



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents,

Thanks to Michael Crooks and the Parents' Association, we had a visitation from the History Man this week. The History Man is a phenomenon – a bundle of energy, enthusiasm and ingenuity. He is an immensely creative person who seems to be able to manufacture almost anything by himself. He also has an eye for collecting old-fashioned gadgets from antiques shops and bric-a-brac stores. Last year he gave a presentation on the Romans, bringing with him objects that the Romans would have used and which he had constructed himself. The pupils found the weaponry most intriguing but it became obvious immediately how heavy the armour and weapons were. This week he did a wonderful presentation on the Industrial Revolution and the British Empire. He came with muskets, blunderbusses, pistols and military uniforms which the boys enjoyed putting on. He also brought endless objects which he had acquired over a lifetime of collecting. My favourite was a simple wooden box with a wheel inside it. Out of the box stretched two wires with metal handles. When the History Man revolved a wheel inside the box, it caused an electric pulse to travel up a wire. Most of the boys were keen to try the apparatus out. On one occasion many of the boys linked hands and created a chain of electrocuted children. It was an electrifying experience! As ever, so many of the boys gained so much from the day – their enthusiasm and willingness to learn being so powerful. Thank you again to the Parents' Association for funding the event.

It has been a colourful week as we have been celebrating Chinese (or Lunar) new year. On Thursday Mr Kilby prepared a feast of Chinese food which I found delicious. Mr Kilby and his team had put a great deal of effort into the meal and he was delighted to hear from some of the Chinese pupils that the food tasted authentic. Today many of the Chinese parents gave a presentation for the pupils, even involving some dancing. I want to thank the parents of our Chinese pupils for being so generous with their time in giving the pupils such an insight into their culture.

I heard today on my visit to Pre-Prep that they had visited Science Oxford. They were telling me that there was so much that had delighted them. There had been a machine that shot scarves out of holes and there was a set of rods which, if attached to the head, created a sense of music. So many of the pupils spoke of what they had enjoyed the most. "It was magic!" said one pupil. Indeed! So many things about the world are magic if seen through the enquiring eyes of the young. I have resolved to follow their example and see magic all around me. Indeed it is one of the delights of spending time with our pupils that the world is seen through a lens of awe!

A pupil arrived in school today with a model of a satellite which clearly had been constructed with great care. I asked the pupil whether he had made it for prep. "Oh this is nothing to do with lessons, Sir, this is to do with self-discovery!" I love this definition of self-discovery and was delighted that he was so engaged with it.

It was lovely to have the Pre-Prep and Nursery in Cathedral today. I was telling everyone about a car our family had when I was very young and that we loved it so much that we gave it a nick name. I asked the pupils to guess what it might have been. "Patrick!" said one, "Sam," another – neither of those, surprisingly, were right. Another boy put up his hand. "Mr Murray!" he suggested. "Well, I wasn't Mr Murray in those days," I explained. And then we heard another voice. "Did you call it... Mr Robards?" The answer, I am afraid, was no. Of course had I known Mr Robards at the time, I might well have named a car after him, particularly if it were elegant and inspiring. But, of course, not only had our paths not crossed all those years ago, but when I was a young boy, Mr Robards was not even a concept let alone a reality!

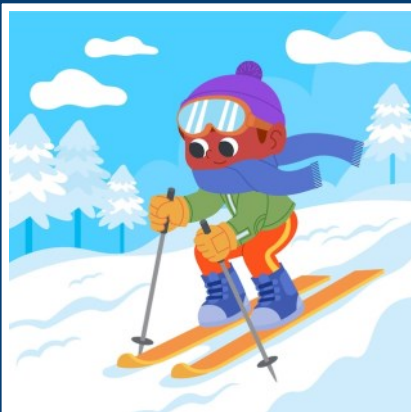
Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2025

Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th February

MONDAY 3 10.25 - 10.55 11.00 - 12.00 2.30 - 4.00	Form 2 NSPCC Workshop Form 5 & 6 NSPCC Workshop U12/13 A, B, C football v d'Overbroeck's - home
TUESDAY 4 2.30 - 4.00 4.15 - 5.00 4.15 - 5.00	History Man, Forms 1-5 U8 football v Oratory Prep - home Squash Club, Forms 5-8 Multi Skills Club, Rec - F4
WEDNESDAY 5 9.30 - 11.30 2.30 - 4.00 3.30 - 4.15 4.15 - 5.00	Primary Music Outreach (St Aloysius' School) U10/U11 Football v Manor Prep – Home Mandarin Club, Rec - F2 Mandarin Club, Forms 3-5
THURSDAY 6 9.30 - 11.30 4.15 - 5.00 4.30 - 6.30	Forms 7 & 8 Crime, Law & Science Workshop Form 3 Trip to Synagogue Mandarin Club, Forms 6-8 Year 5 Parents' Evening (School Cloud)
FRIDAY 7 8.30 10.30 - 12.30	Cathedral Assembly, Speaker: The Revd Professor Andrew Davison, Regius Professor of Divinity Form 3 Trip to Oxfordshire Museum CC: IN
SATURDAY 8	
SUNDAY 9	<i>University Fourth Week</i>

Ski Trip 2026



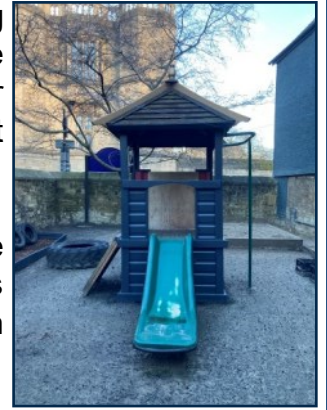
We are considering running a ski trip to a French resort, possibly La Plagne, during the first week of the Hilary Term 2026, between Sunday 4th - Friday, 9th January. This trip will be open to boys in Forms 5 to 8 who are over the age of 10 at the time of the trip, and who are fairly sporty and independent.

Please contact the [school office](#) to register your interest before Friday 28th February.

Early Years News

The Early Years children would like to thank their parents for restocking their bags with lots of options of layers for our daily activities. Gillets are very popular items for keeping them cosy. Thank you to Mr Mirko and Mr David for their fabulous on going painting and freshening of the garden. It looks beautiful.

This week the children have been learning about the Solar System. We thought that you would like to share some of their independent drawings and painting as we develop our knowledge about the Milky Way, the star in the centre of it, and the order of the planets.



When we went on our walk this week we met the Pre-Prep children. There were lots of opportunities for teamwork, creating dens and collecting long sticks for our friends. We ended with a snack overlooking Merton Field. Who can resist a crunchy breadstick. HB



Pre-Prep Trip to Science Oxford

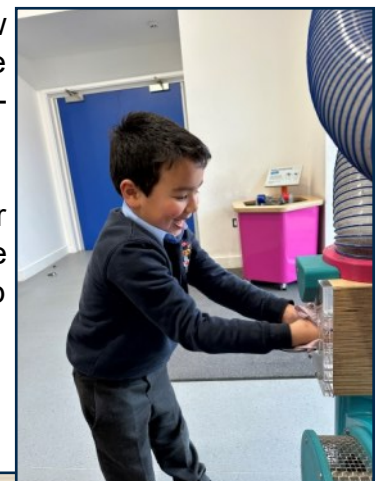
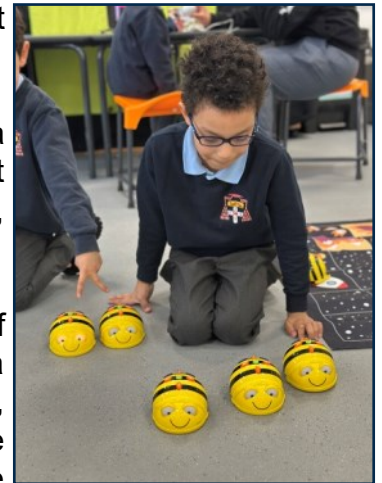
On Tuesday, all of Pre-Prep embarked on a trip to Science Oxford Centre in Headington. It was an action-packed day full of 'Wow and Wonder' scientific moments, and the children, from Reception to Form 2, were a real credit to CCCS, demonstrating manners, enthusiasm, and intelligence in equal measure.

