



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 13th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Last night I attended evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, the first time I had done so since mid June. It was then that the choir set off for California on its tour to San Francisco and Los Angeles. It was, purely for the fact that the Choir had been away for so long, a lovely moment. But its impact upon me was even more pronounced given that it was the first service of the new Organist and Director of Music, Peter Holder. In 2026 the choir will have been in existence for 500 years. Almost all of that time it has sung the service of evensong, a constant over the changing centuries. The words of the service are the same as they were since the creation of the Book of Common Prayer in the mid 16th Century. But as time has gone on, this tradition has been adapted. New music has been composed, new styles of performance have been developed and above all, organists have come and gone, bringing their own stamp and character to the choir. Yesterday, we got a sense of what Mr Holder's choir will sound like. The choir sounded remarkably accomplished, particularly for a first service which included five new choristers. It was a remarkable musical performance, one of grace, beauty and poise. We are so lucky to have one of the country's leading organists and all bodes extremely well.

This week, most of the Prep School have been undertaking CAT 4 tests. These give us an idea of pupils' abilities in various areas including verbal, mathematical, logical and spatial abilities. It allows us to see how these abilities are affected over the years by our teaching and it gives us a helpful steer in terms of selecting future schools for our pupils. We are also running an ISEB Pre-Test mocks, part of our detailed preparations for senior schools. As you may know, increasingly, senior schools are using the ISEB Pre-Test and it is very important that our pupils have as much practice in this test, and other entrance exams, so that they acquit themselves as well as possible when apply for senior schools. We are very proud of the calibre and variety of the schools that our pupils go to and have excellent relationships with the Heads and Registrars of so many of the best-known schools in the country.

I was delighted that today was the first session of our new enrichment programme. A great deal was going on. I took part in a litter picking expedition to the nearby streets. The crack-force of eight CCCS refuse removal officers were clothed in High Vis jackets and armed with special mechanical litter pickers. After a good hour of street-cleansing, we had picked up numerous objects (532 objects, one of the operatives had calculated) including various types of wrapping paper and even the base of an old kettle. Several of the local residents were kind enough to congratulate the boys. Oxford is a cleaner place since the unleashing of this crack-force!

On Brewer Street yesterday I was debating with some of the new Form 8 boys who were standing with me to greet the pupils and parents. We were wondering how far it was between the end of Brewer Street and the School. We all independently came to the conclusion that it must be about 100 metres. Remembering from his physics lessons that there was a relationship between speed, time and distance, a boy volunteered to run the distance. He walked slowly up to St Aldates, turned around and, as an arm dropped, he sped off as fast as he could. As he arrived seconds later at the School, the time on the stopwatch registered 9.05 seconds! Was this a new world record for the 100 metres? Usain Bolt's world record was 9.58 seconds. Had Oxford witnessed another great smashing of an athletics record to rival Roger Bannister's breaking of the four-minute mile at Iffley Road in 1954? After careful reflection, we thought that that was unlikely and that we had overestimated the distance involved. I then paced out the distance myself and found it to be between 55 and 60 metres. How our senses had deceived us! Experimentation is clearly the road to the advancement of knowledge!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2024

Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd September

MONDAY 16	
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 8 After School Football Club (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 17	
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 5 - 8 After School Squash Club (Squash Court)
WEDNESDAY 18	
8.00	Choir Outreach
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming Begins
8.45	Parents' Coffee Morning (Dining Room)
2.30	U10 & U11 A & B Rugby v Chandlings (Away)
2.30	U12 & U13 A, B & C Rugby v Abingdon Prep (Home)
3.30 - 4.15	Rec - Form 2 After School Mandarin Club (Form 1 Classroom)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 5 Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
7.30	Parents' Forum: 'Future Schools' (WWH)
THURSDAY 19	
9.15 - 1.45	Forms 1 & 2 trip to Cogges Manor Farm
4.10 - 5.00	Pre-Prep After School Rugby/Multi Skills Club (Merton Field/WWH)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 6 - 8 After School Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
FRIDAY 20	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly including Nursery and Pre-Prep, speaker: The Headmaster
9.00 - 4.00	Form 7 Trip: Reading Museum & Silchester
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 8 After School Rugby Club (Merton Field)
SATURDAY 21	<i>Matthew, Apostle, and Evangelist</i>
SUNDAY 22	<i>The Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity</i>

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association will be hosting a Coffee Morning in the School Dining Room on Wednesday 18th September, from 8.45 am (just after drop off). We would be delighted to welcome all parents. Please email Michael Crooks by Tuesday to confirm attendance and any dietary requirements for catering purposes.

We currently don't have Form Representatives for every year group. This is a wonderful role to help connect parents. Please let Michael know if you would be interested in finding out more, or if you would like to be put in touch with one of the Reps.

Michael Crooks, Head of Parents' Association, microoks@gmail.com

Nursery News

Nursery children continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills, through their games and use of mud kitchen tools. These skills provide the foundations of the children's independence, for instance, preparing snack in the classroom, serving themselves at lunch and the natural understanding of mathematical concepts through play. A little one can identify half and whole, full, part full and empty, learning the vocabulary from their teachers and peers in their games.

