



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents,

What a joy it was to see the Forms 3 and 4 Play earlier this week. It was the story of Goldilocks as retold by Roald Dahl. As you can imagine, if you know anything about Roald Dahl, Goldilocks was not portrayed as a charming girl who brings joy to a family of bears, but as a malevolent criminal determined to disrupt a well-ordered domestic life! It was an extremely amusing and entertaining story which was much enjoyed by the audience. We learnt so much from the experience, about, for instance, the remarkable qualities of porridge, which, according to the tale, is “thrilling” and causes hair to grow – I will be having porridge for breakfast from now on. Seeing the play also made me realise just what an appropriate place a Pre-Prep and Prep School is to put on such a show as we were able to supply chairs of differing sizes, a chair for Daddy Bear from a Form 8 classroom, a chair for Mummy Bear from Form 3 classroom and chair for Baby Bear from Reception. It was also a pleasure to see the huge range of creatures that had been assembled. We had a criminal girl, three bears, woodland creatures of various species, policemen, a judge, an auctioneer – a true kaleidoscope of beings. The one thing that they all had in common though was that they could all sing, which they did with such gusto and commitment. What a triumph – it certainly bodes well for the future of Drama at the School.

Today we witnessed one of my favourite occasions, the Christingle Service, when Pre-Prep and Nursery go over to the Cathedral with their Christingles which they have made over the past week. I never fail to be moved by the sight of the many smiling faces lit up by the flickering candles in the darkness of the Cathedral. Miss Farmer spoke movingly about the light in the darkness and I was particularly struck by the thought that these boys and girls have the potential to bring light to a world, which often seems a dark place. We must believe in our children and our passionate hope is that they will go out from this school and their secondary schools keen to make the world a better place. Every one of them has that potential and it is a very moving thought. In the meantime, it was clear that everyone had so much enjoyed themselves creating their Christingles.

Over the past couple of weeks Mme Loyer and Mme Williams set the boys a French challenge – to film themselves doing something which involved speaking in French. Mme Loyer then created a film and at Tuesday’s Assembly we watched it. We had two boys who had been to Paris and catalogued the visit with beautiful French sentences; we had another who was teaching us how to make pancakes with immaculate Gallic instructions; we had two tremendous songs, one of which had been composed by the boy who sang it. The catalogue of contributions was delightfully varied. We hear that enthusiasm for Modern Foreign Languages is waning in this country – that is most decidedly not the case at CCCS – in fact the enthusiasm is palpable. Bravo Mesdames!

Meanwhile, Form 8 received a visit from the former High Sherriff Lieutenant of Berkshire today, who has one of the finest collections of Roman coins in private hands. Mr Barker gave a most interesting talk on a few coins he had brought with him, including one splendid example from the reign of the Emperor Nero, whose curly locks and large head were instantly recognisable. On the reverse of the coin was a scene of combat of great vividness. It was extraordinary to feel in touch with a world of so long ago and it did occur to me how lucky our boys are, being taught by such enthusiastic staff as Mr Richards and to have the opportunity to meet such interesting people.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Michaelmas 2021

### Monday 29th November - Sunday 5th December

MONDAY 29	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club, Pre-Prep (WWH)
4.45 - 5.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 5 - 8)
6.45 - 8.00	Desert Island Books (Shakespeare)
TUESDAY 30	
10.30 - 12.30	Bikeability
1.35 - 3.35	Bikeability
2.25 - 4.10	Form 8 French Play Rehearsal
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club, Pre-Prep (WWH)
4.30 - 7.00	<b>Form 8 Parents' Evening (School Cloud)</b>
6.15	WC: Carol Service (Worcester College) (Registration required for free tickets)
WEDNESDAY 1	
	<b>No Swimming</b> for Forms 3 & 4 boys today. Boys to come into School in their Games kit
8.15 - 9.15	Nursery Christmas Celebration, Parents invited (Nursery)
10.30 - 12.30	Bikeability
1.35 - 3.35	Bikeability
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.30	Informal Christmas Concert (WWH)
THURSDAY 2	
1.35	French Play
FRIDAY 3	
	Craft Day for Forms 3 - 8, boys may wear home clothes if they bring a bottle for our Tombola at the Punch Party
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker the Headmaster
9.05 - 10.25	Form 8 Play rehearsal
10.45	Form 8 French Play performance to Forms 1 - 7
4.10	WC: After School end of term treat
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 4	
	<i>University Full Term Ends</i>
9.45 - 12.00	CC: Rehearsal (Cathedral)
2.30 - 4.00	CC: Music at Oxford Family Concert (Cathedral)
SUNDAY 5	
	<i>The Second Sunday in Advent</i>

