



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents,

Yesterday we took part in an attempt to break a world record – we are hoping that it will be in next year's Guinness Book of Records. As part of our celebrations for World Poetry Day, all the pupils in Forms 5 – 8 gathered in the Walton Hall where we joined, via the internet, a large number of schools for an online poetry writing session. The idea was that each school should let the poet who was coordinating the composition of the work know how many people were present and then to hope that more people than ever before were involved in the composition of a poem. It was wonderful to be part of such a national effort and I will be intrigued to see what level of quality is produced by such an enormous pool of talent!

Incidentally, one of the boys gave a short talk on the origins of the Guinness Book of Records. Apparently it started life as the result of a dispute between two wealthy landowners about which was the fastest game bird. These days it includes entries about more contemporary and vital concerns such as who has the longest finger nails (Ayanna Williams with a total length of nail measuring 576 cm) or who has the world's longest tongue (Chanel Tapper measuring 9.75 cm).

I was very touched when I went down to read to Nursery on Wednesday. The boys and girls listened with great attention to my first story, a Hairy Maclary classic. They then listened with equally focused concentration to my second story. But, however hard I tried, and how ever dramatically I read, I could not keep my audience focused on my third book. "Em!" said Miss Helen. "I think they are a two-story group." I had never realised that the unit to measure attention spans is the number of stories that can be listened to. But upon reflection, I think it's a very good way. Increasingly I am hearing of adults who are listening to audio books as they drive or travel. Do they have two story concentration spans I wonder?

I wanted to recommend to you our upcoming event on Friday 18th October, when we have arranged a visit exclusively for parents of the School to explore Tom Tower, the beautiful tower above the entrance to Tom Quad, designed by the great English architect Sir Christopher Wren, who was most famous for having designed St Paul's Cathedral in London. Every week the whole Prep School passes under the tower but very few of us have ever been inside. It is much larger than you might think, with an extraordinary interior of considerable dimensions and height. At the top is one of the great objects of Oxford (though almost never seen even if frequently heard), namely Great Tom, one of the largest Mediaeval bells in the country, which really has to be seen to be believed. It weighs a massive six and a quarter tons. The tour will also include drinks in the McKenna Room, one of the private rooms in Christ Church at the top of the Great stairs. This will be an opportunity to visit one of the hidden gems of Oxford and to socialise with other parents. I hope to see you there.

Next Saturday is our Open Morning starting at 9.30. If any of you know of anyone who might be interested in the School, please encourage them to come along. Many of you have been contacted asking if your sons can come to school that morning to help – may I thank you in advance. Many of the senior boys will be doing tours – they are always the best adverts for the School and we are very proud of them.

As part of our enrichment programme, I have just taken a small group of boys to see the place in Oxford where Tolkien gained the inspiration for those hideous creatures that cast a shadow over the Lord of the Rings trilogy, the Orcs. There was no one else there as we cast our eyes on those horrific faces. Perhaps some of the boys will now be able to tell you where they are. I'm not letting on – it's one of the benefits of the enrichment programme at CCCS!