Our returning Nursery Children have been discussing the sunflower life cycle and examining the sunflowers they grew at the beginning of the summer. The blooms, fading and shrivelled, revealed a head of tiny sunflower seeds. "So, we have grown so many seeds from just one seed", one of our rising-fours exclaimed. This news initiated a review of the sunflower seeds we had kept in a packet, revealing that we had two full 'ten frames' of seeds ready for planting in the spring. HB



Pre-Prep News

We are incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by some amazing local services and facilities in central Oxford, so we have set up a Library Club in Pre-Prep. Over the course of this term, we will be taking our Pre-Prep children to the local Oxfordshire County Council Library at the Westgate Centre on a Friday afternoon. We began this last Friday, when we introduced the children to the space, and every child was able to take a book out to enjoy in the classroom to return the following week. It is a wonderful space, and the children loved the experience. We would highly recommend taking your children there if convenient during the holidays or at weekends. It is free to sign up for a library card and they run workshops and events which are well worth looking into. MB



<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries/find-library/oxford-westgate-library>



Forms 3 and 4 Trip to Legoland

Forms 3 and 4 had a fantastic trip to Legoland on Wednesday! The day began with an amazing robotics workshop, using LEGO Education SPIKE kits linked to iPads. The boys invented, built and programmed their very own interactive rollercoasters. We programmed our rides to spin (using the motor to rotate in different directions and to change speed), added music and flashing lights. We even recorded our very own screams and safety messages. The workshop leader was particularly impressed with our boys' coding skills and said they achieved much more than other groups do.

After the workshop we had a great time exploring the rest of the resort in the sunshine. This is what some of the boys said:

"We did a really fun workshop – I liked how we could make stuff that moved using Lego and a motor. We learned how to code Lego rides – you could even record yourself screaming!"

"In Lego Miniland, there must be more than a billion bricks! There were giant sculptures of Lego everywhere. I liked all the things that moved – even a tug of war that never ended!"

"On the Speedway rollercoaster you go backwards and it felt like you were going to fall out, but it was really fun!"

"You HAVE to go on Flight of the Sky Lion – you think you're moving but you're not! Always look out for the terrifying hydra and the terrifying chimera!" SG, EP, AF



Lost Property

There is a large black Lost Property Box in the foyer outside the Walton Hall. Please do encourage your children to take a look if they have lost any of their belongings. LJ

Form 5 Trip to Youlbury

Form 5 had a fantastic time on Tuesday. They challenged themselves on the zip wire and enjoyed cooking their own snacks over a camp fire. We enjoyed playing in the wood and I am assured that some boys spotted the spirit of the forest... We are now ready to work as a Team in class! SL



Form 7 Trip to Rock Star Climbing

On Thursday Form 7 had a very successful trip to Rock Star Climbing in Swindon. The speed and agility with which the boys scaled the walls was impressive but so was the support and encouragement that they gave each other. It was an afternoon well spent! KS



Enrichment Programme

Today we introduced our new enrichment programme. Excitement was high amongst the boys, and here are a selection of photos from the first week. NH



Normandy Trip

The boys made fantastic memories during their week in Normandy. From their market expeditions, culinary experiments and sports adventures to the visits of the historical towns of Honfleur, Bayeux and Caen, they were out of their comfort zone every day and spoke French with a smile! We are convinced they all slept quite a lot when they came back!

We are now busy planning next year's trip! SL, CS, AE-W



Tournament News

European Day of Languages

We are getting ready to celebrate our Language Day on Thursday 26th September, launching two competitions and playing language games.

CCCS World Bake-off!

We are calling all bakers and decorators in the Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep to email Mme Loyer, loyer.s@cccs.org.uk, or Mme Williams, Williams.A@cccs.org.uk, a photo of a cake decorated to represent a country of their choice. We will be using these photos in Assembly. Each entry will be rewarded!

Prep - Duolingo Challenge: 16th - 30th September!!

Due to popular demand, we are shortly re-launching our Duolingo two week Competition, asking parents, grandparents and siblings who are keen to refresh/improve their language skills to compete amongst our CCCS boys. Beware, the competition is sure to be fierce! Five minutes a day...or more...What is there not to enjoy?!

To take part, you need to join the Duolingo App with this code: zeyugg

Or simply follow this link: www.duolingo.com/classroom/zeyugg

Make sure you are logged on before Monday 16th!

Pre-Prep - Gus on the Go

The Pre-Prep will be enjoying a new language app called 'Gus on the Go' on the school iPads, to take part in our language celebrations.

Happy Languages Day! SL

Chorister News

Worcester Choristers sing for dementia with Oz Clarke

The Worcester choristers visited Marston Court Care Home this week, as part of TV presenter Oz Clarke's bike ride around the UK raising funds for dementia care and awareness of the condition. The boys sang with the residents and alongside professional choir the Armonico Consort, and their participation clearly meant a great deal to all involved. Well done to team Worcester! SB



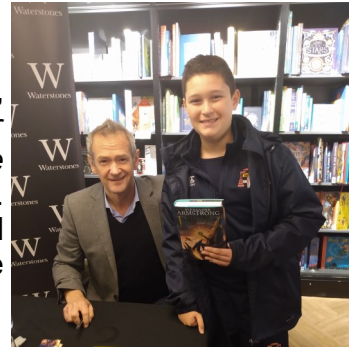
And Finally...

Bikeability Course

We are really happy to offer the Bikeability Course, Level 1 &2 to our boys this year again. It's a relief to know that soon, they will be more road aware and much safer on the roads! Please remember that all children cycling to school must be wearing a helmet and a Hi-Vis jacket. SL

Meeting Danger Mouse

Adam, Form 6, was lucky enough this week to meet the presenter, author and, most importantly, voice of Danger Mouse, Mr Alexander Armstrong, who was promoting his new children's novel '*The Golden Linnet*', precisely aimed at children around the Years 5-8 age. Mr Armstrong has been kind enough in the past to present our school Speech Day prizes, and we're glad to report that he recognised the CCCS logo immediately!



School Uniform Shop

Blue Blood will be visiting the School with a pop-up shop on Monday 16th September. The shop will be set up in the main playground from 3.00 - 5.00 pm.

This is a great opportunity to browse, try on clothes, and place orders for your children's school uniform or other items.