



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 10th October 2025 —



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

It's been so lovely to be back. So many of you have taken time to ask after me – I have just been so touched and wanted to thank you all so much. But also it's been lovely to have seen the pupils again, beaming with enthusiasm and energy. A couple of days ago I saw one of the senior boys bouncing up the street, punching the air. "What are you thinking about?" I asked. "I'm chuffed Sir!" he responded "Completely chuffed!" "Why?" I asked. Because it's the start of a school day!" Certainly that made me feel chuffed too. Somehow I resisted the impulse to punch the air, thinking that it might be slightly undignified for a headmaster to be quite so visibly elated!

We had a treat in the Cathedral this morning when The Revd Charlie Kerr preached to us. The Revd Kerr has had a long association with the school being the father of a former pupil, Archie, who was a Worcester Chorister. He has preached often over the course of the years. Today he spoke to us about the importance of giving thanks. He talked movingly about his former headmaster who had convinced him to study Theology for A Level when he had not originally wished to do so. Not only did he go on to study it at University, but he went on, as we know, to become a priest. Also in that class was his future wife. So that headmaster's encouragement led to so many things. He said that he had recently found his old headmaster and thanked him for all those gifts which came from that one piece of encouragement and advice. We should all be alert to the gifts that we have been given and try to thank those who have been responsible. You never know, some of you may even be thanked this weekend by your sons for the many gifts you have given them!

On Thursday I spoke to the Prep School about the peace agreement in Gaza. I was impressed by the number of boys who had something to say on the matter. There was a great deal of knowledge and thoughtfulness on display and with the help of a number of excellent contributors, I was able to sketch out the background to this important occurrence. I think it is important for even the younger members of our school to have some awareness of current affairs, so I would encourage you to take some time to expose your children to the news and not to be afraid of discussing it with them.

We are immensely fortunate in having so many parents who work in the AI sector or whose work involves AI. I have had a number of conversations this week with some of you about this interesting topic. Undoubtedly it will revolutionise education, just as it will life. Despite the dangers and concerns, there will clearly be great benefits and we must ensure that we make as much use of these as is possible. I relish the opportunities which it brings and look forward to thinking through these. Equally I suspect that the advent of AI means that schools will increasingly focus upon what it is to be human and what it is to be a person living in society – as AI will do many of the mental tasks now done by humans before very long, what it means to be a human will become ever more important. Let us see!

In the Cathedral today, I was delighted to announce the following pupil leadership positions:

Head Boy - Hugo Abecassis-Loyer

Deputy Head Boy - Patrick Daniels-Dwyer

Head of Music - Leo Roope

Head of Sport - Harshadeep Nannapaneni and Milan Balaz

Head of Carroll - Eaton de Brun

Head of Sayers - Matthew Newman

Head of Wolsey - William Usher

May I congratulate these boys and pay tribute to the whole of Form 8. I know that those boys who are not mentioned above will be immensely supportive of their friends.

Mr Richard Murray,
Headmaster

School Calendar

School Diary: Monday 13th - Sunday 19th October

MONDAY 13

TUESDAY 14

2.30: U8/U9 Rugby v Kitebrook School (Away)

WEDNESDAY 15

2.30: U10 Rugby v Oratory Prep School (Away)

2.30: U12/U13 Rugby v Ashfold (Home)

4.30: Prep Tutor Meetings (Online)

4.30: Pre-Prep Parents Meeting (Online)

THURSDAY 16

2.30: U8/U9 Rugby v Chandlings (Away)

FRIDAY 17

8.45: Cathedral Assembly - Speaker: TBC

1.00: Introduction to the Prep School for Year 2 parents

2.00 - 3.00: Pre-Prep Harvest Festival at The Cathedral

Upcoming Events



Nursery & Pre-Prep Harvest Festival

Friday 17th October

2pm - 3pm

Christ Church Cathedral

You are welcome to join the Nursery and Pre-Prep children at the Cathedral for our Harvest Festival service.

Kindly note that After School Care and the School minibus will not run for the Nursery or Pre-Prep children on this afternoon.



Visit to the Picture Gallery

Wednesday 26th November

6.00pm - 7.30pm

Christ Church, Oxford

Ticket Price: £12.00

Enjoy a child-free evening with a drinks reception and private tour of the stunning Picture Gallery. What hidden gems will we discover?

Space is limited so please book your place early by emailing messenger.m@cccs.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!



Support our Boys!

We had some gorgeous afternoons for home fixtures this week, and Merton Fields were looking glorious. We were even lucky enough to have an aerial photographer come along to the match against the Dragon.

