



Christ Church Cathedral School News

—— 19th September 2025 ——



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

We had a delightful Open Morning on Saturday. A large number of interested families came and they all made clear that they liked the school they found. As ever, the thing that impressed them the most was our Form 8 pupils who behaved with charm and intelligence. Many parents told me that they had been recommended to come round by friends who already have pupils here. Thank you so much for being so positive about the school. Personal recommendations are, of course, more powerful than the most sophisticated marketing so I am very grateful. I'm also very proud of our boys.

In fact the present Form 8 has stepped into its role as senior pupils with great panache. They have been making an impact throughout the school including on Brewer Street. Every morning, I am surrounded by a group of amiable and entertaining companions. None of them has been asked to come – they have all volunteered to do so - but they have been excellent company and most helpful. We have an expert in cars – both their make and their models – I tend to recognise cars by colour and shape – “ah it's the grey bubble car”, whereas my far more professional companion will instantly recognise the vehicle in question as a Fiat 500!

Another pupil already knows every single name of every pupil, and another knows at what time everyone is likely to arrive. Perhaps MI6, instead of using the dark web to recruit spies, should send scouts down Brewer Street – they'd certainly find young men who paid attention to their surroundings! Having said that our boys would not be good at that crucial characteristic of spies, their ability to blend into the background – they're far too interesting for that!

Trebetherick, our dog, came in to school for the first time this year. Occasionally he spends the day with me, something he enjoys doing tremendously as, inevitably, he gets a great deal of attention from the pupils. Occasionally one or two pupils are nervous of him, but there is no need – he is very old indeed (16 in fact) he has not much hearing, very little sight and no teeth – indeed one can say with complete authority that his bark is far worse than his bite. When he occasionally does bark, he does so apologetically. If you ever meet him, do please feel free to give him a pat. It makes his day!

It was a bright day and it was entirely appropriate then that the reception I received when I arrived at Pre-Prep assembly should be sunny. During the course of the assembly, I learnt that everyone in Pre-Prep had played a game called Hunter and Survivor. Apparently, despite his overwhelmingly positive character, Mr Berry had been selected as one of the hunters. At the end of the assembly it was my turn to talk. I started to shiver – “I feel terrified!” I said. “Why do you think I'm so frightened?” Of course I wanted to tease Mr Berry by saying that I was terrified of sitting next to a hunter! But the children had other ideas! “You're terrified, Mr Murray, because you know it's going to snow soon!” I believe the temperature was 25 degrees today so this was, to say the least, a surprising response! “You're terrified because you're so amazed at how brilliant we are!” suggested another. I started to mediate upon the connection between amazement and terror, an important theme in some early nineteenth century romantic literature, I remembered. “No! said another. I know why you're frightened. You've seen how brilliant we are and you think we're going to take over as Headmaster!” Fear was completely the right reaction then!

Mr Richard Murray,
Headmaster

School Calendar

School Diary: Monday 22nd Sept - Sunday 26th Sept

MONDAY 22

9.05 - 4.00: Year 8 Team Building Trip - Go Ape!

TUESDAY 23

2.15: U8/U9 Rugby v Ashfold (Away)

4.00: Second Hand Uniform Sale (Library)

WEDNESDAY 24

2.30: U10/U11 Rugby v Cokethorpe (Away)

2.30: U11 Football v MCS (Away)

THURSDAY 25

7.00pm: Informal Parents Drinks at The Anchor, Jericho

FRIDAY 26

8.45: Cathedral Assembly with Pre-Prep - Speaker: The Headmaster
Individual School Photos

(CC Leave)

Upcoming Events



Uniform Shop

Tuesday 23rd September
4.00pm
School Library

All donations of branded second hand uniform are welcomed. Have a sort out over the weekend, and bring in to the office by Tuesday morning.

Please only donate branded items with the logo on. Non branded items, such as blue or white shirts and grey trousers, can be purchased very cheaply from supermarkets, so we end up with lots at school, which are never bought. These can be passed on to charity shops or 'Bag to School' collections, which take place in many primary schools.



Nursery & Pre-Prep Cathedral Assembly

Friday 26th September
8.45am
Christ Church Cathedral

For the first time this term, the Nursery and Pre-Prep children will be joining the whole School for assembly in the Cathedral, and we would be delighted if you could join us.

Afterwards, please join us in The Priory Room at Christ Church for coffee and refreshments - a great chance to meet other parents and staff.

We look forward to seeing you then!



