



# Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 26th September 2025 —



## Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

It has been rather an odd week for me. It didn't occur to me that I wouldn't be at school this week, especially so early on in the year. But instead of all the life and energy of a vital environment, I have been living a semi-detached life, reading emails, talking to people on the phone, having online meetings and continuing to think about everything without actually physically being there.

This odd situation has been forced upon me because I have pulled my back, something that I have subsequently discovered has happened to so many other people too. Nonetheless, it does cause one to look differently at the world. One takes one's ability to move around, to lift, to do things with ease, for granted. In fact I now realise that one's abilities are verging on the miraculous. The human body is an immensely efficient machine, capable of so many different things. When one is not able to do many of these things and when even very minor actions induce quite considerable pain, the miraculous nature of one's abilities becomes evident. Never again will I take my ability to pick something up for granted!!

I have also reflected again upon how fortunate we are in the staff at our school. While I have been away, Mrs. Fairhurst and Mr. Harrison have been covering all manner of things which I do, as well as continuing to do their own very considerable jobs. The rest of the Staff have also had to take on extra duties where I have not been able to be there. I'm so very grateful to them.

But what I think I have missed most is the liveliness of the place. I've missed the bells and the voices, the troops of people moving between lessons, the sounds of instrumental practice and of the delighted shrieks during break time. All these sounds one takes for granted, but when one is away from them, they become ever more striking.

We are very fortunate since Coronavirus to have online communication. So much can be achieved by this means, and I'm fully aware that so many people work from home these days. Almost certainly many of my reflections would not surprise a number of parents, but working in schools has meant that I've never really worked from home before, not even during Coronavirus when I came to school every single day because of our commitment to educate in school the children of key workers who had to be able to go to work. In many ways there are advantages to working at home but I can't help feeling that it's a bit like looking at the world through a window. One is one degree removed from the beating heart of things, and I certainly look forward so much to being back at school as soon as I can be.

Thank you so much to so many of you for the lovely messages I have received over the past week. We must never underestimate how striking such small kindnesses are, as the great Anglo-Irish playwright Oscar Wilde said, "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention."

Mind you, it was also Wilde who famously said "Those who can do; those who can't, teach!" Perhaps we can't take him very seriously after all. See you all very shortly!

**Mr Richard Murray,**  
Headmaster

# School Calendar

School Diary: Monday 29th Sept - Friday 3rd October

## MONDAY 29

All Day: Forms 3 and 4 Trip to Hill End

## TUESDAY 30

All Day: Form 7 Trip to Silchester

2.30: U8/U9 Football v Cothill (Away)

## WEDNESDAY 1

9.30-11.00: Nursery Stay & Play

2.30: U12/U13 Rugby v Bruern Abbey (Away)

2.30: U10/U11 Rugby v MCS (Home)

## THURSDAY 2

9.00 - 4.00: Rugby Strings Day

9.00 - 1.00: Form 7 Trip to the History of Science Museum

2.00 - 4.00: CCCS Rugby Tag Festival

## FRIDAY 3

8.45: Cathedral Assembly - Speaker: TBC

1.30 - 4.00: Woodwind Workshop with Matthew Draper (WWH)

## Upcoming School Events



### Nursery Stay & Play

Wednesday 1st October

9.30am - 11.00am

CCCS Nursery

Have your friends signed up for next week's Stay & Play? If not, there is still time to register and come along to a morning of fun! This is a great opportunity for parents to visit the school, meet the staff and make new friends while the children play. To register, simply [click here](#).



### Woodwind Concert

Friday 3rd October

3.30pm

William Walton Hall

Why not set the tone for the weekend by joining us next Friday for a wonderful afternoon of music with our advanced woodwind players and special guest, Matthew Draper. Following the performance, you are all welcome to join us for tea and refreshments.

Well done to everyone on School Photo Day! Your children should have brought home a leaflet with registration details if you have not already registered. If you have not received this, please contact the School Office.

