



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 21st June 2024

Dear Parents,

Once every half term, Nursery and Pre-Prep come to Cathedral Assembly. Normally they arrive alongside the columns of older boys from the Prep School, who come every week, to hear a variety of external and internal speakers. But today it was different. Today they found themselves in the Cathedral with only a few Form 8 boys to accompany them. The Forms 3 and 4 boys were on a camping trip in Wiltshire and the Forms 5, 6 and 7 boys were on a day trip to the Tower of London, so that just left Nursery and Pre-Prep. But what they lacked in numbers, they made up for in sprightliness. It was a brilliant morning. Everywhere we looked the sun shone brightly so it was particularly appropriate that I had planned to talk about light. Today is the Summer solstice, the longest day of the year. Today, in Oxford, the sun rose at 4.43 am and will set at 9.21 pm, more than 16 hours of daylight. Meanwhile, the solstice coincides - for the first time since 1985 - with a full moon ensuring that even during the night there is a great deal of brightness. I told the children that they needed, as St Paul put it, to be children of the light. When I am standing on Brewer Street in the mornings, I notice that if it's a dark day, people tend to grunt their brief greeting, while if it's a sunny day, people come skipping up to me greeting me enthusiastically. So to be children of the light was to spread happiness around the world, to allow people to see the beauty that surrounds them. I asked the children in Nursery and Pre-Prep to make sure they made their parents, brothers and sisters happier so I very much hope that you will have a good weekend!

At the end of the talk one boy put his hand up. Something told me that I shouldn't let him speak – but I did. "Sir! But I can see in the dark!!" came the voice. Bang went the point of my talk!

As you could tell from last week's Newsletter, I had very mixed feelings about abandoning Sports Day on Saturday but as the rain increased on Friday night and the gales swept through on Saturday morning, it became clear that we had made the right decision. This was reinforced further on Tuesday when the day dawned brightly and Sports Day was hugely successful. It was, of course, a great shame that some parents were not able to come, it being on a work day, but a large number of people were able to attend and the events were superb with some spectacular performances. Everything worked like clockwork – thank you so much to Mr Harrison and Mr Pear for all the work they put into it.

As I mentioned on the day, I have never been as excited by a hole as I was on Tuesday. As we watched the athletic triumphs, behind us the earth was being excavated by a digger. The reason for the excavation is, of course, the Pavilion whose construction is, at last, underway after almost six years of planning and discussion. As the scoop of the digger broke through the turf, my heart leapt. We will have a pavilion early next academic year and we will be in touch with you soon about a launch party which we would like you all to come to. The footprint of the building is now plain to see – it will be a substantially bigger construction than its predecessor.

Interestingly, the foreman saw me looking with intense excitement as the soft black earth emerged. "This is some of the best earth I have ever seen. It's very pure and looks as though it's hardly ever been touched." Clearly the land has rarely, if ever, been tilled. No wonder the turf of our playing fields is so beautiful.

Forms 3 and 4 have just returned from their camping trip. They all seem to have had a wonderful time. I asked one particularly satisfied looking customer what he had enjoyed most: "Orienteering, wall climbing, rafting, den building, kayaking and eating!" Enthusiasm is infectious.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2024
Monday 24th - Sunday 30th June

MONDAY 24	<i>The Nativity of John the Baptist</i>
9.00 - 10.30	Fairy Tales and Fables Drama Workshops (Reception - Form 2)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)
TUESDAY 25	
8.00	PC: Rehearsals (Pembroke Chapel)
2.30 - 4.00	U8 & U9 Cricket v Ashfold (Home)
4.00 - 4.45	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 3 - 6)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Summer Sports Club (Forms 1 - 3)
WEDNESDAY 26	
2.30 - 4.00	U10 & U11 Cricket v Bruern Abbey (A & C Home - B Away)
3.30 - 4.15	After School Mandarin Club (Reception - Form 2)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
THURSDAY 27	
FRIDAY 28	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Revd Canon Peter Moger, Sub Dean, Christ Church, Oxford
3.15 - 5.15	Art Exhibition (WWH)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
5.30 - 6.15	Summer Play Performance (Merton Field)
6.15 - 7.00	Post Summer Play Performance Picnic
SATURDAY 29	<i>Peter the Apostle</i>
4.00 - 7.00	PC: Service of Thanksgiving for 400 Anniversary of Pembroke College (St Aldates Church)
SUNDAY 30	<i>The Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>

Christ Church Cathedral School invite you to their
Summer Art Exhibition
and first viewing of our CCCS crest mosaic
Friday 28 June 3:15pm – 5:15pm
In the William Walton Hall
Refreshments will be provided
Exhibition also open during school hours, **1–3 July**

Nursery News



It has been a busy couple of weeks in Nursery, with lots of visitors coming to see what we do. We try to make things fun for our Nursery children, and we have been helping to cut and arrange flowers, to place in the different Nursery classrooms.

