



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents,

As ever the Forms 3 and 4 play was a delightful spectacle. The time had come again for an airing of the Roald Dahl version of the Three Little Pigs. This being CCCS though, our version was different. Mrs Fairhurst had written some extra scenes and we had inserted into the well-known drama of pig consumption, the stories of Jack and the Beanstalk, and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. It was a most entertaining afternoon. I was delighted that the pig who was not consumed by the wolf, was elegantly wearing a CCCS tie – though he did end up getting shot – but that's another story. As ever the singing was beautifully done, the audience being able to hear every single word, and the performances were full of panache and invention. Indeed, one of the highlights was the extremely gruesome and dramatic death of the wolf, another victim of a shooting, the weapon having been drawn from a pair of grandmaternal knickers! There were creatures of every conceivable type - a mono-syllabic goose who laid empty eggboxes, three pigs (of course), a wolf (naturally), and animals of the forest, as well as a mother in whose gargantuan hairdo several birds could have nested. As winter closed in, it was a real delight to experience this delightful performance and I'd like to thank all the staff, pupils and parents (as the costumes were mainly sourced from home) for making the whole thing possible.

I am delighted that the number of dogs coming to school is on the increase again, after a period when dogs have been few and far between. We have a long history of having dogs in the school and it is very clear that the boys love them. Mrs Davies, who is covering Alma's maternity leave, is kindly bringing in her beautiful dog Daisy, who sits beside her in the Front Office. Daisy is unique. It is difficult to pin down her breed as she is a combination of 17 different breeds, as revealed by a DNA test. Meanwhile, I have started bringing in Trebetherik, our 15 year old Cocker Spaniel. Trebetherick, who some of you may recognise, is named after a Cornish village, is over 100 in human years and is somewhat short of sight and hard of hearing and has no teeth left, but he is certainly a source of great fascination for the pupils, and is always given the warmest of welcomes. I was asked if I could bring him into the Pre-Prep assembly this morning and he was mobbed. I'm not sure whether he fully realised that he would become a superstar in his old age. One devoted disciple was patting him and asked how old he was – I told him that he was extremely old – indeed at 100, he was even older than me. "Older than you?" responded the disciple - "WOW!"

Mrs Evans, the Head of Wychwood School in North Oxford, came to talk to us in the Cathedral this morning. She spoke about a job which she used to have as a presenter on a show where an audience was introduced to various hideous animals like beetles, toads and snakes. It was known colloquially as the "Urrrr Show" because of the cries of disgust uttered by the assembled studio audience. Many of the children who met these creatures found themselves frightened of them and it was fear that she partly wished to talk about. Education should not be about fear, Mrs Evans suggested, but about holding true to the concepts enunciated in the Bible by St Paul, and which had been the subject of the reading we had heard earlier in the service from his letter to the Philippians:

"whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."

Much of what schools are here to do is contained within those few words.

Following her moving words we heard Leo perform some Mozart variations. He played for ten blissful minutes – a wonderful pause in the day when the whole school sat quietly listening together to the sound of sublimity. It is a piece that Leo is preparing for his Diploma – the grade one tackles after one has achieved Grade 8. Given that Leo is in Form 7, this is staggering - even by the standards of CCCS! Sometimes I have to pinch myself – this is not a dream!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2024

Monday 25th November - Sunday 1st December

MONDAY 25 2.30	U12 & U13 A, B & C Football v d'Overbroeck's - Home
TUESDAY 26 2.30 4.10 - 5.00 4.10 - 5.00	U8 & U9 Football v New College - Away (return 4.15) Rec - Form 4 Multi Skills Club Forms 5 - 8 Squash Club (Squash Court)
WEDNESDAY 27 All day 2.30 2.30 3.30 - 4.15 4.10 - 5.00 5.00	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming Primary Outreach Visit (Charlbury): 11.30 - 12.00 CC: Concert U10 & U11 Football v New College - Home U12/U13 Football v New College - Away (return 4.15) Rec - Form 2 Mandarin Club (Form 1 Classroom) Forms 3 - 5 Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom) Forms 3 & 4 Play
THURSDAY 28 9.15 4.10 - 5.00 7.00	Form 2 Trip: The Oxfordshire Museum Forms 6 - 8 Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom) Parents' Association pre-Christmas drinks, Lamb & Flag pub, St Giles
FRIDAY 29 8.30 2.55 4.10 - 5.00	Cathedral Assembly, Pre-Prep Christingle Service led by Forms 3&4 Play Auditions Greek Club CC: OUT
SATURDAY 30 6.00	<i>Andrew the Apostle</i> Cathedral Advent Carol Service
SUNDAY 1 5.30 5.30 6.00	<i>The First Sunday of Advent</i> <i>University Eighth Week</i> College Advent Carol Service Pembroke Carol Service Worcester Carol Service



Dates for the Diary

Find out more about Christmas events at the Cathedral on www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral-christmas-events

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

Pupil Absences

Please remember to email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk as early as possible, if your child will be absent from school or arriving late.

If your child is feeling poorly, please keep them at home, for their sake and everybody else's!



