



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 27th May 2022

Dear Parents,

Today was a wonderful day. Pupils arrived in the morning clad in red, white and blue, ready to celebrate the seventy years of Her Majesty the Queen's reign. The whole school went to the Cathedral where we were spoken to by the Chaplain of Jesus College, Oxford, The Revd Chris Dingwall Jones, who talked to us movingly about the nature of a jubilee, and that we should make the society in which we lived a jubilee society. There was one moment when he asked a somewhat complex question to the boys. The response which came back from one of the younger boys and which was shouted out at a considerable volume was "Jesus is alive." Even if that wasn't the precise answer to the question, I'm sure it was one which appealed to the Chaplain! The lessons in the morning all had jubilee themes; in Art, Royal carriages were being designed, in DT crowns were being made from wood while in Maths, the area of velvet for The Queen's dress was being calculated using mathematical formulae. The day culminated in lunch, which was held in a playground festooned with bunting and Union Flags. It was another one of those occasions when it was a joy to be part of the School. Mrs Ahluwalia had made a cake with a figure of The Queen on the top. Following the feast, we all sang 'Jerusalem', 'Land of Hope and Glory' and 'Rule Britannia'. We finished with the National Anthem. I hope that all the boys remember this occasion. As the boys were leaving the playground, one of the younger pupils looked up and me and said "Happy Jubilee!" Here at School it certainly was a Happy Jubilee!

The only sad aspect of the day was that the Cathedral Choristers were not with us, given their trip to Sweden. Nonetheless I have had some spectacular photos back from Mr Robson. Every photo is lit by a brilliant blue light and it is clear that the boys have been to a number of beautiful gothic buildings to sing in. I was delighted to see from one of the photos that the boys had attended a restaurant where there was a Smorgasbord, proving that the Swedes do indeed have such a meal! It is tremendous that we are able to go on school trips abroad again and I am delighted to hear from Mme Loyer that over 30 boys are travelling to Normandy this summer. It seems a very long time ago since the choir went off to Oman in March 2020, a trip which must have been one of the last made in the entire country before lockdown.

People often write to me, but my favourite letters are those I get from the pupils. Form 3 have a tradition of writing to me every year to try to persuade me to consume something called a Snozzcumber, a hideous vegetable which features in Roald Dahl's classic, the BFG. Generally the letters are so persuasive that my natural instinct for survival is overridden and I summon up the courage to insert the disgusting vegetable into my mouth, something I am obliged to do in front of the entire class. More recently Form 1 have written to me begging me to allow them to keep a meerkat, as if having Gordon, Miss Hunt's dog in attendance is not enough. Various arguments were put forward. He is very fast so would help us with football; he could, I am expected to believe, help with Maths and rid the school of ants. One person even said that the meerkat would help them sit calmly on the carpet. There are clearly some considerable advantages. I am going to have to think quite carefully about this over half term. We have, for a very long time now, been a dog-friendly school – would it be beyond the realms of the ridiculous to become a meerkat-friendly school? I have done some research and note that they generally live underground in groups of about 40 and enjoy digging. Perhaps this might not be the ideal situation for a small prep school in the centre of Oxford.

During the jubilee lunch I went around talking to the happy eaters. I was delighted to sit down and talk to some of the very youngest pupils. After a while I got up to leave and one of my companions said, "No, Mr Murray, you must sit down again and do more talking!" If it wasn't for half term, I suspect I would still be there! Happy Jubilee!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2022
Monday 6th - Sunday 12th June

MONDAY 6	<p>Second Half begins</p> <p>CC: Rehearsals resume</p> <p>WC: Rehearsals resume</p> <p>2.45 Colts A & B v Chandlings (Away)</p> <p>3.30 - 4.30 After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)</p>
TUESDAY 7	<p>CE Exams (WWH)</p> <p>Forms 3 & 4 Inter-house Cricket matches</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)</p>
WEDNESDAY 8	<p>CE Exams (WWH)</p> <p>2.30 Colts A & B v NCS (Home)</p> <p>Forms 5 & 6 Inter-house Cricket matches</p> <p>3.30 - 4.30 After School Chess Club (Form 2)</p>
THURSDAY 9	<p>CE Exams (WWH)</p> <p>Forms 3 & 4 Inter-house Cricket matches</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)</p> <p>6.00 Normandy trip information evening</p>
FRIDAY 10	<p>CE Exams (WWH)</p> <p>8.30 Cathedral Assembly, speaker Mr Paul Smith, Registrar, Eton College</p> <p>Forms 5 & 6 Inter-house Cricket matches</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Cricket club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CC: IN</p>
SATURDAY 11	
SUNDAY 12	<i>Trinity Sunday</i>



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

Lost and Found



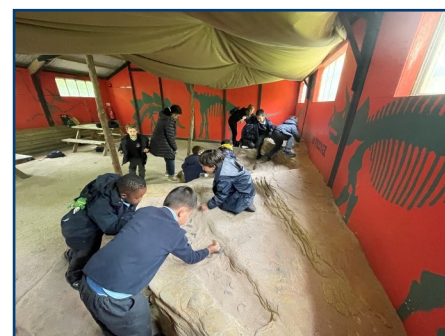
This pretty little earring was
found in one of our corridors
this week.