While the rest of the school have been sitting exams, and are now enjoying fun activities, Nursery has seen a surge of interest in Maths and language work. The picture of the boys around the table shows them engaged in, and working with, their own chosen Maths work, bringing together their skills.

The older girls are pictured working with 'sound bingo', using beautiful purple glass beads to cover the sounds they recognise.

The youngest children revelled in the opportunity to be at Sports Day. In the photo below, the children look like they need to grow into the obstacle challenge, working hard to clamber over the rugby post guards.

We like nothing better than a morning of cooking. The children have become quite proficient at measuring ingredients and spooning mixtures onto baking trays. HB



French News



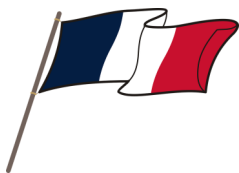
"Bonjour Paris!" An excited group of Reception and Form 1 children boarded Eurostar on Thursday morning, tickets passports, hats, flags and favourite soft toys in hand, ready for their mini trip to France. Luckily there were no hiccups at the border, as all travel documents had been carefully checked and stamped by the guards before departure – phew!

A scramble through the tunnel "Et voilà!" we arrived in Paris. After a sight-seeing trip in a 'Bateau Mouche' along the Seine we split into groups and followed a carousel of activities to learn more about the main sights of Paris. Luckily, one of the activities included a visit to a 'boulangerie' and 'café' where the correct order in French was rewarded with a tasty croissant or pain au chocolat and a drink.

All too soon the trip was over... and the children safely back in the classroom: "Au revoir, Paris!" AEW



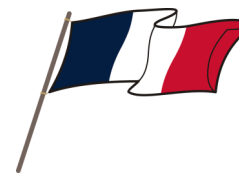
Trips News



Dates: 7th -11th July 2025

Price: Approximately £650

Pupils: Open to boys in Forms 5, 6 and 7



We are delighted to be launching a full immersion trip to Normandy, France, next July. We will be staying at La Grand'Ferme, which is situated in the village of Le Fougeray, between Granville and Avranches, just 2km from the coast. This is the third time our school will have stayed there and this time, our boys will be spending one day in the centre itself.

All activities, visits and tours will be led in French. The boys will be encouraged to speak French at all times, even during meal times.

Please contact schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk if you would like to book a place for your son on this trip. A non-refundable deposit of £80 will then be added to your school invoice. SL

Music News



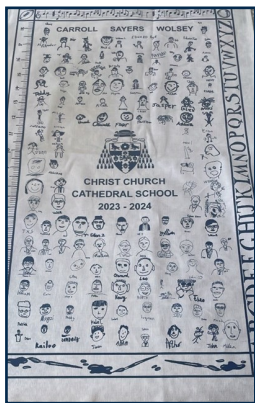
On Sunday 16th June, Russell (Form 7) performed a recital at St. Michael and All Angels Church.

Russell played Bach's Suite No. 3, including Courante, Sarabande and Gigue movements, as well as Dvořák's Rondo in G minor.

Well Done Russell! LK



CCCS Tea Towels



CCCS Tea Towels are now available from the CCCSPA. You can buy a tea towel at the cost of £8 or two for £15. However, we do have a limited supply, so if you would like to secure your tea towel in advance, please visit:

<https://pay.collectiv.com/christ-church-cathedral-school-tea-towel-23-24-84940>.

Please use THE MESSAGE BOX to add your child's full name AND Form (for school bag delivery). Proceeds from sales will go towards Pre-Prep aprons and After School Care toys; anything left over will go towards the new School Library.