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Michaelmas 2024

### Monday 7th October - Sunday 13th October

|               |                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONDAY 7      |                                                                                                                                 |
| 4.10 - 5.00   | Form 5 Trip: Crocodiles of the World<br>Forms 3 - 8 After School Football Club (Merton Field)                                   |
| TUESDAY 8     |                                                                                                                                 |
| 2.30          | Bikeability Level 2<br>U8 & U9 Rugby v Ashfold (Away, returning 4.15)                                                           |
| 4.00          | Choir Photograph - Boys and Clerks                                                                                              |
| 4.10 - 5.00   | Forms 5 - 8 After School Squash Club (Squash Court)                                                                             |
| WEDNESDAY 9   |                                                                                                                                 |
|               | Forms 3 & 4 Swimming<br>Primary Outreach Visit (St Swithun's Kennington)<br>Form 7 Visit: The History of Science Museum, Oxford |
| 2.30          | U10 Rugby A&B v Ashfold (Away, returning 4.30)                                                                                  |
| 2.30          | U12 & U13 Rugby A, B & C v Ashfold (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)                                                                                    |
| THURSDAY 10   |                                                                                                                                 |
| 10.15 - 10.30 | Bikeability Level 2<br>Brass Funkeys Performance                                                                                |
| 2.30          | U8 & U9 Rugby v Chandlings (Home)                                                                                               |
| 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 11     |                                                                                                                                 |
| 8.30          | Cathedral Assembly, TBC                                                                                                         |
| 4.10 - 5.00   | Forms 3 - 8 After School Rugby Club (Merton Field) CC: IN                                                                       |
| SATURDAY 12   |                                                                                                                                 |
| 9.30 - 12.00  | <b>Whole School Open Day</b>                                                                                                    |
| SUNDAY 13     |                                                                                                                                 |
|               | <i>The Twentieth Sunday After Trinity</i><br><i>University Full term Begins</i>                                                 |
| 5.30          | Pembroke Evensong                                                                                                               |
| 6.00          | Worcester Evensong                                                                                                              |
| 6.00          | CC: Freshers' Evensong—Frideswide Voices and Boys and Clerks                                                                    |

### Future Schools Event

Scheduled for Tuesday 12th November, we're delighted to report that we've had a wonderful response from senior schools. So far, our invitation has been accepted by:

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Abingdon                | Marlborough College |
| d'Overbroeck's          | Rugby               |
| Dean Close              | Wychwood            |
| Magdalen College School |                     |

This will be a great opportunity for parents and pupils to meet Heads and Admissions staff from schools they might be considering for next steps. More details to follow...

## World Poetry Day

Here is our poem created by the ideas contributed from the boys in CCCS Prep during yesterday's assembly based on this year's National Poetry Day theme of 'What Counts?'

The boys' ideas were collated by Hugo B, Ivan, Troy and Henry Y, then transformed into a poem by Hugo A-L, William U, Matthew, Luqman, Robin, Raffie, Ludovico, Leo, Gintas, Harshadeep and Patrick D-D.

After contributing their ideas, 81 pupils took part in A Guinness Book of Records World Record Attempt to be part of the largest ever interactive poetry lesson - along with over 273,000 students from around the world. We had to send photo and video evidence of their attendance to the adjudicators, and are waiting to hear if we managed to achieve the record!

### What Counts...

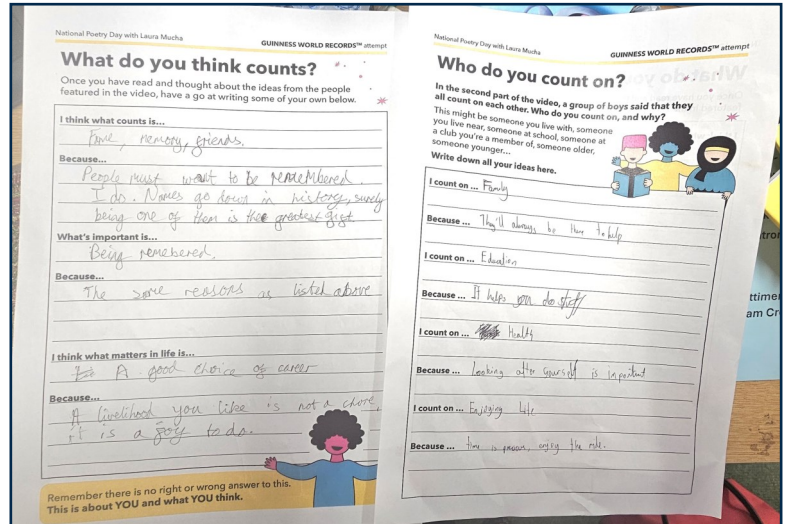
By CCCS students

What we count on is, education,  
Education helps you build a nation,  
Education lets you get far in life,  
Education helps you overcome strife,  
Education's what gets you a job,  
Education stops you from becoming a slob,  
Education helps you to succeed,  
Education gives you belief.

