



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 21st March 2025 —



A message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

On Monday, we held a splendid event in the Cathedral. We had 160 primary school children attend an outreach concert. They came from various local primary schools and filled the crossing and both the transepts. Meanwhile their parents packed the nave, looking on as their children sang two wonderful songs. Rarely had the Cathedral seen such a huge choir and it all sounded magnificent. The Cathedral Choristers also performed two works, one of which was *The Lord is my Shepherd* by Howard Goodall (better known as the theme tune to the *Vicar of Dibley*, which was sung for the TV series by the Christ Church Choir.) The event was a huge success. Many thanks to Ms Biddell, Mr Moy and Mrs Fairhurst who organised the logistics.

The William Walton Hall has been in almost constant use this week, mainly because of preparations for the School Play. As ever, the play is the brainchild of our very own Mr Richards and has the appropriate and easily misread title *Wilton Hall*. From what I have seen, it will prove to be a wonderfully colourful experience and I look forward to watching it in a couple of hours' time. I very much hope that you will all be able to come. So much work has been put into it.

I am delighted to be able to announce that Mr Pedr Davies has been appointed to teach English. Mr Davies has been teaching at Henry Box School in Witney. He studied at Sheffield University and did a PGCE at Oxford. He will be starting at Christ Church next term and I am certain will prove to be an enthusiastic, energetic and knowledgeable teacher who will enjoy working alongside the new Head of English, Mr Farmer. Many congratulations to both of them. Very sadly Mrs Schiller has announced that she will be retiring at the end of this year. We will miss her greatly and I will talk fully about her at Speech Day. I very much hope that she enjoys the rest of her time here.

It was Red Nose Day today as was evident right from the start as people arrived at school clad in red, some even wearing noses and I very much enjoyed watching the red caterpillar making its way across Tom Quad this morning on its way to Cathedral. I decided to wear my nose on Brewer Street this morning. One member of Nursery, came rushing up to me as she always does, "Mr Murray – you have got a nose!" This sounded positive. "Where?" I asked. "Right there," she said, pointing, "On your face!"

In the Cathedral this morning, the Chaplain spoke to us about the parable of the Prodigal Son, one of my favourite parables. After having wasted his inheritance, the younger son comes back home after many years away. He is greeted by his father with open arms who calls for the slaying of the "fatted calf" in honour of his son's return. The elder brother who has remained at home all along helping his father on the farm is furious and complains that his younger brother should not be forgiven. "What would you do?" asked the Chaplain. I was always the elder one of two brothers and so always had sympathy with the sensible, stay at home brother. But what would our pupils think? One of the best answers was the following nuanced response: "I would have forgiven him, definitely, but not allowed him to attend the party!" A wonderful and practical compromise. After all let's remember our priorities!

Indeed the wisdom of young people is often extraordinary. Afterwards at coffee one parent told the enlightening story of a young boy who had read the story of Pinocchio. The more Pinocchio lies, the longer his nose grows. The attentive boy had been asked what moral he took from the story. After a short pause he responded, "If you want a nose, you've got to lie!" Maybe it's time for me to take my red nose off!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

School Calendar



School Diary: Monday 24th March - Sunday 30th March

MONDAY 24

TUESDAY 25

2.30: U8/9 Football v Ashfold (Home)

3.30: Winchester String Orchestra in the Cathedral

WEDNESDAY 26

THURSDAY 27

Trinity Music Exams

2.00 - 3.00: Pre-Prep Easter Egg Hunt, Christ Church Cathedral Garden

FRIDAY 28

8.45: Cathedral Assembly, Mothering Sunday Service, including Pre-Prep

1.45 - 3.30: Poetry Recital

4.10: Term Ends

Dates for your Diary

Christ Church Upper Library

Thursday 27th March

There are still a few tickets available for the Christ Church Upper Library event this coming Thursday. This promises to be a delightful evening with a talk from the librarian and a special viewing of some of the library's most magnificent treasures.

Tickets are £10.00 each. To book your ticket, please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk



After-School Care and Clubs

School Clubs

Below is a reminder of the daily after-school clubs and events taking place at school.

Pre-booking your child in to a club or After-School care is easy. Simply email the school office: schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4.15 - 5.00: Football, Forms 5-8	4.15 - 5.00: Squash Club, Forms 5-8	3.30 - 4.15: Mandarin Club, Rec - F2	4.15 - 5.00: Cricket, Forms 3-8	
4.30 - 5.30: Real Tennis, Forms 6-8	4.15 - 5.00: Multi Skills, Rec - F4	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, Forms 3-5	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, Forms 6-8	

After-School Care

Should you need to book your child into After-School Care or Prep, please let the school office know. It is important to book in advance to ensure sufficient staffing and that we cater for the correct number of pupils.

