



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parents,

As I wait for people to arrive on Brewer Street in the morning, I am very fortunate that I have some able assistance from the Prefects. One of them, in particular, is there every morning, without fail. We test each other upon which pupils will emerge from which cars and we are both rarely wrong. What has become obvious to me is the uniqueness of everyone arriving and the way in which they are so very much themselves. There is the pupil who runs for dear life all the way down Brewer Street arriving at the gate completely out of breath. "Am I late?" he will ask almost inevitably (he never is by the way, partly because he has run so fast). Another boy jumps out of his car and then slams the back door as hard as he can by way of announcing his arrival in dramatic fashion. Then there is the pupil who will not leave until he has given his parent a bearhug (he is of the age where the bearhug is only knee-high). We often see the pupil who arrives with the enormous shadow of a cello on their back as if he were about to trek across the Andes. And then there is the new pupil who walks slowly towards me up the street, stands stock still right in front of me, looks me directly in the face, and smiles broadly for at least 30 seconds. I asked him this morning what he was most looking forward to; "Everything!" he responded. What an inspiration for us all! The strongest societies are, in my opinion, made up of individuals who feel confident in themselves, who feel confident to be themselves, and the wonderfully idiosyncratic nature of our pupils tells me that they are happy here. They bring themselves to school every morning rather than an image of themselves, or as TS Eliot put it so powerfully "Preparing a face to meet the faces you meet." Here we meet one another as ourselves.

I have not mentioned the Pavilion for a very long time. That is because, as is almost inevitable, there have been some last-minute snags. There is a new site foreman who seems to be a man of action. I hope appearances are not deceptive. He assures us that the end is almost nigh, or should I say the beginning, that glorious moment when we will have a pavilion which we can use. Almost certainly we will be using it by the summer. We plan to have an official opening on Sports Day which is on the 28th June. Please make sure that you are able to come on that day, both to witness the athletic entertainments which are one of the highlights of the Trinity Term but also because it will be an important moment in the life of the School. I feel incredibly nervous having written that and am reaching for any piece of wood that I can touch.

Over the holidays we had a new surface put down on the small playground. There is also an area of astroturf which has been a rather less hard-core football area than in the past. It really has made a huge difference to the playtime experience and we look forward to developing the area further over the next few months.

Pre-Prep assembly is always one of the most entertaining moments of my week. It is a place where the imagination is allowed to run wild. If ever one begins to fall into the trap of imagining that the School is an ordinary school in an ordinary place, which is not a temptation I frequently fall into, I only have to visit Pre-Prep and am reminded of the truly extraordinary nature of the School. This week Pre-Prep have left their classrooms and have been sailing the seven seas, chasing a terrible Pirate Chief, Mr Robeard. All the children seem now to be speaking in a west country accent, uttering such nautical phrases as "Yo ho ho!" and "Ooh arhh me hearties!" while a conventional looking playground surface has been a lava flow through which people in Form 2 have been carefully picking their wary way. The mind is capable of extraordinary journeys and it is the role of schools like ours to take our pupils on them. As one of those marauding buccaneers may well have said – "Yo ho ho and away we go to sail the seven seas!" Have a good weekend - whether on land or sea!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2025

Monday 20th - Sunday 26th January

MONDAY 20	
TUESDAY 21	
2.30 - 4.00	U8/U9 Football v Cokethorpe - Away
4.15 - 5.00	Squash Club, Forms 5-8
4.15 - 5.00	Multi Skills Club, Rec - F4
WEDNESDAY 22	
9.00	HPV vaccine (Form 8 only)
2.30 - 4.15	U10/U11 Football v Cokethorpe (A-C) - Home
2.30 - 4.30	U12/U13 Bruern Abbey (A-C) - Away
3.30 - 4.15	Mandarin Club, Rec - F2
4.15 - 5.00	Mandarin Club, Forms 3-5
4.30 - 6.00	Forms 3 and 4 Parents' Evening (School Cloud)
THURSDAY 23	
10.45 - 2.15	Mathlon - House French numbers - WWH
2.30 - 4.00	U8/U9 Football v Chandlings - Away
4.15 - 5.00	Mandarin Club, Forms 6-8
FRIDAY 24	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, Speaker: Peter McKie, Vice-Provost, Eton College
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 25	
SUNDAY 26	<i>The Third Sunday after The Epiphany</i> <i>University Second Week</i>

Les Olympiades de Maths 2025 à CCCS

On Thursday, pupils will compete against each other in a Maths Challenge - how well do they know their numbers in French.