We count on money, employment and work.  
And as long as these duties we do not shirk,  
our lives are kept steady.  
But problems are ready  
To make mischief and strife  
And wage war on our ordered life.  
People endeavour to achieve fame  
Hoping one day, life won't be the same  
That war will not ravage,  
Beasts will not savage.  
But still, that striving nature of humanity  
Will take the earth out of insanity.

We count on nature and the environment  
Or else society will be in misalignment  
Nature makes everyone feel better  
A tree is nature's love letter.  
Without nature, everything would die  
Soon the land will become bone-dry.  
We should marvel at the universe  
And not try to make it worse,  
If we didn't have nature, the world would be dull  
And our stomachs would be far from full.  
Without nature everything would be in chaos  
Then everybody would feel a huge amount of pathos  
The whole world would collapse:  
The ultimate relapse!

People must want to be remembered,  
(Even if sometimes they were short-tempered),  
Being remembered is an amazing gift,  
For the day you fall off that enormous cliff!  
You have to make the most of life,  
So, work hard and get a good wife!  
You must live life the best you can,  
From the moment your life began!  
Every second of life is costly,  
(Even the time your car broke down in Botley!)  
If you don't appreciate your time,  
You might lose your lucky chime!



Continued on next page...

If you're having a very bad day,  
Don't let problems get in your way;  
Think on the bright side and do what they say:  
**STAY STRONG AND CARRY ON!**  
Mistakes are a way of life,  
Don't let them get you into strife,  
Mistakes are the way you learn,  
So, study your errors, don't be afraid of a U-turn!

Family and friends are pretty epic  
Because they are sympathetic  
The feeling when they hug you,  
Makes us feel brand new.  
Straight outta' the box,  
Mailed from the postbox,  
My friends always help me when I'm in need  
My family, when I want to read!  
Also, we have pets  
(despite sometimes them needing vets!)  
I was able to buy a bunny,  
With my kind parents' money!  
Family and friends and having God by your side  
can help you put all your worries aside.  
Love, because it gives life meaning,  
Without it, we'd all be screaming!  
Teddy helps me when I'm sleepy.  
He keeps away things that are creepy:  
Spiders, monsters and big round bugs-  
All go away with lots of hugs!  
Friends are the ones who'd have your back  
In a big and scary attack  
Be social: you'll get sad if you have no friends  
They're the ones with whom you'll build dens  
Parents, because they care for me,  
What counts most?  
Family and friends!

There is room for fun, but there is a line  
If you don't cross it, you will be fine  
This includes playing fair  
Watch out, the judges always glare!  
Be democratic, not dictatorial  
Then the kind people will be authorial!

We count on a healthy and happy lifestyle  
To ensure that we leave life with a smile.  
We must look after ourselves  
(Pick healthy stuff off the shelves)  
We count on sports to keep us healthy,  
And they could also make us wealthy!  
So always remember to keep yourself fit,  
And make sure that you never quit  
Because there is a low chance of success  
If you are always stressed  
But if you pass the test...  
**YOU WILL BE THE BEST!**

We count on kindness and communication,  
To make us better people for our nation,  
Treating others the way you would like to be treated,  
Makes them feel less depleted,  
Helping others to achieve their goals,  
Will make you become a kinder soul,  
Kindness makes the world a happier place,  
It makes it less of a disgrace,  
If you are kind to people, they will feel less alone,  
And you can make them feel more at home,  
Being fair makes others feel less excluded,  
And therefore less mentally wounded,  
This is why you must be kind and talk to others,  
And in the end, we will all feel like brothers!

