



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parents,

I spoke to the School this week about moveable feasts. They could all tell me, not surprisingly, that Christmas was on the 25th December; many could tell me that Hallowe'en was on the 31st October and that therefore All Saints' Day or All Hallows' Day, to give it its traditional title, was the day afterwards and one person was able to remember that St Patrick's Day was on the 17th March. But only a handful of courageous souls tried to give me the exact date of Easter when I asked. It was a trick question, of course, as, I explained, Easter is a moveable feast, being on a different day each year. The boys now know that its date is fixed by its being the first Sunday after the full Moon that occurs on, or after, the spring equinox – simplicity itself.

The reason I was talking about this was that it was Ash Wednesday, a date related to Easter, i.e. another moveable feast, so Ash Wednesday too comes under this category. I explained that we should all try to give something up this Lent as it was essential to be able to control one's appetites otherwise they could control you. I, very proudly said I was giving up chocolate this year – a substance with which I have an intimate relationship. I wonder what things others will be giving up.

That was on Wednesday. On Thursday the Life Skills Club made things to sell in aid of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria Appeal. The boys asked me to come and purchase one of their home-made products "Of course" I said, "What are you going to make?" "Chocolate chip cookies!" Oh no! My favourite. I duly bought a number of cookies and was obliged, quite against my will and my newly-established Lenten fast, to eat one. It was delicious. I've never enjoyed a moveable feast more! Well, I'm happy to break my fast under these circumstances; to support the boys in this most excellent of causes was the very least I could do. It is so important that we all do what we can to assist in this dreadful situation and we will be doing many other things to help gather money to send over to this earthquake-ravaged region.

It was wonderful to get over to the playing fields on Wednesday afternoon to see so many pupils taking on The Dragon on the Football pitch. Everywhere, we were competing brilliantly. Of the three matches, we lost two narrowly but the one we won, we won handsomely. That all sounds very fair to me. I always admire hugely our team spirit and the fact that everyone is called upon to play, whatever their ability – one of the many advantages of our size as a small school. Team spirit is something which is essential in life, I think. Much is learnt on playing fields and I was delighted that not only were people clearly enjoying themselves, but were determined to support one another and to be loyal to their friends. It was a very heartening – and beautiful – afternoon.

I have obtained my costume for World Book Day, which is next Thursday. The lady who supplied the costume makes most of her costumes herself. She was lamenting the fact that there are so few places where one can find handmade costumes anymore, partly because so few people are able to sew. Such skills she said, are declining fast. I rather smugly reflected that many of our boys know how to sew, having attended with great enthusiasm, our sewing club. No such shortage of knowledge at CCCS. This weekend, I will seek to complete my costume by looking for a large staff - in the woods. I wonder if any of the pupils can guess which character I am coming as..?

I have been so deeply touched by the number of people who have taken the time to express their condolences to me, and for the number of messages that I have received upon the death of my mother over the course of the past week. It is never easy to deal with the death of a parent but it has been made so much easier by the kindness of so many in this wonderful school community – I could not have asked for a more supportive place to work.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2023

Monday 27th February - Sunday 5th March

MONDAY 27	<p>Form 8 Trial CE Exams (WWH)</p> <p>1.40 Thorn Grove Cross Country (Selected boys from Forms 3 - 8) (Away)</p> <p>3.45 - 4.45 After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Football Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (Merton Field)</p>
TUESDAY 28	<p>Form 8 Trial CE Exams (WWH)</p> <p>1.40 U7 Football v Church Cowley School (Home)</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Tennis Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)</p>
WEDNESDAY 1	<p><i>St David</i></p> <p>Form 8 Trial CE Exams (WWH)</p> <p>Forms 3 & 4 Swimming</p> <p>2.30 Colts A - D v Church Cowley School (Home)</p> <p>3.30 - 4.30 After School Chess Club (Form 2)</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Tag Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)</p>
THURSDAY 2	<p>World Book Day</p> <p>2.30 U8 & U9 Football v Church Cowley School (Home)</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)</p>
FRIDAY 3	<p>8.30 Cathedral Assembly, speaker James Hodgson, Headmaster, Bedford School</p> <p>10.45 - 12.45 Play Rehearsal (Forms 5 - 8)</p> <p>4.00 - 5.00 After School Tag Rugby (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (Merton Field)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CC: OUT until Sunday 4.00 pm GRADES (Not Form 8)</p>
SATURDAY 4	<p>10.00 - 12.00 Play Rehearsal (Forms 5 - 8) (If necessary)</p>
SUNDAY 5	<p><i>The Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><i>University Eighth Week</i></p> <p>4.00 - 6.00 CC/CP: Rehearsals (WWH)</p> <p>6.00 CC/CP: Evensong</p>