It is being kept safe in the
School Office. LK

Reception News

We began the week with a morning of learning led by a former CCCS teacher, Mr Scott. He showed us a collection of fossils and explained what each was, and how to identify them. Closer inspection with magnifying glasses was needed. Later we hunted for fossils, made fossil imprints and became Palaeontologists by excavating our own fossils!

On Friday, Reception went on a dangerous expedition to Jurassic World where they spotted many dinosaurs in their own habitats and, after a short talk, we went on another dig for even more fossils. RF



Swimming News



On Wednesday Forms 3 & 4 took part in their 'swim for survival'. Kate and Jon, the swimming teachers, commented on how well our boys listened to instructions - and even said ours is the best school they have ever taught!

Well done boys we are very proud of you. SP, SL



Music News

Last Friday was our annual House Music Competition and, as always, it exceeded expectations. The finalists put on great performances showing their musicianship and talent.

Throughout this first half of term, there was a huge amount of auditioning taking place. Auditions consisted of stunning performances of Tchaikovsky, Bach, Liszt, and many others. There were also many tentative but deliberate renditions of 'Hot Cross Buns' where many pupils auditioned on as many instruments as they could find, and taught them to fellow members of their Houses, to maximize the points that they could earn.

There is a lot of effort that people put into the House Music Competition, and there are many thanks that must go to the Music teachers. They have been most supportive and have always helped their students to progress.

It was a pleasure to have Howard Ionascu as our adjudicator; his comments and feedback have not only given inspiration to the finalists, but also gave them ideas to further improve their musicianship. And last but not least, we should thank Ms Biddell for the effort that she put in to this event. She has learned all of the accompaniments, listened to every single audition, and put together the whole Competition.

This year, our House Music Competition has been an amazing experience both for the musicians and the audience. Well done to everyone who participated, it was a magnificent afternoon. Alexander and Ivan, Form 8.

The winners in our House Music Competition were:

Juniors:

Winner - Patrick
Runner-up - Hugo and Matthew

Intermediates:

Winner - Martin
Runner-up - Franklin and William

Seniors:

Winner - Maurits and Ivan
Runner-up - Yourui and Jeremy

House Song Winner: Carroll

Conductor's Prize: Alexander

Overall Winning House: Carroll



Pre-Prep News

It was wonderful to welcome Mrs Pamela Allen, one of our Governors, into Pre-Prep for a visit this week, she spent the morning visiting the children in their classrooms.

In Mrs Allen's own words " All of the classrooms are looking colourful with super displays of work and the children are all well-focused on their various tasks ."

After break, Mrs Allen took Assembly and spoke to the children about what life was like when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became Queen. A super opportunity for the children and they enjoyed meeting our visitor. RF



Nursery go to 'Big School'

September will be soon be upon us and our Nursery children will be moving up into Reception Class, in Pre-Prep.

In September 2022, for the first time, we will be welcoming girls from our Nursery into Reception. During the second half of Trinity Term, to prepare the children for their move, they enjoy 'Big School' lessons with me in my Reception classroom on a Tuesday morning. As an introduction, Nursery and Reception all joined in together to paint Unions Flags ready for our party on Friday.

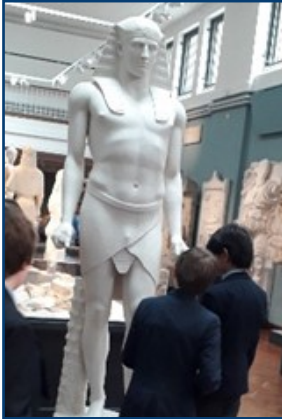
The morning was bright and sunny and we enjoyed outdoor painting. We learnt about the different flags for England, Ireland, and Scotland before putting them together to create the Union Flag. The boys and girls of Nursery showed excellent skills and I am looking forward to teaching them after half term and welcoming them into Reception. RF



Form 7 News

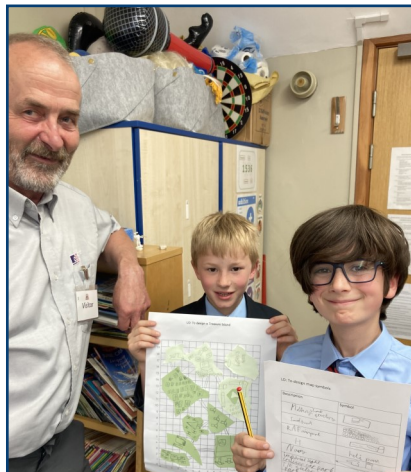
This week Form 7 (sans Choristers) passed a useful hour at the Ashmolean. We looked at ancient scripts, including cuneiform (which goes back five millennia), Egyptian hieroglyphs, the undeciphered Linear A and its cracked brother Linear B, with a little Arabic calligraphy, Scandinavian runes, and a good many Roman tombstones, with their DMs, HSEs and probably heartfelt sentiments.