## Tolkien Tour

This afternoon half a dozen boys from Years 3 to 5 were taken by Mr Murray, Mrs Elias and Mr Richards, on a brisk Tolkien-themed visit to the Tolkien memorial in the Old Quad of Pembroke and to the chapel of Blackfriars, where Tolkien regularly worshipped and perhaps was inspired for his orcs by the crabbed figure of Pilate in the First Station of the Cross. NR



## Enrichment and Bake Sale

The Care in the Community Enrichment group has had a wonderful few weeks planning, organising, baking and, finally, holding a charity bake sale for the rest of the school. Two weeks ago the boys thought deeply about the logistics of running a bake sale; what to bake; how to label the cakes to ensure the safety of all participants; advertising; and which charity they wanted to raise money for. After some great discussions, it ended up being a tie between two very worthy charities; The Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary and The Gatehouse (who provide support for the homeless). Therefore, as a group, the boys decided to put the vote to the rest of the school.

In last week's session we were very excited to have the support of Mr Kilby in the kitchen, where the boys worked incredibly well as a team to bake flapjack; taking it in turns to measure and weigh large quantities, stirring, mixing, melting and baking the delicious mixture.



When it was time for the Bake Sale, we were blown away by the support from all members of the school community; parents, staff and, of course, the boys who all gave generously in both baked and monetary donations.

I am proud to announce that the boys raised £161.30 in total, and the charity which received the most votes was The Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary, who I am sure will be very grateful for the contribution.

A huge thank you to everyone for your support and for helping us to raise such a substantial amount! HB



## Nursery News

The youngest children in school like being outdoors and a shower of rain is just an opportunity to see what raindrops taste like. It is fabulous seeing new friendships form between the children and new connections made, especially when the communication is through gestures and expressions as you are learning English.



We explored the quad, just underneath our window, collecting beautiful autumn leaves in hues of orange and yellow. We then matched them to our graded orange and yellow colour tablets from Colour Box 3.



The Cathedral always leaves a strong impression upon the children. It often features in drawings and paintings, but for the youngest children being able to build their ideas in blocks is so



important. In these photographs one of our youngest children recreates his impression of his first visit to the Cathedral. He identified the children, 'these are the biggest boys, and that's Mr Murray and the Chaplain. Oh and Mr Harrison and Mummy. She's sitting a long way away. Mm, now I'm missing someone, yes don't forget Mrs Fairhurst!' This little one has only been with us since the beginning of term and what a fabulous impression all of the teachers have made on him. HB

## Form 3 News

Form 3 have had a fantastic time discovering fire poems this week. We carefully observed the flames from a Bunsen burner.

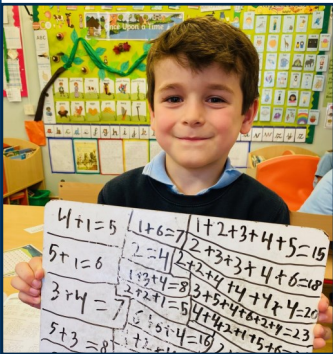
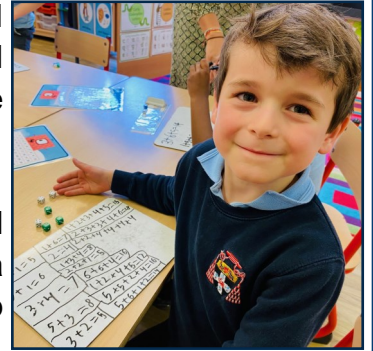
We thought of lots of powerful verbs (quivers, twists and scorches) and similes (like an amber eye, like a tornado) to describe the flames. Finally, we created our own fire shape poems! SG



## Pre-Prep News

In our Pre-Prep, children are taught Maths in a fun and dynamic way, linking mathematical ideas practically to everyday life, as well as to other subjects across the curriculum. It is vital to engender confidence and engagement at an early age, and for all children to have lots of fun working with numbers and mathematical concepts. We teach children rhymes, songs, stories, and demonstrate real world scenarios in which maths can be used.

Our pupils never cease to amaze us with their ability, enthusiasm, and above all, their determination to challenge themselves and use a 'growth mindset' in maths lessons. Well done to all of our Pre-Prep Maths Superstars! TR



This week in Form 2 we started our Poetry unit, just in time for National Poetry Day. We read 'The Magic Pebble' by Roger McGough. We all chose a pebble and started coming up with ways that our own pebble could be magic.