World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March

Please come to school on Thursday 2nd March dressed as a favourite book character and with a copy of the book your character is from. Be ready to talk to your class about who the character is and why it's your favourite book.

During the school day, there will be a special themed lunch and lots of activities based around books and reading.

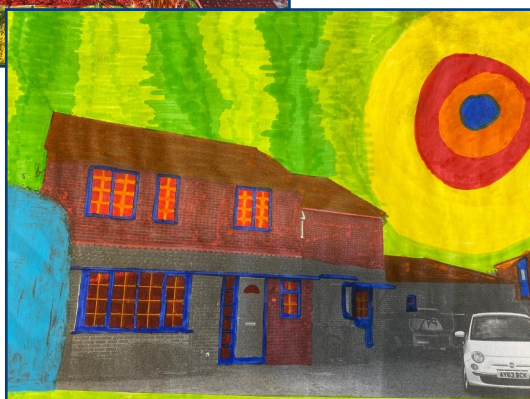
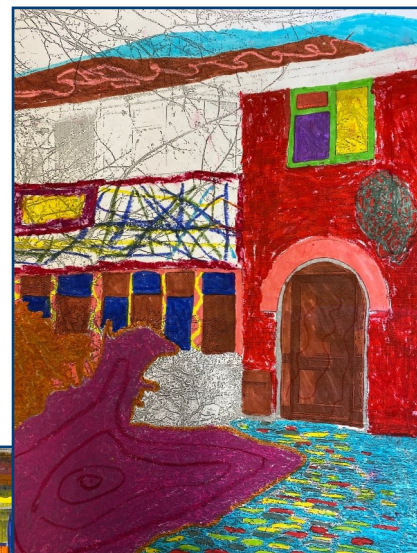
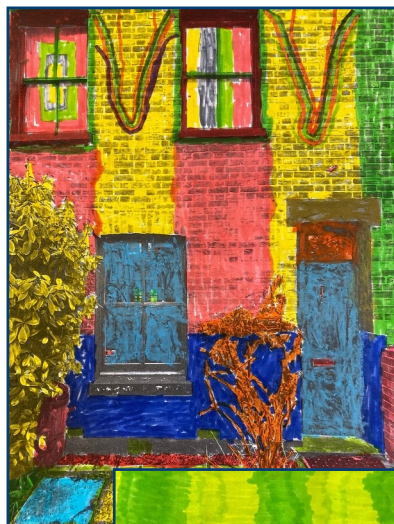
If you have a chance over the weekend, please get someone to take a photo of you reading in a special or unusual place. You could be dressed as a book character too if you wish. I will be showcasing the photos in assembly on Thursday so get creative and get snapping! JP

In **Pre-Prep**, we will start the day with a fancy dress parade of 'Story Book Characters'. We hope to share why the children had chosen the book as their favourite and try to guess who each other is! RF



Form I News

Form 6 have been looking at the artist Hundertwasser, and giving their own houses a 'Hundertwasser' makeover using pens and oil pastels. EE





