



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 10th May 2024

Dear Parents,

Ms Biddell has not had a minute of free time over the past few weeks. Every spare moment has been taken up listening to pupils play musical instruments. The more musical instruments one plays, the more merits one can earn, so I was not surprised when one boy arrived a few days ago with six different types of recorders in his bag! This highlighted to me not only the ingeniousness of our pupils, their devotion to their houses which stand to gain from the accumulation of merits but also, the variety of instruments played in the School. By this time next week, we will have enjoyed the House Music Competition. I urge you all, particularly those parents who are new to the School, to come to the event. It is always a staggering display of musicianship in an incomparable setting. I reflect, every year, that if one closed one's eyes during the course of the playing, one would never guess that the instruments were being played by people so young. The competition will be judged by Sarah Baldock, Head of Music at Winchester College. It will be fascinating to hear what she has to say about our players.

We are having several Stay & Plays in our Nursery this term. On Wednesday we had 14 families come to visit the School and to spend time playing in the Nursery garden. I was very struck by what a lovely place our Nursery is. Very few Nurseries are housed in such a charming setting, a 16th Century town house with four charming rooms, meaning that the children can choose where to be. The overall sense of the place is one of calm discovery. Miss Helen had laid out several colourful activities including a mud kitchen with pots and pans and cooking utensils, an artist's studio complete with cardboard paint pots, a garage mechanic's workshop and a sandpit full of toys – all the children seemed very happy indeed. I am very impressed to watch the way in which, consistent with Montessori principles, children learn through discovery and it is remarkable what they are able to do. I noticed one of the Nursery boys sitting bolt upright at a table, eating his apple in a very elegant manner, rather as if he were eating the fruit course at a five star restaurant. At the end of his repast, he took his plate, mounted a footstool, which raised him up to the level of the sink, and started to wash up his utensils. I know a number of people a great deal older than him who have not yet mastered that talent!

I am delighted that so many of our pupils and staff are taking part in the Oxford Town and Gown Run this Sunday. In fact, this year we have decided to set up a Christ Church marquee on the University parks and the boys have all been given CCCS shirts. I am immensely looking forward to witnessing the spectacle from the sidelines (in order that I can cheer everyone on, of course) and I hugely admire my colleagues who are taking on the challenge of completing the course. It would be lovely if as many families as possible could come and support those boys and staff who are taking part.

It is perhaps ironic, given the exquisite weather that we have been enjoying, that Mme Loyer has sent a message about a ski trip that we are hoping to run next year. The resort is at a very high elevation so that there will be guaranteed snow, despite the fact that the trip will be late in the season. Do consider whether your son might enjoy the experience. It is a wonderful opportunity for our boys to enjoy one of the most exhilarating pastimes with their friends and some members of our outstanding staff.

Mr Rob Jones, Headmaster of Rendcomb College, near Cirencester, came to preach this morning in the Cathedral. He spoke about the foundation of Rendcomb, in 1920, by Noel Wills as a place to educate the whole person in a civilised way in a beautiful setting. Right from the beginning, the pupils had an element of self-governance, they chose teams and made many of the decisions themselves, which were normally made by teachers - an extraordinarily progressive approach for the 1920s, or indeed, for the 2020s! At the core of the founder's vision was service, something which continues to this day. It was no coincidence then that Mr Jones had chosen, as the reading, the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet – an important act of service. I was standing next to Mr Jones when we were singing the hymn. Half way through he stopped singing. He told me afterwards that he had done so because he just wanted to hear the sound of the boys singing – who can blame him...