Nursery Stay & Play

Wednesday 1st October
9.30am - 11.00am
CCCS Nursery

Our popular Stay & Play sessions are back!

If your friends or family have children who are ready to start Nursery, please invite them to join us for a morning of fun, play and making new friends.

Simply [click here](#) to register your place.

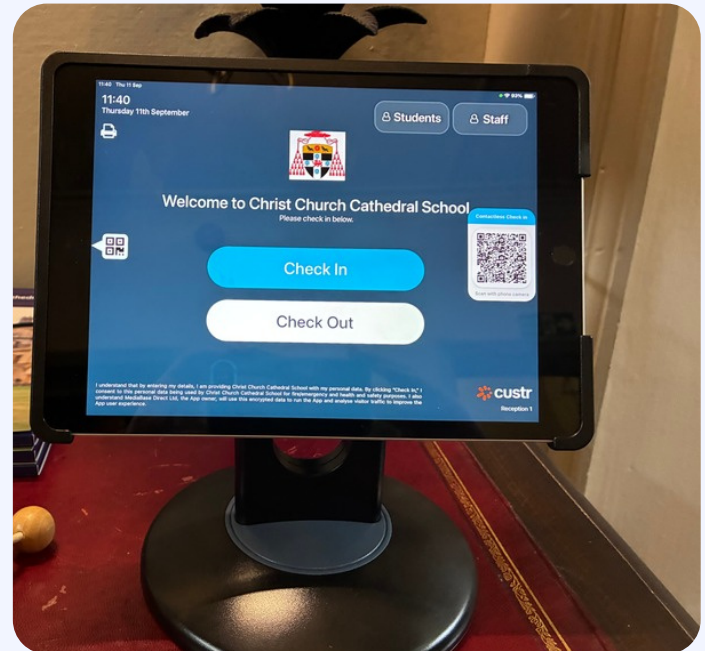
School Noticeboard

Don't forget to Check-in

Please remember to sign in and sign out whenever you are visiting the School between the hours of 8.30 and 4.10. The sign-in tablet is on the table opposite the School Office. Once you have signed in, the staff member you are meeting will come to collect you.

How it works

- Click the 'Check In' button
- Type in your full name
- Select how you travelled to the School
- Type in the name of the person you are visiting
- Smile for your photo!
- Your visitors badge will be printed



Keeping in touch with the school

We would like to share some of our school phone numbers with you, in case you need to reach us.

The prep phone stays with the member of staff on prep duty at the end of the school day. After 5pm there might not be anyone in the school office. If you are going to be late, or if you are outside the school in your car and would like your child to be sent out to you, please call: **07719 109433**

Each minibus has its own phone to enable contact for the children who travel to and from School on the bus. The drivers will call you if they are going to be late, and likewise, you can contact them if you won't be at the bus stop in time to meet your child.

For the **North Oxford route** with Mr Mirko, please call **07736 148199**

For the **East Oxford route** with Mr Quen, please call **07346 224937**

Say Cheese!

Next Friday (26th September) is photo day. This is when we take the individual photos of each pupil, as well as sibling groups.

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform (Form 5 will need to bring sports kit in a bag to change into at break).

From the Parents' Association

In addition to the School uniform shop, our wonderful Parents' Association are planning some fantastic events, so please save the date for the below:



Informal Parent Drinks

Thursday 26th September, from 7PM

The Anchor Bar and Restaurant, Hayfield Road, Oxford

Join us for an relaxing evening at this beautiful venue, run by a fellow CCCS parent, and get to know other families in the school community.

<https://www.theanchoroxford.com/>



Parent visit to the Picture Gallery at Christ Church

Wednesday 26th November, timings tbc

Enjoy a child-free evening with a drinks reception and tour of the stunning Picture Gallery. Further details and information on how to book will be sent out soon.



Parents End of Year Ball

Friday 3rd July

We hope you will help us celebrate the end of term at the parents' formal ball in the Great Hall at Christ Church. Details will be shared closer to the time.

Early Years Walk

Autumnal Walk in Christ Church

The Nursery and Reception children excitedly got ready for their first Wednesday exploration of the new term. Wearing our distinctive vests, yellow for Nursery and red for Reception, we took the secret passage from the Pre-Prep playground into Rose Place and waved back to the customers as we walked past the coffee shop window. Having safely traversed St Aldates we entered through the huge gates, with our returning cohort noticing that the lavender had been cut along the path.