Poetry Recitation

On Friday 10th February at 2.00 pm, just before the half term break, and after a very exciting and competitive General Knowledge Quiz, Forms 3 - 8 sat down to listen to some wonderful recitations of poetry. The boys all performed their chosen poems with great clarity and expression, and the audience were transported to many different places and times. Some poems were emotional and serious and some provoked peals of laughter, especially from the front rows of Pre-Prep. Dr Tara Stubbs, Dean and Fellow of Kellogg College and Associate

Professor of Creative Writing and English Literature at OUDCE, was thoroughly impressed and entertained, both by the poetry and by the beautifully performed musical interludes provided by Felix Somerville, (Solfeggietto, Bach) Alexander Sun (Flight of the Bumblebee, Rimsky-Korsakov) and Ian Zhang, (Allegro, Dussek). Dr Stubbs gave positive and thoughtful feedback to each boy about their poem before announcing a finalist and runner-up in each age category. All in all it was an enriching and inspiring way to end the half term and congratulations must be given to every boy who performed with such poise and confidence to entertain us all. JP

Forms 7 & 8

Winner - Tom - *Printer's Error* by P G Wodehouse

Runner-Up - Jeremy - *The Seven Ages of Man* by William Shakespeare

Forms 5 & 6

Winner - Splendour - *My Grandmother* by Preesha Jain

Runner-Up - Henry - *Escape at Bedtime* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Forms 3 & 4

Winner - Adam - *Crocodile* by Roald Dahl

Runner-Up - Hugo - *Michael Rosen Rap* by Michael Rosen



Spelling and Matching Bees

Can you feel the buzz of tension? Beesy boys in Pre-Prep, helped by Language Ambassadors and Form 8 assistants, matched colours, numbers and animals in record time.

Older boys competed against each other and for their Houses in excellent spirit. Well done to all the contestants.

Results to follow soon... We'll do it again next year!

SL & AE-W



English News

Form 8 have been studying poetry written about the seasons, and looked closely at 'Snow in the Suburbs' by Thomas Hardy and 'Hard Frost' by Andrew Young. When the weather was frosty last half term, we walked in Christ Church Meadow and looked closely at how wintry weather affects nature. These poems are wonderfully descriptive and capture so evocatively the impact Winter has. Felix chose to write a sonnet, a love song to Winter, and Matthew chose free verse with end-stopped lines to emphasise the brutal power Winter has, while Florian focussed on the frozen river and the shapes and atmosphere of the trees around it, he chose to write in free verse with no punctuation to create the flow of the river. JP

Winter, my fairest love.

Oh winter, thou fair fair season tide,
Thou art fair enough to set the sun away.
The flare of the sun shall kindle and die,
Fairer art thou than all other types of day.
Thy icy fingers reach down from my porch,
the sunlight reflects thy glowing face.
I need heat, but thou wouldst be melted by a torch,
And I would send thee into empty space.
Spring and summer are nothing unto thee,
Thou powerful controller of the cold.
I would die for thee, wintry deity,
I will love thee winter, 'til I am old
Oh winter, thy snow, thy deepest of freeze
I will cherish thee, love thee, and dance in thy breeze

Frozen Scene

Reflections are like portals, illuminated by illusionary gates.
Clashing clams of rocks continue.
Whoosh of leaves brush browning branches sinking in frozen water.
White blankets cool the core.
Snow comes like a bride being dressed in countless wedding dresses
tall trees sag their arms as they absorb the suns laser of light.
Weaving branches stung by frost.
Orange skies reach for frozen skies. In the midwinter sky
Brown trees stand by.
Welcoming the coming brush of road and warming cabins
centred by people.