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2024 - Monday 13th - Sunday 19th May

MONDAY 13	
1.10 - 3.30	Form 3 Visit: Ashmolean Museum
2.30 - 4.30	U12 & U13 Cricket v d'Overbroeck's (Home)
TUESDAY 14	<i>Matthias The Apostle</i>
9.15 - 10.00	French CE Listening (WWH and Darwin)
9.30 - 11.30	Pre-Prep Open Morning
4.00 - 4.45	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Summer Sports Club (Forms 1 - 3)
WEDNESDAY 15	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.30 - 5.00	U12 & U13 Cricket v Bruern Abbey (A: Away B & C: Home)
3.30 - 4.15	After School Mandarin Club (Reception - Form 2)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 5 & 6)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 16	<i>Ascension Day</i>
All Day	French CE Speaking (Meeting Room and SMT)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
6.00 - 7.30	Wine Tasting at Christ Church for parents
FRIDAY 17	
	Young Art Oxford Exhibition (Ashmolean Museum)
8.45	Cathedral Assembly, including Nursery and Pre-Prep, speaker the Headmaster
1.30 - 4.00	House Music Competition (Cathedral)
	Regrettably, we are unable to offer parking on the Broad Walk
4.10 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 8)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 18	
	Young Art Oxford Exhibition (Ashmolean Museum)
SUNDAY 19	<i>Whit Sunday</i>
	<i>University Fifth Week</i>

Pre-Prep children will be attending Cathedral Assembly on Friday 17th May.

We would like to invite Pre-Prep parents to join us for coffee and a chat, after the Assembly, to learn about life in our Prep School.

Pre-Prep parents who would like a tour of our Prep School on Friday 17th will be most welcome. LK

House Music Competition

I have so enjoyed hearing auditions for House Music over the past month, with Prep boys offering nearly 200 performances throughout the term. As usual there has been a splendid mixture of serious pieces with countless renditions of 'Hot Cross Buns' and 'Mary Had A Little Lamb'. It's always wonderful to see boys teaching each other how to play on unfamiliar instruments; a considerable feat of skill and patience in itself!

The Music Competition final will take place in the Cathedral at 1.30 pm on Friday 17th May. A list of instrumental finalists has now gone up in school, and every single Prep pupil will be involved in our House choir performances at the end. Parents are very welcome to attend, but if you can't make it in person then you can watch the following link, either during the live-stream or afterwards, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anxP3X76Yfi>

Please note that pupils in Forms 3 - 8 should wear their white shirts to school next Friday.

I'm delighted that Sarah Baldock, the Director of Music at Winchester College, will be joining us as this year's competition adjudicator. Ms Baldock is a well-known conductor and performer who, before moving to Winchester College, held roles including Master of the Choristers at Chichester Cathedral and Assistant Organist at Winchester Cathedral. She will be giving invaluable feedback about our instrumentalists and choirs, so I do hope that many of you will be able to join us at for this very special event. It should be a magnificent afternoon! SB



Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week our Making the Most of Oxford Club went to the Weston Library to see the autograph manuscript of Bach's cantata 'Auf Christi Himmelfahrt allein', which has recently been donated to the Bodleian Library.

We listened to a recording of the music before our visit and learned a little of the background – how Bach composed a cantata every week and had no time to make a fair copy of each piece. There didn't seem to be many corrections though! CS



Ski Trip to France

SKI TRIP 2025 - LES ARCS, FRANCE

OPEN TO CURRENT FORMS 5 - 7 BOYS

FIRST WEEK OF EASTER 2025 SCHOOL HOLIDAY

COST £900 - £1200, DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF BOYS GOING

Please contact Mme Loyer: loyer.s@cccs.org.uk to register your interest by Monday 13th May.

Nursery News

Nursery children have had a busy week, and we welcomed lots of new friends to school, at our Stay & Play.

The children have been taking the class room outside, enjoying favourite activities, including feeding the dinosaurs - it was all about apple crumble this week!

We have tended to our seeds, waiting for the shoots to emerge and trying not to get too impatient, as Jasper did in our Book of the Week, *'Jasper's Beanstalk.'* HB



Form 1 News



With the sun shining brightly, Form 1 embarked on a trip to Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

As part of our 'Animals' topic in Science, the children were tasked with hunting for interesting specimens from each of the main animal groups. Typically, they threw themselves into the challenge with gusto, discovering fantastic examples of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, and invertebrates. Favourite creatures included a gigantic Nile Crocodile, an impressive Leatherback Turtle, a majestic Golden Eagle, a prickly Porcupine, a breathtaking Giant Spider Crab, and a cute and cuddly Koala.