Sports Day 2024

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents to our Sports Day this year. Thankfully, the sun was shining on what was a glorious day on Merton Field. We held our Pre-Prep event in the morning. This certainly was a joyous occasion with all the children showcasing their running, throwing and jumping skills! The highlight of the morning was the 200m race, with all competitors receiving medals at the end.

We held the Prep School Sports Day in the afternoon. This was a slightly more competitive event with each house vying for the coveted Sports Day Cup. There were so many superb performances, with boys surprising themselves with how well they did, and the number of medals they were awarded. I believe we saw the best of our pupils and school with an array of sportsmanship, competitiveness and House spirit on display.

In the end there could only be one winner, congratulation to **Sayers House!**

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out with the various stalls which were on offer; it was a great day! NH





Pre-Prep News



We had the most gorgeous weather for our trip to Harcourt Arboretum. As we arrived, a beautiful peacock came straight up to us. We learnt about where peacocks come from (India) and how they came to be in the garden. As we learnt more, the peacock came closer and closer, suddenly letting out a squawk and throwing up his tail so that we could see his beautiful colours.

We moved on to try to discover which tree would be the best for peacocks to take shelter in. We considered how high the trees were, how much shelter they offered and how much space they had around them. Whilst pondering on this idea, we noticed how many other things live in the trees, including bugs, birds and squirrels, and our guide explained the food chain that takes place in the arboretum.

Our guide showed us the enormous 45-foot Redwood tree and explained that it was in danger of being hit by lightning because it was so tall. We held hands in a circle around the tree and we just about fitted all the way around.

Before our tour ended, we were given some brown paper bags in which we were able to put things that we considered interesting. We found mini pine cones, flowers, multi-coloured leaves and more. We were given sticky paper to tie around our wrists to make bracelets by sticking on all the wonderful things we had found. Some children experimented with patterns, others with colours, some made theirs spiky with the long grass that they found.

We stopped for lunch and had a lovely picnic in the shade. We had enough time to climb some of the smaller trees, explore the woods and play a game of tag. We rode the school minibus back to school, with lots of us falling asleep after such a busy but fun day! MHW



Forms 4 - 8 Flexi-Boarding

Bookings for Flexi-Boarding next term are now open.

If you would like your son to join our boarding community next term, please email registrar@cccs.org.uk



Found in the Dining Room





Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week, we were delighted to climb Tom Tower, the bell tower over the entrance to Christ Church - not something that the general public can do. It is a very atmospheric place with layers of dust, cobwebs and old parts of the clock and bell mechanism lying around. An old wooden spiral staircase winds its way up to the bell, Old Tom. It is clearly a tradition for visitors to sign or carve their names on any surface that they can find - the whole place is covered with thousands of initials and signatures, including Charlie Chaplin's. Unfortunately, we had forgotten to take a pen!

Rob, our guide, explained to us that the bell would ring at 4.05 pm GMT, which is 4.00 pm, Oxford time. It was very tense waiting for the sound from the biggest bell in Oxford, and when it did ring we could feel the vibrations but we were relieved that it wasn't too loud. Walking through the archway into Tom Quad will never be the same now we know what lies above! KS

K-pop Concert at the Sheldonian Theatre

I'm delighted to be able to invite parents and pupils to a completely unique concert taking place in the Sheldonian Theatre on 4th July (6.00 -8.00 pm). The University of Oxford will be hosting Kim Hyung-Suk - known as the Godfather of K-pop, and of the supergroup BTS - in a K-pop extravaganza, featuring singing and discussion as well as a mystery guest artist performing hit songs. He will also perform a piece featuring one of our own Cathedral Choristers, Martin in Form 8, in a wonderful collaboration between musicians from very different backgrounds. This marks the first time an Asian pop artist will perform in the Sheldonian, and I am very proud that CCCS musicians can be part of such a special, cross-cultural event. If you would like to read more information please click here: <https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/event/k-pop-godfather-k-pop-and-bts>

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has very generously offered free tickets for children, parents and staff from CCCS for this event. Please would you let the school office know if you would like to attend, by Friday 21st June. SB

Cathedral Choir News

The Cathedral Choristers have touched down in Los Angeles after a smooth, but rather long, flight and spent their first full day resting, eating, and making the most of a thrilling day trip to Universal Studios. Rehearsals begin in earnest today, and the first concert is on Saturday. Parents can follow the Choir's social media channels for more details of the trip! SB