## Holiday Camps

Please would you let Mr Dickinson know, by the end of next week, if you would be interested in your son attending any of our Holiday Camps: [dickinson@cccs.org.uk](mailto:dickinson@cccs.org.uk). Thank you. PD

## Poppy Appeal



### POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

\* 128-70<sup>8</sup>  
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely  
*[Signature]*  
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £ .....

Registered Charity No. 219279

£100 Pops  
28.70 Poppies.

## ARocha

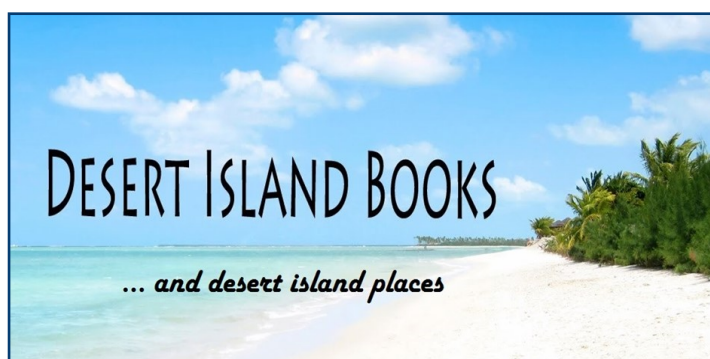
Since 2019, CCCS has raised £4,923.32 for our School Charity, ARocha, through the events below:

Forms 3 & 4 Play  
Nativity Play  
Christmas Jumper Day  
Carol Concert Collection  
Christmas Card Sales  
Pre-Prep Rainbow  
World Book Day  
Home Clothes Day  
Just Giving  
PA Postcards  
Poetry Competition  
Enterprise Day

## Desert Island Books

### The Good News from the Desert Island ...

...is that with luck and a fair wind we are going to be able to visit on Monday 29th November. Hurrah!!



For those parents and boys who are new to CCCS since we last visited the Desert Island – which is going to be quite a few of you, because it was back in February of 2020 – and to whom the foregoing may seem a bit mysterious, it is an evening spent with Mr Watson and other members of the English Department, in Wolsey classroom, themed on the radio programme Desert Island Discs.

Any and all, boys and parents, are welcome to come and join in with nice (non-alcoholic!) cocktails and

nibbles provided, in order to enjoy an hour or so listening to each other reading favourite passages from English (and sometimes other languages too – we have had Japanese, Russian, German and French recently to name but four – but we will stick with English this time round) literature.

All you have to do is let me know you're coming, tell me what you'd like to read (about two or three minutes is usually perfect) why you love it so much... and turn up to my classroom – which is in the same building as the Nursery – at 6.30 pm on Monday 29th! [watson.p@cccs.org.uk](mailto:watson.p@cccs.org.uk)

These lovely evenings are especially recommended for (1) Cardinal Scholars and (2) any boys in Forms 7 and 8 who may be sitting for academic scholarships to their senior schools. Since the school is their home in term-time (3) senior Cathedral Choristers are also warmly welcomed. PW



## Nursery and Pre-Prep Christmas Post Box

Pre-Prep and Nursery children can post their Christmas cards to each other from Monday 29th November. Delivery of the cards will be on Thursday 9th December. Please address each Christmas card with the recipient's first name, surname, and the name of their class.

Thank you. RF



## INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2021

William Walton Hall, 4.30 pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December



Featuring solos by senior boys and festive performances by the Lower Strings Ensemble and String Orchestra.

