



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents,

I haven't written since the week before half term so I want to cast our minds back to two wonderful events which happened before the holiday. It seems a long time ago since so many of us gathered together in the Cathedral to witness the joint concert given by the boys of our three choirs and the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra, in the presence of both the Dean and the High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda. It was a truly magnificent occasion during which we enjoyed music of extraordinary quality. It was a real privilege to see four members of the Kanneh-Mason family perform, with Braimah and Konya playing a duet of exquisite power. At the end of the concert, the queue of boys waiting to get autographs was a sight to behold. The family could not have been more charming. It was also heart-warming to see so many people play with such enthusiasm and panache and it is absolutely clear that the orchestra is having a huge impact upon classical music making in the Caribbean. Never before had I heard one of Vivaldi's Four Seasons played with steel pan! We were reminded about how lucky we are in terms of our peripatetic Music teachers as our oboe teacher, Jessica Mogridge, played a beautiful Morricone piece that clearly moved all who were present. We were also privileged to hear William Kirkman and Will Smyth perform unforgettably. It was clear that both boys made a huge impression on those who were there. Finally, and perhaps most movingly, the orchestras and the choirs performed together – a combination that was symbolic of a truly harmonic occasion. Thank you so much to Ms Biddell and to everyone who worked so hard to make this possible.

Later in the week, and also in the Cathedral, Nursery and Pre-Prep celebrated their Harvest Festival, which was a glorious occasion. All the pupils brought provisions to the Cathedral and sang lovely songs. It was a joy to see so many young faces suffused with excitement about singing and speaking in our beautiful Cathedral. For some it was the first time that they had taken part in a service at Christ Church. I hope that it made as much of an impact on the pupils as it did on those who attended!

We were very fortunate to be visited this morning by Alistair Land, who is Headmaster of Harrow. We send many boys to Harrow and so it was lovely to cement our relationship with the school by such a visit. Mr Land based his talk on the Sermon on the Mount and stressed the importance of thinking of others rather than just about oneself. Such an approach has always seemed to be a mark of Harrow and its pupils – living in a community is central to the ethos of the school and it is clear that such a message comes right from the top.

There is never a dull day at CCCS! I saw in my calendar that a Pre-Prep pupil and his father had booked in to see me. I had no idea why they wished to come. In fact, they wished to tell me about a pilgrimage they had made to the Holy Mountain of Mount Athos in Northern Greece, a peninsular completely dedicated to orthodox monasteries. The two had had an extraordinary time staying in a number of the monasteries. There are 20 on the island. One of the monasteries they stayed in clung quite literally to the precipitous rock with death defying balconies, made from wood, slung over vertical drops. Some of the rooms had one wall which was bare rock! The young pupil had asked whether he could work while he was there and was given the task of helping in the monastic kitchen. He prepared vegetables and baked bread, among other things. As a reward, he was able to help himself to some extra food which was useful as some of the meals had to be eaten terribly quickly - perhaps because they were mostly taken in silence. It was real privilege to hear of such an unusual trip and the experience had clearly had a huge effect on the pupil and his father.

I was on break duty today when I was approached by a boy. "So Sir," he said, sitting down beside me, "Let's get down to business. I've got a good idea. I think we should change the School into a water park!" "I'm not sure," said another boy, "that Mr Murray will like that idea." Funnily enough, he was right. The original boy, realising that his plan might not become an instant reality, sloped off. The other boy turned to me. "I'm not sure I'd want that to happen. I like the school just as it is!" Quite!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2023

Monday 6th - Sunday 12th November

MONDAY 6	Deadline for French Challenge Entries
9.05	Primary Maths Challenge (Forms 5 & 6)
3.00	Nursery Parents' Meeting (Nursery)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 5 Football Skills Club (WWH)
TUESDAY 7	Orchestral Day at Radley College
WEDNESDAY 8	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming cancelled due to pool maintenance . Boys will have a Games session instead)
2.30	Form 5 Rugby v The Dragon (Away)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 9	
8.45	Form 8 Assembly
2.30	Talk on Generative AI (Forms 7 & 8)
FRIDAY 10	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Right Revd John Inge, Bishop of Worcester
9.00 - 3.15	Form 4 Trip to FarmEd, Shipton-under-Wychwood
10.45	Remembrance Service
4.10 - 5.00	Multi Sports Club (Rec - Form 2)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 11	
SUNDAY 12	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i> <i>The Twenty-Third SUNDAY after Trinity</i> <i>University Sixth Week</i>
6.00	WC: Remembrance Sunday Service (Worcester College)



Pre-Prep and Prep French Challenge Entries Deadline



Monday 6th November



We have poppies for sale in the School Office:

Pin Badge Poppies - £1.00. Paper Poppies - Donations in the Collection Box

French News

A huge well done to William K, Trust, Troy, Kaluo, Will S, Adam and Isaac for taking part in the CCCS Duolingo Challenge for 30 days and being so high up in the league. More than 40 people competed. Congratulations to the numerous boys who are also doing their own Duolingo challenges. Merits ahead...

A special 'MERCII' to Isaac and Raffie's parents who appear to be highly competitive linguists! Thank you for being tough competitors for the boys.

A gold medal also goes to Mrs Simpkins for multi tasking. The boys were trying to outdo her on both the Science and competitive Duolingo front!

Thank you again for your support. Hopefully the boys have enjoyed learning languages outside the classroom. SL

Nursery News



Nursery have sewn leaves together to make beautiful autumn crowns. HB

Lost Property

There is a large Lost Property Box in the Foyer, outside the Walton Hall, where missing belongings are usually found.

