



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 8th March 2024

Dear Parents,

Being at CCCS was even more entertaining than usual yesterday, given that it was World Book Day. Though I began the day as normal, standing on Brewer Street, things were rather different because I was clad in a tweed cape and deerstalker, having chosen to dress up as Sherlock Holmes. "Oh Sir!" exclaimed an early arrival, "You look like a soldier from the American Civil War!" It had clearly been a more sartorially elegant conflict than I had realised. It was, I have to admit, a parent who said to me: "So did all of that kit come from your wardrobe then?" As it happened, I had borrowed some of it, though I have to confess that I thoroughly enjoyed wearing it and I was amazed by how easy it was to play Squash in it. Did the original players of Squash wear tweed, I wonder, and if so, is it time to reintroduce it on the court?

World Book Day starts traditionally with Assembly which, yesterday, included a number of statements from boys about why they liked reading. It fascinated me that the most common reason given was that reading allowed the mind to travel to different places – relaxation came high up, too. Furthermore, Griselda Heppel, who is an author of children's fiction as well as being a Governor of the School, visited us wearing a Professor McGonagall costume. During breaktime, we had a costume parade, after which Mrs Heppel awarded prizes for the best costumes. It reminded me of a rather colourful fashion parade in Paris – even if the reality was we were in a playground in Oxford. During lunchtime there was a reading quiz which a large number of boys took part in. There were a number of interesting questions, including the following: Which famous author said "We read to know that we are not alone?" Certainly, we all came together for this wonderful day. Every day, a member of staff has been reading from a book to a large group of pupils who have preferred the thought of sitting together listening to someone read, rather than running around at breaktime. It was lovely to see how absorbed the pupils became.

I do not think there was anyone who took part in the parents trip to the Christ Church Picture Gallery who was not deeply moved by what they saw. The Curator of the Gallery, Dr Jacqueline Thalmann, is devoted to her collection and passionate about the pictures for which she is responsible. She focused on two of the works, one a deeply moving Christ Crowned with Thorns by Jacopo Bassano, in which an exhausted and vulnerable Christ is surrounded by a threatening group of people who have just mockingly placed the crown of thorns upon his head. Dr Thalmann's words took us back to 1590, the date in which the painting had been created – it was as if it had just been painted. She then took us over to what is probably the Gallery's most significant painting, The Butcher's Shop by Annibale Carracci, a massive canvas covered in sides of meat in all their visceral detail, the crowd of Bolognese butchers staring out into the world from the confines of their crowded shop. The work is extremely important in the History of Art - apparently as it is the first depiction of a domestic scene of this sort.

But Dr Thalmann hadn't finished there. Out of a small package she produced two drawings which had just been flown back from San Francisco where they had been exhibited. They were drawings which had been described as Late 16th Century Florentine when they flew out but had come back as the work of Sandro Botticelli, a designation agreed upon by the experts who had attended the exhibition. We were therefore the first people in Oxford to see the drawings with this new designation. These were drawings of incomparable beauty and poignancy. What a privilege it was to have been part of this group.

This morning's Pre-Prep Mothering Sunday Service was delightful. We all gathered in the Cathedral to witness a heart-warming service of appreciation. The pupils told us what they valued their mothers for. One boy told us that his mother "hugged him lots," actually a very common theme of the day, while another thanked his mother for keeping him "excited all the time!" I hope, for her sake, that this does not extend to bedtimes. Another mother was thanked for "getting lots of food from Marks and Spencer!" Only the best! Before one of our Form 8s played a beautiful piece of Tchaikovsky on the piano, the Pre-Prep boys and girls concluded their service by singing "You Are My Sunshine" They certainly brought sunshine to the Cathedral and to all of us who were there. Happy Mothering Sunday to you all.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2024

