



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 8th November 2024

Dear Parents,

Many of the conversations I have been having with pupils this week have been about the American elections. So many of them have paid a lot of interest in the process and they have expressed all sorts of opinions. Many of the pupils seem to know a great deal about the election. I spoke to the pupils on Monday morning about what to look out for and made some predictions. Though I was right about which states were easily won by both parties and about which were swing states, I completely failed, along with almost all the pollsters, to predict how easily Donald Trump would win the election. He clearly played his Trump card!

Life is often less predictable than we imagine it might be. Human behaviour cannot always be anticipated and, after all, that is one of the things which makes dealings with people so interesting. I've always been sceptical about saying that anything in human affairs is inevitable. What this means is that we should never believe that some weakness or short-coming or difficulty is inevitable – there is always the chance that difficulties can be overcome. I have said before that some of those pupils whom I have taught who have found academic work difficult have ended up doing higher degrees; some people who have not been very sporty have ended up performing for their country at a sport. I have known pupils to achieve both of these things. We must always have hope and always imagine that there are very few limits, if any, to what people, particularly those who are young, can achieve.

I had the pleasure just before Half Term of taking some of our senior musicians to Winchester College to take part in a strings day. Winchester's Head of Strings undertook a workshop, during which the boys rehearsed with pupils from two other prep schools. Our pupils performed brilliantly and impressed the music teachers there hugely. I took the opportunity to catch up with the Registrar, who mentioned how much our former pupils were contributing to the life of Winchester. I was delighted when I was walking through the School to bump into one of them, a boy who is one of Winchester's top performing musicians and a star in the classroom. He was pleased to see me – as mature and charming as ever. He informed me that he was about to go to an A Level Latin lesson where he was going to be taught by a certain Mr Philomin, who also happens to be a former pupil of CCCS! Not bad that both Winchester pupil and teacher were both educated at our school!

This morning I noticed that a number of furry animals, mainly of the bear variety, were arriving at school. Why were all the younger pupils bringing with them furry companions? "Because the Teddy Bear Hospital is coming!" responded one of those cuddling his teddy fondly. It was true. This afternoon a large contingent of University medical students arrived to spend time ministering to any teddies brought in by our pupils as a way of teaching the pupils about the human body and how it works. Clearly our pupils are much concerned about the health of their bears, as the number of patients was very large. Rarely has there been such a concentration of medical knowledge present in a school but, as a consequence, we must have the fittest set of teddy bears in the country!

It is Friday afternoon as I write and it is therefore Enrichment. I have just been attending a talk given by a charity worker who is involved with an organisation which tries to get environmental campaigners in touch with politicians. He has come down from Sheffield to talk to the pupils. The boys are so lucky in the variety of activities which are being offered and the experiences to which they are being exposed. Our local MP now has a batch of letters from some of her younger constituents heading her way!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2024

Monday 11th - Sunday 17th November

MONDAY 11	
11.00	Act of Remembrance (Playground)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 5 - 8 Football Skills Club (WWH)
TUESDAY 12	
	Simon Arnold Visit
1.40 - 4.00	U8 & U9 Rugby v Dragon (Away)
3.30 - 5.00	Future Schools Event (WWH) - Parking available on Broad Walk Rec - Form 4 Multi Skills Club - CANCELLED
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 5 - 8 Squash Club (Squash Court)
WEDNESDAY 13	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
9.30 - 11.30	Primary Outreach Visit (Brize Norton)
1.30 - 4.45	U12 & U13 Rugby v Cokethorpe (Away, returning 4.45)
2.30 - 4.00	U10 & U11 Rugby v MCS (Home)
3.30 - 4.15	Rec - Form 2 Mandarin Club (Form 1 Classroom)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 5 Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
THURSDAY 14	
	Music Day at Eton College (Parents have been informed if involved)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 6 - 8 Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
FRIDAY 15	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker Dr Joshua Bennett, Tutorial Fellow in History, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford
9.05 - 12.30	Forms 3 & 4 Visit: Museum of Natural History, Oxford
9.15 - 10.30	Pre-Prep French Café Visit
12.15 - 4.30	U12/13 7's Rugby Tournament at Abingdon - Away
4.10 - 5.00	Greek Club CC: OUT
SATURDAY 16	
SUNDAY 17	<i>The Second Sunday Before Advent</i> <i>University Sixth Week</i>
4.00 - 6.00	CC: Rehearsal (WWH)
5.30	Pembroke Evensong

Dates for the Diary

Trinity music exams will take place in school on Thursday 5th December.



Early Years News

The children have had a busy week, with lots of new friends joining them for a Stay & Play on Wednesday morning. It was lovely to see all the children enjoying the autumnal touches to the outside space, cooking, counting and making personal collections.