Please contact [schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk) to reserve a place!



## A Concert from the Boys of Christ Church Cathedral Choir

**Saturday 4th December 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm**

Every age group from babies upwards is warmly welcomed to this fun and informal day-time concert of Christmas music. Expect angelic singing from the choristers, thunderous music from the organ and plenty of well-known carols for the audience to sing. The proceeds of this concert support Christ Church Cathedral Music Trust.

To book tickets, please visit:

[https://musicoxford.ticketsolve.com/shows/873628708?\\_ga=2.227925722.69721096.1637930637-1771656169.1637930637](https://musicoxford.ticketsolve.com/shows/873628708?_ga=2.227925722.69721096.1637930637-1771656169.1637930637)



## Thursday 9th December 7.00 pm at St Peter's Church, Hook Norton

CCCS choristers are delighted to support Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund (AIPFF), a small charity supporting green playing fields and sites in deprived

inner city areas #jointeamsnotgangs.

More information on: <https://www.accesssport.org.uk/Pages/Category/angus-irvine-playing-fields-fund>

Please buy tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carol-service-tickets-163160010985?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>





This term's Trinity Music Exams will be on Tuesday 7th December.

If your son is taking an exam, please ask him to check the timetable which  
will be outside the WWH. SB

## English News

On Tuesday morning, school governor and prize-winning children's author Griselda Heppel came and spoke to all of Year 6 about the wonderful world of story. She told us about inspiration – and how you have to wait for it; about structure – and how you need it; about characters – and how they do not arrive 'ready-made' but form themselves as the narrative develops; about scenes and settings and trees and gardens – and how they morph between remembered reality and imagined fantasy.

I think it is safe to say that Griselda's completely evident passion for her writing and for her three (thus far – more please!) books well and truly rubbed off on the boys. And how good it is for them to see that behind every book they read, there is a writer, with pen or keyboard, thinking, sketching, plotting and planning... and gently smiling as Things Come Together!

After Griselda's presentation, the boys answered and asked a range of excellent questions and by the end of our sixty minutes (distance run) we all had a really good understanding of the 'behind the scenes' working and thinking which go into making a Good Book.

Thank you, Griselda, we look forward to seeing you again at CCCS. Meanwhile, there's reading to be done! PW



## Classics News



Today we were visited by Graham Barker. Mr Graham Barker is a former High Sheriff of Berkshire and a cognoscente of Roman coins, with an enviable and precious collection. He has written a book about coins of the Third Century, and is currently writing another about the time of Carausius. He gave a talk to Form 8 about the production of coins and their use as propaganda, and showed a few well preserved and exquisite coins from his collection. He told us about the obscure Brexiteering emperor Carausius, who took Britain out of the empire and perhaps built some of the colossal forts around Britain such as Portchester. Our thanks to Mr Barker for taking the time to come to Oxford and give us an energetic and hugely informative talk. NR



## School Play

It is to be hoped that parents will be able to see a senior play next term for the first time after two locked-down years; and I have asked the boys from Forms 5 - 8 to tell me if they are interested in being involved. We shall have a meeting in next Thursday's Clubs to discuss and boys should bring along something they can read out (dialogue, monologue, poem...) to give some idea of what part they could take. NR

## Bikeability



On Tuesday, 23 boys were able to begin their Bikeability course. After spending the first session cycling at school on Tuesday, they spent the second session, on Wednesday, cycling on nearby local roads.

The course will resume this coming Tuesday, with boys hoping to pass their Bikeability Course Level 2 on Wednesday.

We are delighted to think that these 23 boys will be more road-aware when cycling in Oxford. SL



## Music News



Last Sunday, Frideswide voices and Christ Church Cathedral Choir came together for a joint Evensong in the Cathedral and performed works by Howells and Stanford. Throughout this term, Mr Sheen has been leading the choir whilst Professor Grahl has been on sabbatical, and this was his last Evensong in charge before handing back the reins to Professor Grahl.