Monday 11th - Sunday 17th March

MONDAY 11	<p>Science Week Begins</p> <p>Forms 7 & 8 Trip: Cadbury World</p> <p>3.30 - 4.30 After School Chess Club (Form 2)</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Football Skills Club (Forms 3 - 5)</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)</p>
TUESDAY 12	<p>9.30 Nursery & Reception Trip: History of Science Museum, Oxford</p> <p>2.30 Forms 3 & 4 Football Tournament (OPS) (Selected boys only)</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Touch Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)</p>
WEDNESDAY 13	<p>Forms 3 & 4 Swimming</p> <p>2.30 Forms 5 & 6 Football Tournament (Bruern Abbey) (Selected boys only)</p> <p>2.30 Forms 7 & 8 - A & B Hockey v Thorngrove (Bradfield College)</p> <p>3.55 - 4.45 After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)</p>
THURSDAY 14	<p>Theme Day</p> <p>8.35 - 9.05 Science Assembly</p> <p>9.15 - 2.30 Forms 1 & 2 Trip: Science Oxford Centre</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2)</p>
FRIDAY 15	<p>RED NOSE DAY Children are encouraged to wear red to school</p> <p>8.30 Cathedral Assembly, speaker TBC</p> <p>9.05 School Play Rehearsal</p> <p>9.45 - 12.15 Nursery, Reception & Form 1 Trip: The Story Museum, Oxford.</p> <p>12.05 - 12.45 Form 6 Talk: Locks on the River Thames, Jacky Scotney-Jones</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Multi Sports Club (Reception - Form 2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CC: IN</p>
SATURDAY 16	
SUNDAY 17	<p><i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><i>St Patrick</i></p> <p>10.30 - 3.30 Forms 5 - 8 Play Rehearsal</p>

Trinity Music Exams

This term's Trinity Music Exams will take place in school on Monday 25th March. SB

SAVE THE DATE

Performances of the School Play, *Gallinsay*, will be on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March at 6.30 pm in the Walton Hall.



Tickets will be available from the School Office next week. There is no charge.

WORCESTER AND PEMBROKE CHORISTERS FORM 3 VOICE TRIALS 2024

We are very much looking forward to recruiting new choristers for our Worcester and Pembroke Chapel Choirs this term. Voice trials will take place at school during the morning of **Tuesday 19th March**, and I am delighted that we can offer this exciting opportunity to boys in Form 3. Being a chorister offers unrivalled musical training as well as the opportunity to develop team-work, make friends, grow in confidence, go on tour, make recordings, win music awards at Senior School and much more! Please do contact me at biddell.s@cccs.org.uk if you have any questions, or if you have a son in another year-group who would be interested in auditioning for a place.

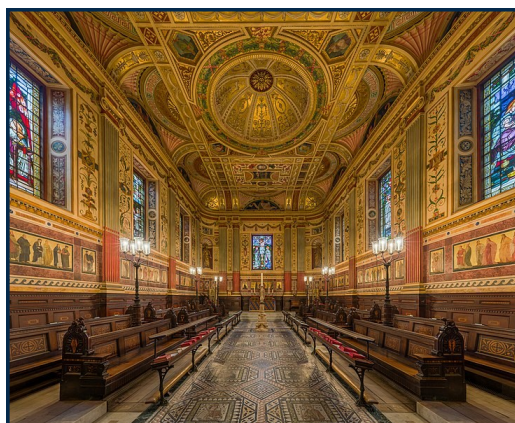
You can find out about our two choirs on the school website:

<https://www.cccs.org.uk/private-prep-school-oxford/worcester-college-chapel-choir>