Some ideas included the magic pebble doing all their homework for them, having everyone say yes to them for a day, magic-ing up a pet cat and even turning the School into a flying school! After looking at our pebbles again, we decided that they didn't look as magical as our ideas. With a bit of a mix of wishing and magic, we were able to turn the ordinary looking pebbles into beautiful, magical crystals... much better!

With our wonderful ideas and crystals in hand, the children set to work to write down their ideas. Next week, we will turn our ideas into our own poems, challenging ourselves to make every other line rhyme. If you had a magic pebble, what would you have it do? MH-W



## Rugby Reports and Results

This week, the Senior As and Bs had two thrilling fixtures against Bruern Abbey. Senior As played at home in a tightly contested match that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Despite a narrow 14-19 loss, the boys showed real grit and determination, leaving everything on the field.

Senior Bs travelled away to face a tough Bruern opposition. Despite the challenging conditions, they fought hard and scored two fantastic tries, showing real heart and resilience.



Thursday saw all of the Form 3 and 4 boys in action, competing in rugby fixtures against Manor Prep. Each boy had the opportunity to play two games, and they performed exceptionally well, representing the School with outstanding sportsmanship and manners throughout the afternoon. Their efforts were a true credit to CCCS! FB



# SUMMERTOWN STARS AFC

## JOIN THE GALACTICOS! @ SUMMERTOWN STARS AFC

COME AND HAVE A FREE SESSION  
OR TWO – JUST TURN UP!

(reduced membership fees also available)

**WHO?:**

GIRLS UNDER 6, 7 AND 8

**WHEN:**

SATURDAYS 9AM - 10AM

**WHERE:**

FIVE MILE DRIVE RECREATION GROUND

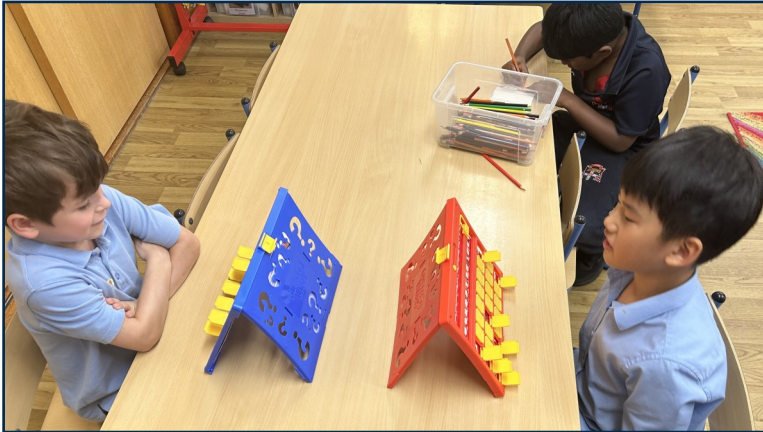
OX2 8HW

Contact



## Parents' Association

Many families give very generously to the Parents' Association across various events held throughout the year, such as the Pre-Prep Easter celebration and CCCS Sports Day. Some of the funds raised last year have been used to donate a wide range of toys and games for pupils to use during after school care. We are reliably informed that they have been very popular and are therefore set to be well used for years to come! Thank you again to all those families who attended, donated and otherwise supported the PA events - it is greatly appreciated.



## PARENTS ASSOCIATION GATHERING

Friday 18th October  
Pre-drinks at 6.45 pm  
at McKenna Room, Christ Church  
£16.50 per person

Join us for an evening of connection and  
community before we head to Tom Tower for a  
special visit.

RSPV: Alma Padin Ramos at  
[schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk)  
by Monday 7th October



## Chorister News

On Wednesday, the Cathedral Choristers performed two concerts as part of the Divine Office Festival Concert. There were two recitals, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, consisting of works by Taverner, Harwood and Walton (among others). Performing the same programme twice in one day presented a unique challenge of concentration and an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the repertoire in a live performance setting. The boys rose to it magnificently and have set a high bar for the term ahead. JR



## Bikeability in Action