# School Noticeboard



## Email safety reminder

We would like to remind all parents to remain vigilant when checking their email accounts. Spam or suspicious emails are increasingly common and may attempt to deceive recipients into clicking links, opening attachments, or providing personal information.

For your safety, please:

- Do not open emails which may look suspicious, whether it is from a known or unknown sender.
- Do not click on links or download attachments from unfamiliar emails.
- Delete the message immediately if you suspect it may be spam.

Should you accidentally click on a link or attachment, please change any passwords linked to your account immediately and seek IT support.

Your caution helps protect both your personal information and the security of your devices.



## Keeping in touch with the school

Should you need to reach us after the school day, please use the contact details below:

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**

## The Parents' Association - Dates for your Diary

### Visit to the Picture Gallery at Christ Church

*Wednesday 26th November*

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 the school year at the parents' formal ball in the Great Hall at Christ Church. Details will be shared closer to the time.

# Wednesday Wanderings

## Enjoying time at our Pavilion

On Wednesday this week Reception headed out with the Nursery children to visit our new Pavilion on Merton Field.

This joint adventure gave the Reception children the opportunity to support and model safe roadside behaviour and how we use a zebra crossing and the walking rope.

It was wonderful to explore the open space and look at our facilities in the autumn sunshine. The children had the freedom to run, chase and play catch before we finished the excursion with a snack and a story overlooking the fields and spires of Oxford.

MB



# Nursery News

## Nursery explore Christ Church Cathedral

On Thursday, the Nursery children were fortunate to be invited to visit the Cathedral with Revd Charlie Kerr. The afternoon's excursion became even more exciting when Mrs Fairhurst came to help us cross St Aldates dressed in her finest Lollipop crossing clothing.

The children walked beautifully across the road and into Tom Quad looking resplendent in the autumn sunshine. We noticed the many towers and spires, and a flag flying. Crossing past the fountain we observed the grounds staff repairing the lawn with the help of a small tractor and trailer. Our special tour took us to sit on the Hall Staircase. Here we looked up and noticed the many crests on the ceiling including one which one of the children remarked was the same as the one on their jumper.

In the Cloister garden we sat by the fountain and saw the Cathedral spire. In the Chapter House we tried to make the faces of the gargoyles. Inside the Cathedral, we admired the new Prodigal Son Window, admiring the stunning colours and looking for all the animals that appear in the beautiful design. We also found a dragon, and liked lying down to look up at the ceiling. The children were most surprised when we emerged from the Cathedral to be standing in front of the Meadow Building, which we pass on our Wednesday walks, now we know what is behind the long, beautiful facade.

Thank you to Revd Charlie for such a special Nursery tour of the Cathedral and we look forward to a second special visit with him next week.

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.



# Pre-Prep Adventures

## A 'Little Red Hen' Adventure at Cogges Manor Farm

Forms 1 and 2 had a wonderful day out at Cogges Manor Farm, where the theme of 'The Little Red Hen' came to life through hands-on activities, discoveries, and plenty of fun.

The day began with bread making. Using a balancing scale, everyone helped to measure and add ingredients before taking turns to stir, knead, and shape the dough into small buns. These were baked for us to collect at the end of the day - a tasty souvenir to take home.

Next came an egg-citing egg hunt around the chicken coops. Children peered into hutches, spotting real eggs laid by hens, and soon enough, the highlight of the storybook adventure appeared: the Little Red Hen herself, strutting proudly with her gleaming ginger-red feathers.

Whilst walking through the orchard and walled kitchen garden, we spotted pumpkins, raspberries, rhubarb, and many other plants. A special surprise was discovering an old privy - something Form 2 had been learning about in their Great Fire of London topic.

Animal encounters were a favourite part of the day. The pygmy goats delighted everyone as they eagerly nibbled feed from our hands. Some of us were lucky enough to stroke some of the chickens, too.

