



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents,

I spoke last week of the fact that the Worcester and Pembroke choirs were about to sing again. I was certainly not let down by the experiences of last week. On Sunday I attended Worcester Chapel which was full to the rafters, where I heard an Evensong bursting with life and vigour, the boys singing with real commitment and passion. The following day I went to the Cathedral, where Pembroke choir happened to be the visiting choir, and so I was able to hear the Pembroke choristers singing there. For their second service of the year to be in the Cathedral, a building very significantly bigger than the one they are used to singing in, was a real ask. However, they answered it emphatically and sung with a confidence which spoke of a choir full of promise. What a wonderful year it will be for the 50 or so of our boys who sing in college choirs.

On Wednesday, for the first time, I was responsible for a Rugby team. I had not been involved with their training and had no idea who the boys were who would be playing. I arrived on the pitch to be greeted by a fine set of young men, clearly a keen and committed band of brothers. We had one more player than our opponents, so had to have a substitute at all times. One of the number immediately volunteered to be the substitute. "That will give me an opportunity to give you some useful advice, sir!" As the match started I was very helpfully briefed by the athlete in question. After a little while he said, "Sir, if you are going to put me on, could you please give me a little warning so that I can do a warm up?" Sure enough, when the time was nigh, I gave him a two minute warning, at which point an impressive set of exercises began. I realised I was dealing with a seriously professional outfit. And indeed, as the match progressed, the opposition were blasted off the pitch with a combination of swift and powerful running, slick passing and deadly tackling. In the end we won 11 tries to 2 - a mighty victory! May I salute both them and their excellent coaches. All I did was take advice from my substitutes!

Last week I was very pleased to appoint the following as officers:

Head of Sports: Troy Buttimer and Henry Young

Head of Carroll: Benjamin Best-Evans

Head of Sayers: Carl Han

Head of Wolsey: Hugo Branderhorst

Deputy Head Boy: Carson Zhang

Head Boy: Trust Tiyapirat

I am delighted to have made these appointments and it was lovely to walk into the Cathedral this morning with Trust as he carried out his first duty as Head Boy. Meanwhile, it was Benjamin Best-Evans who, on behalf of Carroll, shook my hand for having got the most generous pile of tokens representing all the merits and pluses obtained by a house over the past week.

This year, for the first time, we appointed Ambassadors. These are Form 8 boys who have volunteered to represent and promote a particular subject or aspect of school life. I am delighted that so many areas of school life now have a champion.

I am now helping Mrs Fairhurst with Archery during Enrichment. As we were striding out towards the playing fields with our bows slung on our shoulders and our arrows in our quivers, we bumped into another of the Enrichment groups who were off to make the most of Oxford. Feeling rather cocky now that I had serious weaponry in my grasp, I said: "Out of the way you lot, we've got the weapons." At which point one of the other group turned to me and, with a look which surprised me with its total lack of fear, replied: "We're not scared of you - we're armed with brains!" He's right - human history demonstrates very clearly that our greatest strength is our brains, and I certainly won't be making such misplaced boasts again!

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Michaelmas 2024

### Monday 21st October - Sunday 28th October

<p><b>MONDAY 21</b></p> <p>2.15 - 4.00</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00</p>	<p>Forms 7 &amp; 8 House Cross Country</p> <p>Forms 3 - 8 After School Football Club (Merton Field)</p>
<p><b>TUESDAY 22</b></p> <p>9.00 - 12.15</p> <p>2.15 - 3.55</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00</p> <p>6.00</p>	<p>Form 4 Trip: Elm Farm</p> <p>Forms 3 &amp; 4 House Cross Country</p> <p>Forms 5 - 8 After School Squash Club (Squash Court)</p> <p>CC: Civic Service</p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY 23</b></p> <p>1.35 - 2.15</p> <p>2.15 - 4.00</p> <p>2.15 - 3.00</p> <p>3.00 - 3.45</p> <p>4.10</p>	<p>Forms 3 &amp; 4 Swimming</p> <p>Form 5 Disco</p> <p>Forms 5 &amp; 6 House Cross Country</p> <p>Reception, Forms 1 &amp; 2 Disco</p> <p>Forms 3 &amp; 4 Disco</p> <p>Half Term Begins</p> <p>CC: Boys not required for services from Wednesday 23rd to Monday 4th inclusive</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY 24</b></p>	
<p><b>FRIDAY 25</b></p>	
<p><b>SATURDAY 26</b></p>	
<p><b>SUNDAY 27</b></p>	<p><i>The Twenty-Second Sunday After Trinity</i></p> <p><i>University Third Week</i></p>