The Rose Garden contained a surprise explosion of pink and white cosmos. We will have to ask the gardeners on another visit what their secret is to growing these as the Nursery ones, didn't reach their height this year. There was an audible 'wow' as we passed by the Meadow building. It really is an amazing sight that we can too easily take for granted. We ate our rice cakes under the plain trees near the Pavilion, listening to Miss Rebecca read Julia Donaldson's, 'The Scarecrows Wedding.' The thought of pasta for lunch made the journey back to school much quicker. A perfect first walk of the new year, with a happy group of good walkers whom we are looking forward to sharing lots of Wednesday morning adventures with.

HB



Nursery News

Oh we do like to be beside the seaside...

As we come to the end of the summer, the Nursery have been enjoying one more week reminiscing about summer holidays and talking about being at the seaside. It has been a lovely topic to share stories, learn new vocabulary and develop sand play with the children. It's a theme that helps to engage and explore new friendships.

Our new friends from Form 8 have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into block play with the Nursery children. All were very intrigued by the introduction of shells, tiny sandcastles and scarves. Soon the children were reminiscing about their holidays, creating the sand and the seascapes. One of the children talked animatedly about being with her 'bestamor' with her cousins. Another child created a sea monster which 'would rescue people in the sea.' The picture with all the people on the beach 'sunbathing' was Mr Murray enjoying his holiday. I think that it may be more reminiscent of the Normandy trip in the summer? The Form 8s really made the most of their extended morning with us. I suspect, as we slip into autumn, we will see more of these creations, perhaps with the addition of more sea creatures, a lighthouse or castle.

HB



Donations Needed

If you have any small seaside buckets, spades or sand moulds that your children have grown out of and would like to donate to the Nursery, the children would be delighted to receive them.



Reception News

Montessori inspired rainbows

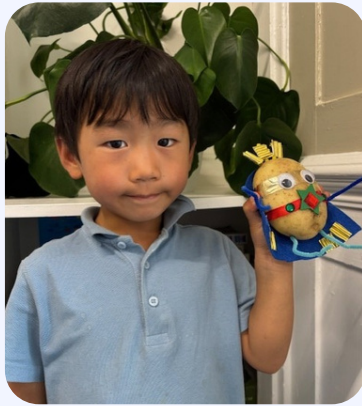
In Reception this week we have been exploring the colour red and specifically focusing on our fine motor skills and pencil control. We covered a range of activities but the children especially enjoyed colouring the dots on rainbows and then following this up with a tweezer pompom Montessori inspired challenge with some help from our marvellous Year 8 Pre-Prep Ambassador Hugo, and his partner in crime Emilio. MB



Form 1 News

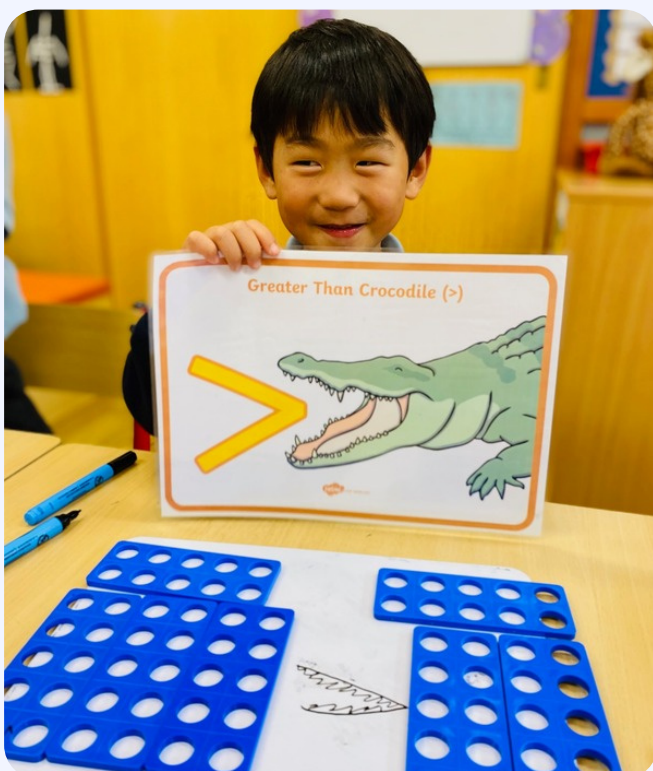
Supertatoes!