The day began with an interactive science show in the theatre, which allowed the children to showcase their knowledge and inspired them to ask and test fascinating scientific questions. With looks of genuine awe on their young faces, the children were treated to a series of fun experiments, from bouncing balls up to the ceiling, to creating chemical reactions that caused incredible fizzing and exploding results! There was even an opportunity to spot the differences between Miss H-W and a penguin called Polly. The most salient conclusion was that Miss H-W was a far superior dancer!

Next, the Pre-Prep were 'let loose' on an entire room arranged with a carousel of interactive experiments, and they eagerly set about engaging with every task, from animal categorisation, to robotics, microscopes, sensory activities, and cerebral puzzles and challenges.

Last, but not least, we got to spend the afternoon in the 'Holy Grail' of the Exploration Zone. Here, the children were able to undertake a series of science-based activities, from building and flying parachutes, to stop-motion animation, to races with weights, to heat and ice activities, and creating electric circuits. A couple of our favourites were 'Sound Bite', where we could hear music playing when biting a straw and putting fingers in our ears, and the joyous experience that was the inter-connected series of pipes making up the 'Amazing Scarf-Shooter'.

I think it is safe to say that the children were suitably inspired by our Science Theme Day, and if the number of sleepy 'Pre-Preppers' on the bus on the way back to school was anything to go by, it was a trip enjoyed to the absolute maximum. TR

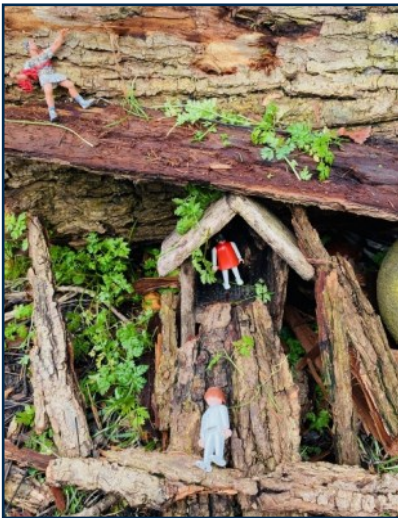


Pre-Prep Woodland School

Pre-Prep enjoyed a fabulous Woodland School session, lit up by glorious winter sunshine. The children put our recently acquired den-building skills to good use, by making homes and hide-outs for miniature play people, all around the woods. We were lucky enough to have a visit from our friends in Nursery and it was tremendous to see our very own CCCS 'little people' having such fun in the freedom of the Woodland School.



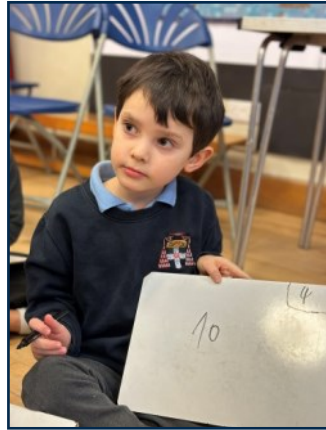
The older Pre-Prep pupils were so gentle and welcoming towards the Nursery children, and they involved them thoughtfully in their play. We also had a 'celebrity visit' from my cocker spaniel, Margot (AKA The Marvellous Miss M), and the children delighted in learning how to get her to fetch a ball for them. What a lovely Woodland School session it was! TR



French Numbers in the Pre-Prep and Early Years

Forms 1 and 2 followed hot on the heels of the Prep department and challenged themselves and their French number knowledge in a lively Mathalon!

With a little help from the Form 8 boys, the children tested first their listening, then reading skills and played an energetic game of 'Loto' where amazingly everybody ended up a winner!



