Collies and Labradors. Christ Church is a fantastic place to teach with so many dogs at school.

**If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be?** I would love to be able to play the piano to a concert standard, and to have the technical ability to perform one of the great piano concertos.

**Any advice on how to relax at the weekend?** I like to do Parkrun on a Saturday morning. Parkrun is a 5km community event for walkers, runners and volunteers that takes place all over the world, and there are four different Parkruns to choose from in Oxford. There is also a Junior Parkrun (2km) on a Sunday morning in Florence Park. It has a great atmosphere and I always feel better after a run.

I love the idea of doing more than one thing you enjoy at one time, like your playing in a big band whilst cruising the wild seas - what an experience! The atmosphere must be electric. The only other person I know of who plays the Baritone Saxophone is Lisa Simpson, you're so like her - determined, gentle and humble about your intelligence! Surely, you're in the right place at CCCS to get your piano playing to a concert standard! With Ms Biddell at the ready and Mr Baillie right next door, you'll have to trade some of your skills with some of the best in your midst.

The Blue Lagoon is a special place, isn't it? Outrageously smelly! I agree it's a destination to unwind in and absorb all the goodness that minerals have to offer. "Never do anything by halves if you want to get away with it. Be outrageous. Go the whole hog. Make sure everything you do is so completely crazy it's unbelievable..." – Matilda

Thank you Mrs Green for sharing.

Have a great weekend,  
Kathryn