



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Yesterday, I attended a singing competition at Harrow in which both my sons, Sebastian and Henry, were competing. It won't surprise you to hear that they found their love for singing when they were at CCCS. The competition was in the newly refurbished Speech Room, the place to which Churchill returned during the darkest years of WWII, to sing with the pupils of his old school. There were forty pupils taking part yesterday and, such was the enthusiasm, that the whole evening took more than three hours. The competition was judged by the great English tenor, James Gilchrist, who has one of the most exquisite voices you will hear, and, as he made detailed comments on every singer, we were mesmerised by his wonderful vocal demonstrations. Mr Gilchrist is the godfather of one of our former pupils and I well remember him singing with his godson at one of our Friends and Family Concerts a few years ago, in the Walton Hall – at the time I had to pinch myself that an informal prep school concert had one of the world's leading tenors singing in it. As I listened last night, I was so grateful that my sons had learned a love of singing when here at CCCS, something that they will have with them throughout their lives. It is easy to take for granted that we have three college choirs, but we are the only school in the country about which this can be said, and that almost every pupil in the school is a confident singer who loves singing.

Talking of singing, last weekend Mrs Fairhurst took five boys from Forms 3 and 4 to Oxford Town Hall where there was a big event for world peace, particularly with Gaza in mind. Representatives of all of the major world religions were there, most poignantly representatives of Oxford's Muslim and Jewish communities. Each faith took part in the service to pray for peace in its own way. Mrs Fairhurst commented upon how moving the whole occasion was. The Lord Lieutenant, the King's representative in Oxfordshire, was there along with the leaders of Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council. During the Christian part of the service, our young boys stood up in front of the packed hall and sung "Make me a channel of your peace", an adaption of the famous Prayer of St Francis of Assisi. Afterwards, several people mentioned how moving the boys' contribution had been. Others were amazed that such young boys had had the courage to sing in front of so many, but I'm not sure it had occurred to the boys to be nervous – to CCCS pupils, singing is as natural as breathing.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons we have Clubs and I have the pleasure of running a Squash Club. We have a large number of boys who take part and their enthusiasm is palpable as they run towards the court, their excitement rising. Increasingly, I am getting requests from pupils to have a Squash match with another school. It is very gratifying that there is such enthusiasm and a number of pupils are really very good now – it is indeed becoming increasingly difficult for me to keep up with some of them!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job is when I enter a classroom in Pre-Prep – it is always a treat to see the wonderfully colourful displays. At the moment, Form 1 are doing a project on pirates and the classroom is full of treasure chests, cutlasses and ships flying the dreaded skull and crossbones flag. It seems that a good pirate by the name of Captain Robeard (I'm sure the similarity between his name and the Form 1 teacher Mr Robards is purely coincidental) has been abandoned on a desert island. Form 1 have taken the decision to rescue him and have sent him messages informing him of this daring plan, inside a bottle which was flung into the Thames by Mrs Balu, their Teaching Assistant. Apparently a message has arrived back from Captain Robeard. I'm delighted that our boys are providing such an important rescue service. Never has a rescue mission been entered into with such enthusiasm!

It was a beautiful morning this morning on Brewer Street. A boy arrived on the back of his mother's bicycle. Once he had dismounted, he stood in front of his mother – "I want something," he said. It occurred to me that maybe we really do live in a materialistic world these days. "I want," he said, "a kiss and a hug!" Perhaps all is well with the world after all!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2024

Monday 29th January - Sunday 4th February

MONDAY 29	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
4.10 - 5.00	Football Skills Club (Forms 3 - 5) (WWH)
TUESDAY 30	
10.45 - 12.05	School Play Rehearsal (Forms 5 - 8)
WEDNESDAY 31	
All Day	Beyond COP-21 Symposium (Selected Form 6 boys) Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.30	Forms 7 & 8 Football v APS (Away)
2.30	Forms 5 & 6 Football v Chandlings (Home)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 1	
All Day	Trip to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (Form 5)
All Day	Trip to Museum of Computing (Form 8)
FRIDAY 2	<i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i>
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, Eucharist and Candlemas
4.10 - 5.00	Multi Sports Club (Reception - Form 2)
6.00	Eucharist for Candlemas
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 3	
4.45	CC: <i>Tutti</i> Rehearsal
6.00	Candlemas Carol Service
SUNDAY 4	<i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i> <i>University Fourth Week</i>



Together for Humanity

On Sunday 21st January, five boys from Forms 3 and 4 represented the School by singing at the Together for Humanity inter-faith event for peace at Oxford City Hall.