Please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk to book your child in.

Collecting your child after Prep

As there is very limited parking on Brewer Street, we kindly ask that if you are collecting your child by car, and there is no parking available, that you call us on **07719 109 433** and we will arrange for your child to meet you outside the school gate.

This will help us to ensure that there is always a steady flow of traffic down the one-way street. Thank you so much for your co-operation.



Early Years News

We are so lucky to have our Gappers with us in the Nursery every day, and our youngest children really enjoy their company, as this picture shows.



What we have been seeing this week is lots of different children beginning to master key skills, from confidently writing a capital letter at the beginning of their name, to sliding down the fireman's pole, to sweeping up sand with a dustpan and brush.

The last photo shows three of our boys engaged in a fabulous role play game. Their broad smiles tell us just how much fun they were having in the beautiful Spring sunshine.

HB



Woodland School

With the sun shining brightly and illuminating Christ Church Meadow and the vast expanse of Merton Field in all its glory, our happy band of Pre-Prep pupils eagerly embarked on our latest Woodland School adventure.

Our session started with everyone huddled around the Woodland Circle and listening to a story read by Mr Robards. This week's story was 'Extra Yarn', written by Mac Barnett, and evocatively illustrated by Jon Klassen. The story was all about a magical box of rainbow-coloured yarn, that never ran out. The children offered lots of fabulous ideas as to the story's moral, and we agreed that rather than money and material things, the never-ending gift that we all had in our power was to offer kindness, friendship, and to think of others.

With these positive thoughts floating above our heads in the beautiful Spring sunshine, we split into three groups to take on a team challenge. The 'Woodland Elves', or perhaps the resident 'Ruby Red Forest Folk', had created incredible rainbow pathways of yarn, stretching the length and breadth of the woods, all around the trees, and in and out of bushes and thickets. The children were tasked with working as a team to follow the pathways and to carefully wind in the yarn, until they eventually happened upon sparkling golden eggs hidden at the trail's end. On finishing their trails, the children were able to trade their golden eggs for a sweet treat to enjoy together back in the Woodland Circle. It was lovely to see the children working together with such concentration and mutual kindness, to complete the mission.

We are so lucky to have such magical pupils in our Pre-Prep, and it is a gift for us as teachers, to see the children developing positive values that will last a lifetime. TR



Pre-Prep News

Pre-Prep School Concert

The Pre-Prep School held their annual concert on Tuesday, warmly supported by an enthusiastic audience of parents, supporters and staff in the Walton Hall. This allowed the children the chance to show off what they have been learning in their Music lessons, including two-part singing, a nursery rhyme in Korean, a beautiful French song about a butterfly (because singing in different languages is a great way to learn them!) and lots of useful warm-ups that help them to develop focus and musicianship. Mrs Terry's instrumental ensemble performed the energetic 'Jumping Jack and Bouncing Ball' - joined by several Prep School flutes and recorders - before we were able to hear confident solos given on the piano and violin by budding instrumentalists. Many thanks to all the Pre-Prep staff, Mrs Terry, Madame Williams, to Cathedral Chorister Splendour for helping with the singing, and to the Prep School musicians who joined us.

Well done, Pre-Prep! SB



Pre-Prep News

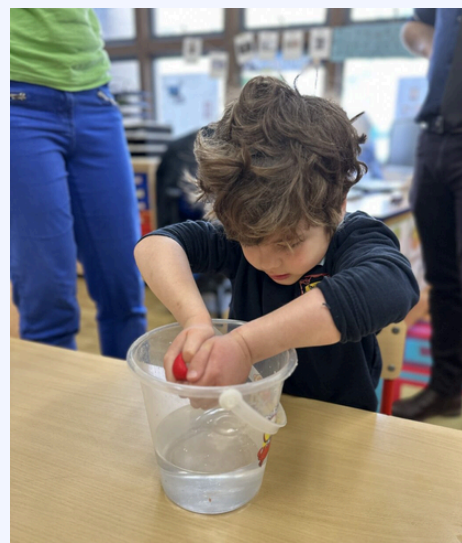
More from British Science Week

As part of Science Week, we received a visit from the Science Oxford Centre for a session called 'Floaty Boats'. The first thing we talked about was engineers and what they do, including those who fix cars (automotive), them who that work with computers (software engineers) and them who work with buildings (structural engineer).

We had a think about lots of ideas of how to help animals cross a river. A giraffe could walk through the water and carry animals on its back or elephants could suck up all the water and blow it away. Other ideas included boats, bridges, ladders, and even digging a tunnel underneath the river.