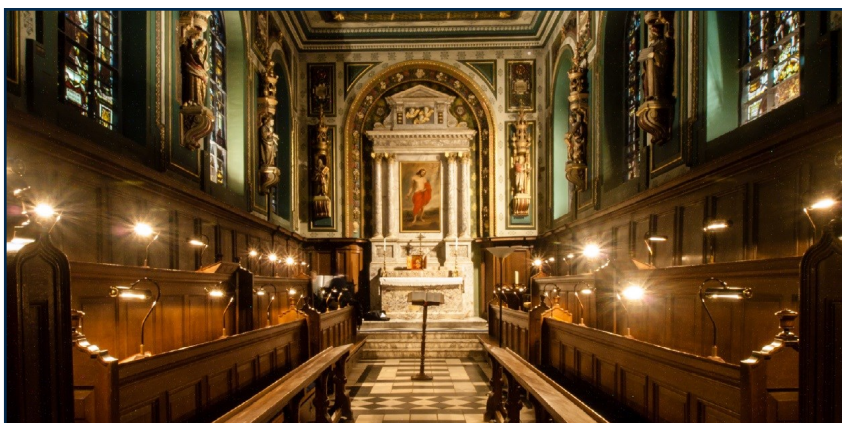
<https://www.cccs.org.uk/private-prep-school-oxford/pembroke-college-chapel-choir>

At voice trial, boys will be asked to sing a short, simple piece (something learnt in class, or a favourite hymn will do) and undertake aural tests. Everything will be done to ensure boys feel at ease... it really isn't scary at all. SB

Please do get in touch if you would like your son to have a voice trial this term. SB



Worcester Chapel



Pembroke Chapel

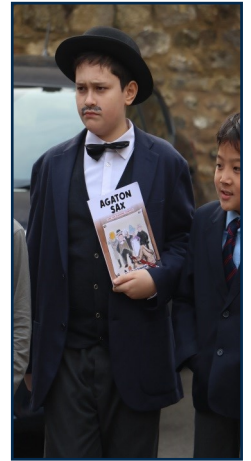
**RED
NOSE
DAY**

We will be selling
Red Noses from the
School Office all of
next week.

£2.00 per Red Nose.

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

World Book Day





Form 1 News

Form 1 have had a busy and brilliant week. We made fantastic gifts for our mothers and the special people in our lives. A highlight of the week was our 'Cooking Club', although the boys found it extremely hard not to eat the delicious chocolatey treats that they made, before they were to take them home! TR



Reception News



What a wonderfully busy week we have had in Reception. On Tuesday, for Open Morning, we opened a Kindness Café for our role-play. On Thursday, Madame Williams bought in a baguette and some jam, and we had a lovely time practising our magic manners.

Thursday's World Book Day was absolutely marvellous. The children enjoyed hearing favourite stories from their teachers, and we joined in with the rest of the school to see all the splendid costumes.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Will S, who has been a super role model and helper in Reception this week, all in his spare time. KS





After School Care

In After School Care we have been developing the children's independence skills.

At snack time, the children had the opportunity to make toast for themselves, improving their spreading and cutting skills. MM



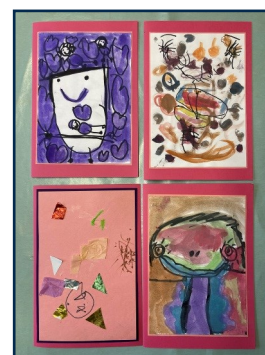
French News

Form 5 enjoying baking traditional French yogurt cake this morning. Bon appétit! SL



Nursery News

In Nursery, we celebrated World Book Day, with the children dressing up as their favourite book characters. We enjoyed our Yoga class on Tuesday, and we made cards and gifts for Mother's Day. HB



Making the Most of Oxford Club



This week, we visited the Botanical Gardens where, in the tropical humidity of one of the glasshouses, we were very lucky to be able to inspect, close-up, an Amorphophallus.

The boys were intrigued by this most unusual plant - above all by its scent! The foul-smelling odour, and exactly what it smelled of, gave cause for much debate on the way back to school: Rotting meat? Leftover fish? Old cheese? AE-W



Charity News

Throughout term time, we will collect donations of food and essentials, which will then be distributed by Oxford Mutual Aid, a local organization that aims to confront food poverty in our city.

Please leave spare non-perishable items in the food crate in the Walton Hall Foyer. We would be particularly grateful for any of the following items: **Loo roll, sugar, tinned vegetables/fruit, tinned/packet puddings, jams/other spreads, tinned meat, bottled sauces, coffee/hot chocolate.** Thank you for your support.