The hall was full, and included representatives from seven faiths and civic leaders. Our boys were the youngest participants, confidently singing "Make me a Channel of your Peace", and getting a round of applause (and a bag of Haribos) for their efforts.

Well done boys! AF



Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week, our Making the Most of Oxford Club visited the Ashmolean Museum to look at the Alfred Jewel.

We were fortunate to have Mrs Fairhurst with us, who explained some of the background, what was going on in England at that time and why we think Alfred had the jewel made.

What we learned at the museum helped us appreciate the jewel even more! KS



Sports News

On Tuesday, five boys competed in the Oxfordshire Cross Country Championships, held at Radley College. All the boys ran superbly, in horrible weather conditions.

This was by far the hardest event that the School has competed in and the boys should all be commended for their efforts.

Special mention goes to Edward Hare, who came 7th in his age group and 13th overall, narrowly missing out on the next stage of the competition, this was especially good - as half of the runners were the year above Edward. NH

Form 2 News

This week, Form 2 have been learning about money, and to practise what we have learnt, we turned Form 2 classroom into a toy shop. In pairs, the boys chose which toy they were going to sell and how much they were going to sell it for.

The shoppers were given a purse with a budget of £2 and a basket to carry their shopping.

The shopkeepers had the challenge of giving the correct change to their customers, whilst the shoppers were challenged to spend their budgets wisely.

Sometimes, the shopkeepers put their toys on sale, at other times there were cases of inflation! MH-W





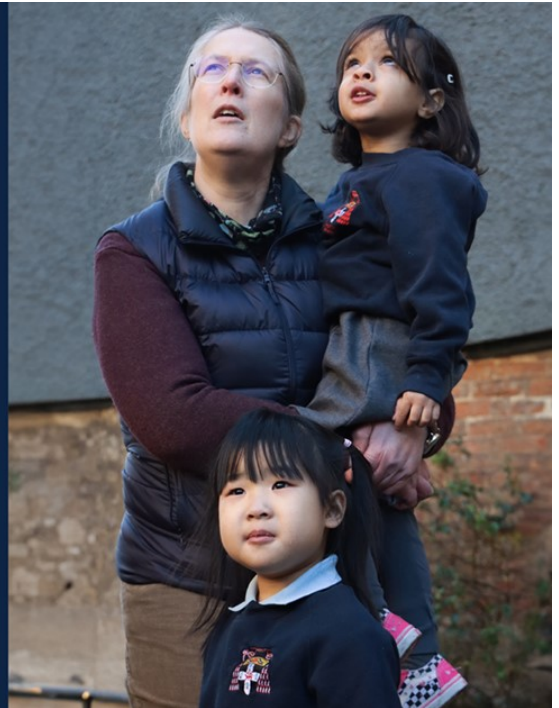
Open Morning

**Tuesday 5th March,
9.30 am - 12.30 pm**

Pre-Prep is now welcoming girls and boys, aged 3 - 7

To register, contact Laura Kemp: registrar@cccs.org.uk

www.cccs.org.uk • 01865 242561 • 3 Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QW



Matron's Manners

The boys enjoyed pancakes last night, whilst learning the importance of table etiquette, enjoying gentle, suitable, conversation at the table, whilst remembering what we have been taught about manners.