In the big classroom the children revisited familiar activities and showed the new children how to work with them. In the picture on the right we see the children working with four blocks of knobbed cylinders. HB



Form 3 News

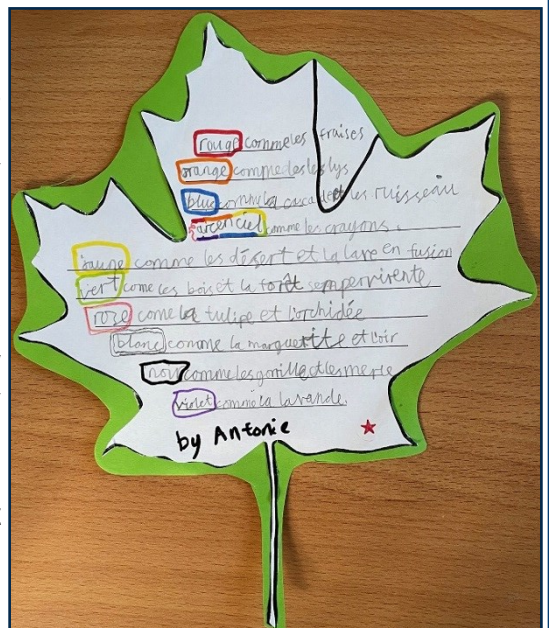


De la poesie en automn

In French just before Half Term, Form 3 were writing autumn poems comparing colours with animals, everyday objects and treasures in the natural world.

Visual dictionaries came in handy to source new words, and tricky pronunciations were worked out with help

from the boys' 'physical phonics' knowledge. As a result the poems were read out aloud in beautiful, flowing French. Bravo! AE-W



Pre-Prep News

Form 1's Australia Theme Day

Before Half Term, Form 1 enjoyed an incredible, interactive day of celebration, food, and music, to bring our Australia topic to a fun-filled crescendo. The children and staff dressed up in Australian-themed costumes, including cute koalas, surfers and beachgoers, and even (reluctantly perhaps on Mr Robards' part) a swarthy Australian cricketer.



The children started by playing Australian Animal Bingo, with authentic 'Caramello Koalas' as prizes for the victors. We then crafted superb didgeridoos, complete with dot paintings, and the colours of the Australian outback. There followed a session of traditional Australian 'campfire storytelling', and then the Australian Gappers joined us for a Q&A about life Down Under, before singing rousing renditions of Waltzing Matilda and Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree on the guitar.

Without missing a beat, the children were whisked off to Mr Pear's PE lesson, themed around the 'Bush Olympics' that we read about in our Mem Fox text, 'Koala Lou'. When the children were all tuckered out from bouncing like kangaroos and playing Aussie Rules, we headed to the dining hall, where Mr Kilby had prepared an Australian themed lunch, complete with barbeque food and pavlova.



In the afternoon, the Australian odyssey continued, with a memorable Music lesson, during which Miss Biddell arranged for Pre-Prep to perform a song called 'Cuddly Koalas', sung to the tune of Frere Jacques, listing all of the Australian animals as a 'call and response', in teams of singers.



Next up, was an opportunity to taste delicious Australian 'tucker', cooked authentically by Mrs Robards, all themed around the culinary journey taken in the Australian children's classic 'Possum Magic'. The children tasted and rated: vegemite sandwiches from Darwin; Minties from Melbourne; pumpkin scones from Brisbane; Anzac biscuits from Adelaide; and lamingtons from Hobart.

The day ended with a keenly contested game of musical statues, with children dancing to floor-fillers such as 'Land Down Under', 'Tie Me Kangaroo Down', and 'Bananas in Pyjamas'.

What a 'bonza' day for our Aussie Cobbers and Sheilas in Form 1! A huge thanks to all of the staff for making it such fun for the children.' TR



Pre-Prep News (cont.)

Teddy Bear Hospital

This week in Pre-Prep, we had a visit from the Teddy Bear Hospital. All the children brought their teddies in, with lots of the teddies in desperate need of a check-up from the doctor!

The children learnt about many medical scenarios from the medical students at Oxford University, such as what to do when you have a cut. They practised cleaning a cut on their teddies and applied plasters to stop the bleeding.

The children had the opportunity to try out different medical instruments such as a stethoscope and thermometer. There was lots of discussion about other parts of keeping your body healthy, such as the importance of sleep and exercise. Thank goodness our Pre-Prep children are now medically trained to help their teddies! MH-W



Wool appeal

The Creative Crafts club/ pompoms club is looking for donations of wool and any creative crafts you might have, so the boys can be as imaginative as possible on Friday afternoons.

Thank you so much! Mrs Simpkins and Mme Loyer

Form 4 News

Form 4 visited Elm Farm near Bicester as part of their Geography topic.

There were lots of black and white Holstein Friesian cows and brown Jersey cows. There was also a type of cow called the British Blue, which is an endangered species.