Form 1 had lots of fun this week, making their own fabulous Supertatoes! Here are some examples of their colourful and original artistic creations. TR



Snappy Maths: Crocodiles help F1 make the right choice

Our budding Form 1 mathematicians had a great time this week learning all about comparing numbers, using the 'greater than, less than, and equal to' symbols. The children delighted in creating gigantic groups of objects and drawing in the symbols to show which number was greater. Adding sharp teeth to a crocodile's mouth is an impactful way for the learning to land. Just watch out for any marauding crocs over the weekend! TR



Form 3 News

Our detectives solve the mysteries

Form 3 have been learning about adjectives and commas in a list this week! They described a mystery object hidden in a bag to their friends. We then guessed what was inside the bag using the adjective clues! Great detective work Form 3!

SG



Making the most of the autumn sunshine

Form 3 making Andy Goldsworthy inspired patterns in Art today.

EP



Team Building Days

A strong start to the new term

Forms 5, 6 and 7 all took part in various team building activities at different locations this week. Here are some photos of the fun and bonds that were made in Form 6!



French News

Rock stars in the making

There is never a dull moment in French class! After learning with dominoes last week, the boys have been rocking out this week. It's lovely to see some of our choristers turn into rock stars - even if it's just for a lesson!



Music News

Recorder Club

It was very exciting to hear the first outing of our Pre-Prep Recorder Club yesterday, with their new teacher Mr Newby-Smith. The children in Forms 1 and 2 worked with great focus as they learned about how to position the recorder, align their fingers, and repeat different patterns.

The recorder is a fantastic introduction to instrumental playing - being light-weight, inexpensive and child-friendly - and it especially supports transition to the woodwind instruments that are currently in high demand at senior schools. I am very grateful to Mr Newby-Smith for helping the children get off to a flying start, and can't wait to hear how things develop! SB



Cathedral Choristers

Introducing our new Cathedral Choristers

Sunday 14th September marked a special milestone for Sebastian, Dave and George as they were officially installed as Cathedral Choristers.

We are so proud of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the choir, and delighted that they will be carrying forward this wonderful tradition.

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate this special occasion and huge congratulations to the boys!



Get Involved!

Bikeability Course

Open to boys over 9 years old

Boys aged 9 and over are invited to join the Bikeability Course (Levels 1 and 2) on 6th - 9th October.

We are very proud of those who have completed the course in previous years and have become safe, confident road-users, and we hope many more boys will take part this year.



After School Clubs are back!

We still have some remaining places in our After School Clubs, so please let us know if your son would like to join any of our clubs.

Mon

3.30 - 4.15: Chess Club, open to F2
4.15 - 5.00: Football, open to Forms 3-8
4.20 - 5.45: Real Tennis Club

Tue

4.15 - 5.00: Squash, open to Forms 5-8
4.15 - 5.00: Multi Sports Club, open to Rec - Form 4
4.15 - 5.00: Chess Club, open to Forms 3 and 4

Wed

3.30 - 4.15: Pre-Prep Mandarin Club, open to Rec - F2
4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, open to F3 and F4

Thu

4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, open to F5 - F8
4.15 - 5.00: Rugby Club, open to F3 - F8

If you would like to sign your child up for a club, please email Mrs Padin Ramos at schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk with the following information:

- Name of Child
- Form
- Name of the Club
- Day of the Club

After School Club Collection - Teachers will bring the children to the front gate for collection.

Prep Collection - Please call the Prep telephone so we can arrange for your son to meet you at the front gate.

The

Library

Oxfordshire

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

2026

Up to **3,000** words for adults & young adults
and up to **1,000** words for children.

The winning story in each category will
be published as an ebook for library
members to borrow!

ENTRIES OPEN: 8 SEPTEMBER
CLOSING DATE: 9 NOVEMBER

Adults: 18+
YA: 12-17
Children: 7-11

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Communicate with Confidence Holiday Workshop

Age: 10 - 15
years old

27th October 2025

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS & CONFIDENCE
IN COMMUNICATION**

What's Included?

- Learn how to make strong first impressions
- Show confident body language and speak clearly
- Manage nerves under pressure
- Practice common interview questions

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral School

Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Fees: £140 (inclusive of VAT)

REGISTER NOW



info@audace-oxbridge.com



Drive Into Learning: Cars & Car Production

Age: 11 &
above

23 October 2025

FROM ASSEMBLY LINE TO THE FUTURE OF DRIVE

Discover the story, science, and future of cars
plus experience a behind-the-scenes **factory tour**
in this special one-day introductory workshop!

What's Included?