### Key Dates

Some dates to be aware of after Half Term:

Wednesday 6th November, 9.30-11.00am - Nursery Stay and Play

Tuesday 26th November, 9.30-11.00am - Pre-Prep Open Morning

(families interested in joining Nursery or Pre-Prep can sign up to these events on the website)

Tuesday 12th November, 3.30-5.00pm - Future Schools Event: all families are welcome to meet a selection of visiting senior schools

Thursday 28th November, time TBC - Parents' Pre-Christmas Drinks with the PA



## Cultural Diversity in Form 6



A great big Thank you, Merci, Obrigado, Xie xie, Dyakuyu, Efcharisto, Igbo, Weebale, Tesekkur ederim! to all of the parents who sent food and cultural artefacts in with their boys on Monday for PSHE lessons celebrating our cultural diversity.

We've worked out that between the 18 pupils we have in our form, they have 25 nationalities between them... that's a lot of different foods to enjoy! Each pupil introduced their food or artefact to the rest of the Class. As well as bringing in delicious Ukrainian pastries, Theo also treated us to a power point presentation about his favourite Ukrainian artist: Maria Prymachenko. SS



## BBC 500 Words Competition

This half term your children been thinking about stories in their English lessons. They now have the opportunity to write their own in the BBC 500 Words competition. The deadline for this is 8th November and you can enter these from home or email them to me and I will enter them for you.



Pupils will be told about the competition in their English lessons and in assembly, but if you would like to find out more yourself, please find all the details, tips and examples of last year's finalists here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

This competition is open to all pupils from 5 to 11 years old. If your son will be 12 or 13 on 8th November, please find alternative competitions they can enter here:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/competitions-for-children/childrens-writing-competitions/>

Please email [skipwith.s@cccs.org.uk](mailto:skipwith.s@cccs.org.uk) if you have any further questions. SS

## Strings Day at Winchester College

Our six most advanced string players travelled to Winchester College on Thursday for a day of workshops with Head of Strings, Rafael Bolivar. Our rehearsals took place in the stunning New Hall, although we were also shown some of the oldest, most atmospheric parts of the school (including the ancient dining hall).

The boys learned music by Bernstein and Prokofiev as well as some Faroese folk music,

giving a performance at the end to a group of parents which included many faces from CCCS! It was wonderful to see an ex-pupil, Orlando, playing for us on a viola da gamba as part of a short recital given by some of Winchester's best string players. I very much hope that this trip will help to strengthen the links between our schools. SB



## Sports News

On Wednesday our Prep boys played a mixture of home and away games vs The Oratory Prep. Forms 7 & 8 travelled away, playing in a triangular fixture.

Bringing high intensity from the outset, the As could sense fear and took advantage, bringing a fierce victory in the first half. The B team subbed in for the second half and followed suit. Following some big tackles and strong runs, they just fell short in a hard-fought match. The C team played in a very tiring game of touch, just slipping behind in the late stages of the game.

In the home fixtures the Form 5 As lost marginally in a high scoring try fest. Two touch rugby games were played by multiple Form 5 & 6 combined teams, with one victory and one defeat.

For the final fixtures of the half term on Thursday, Forms 3 & 4 travelled to Abingdon Prep. The U9 As saved their best until last, with some big tackles and runs, coming home victorious. The U9 B touch team won the first half, thanks to some big runs, but fell short in the end. The U8s played tag in a triangular competition, won their first game and drew the second.