The boys and I are especially grateful for the tireless dedication and patience Mr Sheen has shown the boys in especially difficult circumstances. Many congratulations to both choirs for an outstanding Evensong. JR

## Form 3 and 4 Production - Goldilocks!

Congratulations to the thespians of Forms 3 and 4, who put on two very successful matinée performances of their play, 'Goldilocks', this week. There was crisp singing, dramatic acting, and some emotional scenes as Goldilocks was dragged into court after her unfortunate foray into burglary. The boys have worked tremendously hard all term and it was a joy to rehearse them. Well done all! DB, SG and SB







**CHRISTMAS 2021**



## **CCCS CAROL COMPETITION**

You have until the first day of Hilary Term (6th January) to submit your own, original carol composition. You could write your own tune to existing words (a new version of 'Silent Night' perhaps?), compose a tune to accompany a favourite poem, or even invent your own text as well as your own tune.

I will be delighted to accept submissions created on Flat, on Sibelius, sent by email to [biddell.s@cccs.org.uk](mailto:biddell.s@cccs.org.uk), or even written on manuscript paper and placed directly into my hands...

Good luck, and have fun!

SB





Christ Church Cathedral School

Please Join Us For

# Christmas Punch Party

## SATURDAY

## 11th December

Entry through the school gates (Brewer Street)

From 11.30 AM - 2 PM



Drinks Stalls  
Tombola Food  
And lots of fun

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

*The more the merrier!*







## Nursery and Pre-Prep Christingle Service



Today the children of Nursery and Pre-Prep held their Christingle Service in the Cathedral. This was to mark the start of the season of Advent, which commences on Sunday.

All of the children have been busy making Christingles during the week. Each part is an important symbol, showing us either the Love that God has for us or what He has made.

The orange symbolises the world, the red ribbon symbolises the blood shed by Jesus, the cocktail sticks and dried fruits symbolise the seasons and the fruits of the Earth, the candle symbolises Jesus as the light of the world. RF

## CCCSPA Meet and Greet

**Alyson Dunbar Morris - Techer of History, Head of Learning Support, Form 8 Tutor**

**What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now?** A pathologist. Unfortunately, when I was at school this was not seen as a suitable career for a woman. Teaching was my next choice which was deemed a much more suitable option.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** Boston. I first visited Boston nearly 20 years ago to watch the Head of the Charles Regatta (I am that old) and fell in love with everything about it. The history, the closeness to the ocean, the buildings, the sport, the nature.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** Boston any time of year.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** For all children throughout the world to have access to quality education and for those who have access to a good education to appreciate what they have.

**What is your favourite book?** The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster. I read it as a child and was captivated by how cleverly it was written. The use of language is imaginative and thought provoking.

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have?** Not listening to what is being said (mostly my husband and son).

**If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be?** Not really a new hobby, but I'd love to re-start learning to fly helicopters. My husband and I started learning to fly at the same time, him in light aircraft and me in a helicopter. He beat me to being a qualified pilot. It's a lot more time consuming to keep current than people imagine.

**Any advice on how to relax at the weekend?** I find it hard to relax during term time as there is always so much going on. Reading and going for long walks.

If the role of Tom Cruise as Maverick in the classic 80's drama 'Top Gun' was cast with a female lead, it would have been you, Alyson. Quick, clear, slick, no mistakes. It is no wonder you're the Head of Learning Support at CCCS. You may have been wasted in a lab, you're far more valuable on the front line with your organisation, enthusiasm and determination to provide and teach, nurture and lead, and be an enormous part of quality education and making things happen. The perfect wingman.

Your pastimes require bravery and courage also, helicopter flying as a hobby! I can't even crochet a Granny square, let alone understand most of the information one dial may have on the dashboard. I would not be at all surprised if I notice a big H mysteriously painted on the flattest roof of the school. I'll listen out for you hovering along Abingdon Road in a Blackhawk, but do give me some warning so I can rally the ground control crew, attempting my best efforts at air marshalling, much more exhilarating as a pastime than crocheting a Granny square.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kathryn  
PA