



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents,

As you will know I, sadly for me, have not been in school this week. Instead, I have been at the John Radcliffe Hospital with my mother, something that would not have been possible without the unstinting support of the staff at school, especially Mrs Fairhurst, Mr Harrison and Miss Farmer who have done most to cover for my absence. I have kept in touch with what has been going on at school but am so grateful that I have been able to devote myself to my mother at this time.

Of course, many of you reading this will know the JR better than I do as you work here. My comments may well, therefore, sound both inaccurate and naïve but I am speaking about what I have seen and experienced over the past week. Since last Sunday I have, effectively, lived in the JR - sleeping on a pull-out bed overnight. From the window of the room where we are with my mother, I can see the great chimney which towers over the rest of the complex. It reinforces, in my mind, the sense that the hospital is like some huge aircraft carrier or cruise ship, the funnel towering above the decks. This impression is enhanced by the constant hum of a generator which resembles the craft's engine. As on a long sea journey, time seems to work in a different way from the outside world; it appears to pass both faster and more slowly - and days mould into one. But all the time one knows that the whole place has a purpose; the ship ploughs its way across the seas towards its destination.

The JR is its own self-sustaining world, a hugely complex organism with vast numbers of uniformed people all contributing their part to the good of the whole. I find the way the nurses and doctors are looking after my mother, who is wholly reliant upon them, very humbling. One of the most magnificent is a nurse called Margaret. She has been observing my mother on and off for a few days and, as she expresses it, puts A, B, C and D together to come up with a conclusion, discussed with the doctor, which has led to a dramatic improvement in my mother's well-being. As Margaret says, "I am not just here to work, I'm here to learn. We are learning all the time." It may not surprise you to hear that Margaret is one of the more experienced nurses on the ward.

We have been treated with an extraordinary degree of sensitivity and courtesy, not just within the ward but throughout the hospital. And then, most importantly, the care of my mother has been beyond exceptional. Given that this is where she is living out her final days, that means more than I can say. The nurses who come to move her in her bed do so with extraordinary gentleness and they have taken the trouble to comb her hair as well as to ensure that she has the right drugs. For me, the experience that sums up the hospital's approach is when the consultant for palliative care came to visit my mother, she asked us whether my mother would like to be addressed by her first name or as Mrs Murray. Such courteous concern for someone in my mother's state of seriously compromised consciousness is something I will always remember.

I suspect that this approach is also one which is appropriate for a school. I won't forget the lessons I have learnt here at the JR when I return to CCCS. We are all here to learn and we should never stop doing so. Schools are places where everyone should be learning - not just the pupils. And we should never forget the overwhelming importance of courtesy and respectfulness - this approach has been amongst the most powerful of the medicines applied during the course of this week.

I brought with me to the hospital one of my favourite books, an anthology of prose by John Betjeman, the former Poet Laureate and one of the greatest of modern writers. Partly, I brought it because of its title, 'Coming Home'. But most of all I brought it because of the warmth and humanity of its writer. On the back cover of the book is a wonderful review of the collection, by Norman Taylor. He writes: "Betjeman has the precious ability to see beauty in so many places, things and people, and to describe them so effectively that we are persuaded to recognise their beauty also... Look and love, he says; and perhaps more than any other writer in this century he opens our eyes that we may see."

In this ward my eyes have been opened and I have witnessed the way in which staff see beauty here every day; and above all I have seen that the staff are prepared to look and to love. This is an inspiration to us all and a model for our lives. As Barbara, the incomparable nurse who is supervising my mother's care, wipes my mother's face with the gentlest of touches, I give profound thanks that my mother is in the care of what many of you know to be such a deeply civilised and humane foundation.

Turning to wider events, our hearts must go out to the people of Turkey and Syria, who are in the midst of their own devastation due to the series of earthquakes which have struck their border region, killing well over 30,000 people and severely injuring many thousands more. Please join me in my thoughts for these poor victims of this utter tragedy.