As Form 1 have been learning about pirates, we thought maybe a boat could be a good idea. But first, we needed to carry out experiments to see which materials floated. In a bucket of water, we tested plasticine which sank, corks which floated and a balloon which floated.

With the balloon, we conducted a further experiment. With a little balloon, a big balloon and a bucket of water, we were tasked with trying to make the balloon sink. We had to consider which balloon would be easier to sink; the big one or the small one. The force pulling the plasticine into the water was its weight, but with the balloon, we needed force from our hands to push it under water. We only needed 3 fingers to push the little balloon under water, whilst the big balloon needed our whole hand, i.e. much more force. As we pushed the balloon into the water, we noticed the water level rise. It rose more when the bigger balloon was pushed into the water than when the little balloon was pushed. We worked out that this was because the bigger balloon takes up more space. We called the bigger balloon more 'buoyant' rather than 'floatier', as it was harder to make it sink.



Pre-Prep News Continued

A pot of marbles came out and we quickly decided that it would sink. How could we make the marble pot not sink? We tried adding the pot in with just one marble and this time it floated. So how many marbles would it take for the pot to sink? Experiment time! We actually managed to fit around 20 marbles in before the pot sank. We were shown how we can mould the plasticine into a boat shape so that it has some air in it like the pot or the balloon. This time, it floated.

Our challenge was to make a boat that could float using a thin piece of plastic, 2 paper cups, a cork, reusable cable ties, some wooden skewers and some narrow paper tubes. After we made our boats in groups, we tested if they could float and how many toy animals they could hold. We even had the chance to try and improve our boats, such as making sure we filled the tubes with corks to stop water flooding into them.

We had a great time and learnt so much - thank you Science Oxford Centre!

M H-W



La petite visite à La Fromagerie

Form 3 and Form 4 practised their French language skills with aplomb today during a mini trip to the Covered Market here in Oxford.

The task was for each boy to ask for their ordered cheese from La Fromagerie, where the wonderful array of cheeses from France and elsewhere made some mouths water and most eyes stand on stalks – what a huge selection of cheese!

The requests slipped off the boys' tongues in smooth French and everybody who wanted was given a small piece of Tomme de Brebis to taste.

Smiles were wide as they proudly left clutching their bag of cheese, promising half-heartedly not to eat any before arriving back home after school.

In addition to visiting La Fromagerie, the boys had to pretend they were visiting a real French marché, identify the variety of shops and stands, and work out what they were selling.

SL and AE-W



Music News

Primary School Choral Festival



On Monday we were joined by 160 pupils from five primary schools across the county as part of a singing festival in the Cathedral.

In the months leading up to this event, the participating primary schools visited and took part in a Music Masterclass with Ms Biddell. In addition to honing their singing skills, the children got the chance to speak to the Cathedral Choristers and learn about Chorister life, before doing a practice session at the Cathedral.

After months of preparation, all five schools came together for the first time at the Cathedral on Monday afternoon and joined the Cathedral Choristers for their grand performance. Led by Ms Biddell and former CCCS pupil and Chorister Mr Moy, everyone sang their hearts out to rapturous applause. Guests were also treated to special performances by our Cathedral Choristers, including a stunning rendition of The Lord is My Shepherd. The piece was written by Howard Goddall, a former Chorister, for the BBC hit comedy The Vicar of Dibley, and holds a special place in the hearts of everyone at Christ Church.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it such an enormous success.

SB

Joint Concert with Winchester College String Orchestra

Tuesday 25th March at 3.30pm
Christ Church Cathedral



Join us for a spectacular concert as our senior string players accompany the Winchester College String Orchestra for part of the concert programme.

To book your ticket, please contact the school office:



schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk

Sports News

This week has been a brilliant week for fixtures and has felt beautifully Spring-like over on Merton field.

It has been action-packed as the boys have played some Hockey, some Rugby and some Football this week.

On Monday our Form 8 went over to Oxford Hawks ground for a Hockey fixture against d'Overbroeck's. It was an excellent display from the boys who all put in a real shift and came away with a 2-0 victory. Everyone got involved and worked together, supporting each other, which we were really pleased to see. A special mention to Carl and Gordon who volunteered to join the d'Overbroeck's team in order to make sure the game was competitive.



On Tuesday it was the turn of Forms 3 and 4. We took all the boys over to Cothill School for a Rugby fixture. Even though we haven't been working on Rugby since November, it was amazing to see how much the boys remembered and how cohesive they were as a team. Cothill, in comparison, have games every afternoon and have been working on Rugby for the past two months. This, therefore, could have been a tricky afternoon for our boys. The contact game for some of our Form 4 couldn't have been any closer. It was a well-matched and well-contested fixture that ended 12-12! For the other two matches taking place, the boys played Tag Rugby. Once again, there was some fantastic running with the ball, tagging opponents and plenty of tries scored. I can report that CCCS were victorious on both Tag pitches.