The bridge in two worlds
One clear one not
Trees foreshadowing life
As you walk down the river

A crackling sound
One must hear
Is heard when one comes near

The strong trees
Hold white coats as some put them on
A cloudless sky
As life turns blue

Liquid gold falls from above
Reflecting off from water
Silhouettes of trees against the blue gold sky

Trees in uniform stand in lines
Waiting for people to come
Fog lying far beyond
Oppressing our view



Music News



We returned after half term to lots of exciting happenings in the Music department. On Tuesday, a group of CCCS brass players attended a workshop at Bradfield College given by Onyx Brass, one of the most famous brass ensembles in the country. Their members include professors from the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music, so it was wonderful to hear some top-flight playing that demonstrated how versatile and agile these instruments can be. As well as listening to Onyx, our boys were taught a piece of jazz and were given tips on improvisation.



We've had some very enjoyable instrument demonstrations of our own in school, too. Mrs Watson visited the boys in Forms 2, 3 and 4 with her bassoon, treating them to some superb playing as well as showing off the amazing feats achievable on this characterful instrument. Form 1 were invited to a double bass demonstration given by the youngest bassist in the school, Terry Z, who explained its mechanics, performed a piece, and answered questions about what it's like to play an instrument that's bigger than you! It's always wonderful to see boys taking up rare instruments like the double bass or bassoon, as they are great fun to play as well as being in huge demand at senior schools. If your son would like to have a trial on any of our rare instruments, please do get in touch.



Lastly, parents of boys in Forms 3 and 4 and Pre-Prep are reminded of the upcoming concerts for these two groups in the Walton Hall. Any pupil who learns an instrument is invited to play a piece, so please encourage your sons to prepare! SB

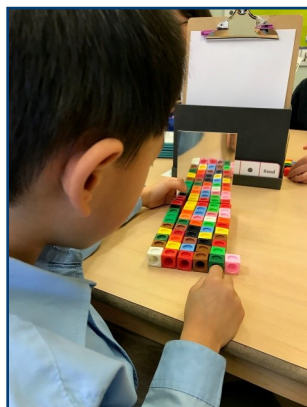
Forms 3 and 4 Concert: 2.30 pm, Tuesday 7th March

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

Form 1 News

In Form 1, we have been enjoying lots of dynamic Maths activities this week. We have been practising our counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s by throwing beanbags and pom-poms onto dinosaur footprints and completing counting shuttles as teams in the playground. We have also been on 3D shape hunts around the school, as well as learning about ordinal numbers by physically roleplaying changing places in lines with objects and with ourselves! The boys especially enjoyed learning all about doubling numbers through a sneaky trick in which we could double cubes and figures by counting onwards into mirrors!

What a wonderful week of learning for our class of budding Mathematicians. Well done boys! TR



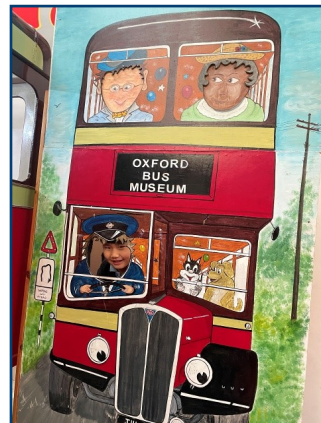
Pre-Prep News



Before half term, Reception finished their topic of transport with a visit from Mr Scott, who works on the West Somerset Railway. Mr Scott arrived in his Guard's uniform and explained the different responsibilities he has and how he has developed and improved over time; he even brought with him some of the equipment he has to use.

The next day, Reception climbed aboard the school minibus and we drove to the Oxford Transport Museum.

We had had great fun learning about different types of buses and getting on board some of them. We also had a short talk about how a bus conductor gave out tickets. Each child was issued with their own ticket to explore! RF



Form 2 News

Form 2 boys carried out an investigation to find out which material will be the best insulator for Mr Frosty the Snowman's hands.

It turned out cotton kept the ice cube from melting the longest and foil, being made from metal, was the best conductor so the ice wrapped in the foil melted the quickest. EF



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.

Form 3 News

Form 3 have had a busy week writing for the Association of Dragonologists. The boys have interviewed Professor D Scales for information about current dragon sightings and are writing a 'Dragon Seekers' Guide.' Please report any dragon sightings to Form 3. SG

The Thunder Dragon

The Thunder Dragon is a dangerous and hideous dragon that attacks using lightning bolts.