- From the Model T to modern marvels.
- How Cars Are Made – Assembly lines, robotics, and materials.
- The Science of Cars – Engines, and mechanics explained.
- Cars & the Environment

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral
School with trip to factory

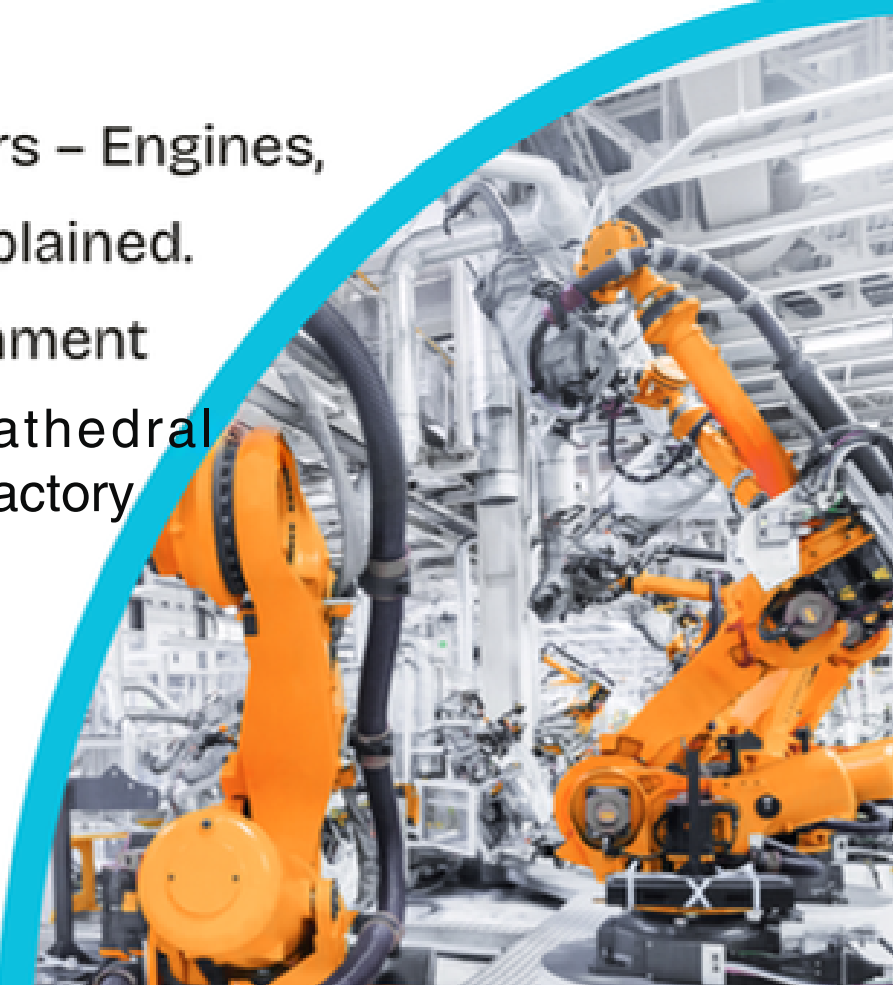
Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Fees: £175

REGISTER NOW



info@audace-oxbridge.com



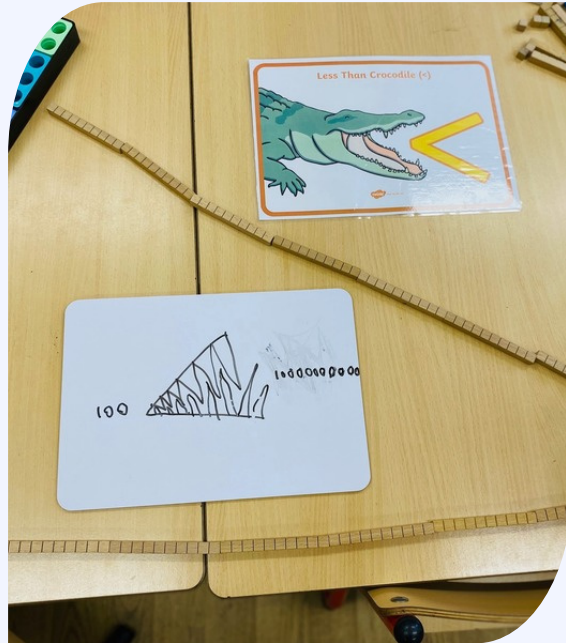
School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook



Help us keep the school community safe

If your child has an upcoming birthday and would like to celebrate with their CCCS friends, please place a cake order with our Chef, giving at least three days' notice. Please do not bring any outside food into the School.