The sky was blue, the match tea was delicious... but there was one thing missing...YOU!

Now that we have our beautiful new Pavilion, we're providing refreshments for the adults who come along to support our players (or the other team!). They'd love to hear you cheering them on. You can park at school from 2-4pm on match days.



The competition is on in Pre-Prep

House Cup Winners

In Pre-Prep this term we launched Houses for all children from Nursery to Form 2. Every child is now part of either Wolsey, Carroll, or Sayers, in line with the Prep School. Each week, the children are awarded house points in class for a variety of different achievements, including great academic work, amazing manners, kindness, perseverance, resilience, and trying their best. Mr. Berry then gathers all the points collected in Pre-Prep to find out that week's House Cup Winner.

The Parents' Association have kindly purchased the Pre-Prep a splendid new House Cup and matching House ribbons. We are extremely grateful and the children love it!

This was awarded for the first time this week by Mr Murray to Carroll, who had accumulated 67 points. Congratulations Carroll!

MB



Nursery News

Toddler talk in Nursery

The Nursery children enjoy the older boys coming to inspire them with their music. We are so fortunate to have such eloquent musicians who are able to share their enthusiasm and musical journey with the youngest members of school.

The 'My family and me' board provides rich opportunities for the children to share stories and experiences with their Nursery friends. It is a treat to hear the children chatting from their earliest days with us, pointing out grandparents, to them sharing experiences fondly remembered from their long summer holidays.

HB



Early Years Wanders

The Early Years Gang enjoy storytime in Christ Church

Reception and the Nursery headed out to explore the autumn leaves along the Broadwalk.

We collected sticks, made leaf kebabs and looked at the autumn colours. We enjoyed breadsticks and storytime overlooking the horned cows of Oxford city before heading back to school. MB, HB, RD & AC



Reception News

Learning through nature

This week in Reception, we have been focusing on key number skills including one-to-one correspondence, sequencing and number recognition. We used conkers from our playground to bring the outside into the classroom and bring the learning alive.



We have also been enjoying Autumn crafts and using natural materials from Woodland School. This has worked well with our topic of the term focusing on colour and we experimented mixing red and yellow and orange to make different shades.

MB



Woodland School

Shiver Me Timbers! Dengineer Dream Team build pirate ship den

At Woodland School this week, our infinitely talented Pre-Prep 'Dengineers' worked together as a team to build a fabulous den in the form of a pirate ship. Everyone worked very hard to put up the walls made out of branches and natural materials, shelter and camouflage using canvas and nets, and pirate flags to ward off any prospective marauders. It is so wonderful to see the children using their imaginations in this way, and we were incredibly impressed with how well they worked as a team to bring their ideas to fruition.

TR



Pre-Prep Adventures

Visiting our neighbours at Campion Hall

Last Friday the Pre-Prep children went on a trip to visit our neighbours at Campion Hall. We were given a private guided tour by Revd Professor Patrick Goujon, SJ, the Jesuit Superior and Sarah Apetrei, our Senior Tutor.

Campion Hall is run by the Society of Jesus and named after Edmund Campion, a martyr and fellow of St John's College, Oxford. The buildings, along with many of the fixtures and fittings, were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, his only buildings in Oxford. The hall also houses an extensive collection of religious art spanning 600 years; the pieces were collected primarily by Father Martin D'Arcy in the 1930s.

The children loved seeing what lay behind the playground walls and seeing the owl sculpture that watches over us from the upstairs windows of Campion Hall.

They were also fascinated by the 16th Century royal portraits dating to the time of the Great Fire of London, the current history topic in Form 2, as well as with a painting used in the recent Paddington film! Look out for the painting below of an angel that was reproduced for the film. You can find out more [here](#).

Father Patrick and the fellows were incredibly welcoming, and we are very grateful that we had the opportunity to see inside this wonderful establishment, right on our very doorstep. MB



Form 2 News

Young scientists in action

This week in Form 2, we have been exploring magnets as part of our topic on Materials. The children recognised magnets as attracting certain types of metals, including iron and steel. They spotted the similarity of a magnet having a North and South pole to our Earth.

We enjoyed exploring magnetic fields using two bar magnets, watching as the magnet spun away when it repelled a matching pole. Using iron filings, the children watched in awe as a magnet collected the iron in jagged piles. After our discussion, the children set to work with clipboards and magnets to identify magnetic and non-magnetic objects around the classroom. It was interesting to see how some objects were magnetically attracted for some children whilst others were not. We talked about how the strength of the pulling force of a magnet can depend on the magnet.

Great investigative work, Form 2!
MH-W



Magnetic or not magnetic?