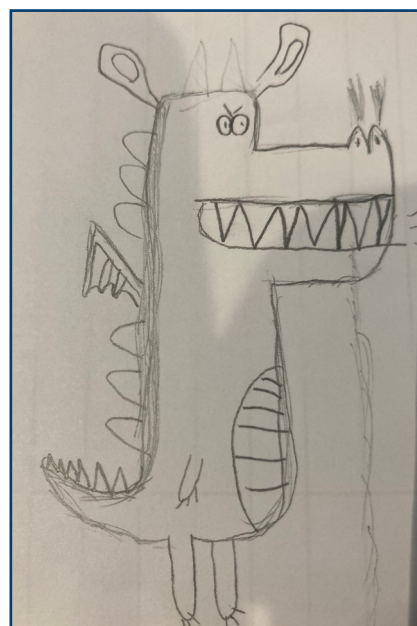
What does it look like?

The Thunder dragon is scarlet, gold, toxic and hazardous. Surprisingly, it has long sinister spikes along its long curvy neck and back. Strangely, it has electrifying ears, emerald eyes and a hazardous head. Its hazardous, crimson claws are razor sharp. Amazingly, it has leathery, limpy legs but can still walk normally. The strange dangerous dragon only comes out at night.

Where does it live?

Thunder Dragons lives in a cave high up in Mount Thunder where it is unusual, gloomy and lonely. They sometimes choose to discover deserted, unknown islands. When it's stormy they go out and shoot lightning bolts. The cave is full of cold, freezing stalagmites and stalactites that stop people from getting into the cave. Occasionally, these offensive dragons might venture to a droopy forest. The way up Mount Thunder has a very sticky floor. Did you know the cave is as big as England?

By Hugo



CCCS Council

Thank you to the newly elected school council members for a great first meeting!

If you have any fantastic ideas please let your Form School Council member know.

Thank you.



Sports News

This week saw the introduction of Hockey into our Games programme. In years gone by the school was able to offer a Hockey club to years 7 & 8, however now, we have been able to include Hockey within our games programme for Forms 3 - 8. Hockey has been incredibly well received, with the boys enjoying learning new skills and beginning to get to grips with how to handle a hockey stick. Until the end of the term, we will continue to run both Football and Hockey sessions during Games and we hope to play some matches in the future. Please can I ask that the boys have football boots, shin pads and gum guards for all Games sessions. Below are a mixture of photos from our training sessions. NH



CCCS A v Dragon: Both teams set up in a similar way and were playing an almost identical style of Football. This ensured that a fantastic afternoon of Football was in store with both teams looking to get the ball on the ground quickly and play attractive Football through the thirds, creating multiple chances to score.

It was The Dragon that struck first but Jeremy was able to score with the final touch of the first half to leave the scores level at the break. The second half saw more of the same, very entertaining, Football and Yourui put us ahead with an exquisite lob. The Dragon soon equalised and both teams pressed for the winning goal.

With minutes left to play, it looked like Florian's curling shot was destined for the top corner, but the fantastic Dragon goalkeeper somehow managed to reach it. The Dragon then struck in the final seconds to steal a victory. Both teams should be very proud of their performances, it was a pleasure to watch! SP

CCCS B v Dragon: Coming up against a school the size of The Dragon could have been a daunting task for our B team, but that was quickly squashed by an early goal for Christ Church. Not long after, The Dragon recruited a player from their first team to join them, but our boys were not to be deterred. Notable personal performances came across the board, but I'm reluctant to mention any as it would be a disservice to the excellent team display that resulted in this victory.

A showcase of fluid passing and relentless finishing led our boys to run away 6-1 winners with a thoroughly deserved result and an enjoyable afternoon. JH

CCCS Barber

To book appointments you can either message: 07748 105192 or email: andreachrisostomou@yahoo.com

Men's haircut £17.50, Students £15.00, Clipper cut £10, Beard trim £5, Over 65s £13.50, Under 16s £13.50

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.