The oldest cow was called Smarty and we were allowed to stroke her. All the Jersey cows were her calves. We named one of the cows Betsy!

There were only 10 cows for milking and the rest were for beef. We saw the milking machines. They kept the cows still by giving them food in troughs along the side. The milk was used for feeding the calves.

I liked touching the calves because I have never done it before. They were learning how to drink milk which was warm. One of them wasn't very good at it!

I liked stroking the cow because it was very soft and adorable.

I enjoyed milking the pretend cow because it was really fun.

I liked watching the sheep waddle around the field. They were Jacob sheep and they had rectangular eyes so that they could watch for predators all around them. I enjoyed throwing apples for the sheep to eat.

I really enjoyed feeding the cows with barley grain which they grow on the farm and keep in big metal silos.

I really liked climbing on the hay bales. Each one weighed about 200kg!

Thank you to Farmer Ronan and his dad, Colin. We had a brilliant time and would love to go back again. Thank you for giving up your busy time to show us around. We learnt lots!

Form 4



Music News

National Children's Orchestra Double Success!

We heard the wonderful news over Half Term that Ian (Form 7) and Terry (Form 5) have both won places to play double bass in the National Children's Orchestra next year. This is a huge achievement, as the NCO only accepts the most gifted and technically secure musicians. Ian and Terry were awarded these coveted places after a highly competitive audition process, so I am delighted that their hard work has been recognised in this way. There will be lots of rehearsals and concerts for them to enjoy in 2025! SB



Pembroke Choristers at Gloucester Cathedral



Over Half Term our Pembroke Choristers sang a high-profile evensong at Gloucester Cathedral. They performed alongside the Standish Consort, a chamber choir drawn from Oxford and Cambridge alumni, and gave a thrilling performance of 'For Lo, I Raise Up' - one of Stanford's most popular anthems. A special mention must go to Gintas (Form 7) for his excellent solo, and the boys should be very proud at having sung so impressively in this cavernous building. It is always wonderful

when our choirs are invited to perform outside Oxford and get the chance to experience different acoustics. Well done, Team Pembroke! SB

Pansori Performance

One of our parents is co-hosting a Pansori performance with Professor Kiaer at Oxford University on 18th November at 7pm, with some brilliant traditional Korean musicians who are travelling to Oxford especially for the performance. The event will run for about an hour.

You can find out more or book tickets on

www.eventbrite.com (search Pansori in Oxford), or by emailing loli.kim@ames.ox.ac.uk



MFL News



We have just renewed our subscription to the award-winning platform Linguascope: www.linguascope.com, a website offering interactive resources in French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Polish, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Maori, and English.

To log in to the platform, boys need username: cccschool and password: Asterix1. The interactive activities are also tablet-friendly, with iPad and Android apps that pupils can install on their mobile devices: (www.linguascope.com/apps)

We encourage all boys to log in to Linguascope as often as they can. Practising little and often is key to rapid progress. SL and AE-W

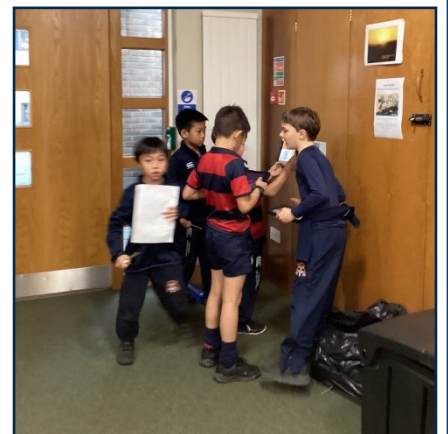
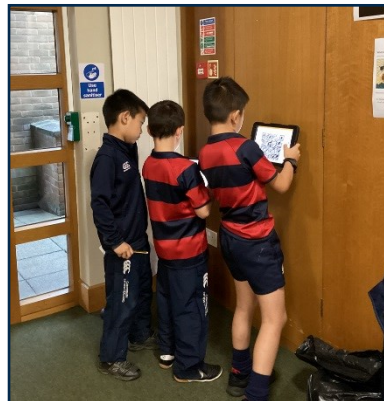
French Challenge 2024

Thank you for all the fantastic entries we have received so far. We have extended the deadline to next week for the last entries.

Please do email Mme Williams or Mme Loyer with your son's entry by the end of next week. Merci beaucoup!

Form 2 WOW Day

As part of their introductory day to the Prep School, our Year 2 pupils undertook a French lesson involving a treasure hunt using iPads and QR codes.



NYCB

NATIONAL YOUTH
CONCERT BAND

NCCB

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S
CONCERT BAND

2025

**APPLICATIONS
ARE OPEN**

AGES 10-18

NCCB: GRADE 4+

NYCB: GRADE 7+

**WWW.NYCB.CO.UK
ADMIN@NYCB.CO.UK**



APPLY HERE