Later, we each planted a grain of wheat to take back to school and began to understand the story of bread from seed to bun. Grinding wheat into flour with traditional stone slabs gave us all an appreciation of how much effort it takes - lots of muscles required!

The day ended on a high note with a lively puppet show performance of 'The Little Red Hen' and a chance to run, climb, and play in the adventure playground.

MH-W



[Click here](#) to view more photos from Cogges Manor Farm.

# Form 2 News

## Form 2 scientists investigate materials and their changing properties

In Form 2, we have been learning about materials and their properties. This week, we investigated how materials change with the addition of heating and cooling. The children watched a sped-up version of ice melting into water and water freezing into ice. We discussed how particles move at different speeds in liquids, solids and gases, as well as how they fill up a space.

Now, it was investigation time! We *very carefully* stirred butter in a pot over hot water, noting the changes that occurred; "It smells like buttered toast!" "It's gone creamy." "It went from creamy to oily." We then swapped the hot water for room-temperature water. This time, the changes were even more surprising; "It's stuck to the spoon!" "It's all sticky." "It's got more solid."

The children were able to recognise that this was a reversible reaction and next week, we will look further into what it means if a reaction is irreversible...

MHW



Many thanks from the Parents' Associations for all the donations and purchases that made for a very successful PA uniform sale. Some of the profits will hopefully be used to help Nursery out with their buckets and spades, among other things! Also thanks to all those who made it to the very enjoyable pub evening at The Anchor, especially Sol for hosting!

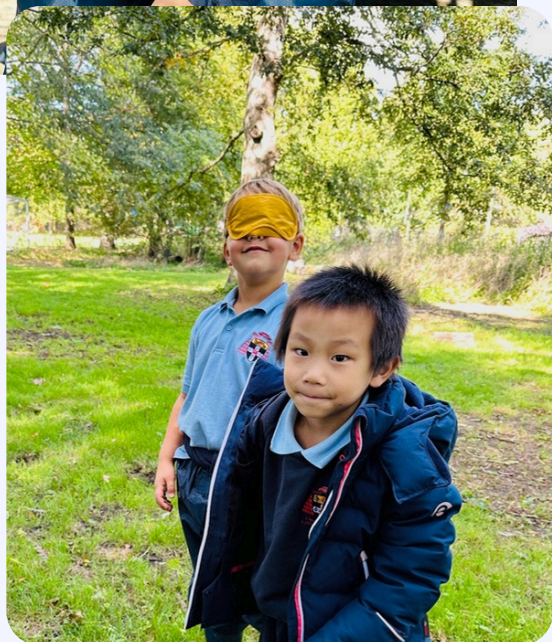
# Woodland School

## Making the most of the views and the sunshine

Pre-Prep headed out to Woodland School on a beautiful autumn afternoon. As the sun cast long shadows across Merton Field the children explored activities based on trust.

The children worked in pairs to take it in turns to blindfold each other and then guide their sightless friend to various markers around the woodland environment. We focused on the importance of clear language and the use of step-by-step instructions.