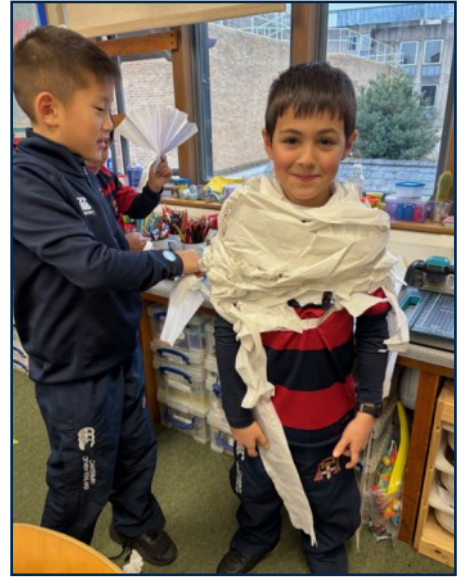
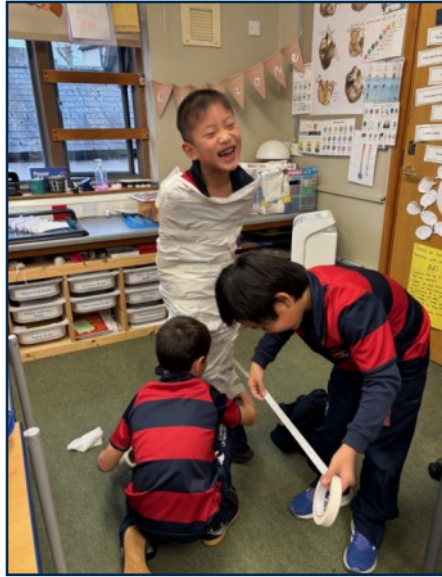
Nursery also had a go, and did brilliantly with their numbers up to 10.

Merci Form 8 and yes, there will be a French Spelling and Matching Bee in the Pre-Prep to follow after Half Term!
AE-W/SL



Form 3 News

In History this term Form 3 have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians. On Wednesday we learned all about the gruesome process of mummification, and had great fun working in teams to wrap each other up! HB



Form 3 have also become newspaper reporters this week following shocking events on Wednesday!



The Iron Man escaped and attempted to steal metal and electrical equipment. Watch out! The Iron Man is bigger than a sky scraper and his head is shaped like a dustbin. His eyes glow red, white and infra-red. Mr Harrison reported, "At around 11am I heard a huge bang and the lights flickered. I was in the staffroom making a cup of coffee and I spilt it over Mr Boarder!"

Will we ever capture the Iron Man? SG

Music News

Outreach programme with Batt CofE Primary School

On Wednesday our Choristers Eaton, Splendour and Henry welcomed pupils from Batt C of E Primary School in Witney to a singing practice. Splendour treated our guests to a beautiful rendition of Tallis's Canon, after which the children heard more about life as a Chorister here at CCCS and discovered the different countries in which the boys had been invited to sing, including Sweden and the United States. All very impressive until they heard how their day begins with a 6am wake up call...it's not all glamorous!

Mr Moy, a former pupil of CCCS, then took the children through a practice of a song they brought with them to sing called The Seagull, a lovely song about flying high over the sea. After this everyone headed to the Cathedral where the Choristers delighted the visitors with a great performance of Psalm 23, The Lord is my Shepherd, (or perhaps better known to some of us as the theme tune to The Vicar of Dibly!).

Supported by Splendour, Eaton and Henry and the acoustics of the Cathedral, our visitors sang their hearts out as they performed The Seagull once again. The children had a lovely time and we're looking forward to welcoming the school back in a few weeks' time! MM



Sports News

Match Report

The game between CCCS City and Chandlings began with both sides soaking up early pressure, but initially nothing came of it. In spite of promising team play by CCCS, Chandlings hit us on the break with a shot that squirmed through the keeper's hands.

Determined to level, Thomas X drifted from the left wing to the right and fired a low shot into the net to make it 1-1. The game was end to end and Chandlings struck back to take the lead. At half-time CCCS coaches Troy and I urged the players on, and they responded to the advice by working as a team and building up to an excellent nutmeg goal for Thomas' brace.

Chandlings struck back immediately, before Terry powerfully thrashed it into the opposition's net to make it 3-3. The team were so happy for Terry as it was his first goal in a fixture. Just before the final whistle went, Chandlings stole the ball and snatched the victory.

Despite the last-minute loss, the coaches and the team were very proud of the fact that we kept going to try to force the win. It didn't quite go to plan this time, but we will rise to the challenge to keep improving in the next clash.

Written by George Robards

Miscellaneous School Life



Gardening Club constructing our new mini greenhouse to house all the seeds we have potted up. EP

Woodland School during Enrichment last week