The theme of this week was intensity with all teams starting strong and putting the opposition on the back foot from the outset. Another great week of rugby! OW

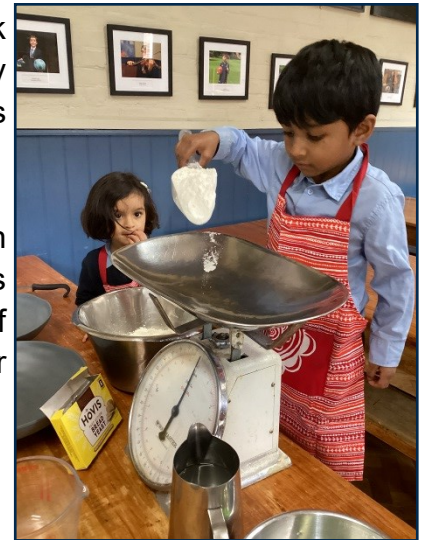
## Early Years News

The Early Years children have been learning about bread this week as part of our harvest preparations. The children were lucky enough to make bread with Mr Peter, our chef, using the big scales in the dining room. It was hard work mixing the dough.

In the Nursery we explored a different batch of dough. The children were amazed at how it kept getting bigger every time we left it in its box. We asked the children if they made bread at home and one of the children enthusiastically told me, "Yes! Papa makes toast for me and we eat it with lemonade."

"Lemonade?" quizzically. "Do you mean marmalade."

"Oh yes, that's it, I knew it was one of the ades."



The children choose activities from the shelves to work with. It is fabulous to see some of the children beginning to revisit work we may have introduced in our group times. "Look it's a 'm' for me and that's an 's'." HB



## Pre-Prep News

In Pre-Prep this week, we have been learning about all things Harvest. The children have learnt about why Christians celebrate Harvest, and made some lovely crafts which were shown during our Harvest service in Christ Church Cathedral with all our lovely parents.

The children learnt about how wheat is harvested, ground to flour, and that this flour is used to make bread. We enjoyed getting the chance to make bread with the help of our very own chef, Mr Kilby. We first measured out the dry ingredients, carefully watching the scales to check we had the exact right amount. We added just a pinch of salt before moving on to the wet ingredients. Into a jug went warm water, and a splash of oil and yeast. We talked about why the water needs to be warm for the yeast and Mr Berry compared it to us enjoying a nice warm bath, not a freezing cold or very hot one!

We next mixed the ingredients together and all had a go at kneading the bread. It was a very sticky job indeed! Lastly, our loaves went into a warm kitchen so they could rise overnight. The finished results were shown at our Harvest service and everyone was suitably impressed by our homemade breads. MH-W



Here are some of the works of art that Form 1 have been producing with Mrs Elias, in preparation for their Harvest Festival.