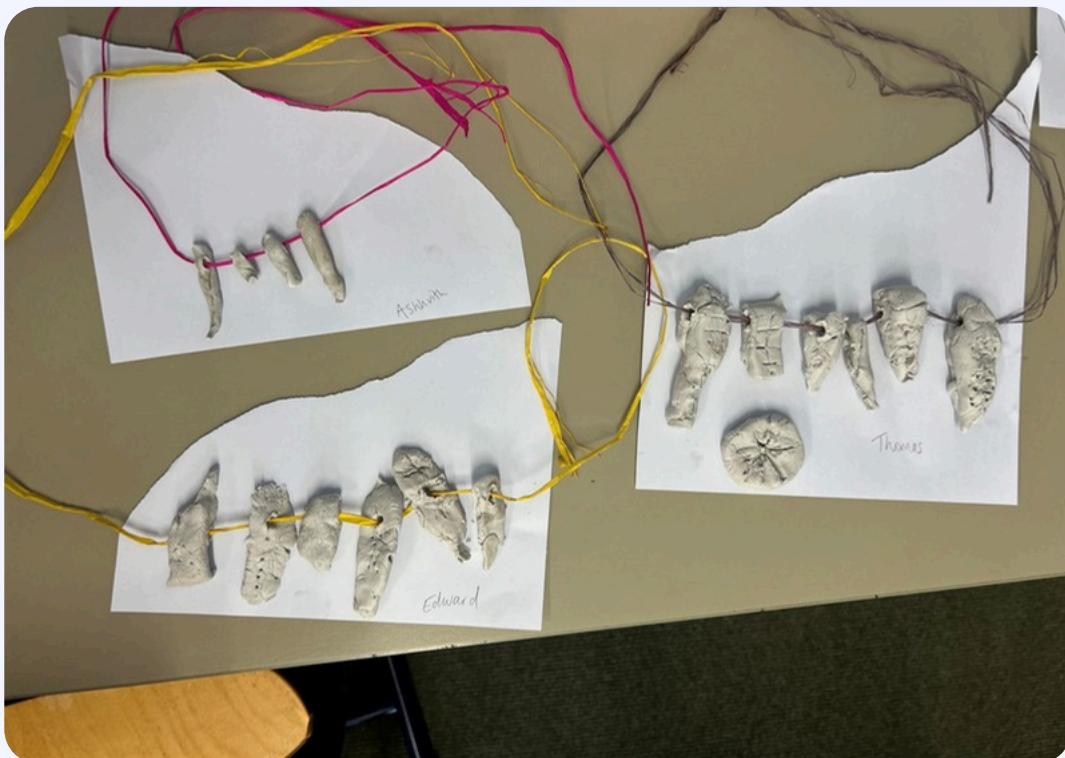
We brought the afternoon to a close with a story, drinking hot chocolate and eating delicious homemade banana cake provided by Mr Peter Kilby, our wonderful onsite chef.  
MB, MM & SB



# Form 3 News

## Form 3 Travel Back to the Stone Age

This term Form 3 have been looking at the Stone Age in history and on Thursday we had a Stone Age craft extravaganza - we created cave drawings and bone jewellery.  
ZB



# International Day of Languages

## Celebrating with our School Community

On Thursday, we had our annual Language Celebration Day at school.

In the Prep school, we started our assembly with a French hymn (from a German composer), and Form 8 boys entertained us with their own drama plays in French, for our sheer delight. Form 8 Language Ambassadors explained why they think learning languages is essential - and fun!

Pre-Prep's Assembly was led by our Form 8 Language Ambassadors, playing traditional French games.

Everyone enjoyed the international snacks and meal prepared by Mr Kilby's team!

We're following this inspiring day with three challenges - Keep reading to find out what they are so you can get involved!

Bonne chance!

Best wishes,  
Mme Loyer et Mme Williams



# Sporting Stars

## Checkmate Champion Strikes Again

You may remember that last term we celebrated Jing's fantastic achievements at the Oxfordshire Junior Chess Club where his team emerged the winners. Well, Jing kept his winning streak running last weekend when he competed in the London Junior Chess Championship and finished at the top of the table - earning him a place in the LJCC Finals in December!

Well done Jing and good luck! We will be cheering you on in December!



## Make your best move at Chess Club

Whether you're a beginner or a pro like Jing, the Chess Club is the perfect place to learn strategies, play exciting matches, and improve your skills. To sign up, simply email [schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk)



# Woodwind Workshop

With

## Matthew Draper

Friday 3rd October, 3.30pm

William Walton Hall



Our advanced woodwind players will be participating in a workshop given by Matthew Draper on Friday afternoon, featuring a short performance at 3.30pm, followed by a tea to which parents are warmly invited.