Early Years News

We've had a busy week in Nursery and have enjoyed the wintry weather. On Tuesday we were surprised and very excited by the snow and the children layered up before playing outside. Unfortunately, we couldn't find enough snow to make our own snowman but we did spot a small snowman that had been made in Christ Church Meadow during our Wednesday morning walk.

While we were there we checked on the progress of the pavilion build and were lucky enough to see one of the builders putting powder into the cement mixer. Mr Berry asked what would need to be added to it to make it into cement and the children suggested water. We then saw this being done and this was incorporated into the children's play in the sand area in the afternoon.

On Thursday morning we had our second visit from the older boys who have kindly agreed to play an instrument for the Nursery children. This week was the turn of Edward from Form 5, who played a piece called The Spinning Top on his cello, to which they all listened so attentively. We were shown the musical score and discussed low and high notes. The children all had a turn at playing one note each. It was lovely to hear that they had remembered the name for the bow which was introduced last week. We are very grateful to the boys for giving up part of their break time to provide this wonderful opportunity for the Nursery children to be introduced to such amazing talents and learn about music in such a hands-on way. We hope this inspires them to want to play an instrument in the future. RD



Please remember to send your child in to school with all the weather-appropriate clothing that they need!

Music News

Music Day at Eton College

Four CCCS musicians were invited to attend a tremendous day of workshops and concerts at Eton College on 14th November. Our pupils did some work with Eton's music teachers, listened to current boys performing, and heard about the activities that take place in this busy department.

Music is taken very seriously here, with a vast range of choirs and ensembles as well as 101 music staff! We were beautifully looked after and it was excellent to hear updates from Eton's team about the CCCS musicians who have gone on to study there. I was very proud of Patrick D-D, Patrick S, Alexander S and Richard H for performing well, but also for representing CCCS with such confidence and politeness throughout the trip. SB



Form 2 News

In Form 2, we have been learning about how children lived in the Victorian times compared to now. This week, we compared toys in the Victorian period to now. We looked at how plastic is often used to make toys today, whereas Victorian toys were mainly made of wood, paper, fabric or china. The children got the opportunity to make their own paper toys. They made a 'Cup and Ball', a spinning top, a 'Jack in the Box' and a toy soldier. They had fun playing with these after they were made and were able to take them home. MH-W



Form 3 & 4 News



Congratulations to Forms 3 and 4 for an incredible performance of 'The Three Little Pigs and Friends' with an ever-so wicked Roald Dahl twist. Everyone put on a fantastic show with great enthusiasm and teamwork. Watch out for Little Red Riding Hood who is lurking around school with a pigskin handbag to go with a wolfskin coat!

"I liked it when the Wolf chased the little pigs and saved the pig's tail 'til last!"

"I loved the Three Bears scene because it was very funny when they were scared of Tail's wolf impression!"

"I liked the part when Jack's mum threw the 'magic beans' into the audience and the children went crazy!"

"I liked that Little Red Riding Hood pretended to be nice, but in the end she turned out to be evil and shot Pig 3 as well as the Wolf!"

"I liked how Moo and Tail were separated and couldn't find one another, but then were reunited in the end!"

"I liked it when the Goose laid the giant golden egg in the end and then Daisy the cow squashed it!"

"I loved it when I 'pukkared' and everybody laughed."

"We really loved being on stage and singing all the songs, particularly 'Done and Dusted' and Red Riding Hood's and Pig 3's solos."

Thank you to everyone involved for all their hard work! EP *(more photos on the next page)*





Parents' Association News

As we hurtle towards the festive season, a few requests for our collective hive!

Does anyone have a portable fire pit that they could lend the school for the Christmas Light Show (Friday 6th December)? The School would run/look after it on the night.

Also on the subject of the Light Show, the parents are going to do one of the Twelve Days of Christmas displays, specifically, Nine Ladies Dancing! Do we have any imaginative/artistic parents who might like to create something? It could be quite simple, with lights added to it later. Do drop me a line if so: mjcrooks@gmail.com

The informal parents' social will be at the Lamb and Flag next Thursday 28th November from 7pm onwards. Please pop in to say hello and stay as little or as long as you'd like!

Many thanks to those who answered regarding the future school library. We'll no doubt be doing more recruitment further down the line! The basic idea for now is for the room to be emptied by Christmas in order to be repainted and for shelves to be put in, which will be the first stage. Ms Skipwith will be updating everyone in this respect.

Hope to see some of you on Thursday! MC

Christ Church Cathedral School

Christmas Light Show

Please Join Us For On

FRIDAY
6th December

4:30 - 6 pm

Place: School playground

£10 entry per adult (children free):

this includes a food item and a drink

(tickets available in advance from the School office)

Please bring cash but you will also be

able to add things to your termly bill.

Mulled wine *Hot dogs* *Christmas lights*

Sweet stall *Fun games* *Bottle tombola*

Hot chocolate *And lots of fun!!!*

We are looking forward to seeing you there!





Please join us for the...

INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024

William Walton Hall, 4.30pm Wednesday 4th December



Featuring solos by senior boys, and festive performances by:

Guitar Group • Lower Strings Ensemble • String Orchestra
String Trio • Double Reeds Ensemble
Senior Orchestra • Pre Prep Instrumental Groups