Thank you to our Gapper, Jasper, and to Hugo and Will for cooking the pancakes and serving them to us. DP



Upcoming Concerts

Parents of younger boys have two exciting performances lined up this term:

Forms 3 and 4 Concert (2.30 pm on Tuesday 27th February)

Pre-Prep Concert (2.30 pm on Thursday 29th February)

Any boy in these classes who plays an instrument is invited to play a piece, and there will be plenty of singing that involves everyone too. The emphasis is on providing a relaxed and enjoyable occasion for pupils to build their confidence, and both events will be held in the Walton Hall. Please do join us if you can! SB

Lost Property



Please may I remind you to ask your children to take a look in the large Lost Property Box outside the Walton Hall for any belongings they may be missing.

Thank you. LK

Reception News

Reception children have been very busy actively learning about the planets and solar system this week. They have made rockets from junk modelling and created the different planets using craft materials for a display in our classroom.

We headed over to our Woodland school yesterday to enjoy some fresh air and exploring. KS



Maths Olympiques

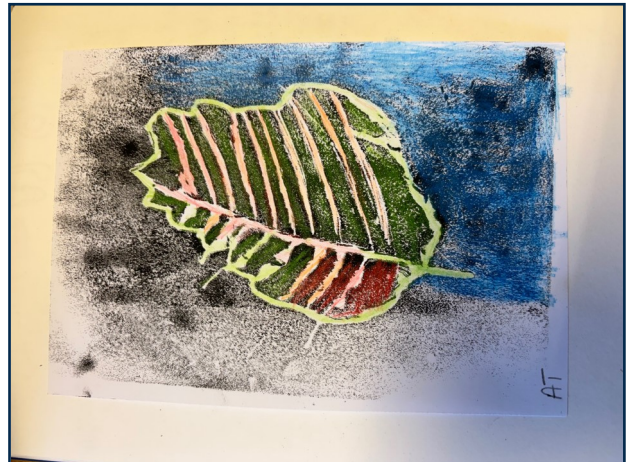
We've been really enjoying our Maths Olympiques this week. From Nursery to Form 8, everybody was involved in revising their French numbers.

The competition was fierce! A big MERCI to all parents who helped their children revise at home! SL



Art Gallery

Form 3 have been experimenting with poly-printing over the last few weeks.



Form 4 have been looking at the Artist LS Lowry and painting figures in his style.



Jeneba Kanneh-Mason plays Mozart

Oxford Sinfonia

CONDUCTOR

Robert Weaver

LEADER

Kate Bailey

Beethoven Overture 'Fidelio'

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23 K488

Brahms Symphony No. 1

Saturday 27 January 2024

7.30pm

**University Church St Mary's,
High St, Oxford**

Tickets £20/£18

from oxfordsinfonia.co.uk

Sponsored by:



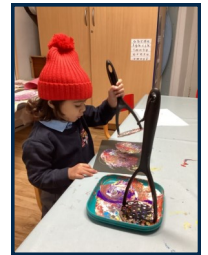
**The Scene by Direct Publicity,
Printed Brochure/Leaflet Distribution Specialists**

THE CONCERT DATE IS ALSO THE ANNIVERSARY OF MOZART'S BIRTHDAY

Nursery News

Nursery children have been enjoying the milder weather this week, spending lots of time in the Nursery garden, building structures and working with their mud kitchen materials. It has been fascinating to see new friendships develop with the children who have joined us this term. The youngest is really enjoying her freedom in the Art Studio.

The children, in Upper Nursery, have been exploring new activities on the shelves. They have been particularly drawn to writing about the weather, using writing cards. I have found that every time the weather changes, some of the children are writing a new report on the weather, to add to their collection.



After the icy blast at the beginning of this term the children were raring to be back in our Woodland School. The woodland, having received its annual clearing back of the undergrowth, was an exciting place to explore.

The children enjoyed working with the huge quantity of sticks and branches that had fallen from the trees, and quickly discovered that teamwork was required to move some of the largest limbs that had fallen.

Others made collections of sticks, counting and creating 'land art' at the corner of the Football pitches in the soft lush grass. What was most interesting, were the creatures that had been awakened by the mild weather - we saw two amphibians! HB



Don't forget that this weekend is the Big Garden Birdwatch:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/submission>.

Harbinger of Spring

The Snowdrops peeping through in our garden... LK