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

Trumpet, Cornet and Flugelhorn Day



Join us for an exciting, fun day
of ensemble playing, masterclasses and more

Sunday 23rd April 2023

10.30am - 4.30pm

Hosted by Wells Cathedral School

Open to musicians 18 years and under,
of all musical abilities

£40 admission (bursaries available upon request)

For more information and to book your place:

<https://wells.cathedral.day/trumpet>

d.swain@wells.cathedral.school

01749 834487



WELLS
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Enjoy an inspirational day of playing with some of the UK's top performers and teachers in our state-of-the-art performance venue, Cedars Hall. The day will include:

- Workshops and coached ensembles to develop your playing
- Solo performance workshops
- 'Lotto Lessons' - the chance to win a short individual lesson
- An informal concert for family and friends at the end of the day
- The opportunity to try and buy instruments from the Prozone Music trade stand.

Tom Hutchinson

Besson Artist and Principal Cornet of Cory Band, European Champions 2022 and Professor of Cornet Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.



Ross Brown

Principal Trumpet - London Chamber Orchestra, Professor of Trumpet - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Head of Brass at Wells Cathedral School.



Helen Williams

Virtuoso Principal Flugelhorn player of the Cory Band, European Champions 2022 and Courtois Artist.



Simon Jones

Senior Trumpet Tutor, Wells Cathedral School, and member of the Bristol Ensemble.



Refreshments will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch.

CCCS Minibus

For boys in Forms 3 - 8, we operate a morning and afternoon minibus service.

If you would like your son to be brought to and/or from school in our minibus, on a regular, or one-off, basis, please contact us:

schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk

The cost is: Bus run one way, £240 per term. Bus run both ways, £355 per term.



Meet and Greet - David Scott, Parent of Xander (Nursery)

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I wanted to be a detective (I was a big fan of the Hardy Boys books by Franklin W Dixon, and still have many of them just in case Xander shows any interest!). Being a health economist and medical statistician, my work involves evaluating whether health technologies (procedures, drugs, devices, diagnostic tests) represent value for money and should therefore be provided on our budget-constrained National Health Service.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I have been lucky enough to have travelled a great deal but one place I'd like to visit is Greenland, perhaps with Xander when he is (considerably) older.

Who is your idol? My wife, for doing an amazing job looking after both Xander and myself.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Oxford, I'm very happy where we are. We lived in San Francisco for a spell, it's a beautiful city but overshadowed by homelessness and a mental health crisis.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I'd like everyone to get on and resolve any differences peacefully. Deluded I know.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Xander and I both twirl our hair, subconsciously. I remember my mother trying to get me to stop; she didn't.

Favourite Book? I can't choose between *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt (whom we met at the Sheldonian), and *The Last Samurai* by Helen DeWitt, about a child prodigy searching for a male role model.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I'm looking forward to rekindling my Greek and Latin alongside Xander in due course!

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? Um, what's a weekend?! Seriously, spending time with Xander does the trick.

You're absolutely putting your best investigative skills to use, and what a conundrum. For all the goodness the NHS does manage to provide, I wish we could offer a 'pay it forward' service - where you offer to contribute to the costs of the next patient, even if it was a small amount, the cost of a coffee £3.25 x 60-something million. You probably have a very sensible reason why this can't work and I wouldn't say Economics was my strongest point, but happy to discuss!

Resolving differences peacefully is not at all deluded, we just need to be more like the elephants who are known for their empathy and less like turtles who avoid conflict to their own detriment. You're probably the envy of many, having hair to twirl - I am keen to know if your mum was a secret hair twirler and was attempting to try and break the cycle herself? The end of the week starts today, so quickly get your feet up and get some recharge.

Thank you for your time and enjoy the weekend!

Kathryn
PA