



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents,

Every week I hold a meeting with the Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy. Today we were talking about table manners. The Head Boy said, with great enthusiasm, that table manners in the Dining Room were much better – as he put it: “We’ve got table manners nailed!” I am delighted that manners in the school are so good. Indeed only yesterday, I sat with a group of boys who could not have been more charming. I was offered a glass of water, another boy asked me politely if I could pass a knife and fork from a place he could have easily leaned over to, and all the boys there asked me if they could leave the table, after they had finished their lunches. From my point of view, these are all signs of thoughtfulness and of a caring attitude towards others. I have almost certainly mentioned before how much I like Winchester’s motto, “Manners Makyth Man” What a wonderful definition of what it is to be a man – and given that it won’t be long before some of our boys are men, having manners nailed is a very positive thing!

Perhaps some of you read the Spectator, a wonderful magazine which is Britain’s oldest regular magazine, having been established in 1818. The articles are beautifully written and the regular columns very entertaining. Over the past few years, two of our recent parents, Wolfgang Munchau and Owen Matthews have written for the Spectator, Wolfgang on Economics and Owen on Russian affairs. One of the columns (in this case not written by a former parent) is called “Dear Mary” in which readers write in to ask advice about tricky social problems or matters of etiquette – all very tongue in cheek. This evening I felt as if I was Mary when a boy came up to me, stared rather intensely and addressed me: “Sir may I ask your advice?” “Of course,” I responded, “What would you say if you found yourself talking to the parent of a friend? How would you ensure that conversation flowed?” How delightful that our pupils are concerned about such matters. I gave the enquirer some advice, which I thought was reasonable and so I hope if any of you are addressed by your son’s friends, you will have a fluent and entertaining conversation... As with manners, the ability to communicate in a civilized way is essential for future flourishing.

I went to the playing fields on Wednesday to watch Forms 5 and 6 play against The Dragon. Success was not universal, but neither was defeat and some teams performed tremendously. The aspect of the afternoon which impressed me most though, was the fact that every single boy in Forms 5 and 6 turned up to play. I don’t know of any other school where every pupil would be involved. I very much hope that as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to come and support our fixtures.

We heard today that Will S has obtained a Music Scholarship at Dean Close in Cheltenham. He was the fourth Cathedral Chorister out of four this year to have achieved a Music Scholarship. This in itself is impressive, but it is even more so if one realises that for the last ten years, every single Cathedral Chorister has achieved a music award at a senior school. Such a record is extraordinary. Being a Cathedral Chorister here at Christ Church does give you a more than excellent chance of gaining an award in a senior school. Well done indeed to Martin, Will, William and Jonathon.

The waters have again risen around Oxford and much of the Meadow is now flooded again – our playing fields being an island of green sward surrounded by water. The beauty of the place in all its different guises takes one’s breath away. I hope I never get used to the Meadow - or to consider it mundane.

When on duty on the playground yesterday, I was standing in the middle of the playground sheltering under my umbrella. We were ignoring the drizzle and refusing to declare a wet break. A crowd of pupils came up to me. “Sir who’s on duty? We can’t see a member of staff anywhere.” I tend to think of our pupils as observant but on this occasion... I count myself lucky that I have a reasonably intact sense of self!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2024

Monday 26th February - Sunday 3rd March

MONDAY 26	Form 8 Trial CE Exams
1.30 - 5.00	Thorngrove Cross Country Relays (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Skills Club (Forms 3 - 5)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
TUESDAY 27	Form 8 Trial CE Exams
2.30	Forms 3 & 4 Concert
4.10 - 5.00	After School Touch Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
WEDNESDAY 28	Form 8 Trial CE Exams
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
9.15	Outreach Visit (Charlbury Primary School)
2.30	Forms 7 & 8 Football v Cokethorpe (Home)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 29	Form 8 Trial CE Exams
2.30	Pre-Prep Concert
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2)
FRIDAY 1	<i>St David</i>
	Form 8 Trial CE Exams
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Revd Cannon Dr William Lamb, Vicar, The University Church
2.00 - 4.00	Forms 5 & 6 Hockey v New College (Away)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Multi Sports Club (Reception - Form 2)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 2	
SUNDAY 3	<i>The Third Sunday of Lent</i>
	<i>University Eighth Week</i>