Please do ask your children to take a look, if they have lost anything.

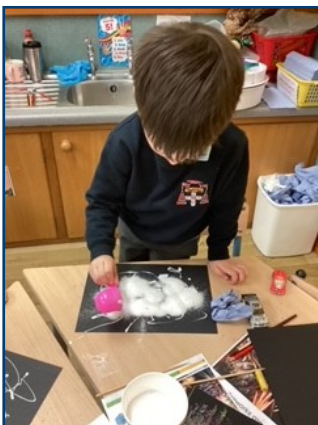
Clearly named belongings are always easier to reunite with their owners... LK



Reception News

Ahead of Bonfire night, we've been talking about keeping ourselves safe with the help of Fireman Sam. The boys have loved exploring materials to make representations of fireworks.

A favourite was an activity using salt and glue, and carefully colouring with watercolour paints.



Today, Mme Williams took us to Christ Church Meadow for our French lesson. We practised our colours and number vocabulary by hunting for leaves and counting the cows. KS

Boarding House News

On Monday (Halloween) evening, our boarders made full use of their free time to dress up, carve pumpkins and consume all manner of sweet treats. Some of the boys presented a particularly ghoulish spectacle indeed! JR



Many congratulations to William Liu and Henry Parker on their Installation into the Cathedral Choir. The boys received their choir medals from the Dean during Evensong which included music by Howells and Brahms.

Following the service came our annual celebration in the Walton Hall. Chorister parents put on a wonderful buffet and the boys always particularly enjoy their Marzipan effigies! JR

Music News

I was so delighted that such a large audience came to support our recent concert with the ABYSO in the Cathedral. This event celebrated the unique partnership between the musicians of CCCS and this inspirational Caribbean orchestra.

CCCS has been fund-raising to help the ABYSO with its current aim to provide more double reed instruments for its young players. If you would like to make a donation, please do contact the school office and they will be able to pass this on. SB



Sports News

This week, Forms 5 - 8 played Rugby against Abingdon Prep School. All the matches were keenly contested with many ending in wins for CCCS.

As we are nearing the end of the Rugby season, this week we reflected on the RFU five core values: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. These values are to be found at every training session and in every match we play. It was great to be able to share, during Assembly, examples of these from our recent fixtures. Well done to our boys, who never fail to impress us. We are always very proud to host, and visit, opposition schools. NH

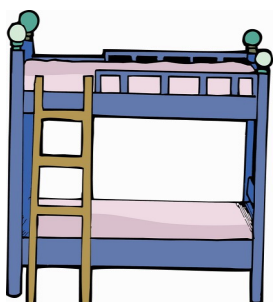


Flexi-Boarding

We offer flexi-boarding for £63.00 per night.

If any of our parents would like to use this facility, please contact Mrs Kemp:

registrar@cccs.org.uk



Form 1 News



The final day of the first half of Michaelmas Term saw our Pre-Prep and Nursery children host a colourful and musical Harvest Festival celebration in the Cathedral. The event was well attended by our ever-supportive Pre-Prep family community, and the children loved presenting the wonderful Harvest gifts and fresh produce that they had generously prepared and donated. We were treated to a showcase of Harvest songs including 'Who will help me make some soup?', 'One Potato, Two Potato' and the ever-popular 'Harvest Samba'. The children also took pleasure showing some of the Harvest art and craft that they had made in school, from Leaf Man inspired animals, to fruit printing on a huge communal banner, not to mention their beautiful hand-made Harvest hats festooned with all manner of tasty fruit and vegetables.

One of the great successes of the day was the superb fundraising effort for our nominated charity, Oxford Mutual Aid, a tremendous local organisation that supports families and vulnerable adults with vital food aid and support. I am delighted to report that we raised over £250 in cash donations on our Pre-Prep stall, in addition to significant direct donations generously pledged by our parent body. Perhaps most pleasing of all was the charity's reaction when we dropped off our bountiful Harvest hampers at the food bank. They had run out of fresh fruit and vegetables, and our packages were immediately sent out to families urgently in need. The volunteers at the centre wanted our Pre-Prep children to know that their thoughtfulness and generosity has already made a huge difference to other children living within our local community. Huge thanks and congratulations to everyone in our CCCS Pre-Prep family! TR

"The donation is really appreciated and has arrived in our accounts safely! Thanks so much to all at Christ Church Cathedral School. Every penny raised goes right back into supporting our community, helping us to buy lots of food and household items that go a long way to improving the lives of so many families across Oxford!" Daniel Cairney, Volunteer Manager at OMA.



Computing News

Form 7 are now confident programmers with the Micro:bit programmable devices.

This week, the boys have been inventing their own programs using Micro:bit and little robots. Things we have done include: making the robot go or stop on a button press; adding flashing lights and sirens; programming one Micro:bit as a remote control for another; programming so that the robot reverses before it hits the wall; and moving in different directions if another Micro:bit is tilted.

Form 7 now know as much as can be known in block-based programming and they are ready to move on to Python. AF



Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week our 'Making the Most of Oxford' Tuesday group climbed the tower at St Michael's at the North Gate. Finished in 1040, it is the oldest building in Oxford and, as the name implies, was originally part of the North Gate of the old walls surrounding Oxford. We admired the views over the city and looked south to find Tom Tower.

Our Thursday group paid a seasonal visit to the Ashmolean Museum and not only found the lantern that was used by Guy Fawkes when he was wandering round the cellars of parliament, but a few rather spooky mummified animals also! KS