We also saw the strange and beautiful coins of the Iceni and the near 24-carat gleaming aurei of the Didcot Hoard. Dr Lenaghan was helpfully on hand to elucidate the casts of the huge statue of Apollo from the Temple of Zeus at Olympia and the Augustus of the Prima Porta, about whose luridly painted version the boys had perceptive reservations. NR



Form 3 News

Form 3 were excited to enjoy a visit from Mr Green, from the Ordnance Survey this week. They found out about grid references, map symbols, compass points and contour lines. The boys also created fantastic treasure Island maps. SG



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.



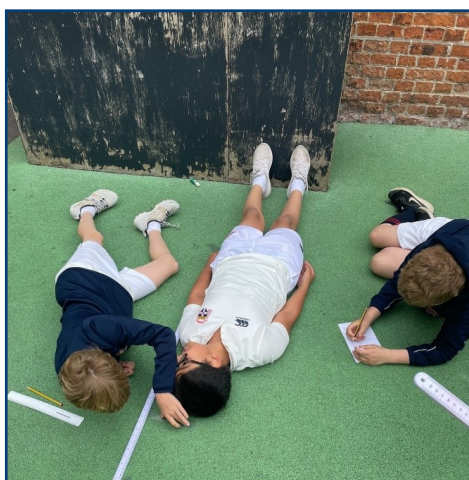
Maths News

This week Form 4 have been working on their knowledge of converting measurements. They explored grams - kilograms and millilitres - litres.

On Thursday morning the boys headed out to do some practical Maths. They measured lots of different objects - and each other!

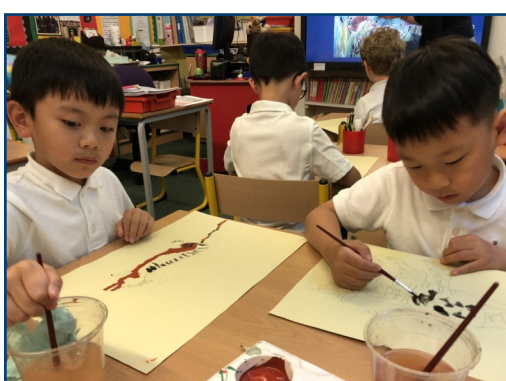
Well done for all of your hard work this week boys, it's been a pleasure teaching you.

"Off with your heads" The Queen of Hearts (Miss Long)



Form 2 News

This week Form 2 boys completed a big art project inspired by their visit to the Botanic Garden and a picture by Henry Rousseau 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm'. Henry Rousseau also drew his inspiration from visiting the Botanic Garden, and zoos in Paris. EF



Cricket News



On Wednesday, we played two Colts matches v The Manor Prep School on our school fields.

Our Colts B batted first and found it challenging to score runs from some inconsistent bowling by The Manor. However, Peter D scored 17 from one over and 4s from Trust, Tom and Abhishek helped us to a reasonable total.

Our bowling was far more accurate, and in some ways played to The Manor's favour, as it gave them the opportunity to try and play some shots and score some runs with the bat. A wicket from

Trust helped us to keep Manor's total to a reasonable amount, then an incredible run out on the last ball of the innings from Abhishek meant the game finished in a tie. A positive afternoon of Cricket for the team.



Our A team won the toss and decided to field first. We bowled exceptionally well with very few wides and no balls.

This, together with some excellent fielding, including two amazing catches from Ethan and Max P, meant that they only managed to score 7 runs.



When it came to our turn to bat, we batted very sensibly which meant we didn't lose too many wickets. We ran well and accumulated a lot of runs using this method and with a couple of boundaries we scored a very pleasing 74 runs.

An excellent game of Cricket from our boys. With the correct attitude, especially with the batting and hard work, we have the potential to be a very good cricket side. Next match is against Chandlings on our return after half term. PD

PEMBROKE AND WORCESTER CHORISTER VOICE TRIALS

I am excited to announce that voice trials for the Worcester and Pembroke Chapel Choirs will take place in school on the morning of 6th June. These informal auditions are aimed at boys in Forms 3 and 4, although there are some places available for boys in older years too.