May I wish you all a restorative half term break and I look forward so much to seeing everyone again soon.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2023

Monday 20th - Sunday 26th February

MONDAY 20	
7.55	CC: Rehearsals resume
8.25	Second half begins
3.45 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 21	
9.30	HPV Vaccines (Form 8)
1.30 - 4.00	Brass Workshop at Bradfield College
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 22	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.30	UI3A - C Football v The Dragon (Home)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
THURSDAY 23	
9.05 - 10.45	Play Rehearsal (Forms 5 - 8)
2.30	U8 & U9 Football v Abingdon Prep School (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 24	
	Spelling Bee for Prep
	Matching Bee for Pre-Prep
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 25	
SUNDAY 26	<i>The First Sunday in Lent</i> <i>University Seventh Week</i>

Bake Sale in Aid of the UNICEF Earthquake Appeal

On Thursday 23rd February, our Life Skills Club will be selling freshly baked cookies in aid of the Turkish-Syrian Disaster Relief Appeal.

The sale will begin at 3.50 pm and the cookies will cost 50p each.

Please bring some money to school on that day.

Thank you. KS



Nursery News

There was great excitement in the Nursery on Friday afternoon when we had special guests join us for Storytime!

Enzo and his family are spending time in New York following the arrival of their new baby.

The children were all thrilled to see their Nursery friend via Zoom and we met his beautiful little sister, Zòe. Congratulations to Carlos, Lidia and Enzo; we are looking forward to your return in Trinity Term! NE

Music News

It was such a delight to work with the boys in preparation for our 'Songs from Around the World' Assembly last week. Every class in the school learnt a piece of music from a different country... rounds in Twi and Hebrew, folk songs in Welsh and Spanish, and festival celebrations in Thai and Mandarin plus much more! It's been a super way to explore other cultures and tackle performing in new languages. You can find a video of highlights from this project on the School's YouTube page, here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=itT8VifVYRY.

Parents of children in Forms 3 and 4 and Pre-Prep are invited to our upcoming concerts for these two groups in the Walton Hall. Any child who learns an instrument is invited to play a piece, and everyone will be involved in lots of singing too. Please encourage your children to prepare their instrumental performances, and do put the dates into your diary - see you there! SB

Forms 3 and 4 Concert: 2.30 pm, Tuesday 7th March

Pre-Prep Concert: 2.30 pm, Tuesday 14th March

Form 2 News

On a cold winter's morning we went to the Science Museum. We met Mrs Helen at the gates. Then we and Mrs Helen went inside. First, we went to sit down. Then she told us about Galileo Galilei and Oliver dressed up as Galileo Galilei! Galileo Galilei found out that the Sun was in the middle of the Solar System, not the Earth! My favourite part was seeing a puffer fish, which is about 500 years old! Alexander, Form 2.



Lost and Found

We hear of quite a few lost items of clothing and it is much easier for us to help find them (on whoever is wearing the wrong item) if clothes are clearly named. LK

There is now a Lost Property Box on the landing near to Form 2.



Spelling and Matching Bees

We are delighted to be launching the first French Prep Spelling Bee at CCCS and Matching Bee for Pre-Prep.

The Spelling Bee is a House Competition for boys at CCCS to practise and improve their vocabulary, spelling and memory skills in French. The boys can practice the list of words, using a Welsh website and online games on:

<https://spellingbeecymru.co.uk/fr/activity/?lang=en>

On Friday 24th February:

Reception will be matching colours and words during their French lesson, in their classroom.

Forms 1 and 2 will be in the WWH matching colours, animals, numbers and words.

Forms 3 and 4 will be competing on one list of words (Level 2)

Forms 5 and 6 will be competing on two lists of words (Levels 2 and 3)

Forms 7 and 8 will be competing on four lists of words (Levels 1 - 4)

The lists of words will be given on Teams.

All boys entering the Spelling Bee Competition will be rewarded. The top three boys in each year group will be announced and the House with the most amount of correct words will win the Competition.

A vos stylos, Prêts? Partez! SL

Headington Hill Park: Plants and Pollinators

The Friends of Headington Hill Park have raised money for a wide range of plants to be planted in phases this year, and would be glad of helpers. (Last year our Cardinal Scholars enjoyed a guided tour of some of the trees in the park.) It would be instructive and worthwhile work; and they wondered if anyone would like to come along with their son - one Saturday morning, say.

If there are any volunteers, I will liaise and find a good day. NR

House Quiz



On Friday morning we held the annual House Quiz. Questions explored the boys' knowledge across a wide range of topics - and their knowledge was once again found to be promisingly wide and deep.