Upcoming Concerts

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

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

Please do join us if you can! SB

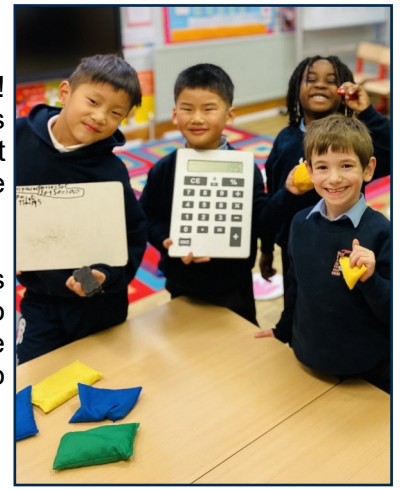
Form 1 News



When the weather gets tough, Form 1 get going! This week we were hoping to do lots of active Maths outdoors, but sadly the weather was against us. Not to be deterred, we set up fun Maths activities in the classroom instead.

The children practised their 5s and 10s times tables by working in teams and throwing beanbags onto numbered dinosaur footprints. The teams were tasked with adding up their scores, which ran into triple figures.

Well done to our Maths Superstars in Form 1! TR



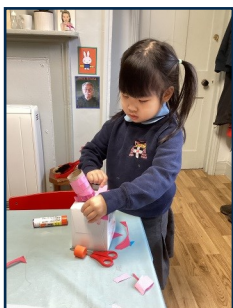
Nursery News

Nursery children have been working well in our Art Studio this week. Some of the older children have begun to work with recycled materials, creating Process Art, where the action of trying new ways of attaching parts, adding colour and collage are more important than creating a particular piece.

It is fabulous to observe the children engaging in proper conversation and waiting to take turns. Snippets of their chat included: *"Ah yes, it's in the tropical zone, it's the equator, and it separates the hemispheres. That's half the planet."*

Whether we should ask God to stop the wind... *"He decides what the weather is going to do. I don't mind the rain really, do you?"*

We have revelled in outside play this week, showing that we don't mind the rain at all - thank goodness for our outdoor 'all-in-ones' which have kept us dry. We travelled around our garden using crates. All the children stood on a crate each, the front person put another crate on the ground and takes a step forward. All the children move forward one crate, then the last child turns around, picks up the back crate and passes it along to the front. A fabulous problem solving and sequencing activity that was initiated by the children. HB



Music Scholarship News

Many congratulations to Jon, Will S, Martin and William K in Form 8 on their magnificent music scholarship successes this term. All four boys are sophisticated young musicians who will be very much appreciated at their destination schools, and it has been very heartening to hear such warm feedback from the Directors of Music who auditioned them.