Rec - F2 will compete on numbers between 0-20, with the help of a few Language Ambassadors

Forms 3&4 - French numbers between 0-31

Forms 5&6 - French numbers between 0-100

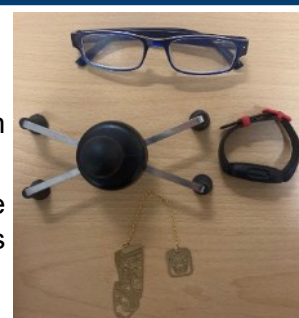
Forms 7&8 - French numbers, including dates & prices

Do feel free to help your son revise over the week-end! This House Competition promises to be highly competitive....

Lost Property

There are a few bits and pieces of miscellaneous lost property that have been gathering dust in the school office since last term.

If you recognise anything, please send your child to claim it. Anything left at the end of next week will go to a new home (be that a charity shop or bin, as appropriate).



Early Years News

Our departure through the front door of number 3 Brewer Street has led to the excited introduction of the Early Years children to Daisy, the resident of the school office and very good friend of Miss Judith, our School Secretary.



This discovery has developed into an interest in dogs from the children and the Early Years team responding to this need with lots of discussion of how to behave with dogs. Mr Murray read a book about dogs in his weekly story time and the importance of asking, 'Can I pat your dog?' Later, one of the children observed that this was a bit like asking a person, 'Would you like a hug?' This is something we encourage the children to ask before hugging one another, 'because we don't all like being hugged, just like a dog may not like being patted.'



Out on Christ Church Meadow on Wednesday morning we had an opportunity to put our new skills into action, followed by a story about taking a dog for a walk, read by Miss Helen. HB

Chorister for a Day

Last weekend saw our Chorister for a Day event, and families from all around the country - as well as some of our own current pupils - came along to discover more about what it's like to be a Cathedral Chorister.

The boys all seemed to have a wonderful time, new friendships were forged, and Evensong was especially exciting with our guest singers.

We were delighted to discover that the local newspaper picked up the story, and featured us on the front page of Thursday's Oxford Mail, as well as on their website. LJ

[Read the Oxford Mail article here](#)



Pre-Prep Woodland School News

Pre-Prep have been typically busy in the Woodland School this week. The rope swings and ladders, which were purchased with monies raised by the PA, have been very popular, and barrel loads of fun have been had already with the new equipment.



The space looks very different following Christ Church's annual cutting back and clearing of the woods during the festive break. We are much obliged to the grounds staff, who have kindly left us with lots of left-over branches and timber.

The children (AKA The Pre-Prep Dengineers), of course, decided that we should make use of the inviting timber piles, and build some fabulous dens to play in. They demonstrated great teamwork and threw themselves enthusiastically into designing and constructing their dens using natural materials from the wood, as well as rope, mallets, and canvas to provide covering from the elements. One of the dens even doubled up as a 'Secret Pirate Hide-Out', so do watch out for any marauding Pre-Prep pirates next time you take a stroll along the Broad Walk! TR



Sports News



On Thursday, our Form 3 and 4 boys travelled to the Manor Prep to compete in two very successful fixtures. CCCS Athletic and CCCS City played a combined game, Manor took an early lead, but through resilience and teamwork both CCCS teams came back into the game.

With a special mention to MOTM Vinh who scored a hat-trick in the second half. FB

Photos from around School

Cookery Club in action



Peaceful form time in Forms 3 and 4



Celebrating the French custom of épiphanie



Gardening Enrichment for Forms 3-5





**SUMMERTOWN
STARS · AFC**

**Girls
U6 / U7**

School Years 1 & 2

Girls U6 & 7's Kickstart:

Free Open Training Session

Everyone is Welcome!

Bring Your Friends

**Discover Football Fun
& Join Our Team**

Every Saturday 9am!

@ Ferry Leisure Centre

More information on our website at summertownstars.org
summertownstars.org/events/Free-Girls-Football-Session-U6-7s