The scores of Carroll and Wolsey were very close, but Sayers' took the laurels summa cum laude. NR

After School Club

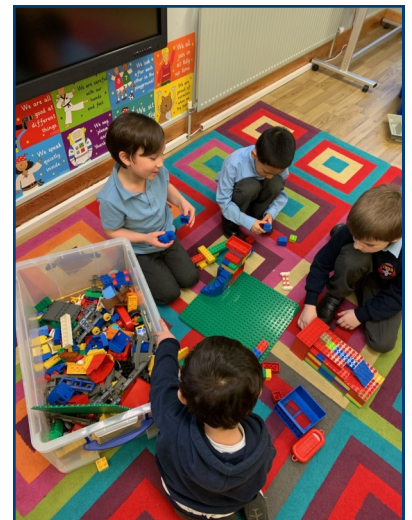
Our Pre-Prep After School Club is a fun environment for children to make new friends.

The children enjoy a snack before returning to one of the classrooms for fun and games until their parents collect them to go home.

If you would like more information about our After School Club, please contact Mrs Kemp:

registrar@cccs.org.uk.

Thank you. LK





Atom Prime

If you were unable to come to the Atom Prime webinar and would like to see what was discussed, the recording of the meeting is at: www.tinyurl.com/CCCSatom



If you are interested in Atom Nucleus, Atom's subscription-based home learning platform, you can use PRIME10 to receive 10% off your first month. AF

Sports News

It's been a huge week for Sport at CCCS! We had four days straight of fixtures. Every Prep boy represented the School, some even twice. It began on Friday with 16 boys competing in The Manor Prep Cross Country event. We had a fantastic afternoon in the sunshine; the boys really showed what it meant to be part of CCCS, with incredible determination and commitment to the end. We finished with three top ten places and came 4th overall, a fantastic achievement. The four teams are pictured below. NR



On Monday, our Forms 7 and 8 boys played against d'Overbroeck's. We played three hard-fought matches, all of which displayed just how far we have come since we began our Football programme in December. During the 2nd and 3rd Team matches, CCCS gave a good account of themselves in



this matchup against the very strong side that d'Overbroeck's put forward. Thomas P's work rate drove the team forward and led to numerous chances for Vasishth, who also had a great and tireless game, which could have easily ended up as goals - on another day. Unfortunately, d'Overbroeck's eventually ran away with the game in the latter stages, winning 2-0. Nevertheless, our boys were pleasantly surprised with how good their performance was and were very unlucky not to get a result on the day. Man of the Match: Thomas P. JH



On Tuesday, our Forms 3 and 4 boys played Chandlings and The Oratory school in a triangular. We had a particularly good day with all teams scoring many goals, plus victories along the way! In the B Team match, we started strongly against The Oratory, with William L scoring two goals in quick succession.

After some incredible defending, we broke and on the counter-attack, managed to score another. Just before half time, The Oratory got one back after a lovely move down the left wing. In the second half, CCCS boys were out for more goals with William L quickly completing his hat trick.

A fantastic 5-1 win - the boys fully deserved it. NH

Sports News Continued...

On Wednesday, all Forms 5 and 6 boys played against MCS. We had four brilliant matches in which our boys, once again, showed their commitment and passion when representing the school. Our B Team played two hard-fought matches and narrowly missed out on the victory that their energy, teamwork, and effort deserved. The team, captained by Hugo B, kept a very good positional shape and defended very well indeed, with Splendour, in particular, proving to be a dogged and immovable force in the centre of defence. An honourable mention should also be given to Harshadeep, whose tireless running and closing down made it a really great contest to watch. In our debrief, we talked about attacking more quickly as a unit and getting players into the box, so hopefully, that approach will pay dividends in our next match. Well played boys! TR

Form I News



Avast ye landlubbers! The fearsome and brave 'Christ Church Crew' in Form I had a Pirates Theme Day this week. The 'letters in a bottle' that the boys wrote did the trick and 'Captain Robeard' was able to escape the desert island that he was stranded on and navigate his way back to join in with all the fun. We went on a treasure hunt, played a game called 'Captain's Coming', danced a hornpipe, learnt all about the legend of the famous pirate 'Blackbeard', and performed our own sea shanty 'The Jolly Christ Church'. We even found time to design and make our own pirate ships from scrap materials. I expect that there were lots of very sleepy pirates

that evening! TR



More French News

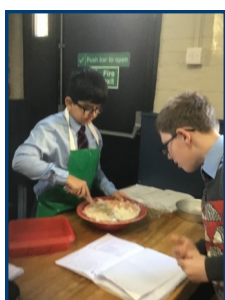


Form 7 delivered their best tips and some sound advice on how to stay safe online, using their personalized T-shirts, actions, drawings and PowerPoint presentations to deliver their message - in French - and clearly.