Martin D - Music Scholarship, Harrow School

Jon S - Music Scholarship, Marlborough College

William K - Music Scholarship, Rugby School

Will S - Music Scholarship, Dean Close

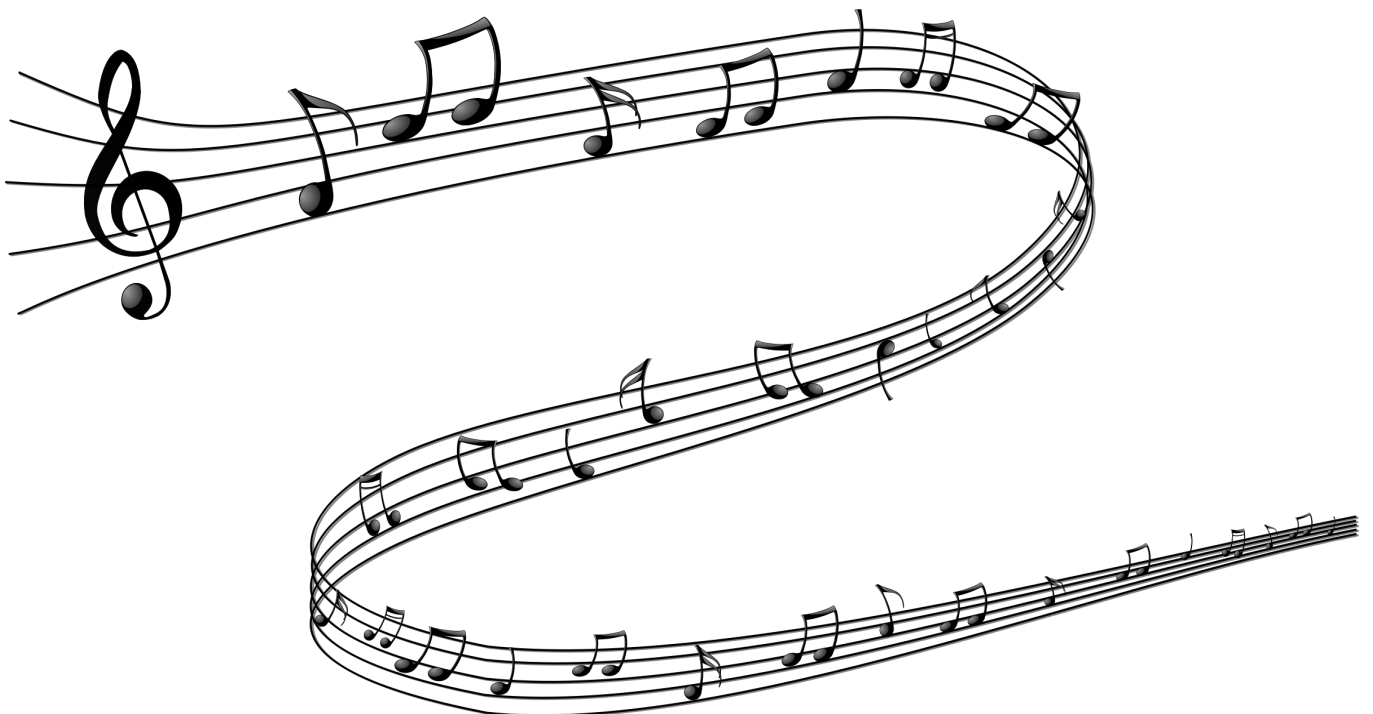


Pre-Prep Concert

2.30 pm, Thursday 29th February

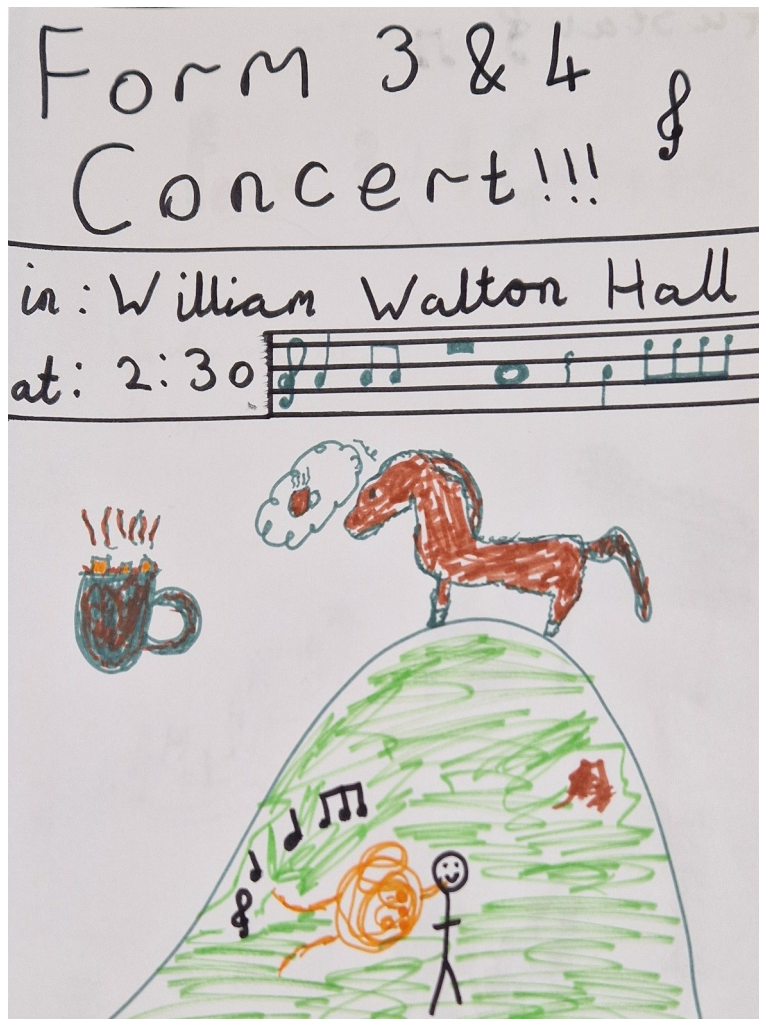
Songs and instrumental performances

in the William Walton Hall



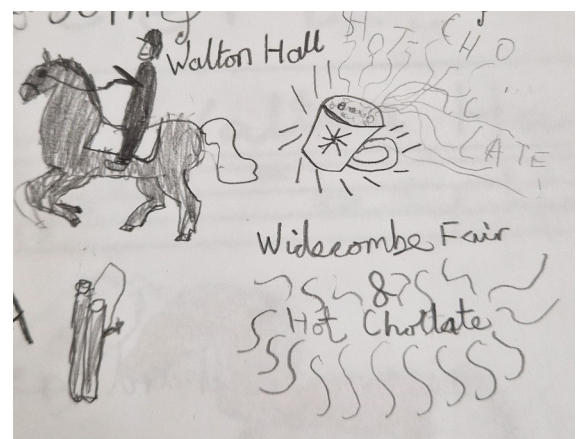
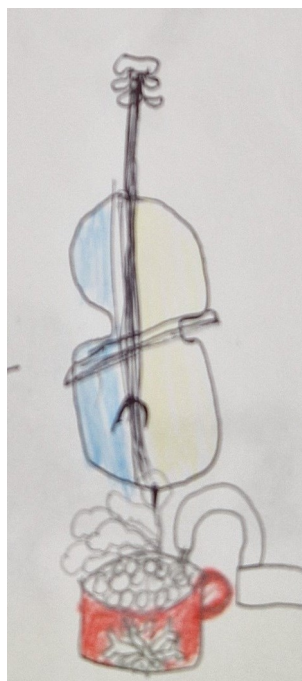
Forms 3 and 4 Concert 2024

Tuesday 27th February, 2.30 pm



*Featuring songs and
instrumental
performances by
the talented boys of
Forms 3 and 4 in the
William Walton Hall!*

Come to our school
for the concert of
form 3, 4.



Sports News

We took three teams to The Dragon on Wednesday afternoon for our penultimate Football fixtures of the season. In wet, drizzly and very muddy conditions the three teams set off for their pitches with clear instructions to try and enjoy the matches, while attempting to play passing, possession-based Football, hopefully scoring some goals along the way. Our A Team played a triangular against two of The Dragon sides. We got off to a very slow start and fell behind after one minute. However, we grew into the game and drew level after a great team move. Given the conditions, some super passing moves were put together and, with seconds remaining, Troy went on a mazy run and finished beneath the keeper for a 2-1 win.

In the second game, it was one way traffic, and although we struggled to find the net for the first part of the game, when we went back to basics, the goals started to come, with a comfortable 3-0 win being secured.

Our B Team showed excellent character and effort, creating numerous chances in their match, scoring two great goals in a solid 2-0 victory. The great work from William K on the left side, and William S in the middle was only eclipsed by the second Christ Church goal - Hugo crashed in a screamer from way outside the box! Other notable performances came from Splendour and Jon who defended brilliantly throughout.

Our C Team found it slightly hard-going, but still managed to put up a brave fight - in the mud. William X battled hard and showed real endeavour to keep The Dragon from scoring. Unfortunately, we fell to a defeat but the effort and application of all the boys on such a miserable afternoon, weatherwise, was excellent.