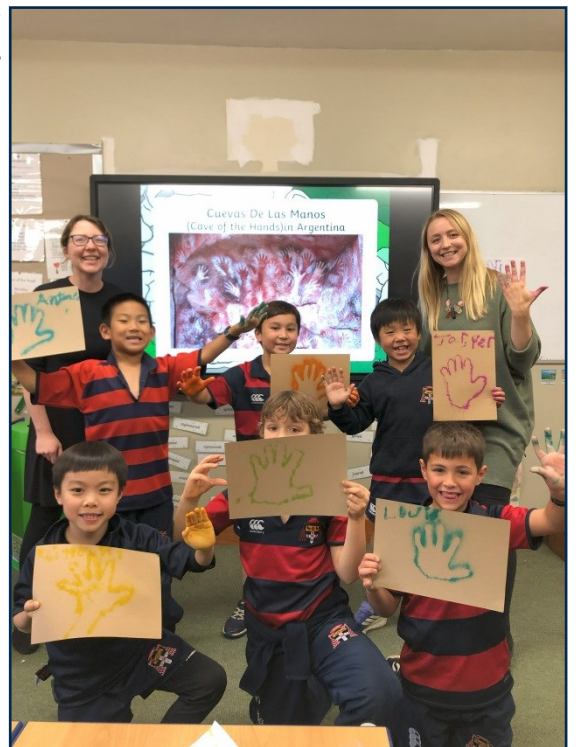
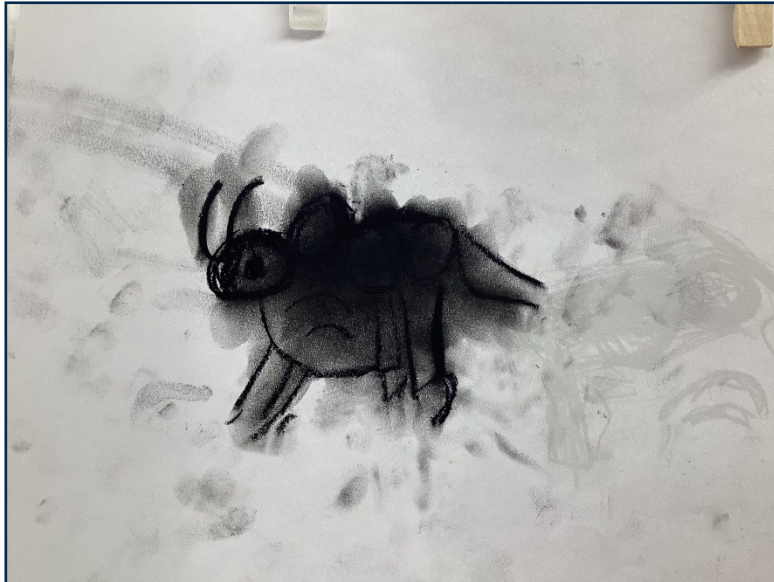


## Form 3 News

This term, Form 3 have been having lots of fun learning all about the Stone Age in their history lessons. They have acted out being 'hunter-gatherers', scouring the playground high and low for hidden nuts, berries and even prehistoric creatures!



They have applied their artistic skills to create cave paintings in the same style; using special pens to re-enact blowing paint around their hands, and sketched prehistoric animals using charcoal.



This week we have been learning all about Stonehenge; discussing how we think the stones got there and why. To top it off the boys worked hard to make their very own 'biscuit henge', and enjoyed the fruits of their labour! HB



## Are you ready for our French Challenge 2024?

Calling all pupils in the Pre-Prep and Prep School... are you ready to go French over Half term?

Pupils have until Monday 4th November to submit their French Challenge entry. We've suggested 9 categories but are open to new initiatives!

Suggested tasks include:

**French Bake-off** - Choose a recipe, follow it and present it in French. Photos/videos needed. (We'll happily taste a sample too!)

**Lights, camera, action!** - Choose a scene from a sitcom or a film and re-enact it in French. Perhaps do the French voice-over.

**Holiday Adventure** - Become a holiday ambassador! Design a 5 day tour around a country or region of your choice, in French obviously.

**Ancient Tales** - Research and choose a folktale, myth or fable from another culture. How will you present it in French?

**Science Experiment** - Choose a science experiment and make a presentation with all the props.

**Sing it your way** - Choose one of your favourite songs and rewrite it in French. Or, why don't you sing a famous French song with your friends?

**Game Player** - Choose a traditional game from another culture or make your own game where participants are required to play in French.

**Programming** - If you are into computers and/or games, you may already know about Scratch, Kodu and/or Microbit. Can your characters speak French on Minecraft?

**Other** - You can create your own task., whether it involves drama, art, Lego models... the choice is yours!



### French Challenge !

Challenge 1 - *Bake-off !*

Challenge 2 - *Lights, camera, action !*

Challenge 3 - *Holiday Adventure !*

Challenge 4 - *Ancient Tales !*

Challenge 5 - *Science Experiment !*

Challenge 6 - *Sing it your way !*

Challenge 7 - *Game player !*

Challenge 8 - *Programming !*

Challenge 9 - *Other !*



CHALLENGE  
ACCEPTED



Deadline:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024