Forms 3 and 4 boys were very impressed!

Bravo les garçons! SL

Meanwhile, Form 5 made a traditional French yogurt cake - Gâteau au Yaourt. SL



THE GHOST NEWS

Wednesday 1st February £2.75

IRON & THIEF!



An eye witness has come to help explain what happened this strange morning. Mr Murray, the headmaster of CCCS, was at the scene (the very spot of the crime). Mr Murray explained "I saw two bright red eyes and then a huge Iron hand."

Experts believe he is taller than a house and has a head shaped like a dustbin. So keep an eye out!

Front garden CCCS destroyed

Recently there has been a very strange report of a massive robot entering Christ Church Cathedral School at exactly 10.02am on a Wednesday. The creature seems to have torn and shredded the computer

Were you in the place where the sighting happened? If so The Ghost News would love to hear about it! Warning! The vast giant is attracted to metal. Remember any sightings should be reported immediately!

Evidence has been left by the creature in the front garden of CCCS (as you will see in the picture above). At first it was a very normal school day but then they found it

By Armaan



Flexi-Boarding

We offer flexi-boarding for £58.00 per night.

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

Meet and Greet - Taranjeev Gupta: Parent of Arjan, Form I and Anjali, Nursery

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I wanted to be a paediatrician working in India when I was younger. I always wanted to work with children and now I do - as a stay at home mom of two children.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would visit my best friend in San Francisco in California. I love California for the warm weather and it would be lovely to see her and her family.

Who is your idol? My idol is my mother who has always been selfless and helped others. She is the kindest person I know who is always willing to help anyone.

Favourite city or town and in which season? My favorite city is Boston in the autumn season because the foliage is changing and there's pumpkin spice all around.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? One thing I would change in the world is to teach all children from a young age how to grow their own food and be more environmentally conscious.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? I'm sure there are many family traits I have but the one that stands out the most is my desire to constantly feed people like my mother does. I spend many hours in my kitchen!

Favourite Book? My favorite book is *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri. It's a collection of short stories that I identified with. I instantly loved the author and all her other books.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? If I had more free time I would love to get more active and find good hiking trails. I've always enjoyed being out in nature. The views around Oxfordshire with the rolling hills is stunning.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? On the weekends I love going for family walks and sometimes going for a scenic drive to see a windmill with the children.

Imagining a visit to San Francisco reminded me of that song 'California Dreamin'. On such a winter's day, nothing quite beats the Californian sunsets... Annoyingly, when I read your responses I was really hungry and all I could think about was you and your mum. I imagined the sort of aromas and taste sensations that I could benefit from, being in the right place at the right time. This is a great family trait to have, and as we are almost on the eve of Valentine's Day, they say food is the way to a man's heart... Surely it's not a way to only a man's heart? It's definitely a way to most hearts I know and the best way to unwind, reset and nourish.

Teaching children to grow their own food is such a good idea, cooking their own food could be a step closer to you having some down time in the kitchen. It sounds like your family trait of cooking will end up being a generational tradition, with recipes handed down each time - I am keen to know if it's in the recipe or is it in the taste test where you add a little bit of this and a little bit of that. I know there was a great Gardening Club at CCCS that I reaped some rewards from. It might be one for you to look out for.

Visiting the windmills sounds like a great outing. One of my sons, at a very young age, was adamant that the windmill we drove past every day was in fact a lighthouse, it didn't matter if we explained it was a windmill with the propellers whizzing around, I gave in and got to the point where I would point to it and say "Look at the lighthouse!" Thank you so much for your time and I hope you settle in well to CCCS.

Have a great weekend,
Kathryn