Following our adventure at the museum, we enjoyed a sunny picnic and walk in University Parks, capped off with some much-needed refreshing ice-cream! At CCCS, we are truly blessed to have such wonderful learning opportunities right on our doorstep, and in Pre-Prep, we certainly make the most of taking our learning outside and enjoying all that Oxford has to offer. TR



The History Man



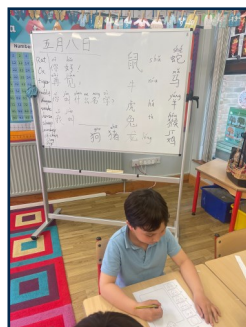
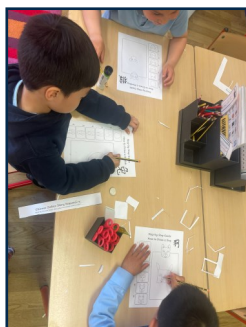
Last Friday, Forms 3 - 6 had a wonderful immersive day learning about the Romans from The History Man, David Cadle, kindly organised by the Parents' Association. David knows a vast amount about Roman life and brought a wide range of objects for the boys to touch and use. After being taught about the Roman Empire, the boys explored Roman life by dressing up as soldiers and civilians, waging war with foam swords and model shields, playing board games and practising their handwriting with wax tablets and dip pens. As if that was not enough, they also built a model city and played a Roman version of pinball. As well as being a fun day, the knowledge will be very useful in the boys' study of History and Latin. Thank you very much to everyone in the Parents' Association, and especially to Michael Crooks for suggesting this. AF



Junior Mandarin Club

A number of Pre-Prep children have joined our weekly After School Mandarin Club. We focus on a range of topics, including numerical concepts, essential greetings and self-introductions. We also explore the twelve Chinese zodiac animals and delve into their symbolic significance.

Each weekly session is enriched with the introduction of a traditional Chinese song, inspiring the children to immerse themselves in the beauty of Chinese culture. We have also embarked on the creation of traditional Chinese fans. Through hands-on artistic exploration, the children have learned about Chinese craftwork, leaving class with beautiful keepsakes that they will hopefully have a chance to keep cool with - if we have a good summer. YR



Form 2 News

This week, Woodland School was a blast, with Form 2 working as a team to build a den out of sticks, which required a great deal of perseverance and patience... MM



Sports News

This week, we had a very busy schedule of fixtures, with every year group participating in Cricket matches, during a four-day school week! On Tuesday, we had an excellent fixture away at New College, with all Forms 3 & 4 boys taking part. Our As narrowly lost in a hard-fought battle, while our Bs won comfortably - and our two mixed teams played with New College for a fun afternoon of Diamond Cricket.

On Wednesday, Forms 5, 6, 7 & 8 boys played against The Dragon School. Forms 5 & 6 As suffered a narrow loss that came down to the last over, even with an excellent spell of bowling from Harsha (Form 6). The Dragon just managed to win by 3 runs. Forms 5 & 6 Bs played an enjoyable fixture with all the boys having an opportunity to bat and bowl - they emerged victorious with a comfortable win. Forms 7 & 8 Bs played a very close match against The Dragon, coming down to the last over. Even with Carl (Form 7) batting excellently, The Dragon won by 5 runs. Our 1st Team had an excellent win with Troy and Ivan (Form 7) building an impressive score in the first innings. The Dragon came very close to chasing down the score, but a brilliant final spell from Head Boy, Edward, kept CCCS ahead.

On Thursday, we played our final fixtures of the week, away at Chandlings. All Forms 3 & 4 boys played in highly competitive matches. Our As bowled and batted very well, leading them to victory by 30 runs. A special mention to Viraaj (Form 3) who played for our As, batting and bowling excellently. Our Forms 3 & 4 Bs played in pairs, allowing all the boys to bat and bowl. They performed admirably in both aspects, resulting in a draw! The two mixed teams also played in pairs, with all the boys batting and bowling fantastically, but Chandlings narrowly emerged as the winners. FB