Well done to everyone who took part. DP

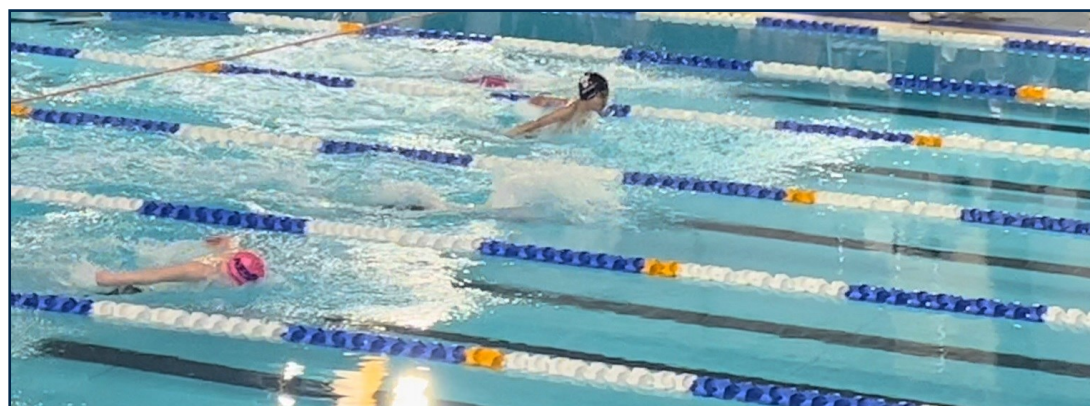


Kailuo, Form 5, took part in the 2024 Oxfordshire & North Bucks (ONB) County Swimming Championships on behalf of the City of Oxford Swimming Club (COSC) in February.

Kailuo won a Bronze medal in the age 10 -11 group 50 meter butterfly competition.

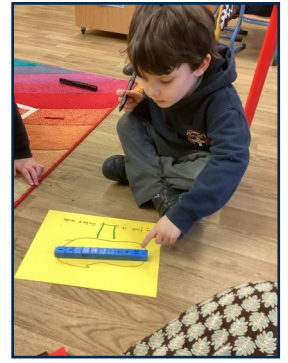
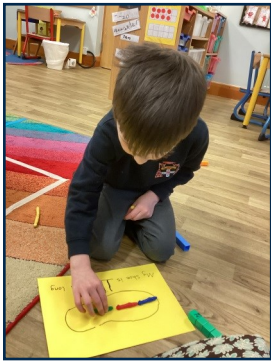
Kailuo also represented the Club in two relays and came 4th in the ONB County Championships.

Well Done Kailuo! LK



Reception News

Reception children had a fantastic time this week learning about measurement. We compared the height and length of objects and we have begun to measure using cubes, and our feet. KS



Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week we all visited the Upper Library at Christ Church, we were shown an interesting mix of objects ranging from mandrake roots to a first edition of Hooke's Micrographia and Cardinal Wolsey's hat. It was an enjoyable and stimulating visit! KS



After School Care

We offer a fun and creative After School Care programme, where the children can continue to build friendships across the Pre-Prep. It is a place where curious minds can explore and learn through play. Our activities include board games, arts and crafts and Play Dough. In the warmer months, the children have the opportunity to play outside on the climbing frame, get creative in the sandpit or enjoy a fun game of Football. MM



Charity News



Just before half term we lent our kitchen to Thomas Franks to prepare hot meals for the homeless in Oxford. Thomas Franks, our caterers, then went into Oxford to give food to people in need. In March, we will be partnering with Mutual Aid, which provides 170 households with regular food, toiletries, and baby supplies, and delivers nearly 100 emergency food parcels per week in Oxford. The School will shortly be setting up a donation box to collect donations of tins and packet foods, which will be collected by Mutual Aid each week. LK

French News

On Tuesday, Forms 3 - 8 boys attended a French-English play. There was a lot of laughter as the boys watched the misadventures of a young English Knight, who had been sent to France by King Henry VIII to find suitable lady for the King to marry. Many of our boys wanted to go on stage to help the English actor with his French!



On Friday, boys in Forms 3 - 8 competed in our CCCS 2024 French Spelling Bee. This was a very intense House challenge! A big Bravo to all the boys who revised hard and were brave enough to compete. Results will be announced soon...



Meanwhile, Pre-Prep were busy matching words to pictures of numbers, colours and animals - in French of course. The challenge was to spell some of these new words correctly. Luckily, Form 6 Language Ambassadors were on hand to help their younger friends. SL