Worcester Choristers sing Tuesday and Sunday chapel evensongs during the eight weeks of Oxford University Term, alongside the student altos, tenors and basses of Worcester Choir. They rehearse at 8.00 am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, as well as after school on Fridays. Worcester Choristers receive free singing and Theory tuition in school, and are regularly prepared for singing exams.

Pembroke Choristers sing Sunday evensongs in their chapel during the University Term, and there are rehearsals in school at 8.05 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pembroke Chapel Choir is a mixed choir of men and women, but since 2019 Christ Church boys have sung the top line alongside the soprano student members of Pembroke College.

All choristers are popular with senior schools due to their self-discipline, confidence and musicality. The Worcester Choristers have a fine record of winning Music awards to their next schools, and one of our Form 8 boys in Pembroke's first ever intake of choristers was awarded a Music award at St Edward's.

At voice trial, boys will be asked to sing a short, simple piece (something learnt in class, or a favourite hymn will do) and undertake simple aural tests. Everything will be done to ensure boys feel at ease... it really isn't scary at all! Parents who think their son might be interested should contact Miss Biddell (biddell.s@cccs.org.uk).

A quick reminder to save the date of the 1st July for the CCCS ball, details on how to book and invite are coming soon.

Meet and Greet Rebecca Farmer, Head of Pre-Prep

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I could never decide between being an archaeologist or a lawyer. Completely different but in their ways, similar. You needed to be intelligent, quick-witted and want to help society by making it better - or help people understand their roots. Both to me seemed a little glamorous and full of adventure. I am a teacher with a BEd Hons in History, who became the Head of Pre-Prep. I guess reality won when I was 16, but only partly. I mean, have you heard of Indiana Jones? He was one of my heroes as a child. Maybe as an adult too! He always won against all odds and took the path of honour. Along the way, Indiana had many adventures. Every day is an adventure of some kind in Pre-Prep!

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? Can I dream big? I would arrive in Pisa at Sunrise and have breakfast in the little café overlooking the Piazza del Duomo, and then hopefully finally get to go up the leaning tower of Pisa (missing out on this on a previous visit is a sore point.) Afterwards I would take a detour to Lake Maggiore to spend the day visiting the gardens on the islands, before arriving at Menton, in the Côte d'Azur, in time to walk the harbour walls at sunset, for dinner nearby.

Who is your idol, and why? My Grandfather and Audrey Hepburn are my idols. My Grandfather was down to Earth and believed if you do a job, you should work hard and be able to do the jobs of all the people who work for you. My Grandfather was Head of Workshops in England and Wales for the Coal Board a lifetime ago. He had started as an apprentice and truly worked his way up. He was known for getting the job done.

Audrey Hepburn because she survived so much as a young girl during the war and she did not let it stop her achieving a dream. She became a star but was always gracious and kind, doing much work to promote children's welfare. For a long time she was an active Goodwill ambassador for UNICEF. Of course, she was always stylish and so chic!

Favourite city or town and in which season? Can I choose the countryside surrounding a town? The area stretching along the coast from Inveraray to Kilmartin in the Summer. Always the balm to my soul.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I am afraid there is so very much.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Both my little fingers are deformed, and bend crookedly. Although as a child with small hands did help me to still be able to reach an octave on the piano.

Favourite Book? Jane Eyre, I have to have one nearby and can't seem to stop collecting the odd copy of it if there is something special about the edition. I have read the book so many times, but I still find enjoyment dipping into a chapter.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I would have a farm near the coast with Highland cows, Fell ponies, Pigmy goats and lavender Bantams, and of course with a pack of Ruby Cavaliers that follow me as I work.

Any advice on how you relax on them weekend? Don't make plans, check the weather and let it evolve.

If the management team of the Indiana Jones series had been considerate enough to have cast a female, instead of Harrison Ford, you would have clearly been the leading lady. A whip cracking adventurous spirit, a romantic at heart with big dreams. What a blockbuster that would have been. Luckily for CCCS they saw the potential before Hollywood got hold. Teaching rewards on so many levels and you can keep discovering, year after year, the rough diamonds and this discovery means everyone benefits. A legacy worth finding. I can picture you on a farm, tending to your herd, you may find several people interrupting the serenity, dialling in on Teams, hoping to have the same calming and patient response with you that we had during online learning, where it wasn't only the children that benefitted from seeing you on the screen. I can relate to your fingers in a way, I have enormous big toes, which make climbing trees much easier. As you can imagine, this is very handy, it's just finding the time. This quote from Jane Eyre made me think of you, as I see you walking to school along the memorial gardens path with Thistle, "It is always the way of events in this life... no sooner have you got settled in a pleasant resting place, than a voice calls out to you to rise and move on, for the hour of repose is expired." Thank you Rebecca.

Enjoy your weekend,

Kathryn