Football on Wednesday. The Form 6 went away to Cokethorpe for two triangular fixtures against the hosts and Sibford School. The A team secured a hard fought 0-0 in their first game and won their second match 3-2. The B team also went well, winning both games with a 2-1 victory against Cokethorpe, and a last-minute winner against Sibford for a 1-0 win. All the boys played with a brilliant attitude, with some excellent individual performances - particularly Randolph in defence, Harry for covering every blade of grass, Olav for an incredible assist and Adam for scoring the winner in the final minute.

We also had a Form 7 home fixture against Cokethorpe. The Form 7 had a slightly tougher afternoon, but once again showed grit and determination throughout the fixtures. Both our A and B teams lost narrowly, but it could easily have been different had we taken some of our early chances. Hugo made some fantastic saves in the A team and Patrick was a constant menace in the Cokethorpe side.

Well done to all the boys for another fantastic week out on the games field.

DP

Supporting communities near and far

The Gatehouse, Oxford



You may remember that, towards the end of last year, Miss Browne and the boys in her Enrichment class volunteered their time to support The Gatehouse Oxford's Winter Appeal. The gang pounded the streets in the local area to distribute leaflets

The charity was raising funds to continue their work in the community, supporting the vulnerably housed and homeless in Oxford.

We are delighted to share that The Gatehouse Oxford raised over £20,000 - that is more than double their original target!

The organisation shared the news with us that our contribution was "one of the key reasons why we did so well" as it enabled donors who might have otherwise been unaware of the campaign to kindly make a donation.

A huge well done to Miss Browne and her team!

You can read more about the Winter Appeal [here](#).

Comic Relief 2025



As you may be aware, today is Red Nose Day!

In celebration of their 40th birthday (wow, where did that time go!) Comic Relief released a rare ruby nose hidden in the masses.

The boys didn't waste any time trying to find a ruby nose while supporting the cause. However, alas, it wasn't to be! Never mind, thanks to your generosity, so far, we have raised **£228.27**.

Well done everyone!

Thank You!

A very special thank you to our Star Baker Olav in Form 6 who very kindly baked some delicious scones for the Front Office. Thank you Olav, we loved them!



School Photobook



CCCS on Merton Field



Creating a buzz at the French Spelling Bee!



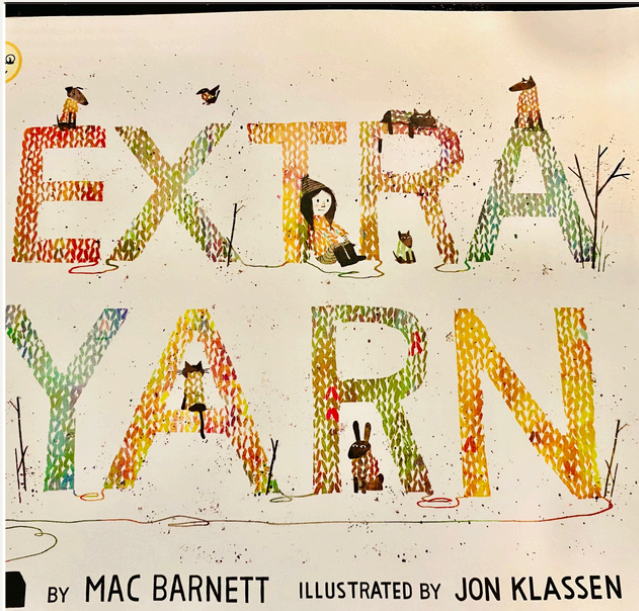
Prep Spelling Bee fun



Merci Beaucoup Monsieur!



School Photobook



Louis is hard at work in DT!

THE EIGHTEENTH

ENGLISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Volunteers
needed to help
with stewarding
and looking
after the artists!

Four days of joyful and inspirational concerts, talks and events:

- 🎻 The BBC Concert Orchestra performing Vaughan Williams, Delius and Bliss's Cello Concerto with Raphael Wallfisch
- 🎶 Part-songs by Elgar, Finzi, Holst and Vaughan Williams
- 🎭 The Royal Ballet Sinfonia in early music transcriptions and twentieth-century gems
- 🎤 Singer-composer Stef Connor creates a magical event melding old, new and folk music
- 🎹 Elgar's much-loved Piano Quintet, Howells, Bridge and Dorothy Howell

and much, much more!

Book online at: www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2025-may-festival/box-office.php

23-26 MAY 2025

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

Contact Festival Director, Em Marshall-Luck, at em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk
or The English Music Festival, PO Box 123, Clunton, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 7BP
for more information or a postal booking form.