Matthew is a leading oboist who has held teaching positions at the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music, and he also teaches at Brighton College - recently named 'School of the Decade' by The Sunday Times. He will give a short talk after the concert about music awards at senior schools, which should be very useful, and also share some of the musical work done at Brighton. Parents are most welcome to attend the recital, so please do join us! SB

# Get Involved!

## After School Clubs

Here is a reminder of the fun after school activities for your child to enjoy:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3.30 - 4.15: Chess Club, open to F2	4.15 - 5.00: Squash, open to Forms 5-8	3.30 - 4.15: Pre-Prep Mandarin Club, open to Rec - F2	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, open to F5 - F8
4.15 - 5.00: Football, open to Forms 3-8	4.15 - 5.00: Multi Sports Club, open to Rec - Form 4	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, open to F3 and F4	4.15 - 5.00: Rugby Club, open to F3 - F8
4.20 - 5.45: Real Tennis Club	4.15 - 5.00: Chess Club, open to Forms 3 and 4		

If you would like to sign your child up for a club, please email [schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk) with the following information:

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

## Bikeability Course

Open to boys over 9 years old

There's still time to sign up your boys to the Bikeability Course (Levels 1 and 2), which is taking place on 6th - 9th October. If your son is aged 9 or over, please consider signing them up. It is a great opportunity for them to be confident, safety-aware cyclists on often busy roads.

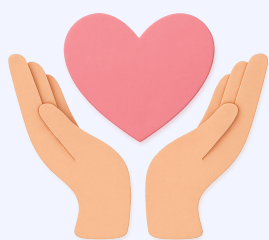
To sign up, please email [schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk)



# Competition Time!

**Design it. Bake it. Say it.** Will you take on the Language Challenge?

We have three great ways for you to get involved - which one will you pick, or will you take on all three?!



## **Create a poster**

Illustrating the 25th anniversary motto of the European Day of Languages: "Languages open hearts and minds"



## **CCCS Language Bake-Off**

Bake or decorate a cake with a language theme. Enjoy the cake but do send us a photo!



## **Join the CCCS Duolingo Challenge 2025**

Log onto: [www.duolingo.com/classroom/rprtgv](http://www.duolingo.com/classroom/rprtgv)

Class code: rprtgv...

Please make sure your name is easily recognized as it's more fun to compete against people you know! No need for surnames - year group and a nickname will work. Teachers, parents, pupils and siblings are all welcome in our friendly competition!

## **Round 1**

Start: Monday 29th September

End: Sunday 5th October at 8pm

## **Round 2**

Start: Monday 6th October

End: Sunday 13th October at 8pm

Bonne chance!

好运!)!

がんばって

Mabuting suwerte

Καλή τύχη

Good luck!

Buena suerte!

Boa sorte!

सौभाग्य

Semoga Berjaya!

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](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition)

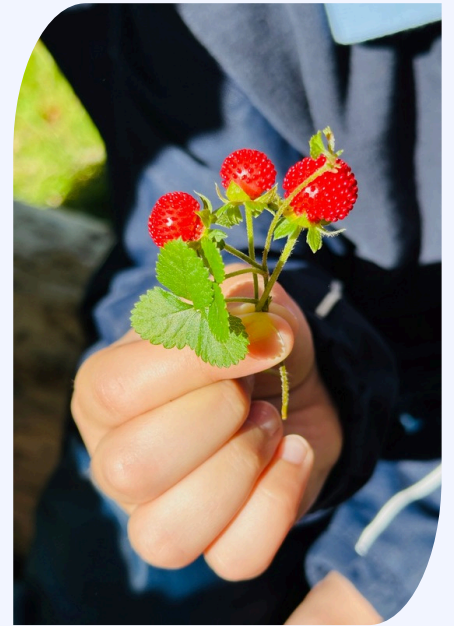


OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# School Photobook



# 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.

# Communicate with Confidence Holiday Workshop

Age: 10 - 15  
years old

**27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@audace-oxbridge.com)