Magnetic	Not magnetic
radio	chair
chair	cupboard
magnet	wool
water bottle	board
coin	water box
bag	lock
basket	paper
fridge	plastic
hook	lithium
world (Atlas)	board
book	brick
crystal	paint
North (Atlas)	
people	

AND THE WINNER IS...

Celebrating International Languages Day



The Closing Ceremony

What a week! So many beautiful pictures of cakes, and such an extreme competition on Duolingo. We had to open two 'eclassrooms' for the boys, teachers and parents to compete over two weeks. Please do feel free to continue learning languages on Duolingo for school. A special shout out to Andrew, Leo, Harsha, Milan, Sam and Gustav for giving Mrs Simpkins, Mr Boarder and Mr Withers some real competition!

SL

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH... WHO HAS WON THE BAKE-OFF CHALLENGE?



Congratulations to Robin in F8 for creating this masterpiece.

C'est magnifique!



Music News

Woodwind Afternoon with Matthew Draper

On Friday our senior woodwind players participated in a workshop run by oboist Matthew Draper from Brighton College, who has taught at the Royal College of Music and also maintains a busy performing career with a range of renowned orchestras.

It was wonderful to gather our players together to learn about performance techniques, develop their ensemble skills, and try a spot of conducting, too.

The boys played a set of sea shanties at the end of the afternoon, and we were especially lucky to be able to hear an oboe duet from Mr Draper and our own Ms Mogridge, as well as a flute solo from Mr Manasse... spell-binding performances from three professional players that definitely inspired everyone! Mr Draper commented warmly on not only the standard of musicianship at CCCS, but also the politeness and positive attitude throughout the afternoon. Well done to all participants, and thank you so much to Ms Mogridge for helping to organise this event. SB



Bikeability

Our latest safe cycling crew

We are delighted to know that 13 boys from CCCS will be safer when cycling on the road as they attended the Bikeability Level 1 & 2 Course this week.

As the night falls earlier, please remember to make sure your son has lights, a Hi-Vis jacket and/or bag cover, and a helmet when cycling to school.

SL



Enrichment

Getting the boys to behave on their best behaviour

Making the most of Oxford visited Oxford Castle this afternoon! The children tried out the stocks and pillories, studied the model of the original 1071 motte and bailey castle, climbed the motte, or mound, and spotted Carfax Tower and Tom Tower as well as the old and new West Gate towers! The children noted that students had once been shut up in the prison for misbehaving, and consequently were on their best behaviour!

EP



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 with the following information:

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

Contacting the School

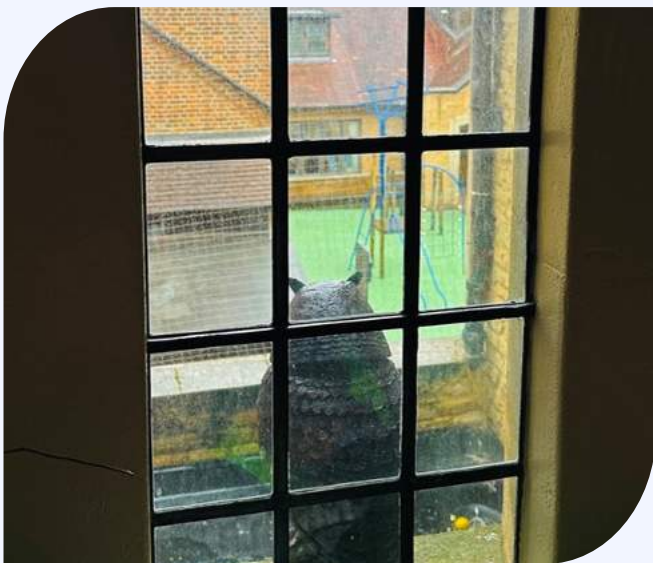
Here is a reminder on how to get in touch with the school after 5pm, as well as information about the school minibuses:

- For late pick-ups or if you are unable to leave your vehicle and would like your child to meet you at the School gate, please call: **07719 109 433**
- Minibus drivers will call if they are running late, and likewise you can call them to advise if you will be late getting to the stop:
 - For the North Oxford route with Mr Mirko, please call **07736 148199**
 - For the East Oxford route with Mr Quen, please call **07346 224937**

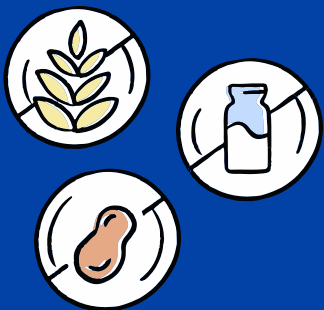
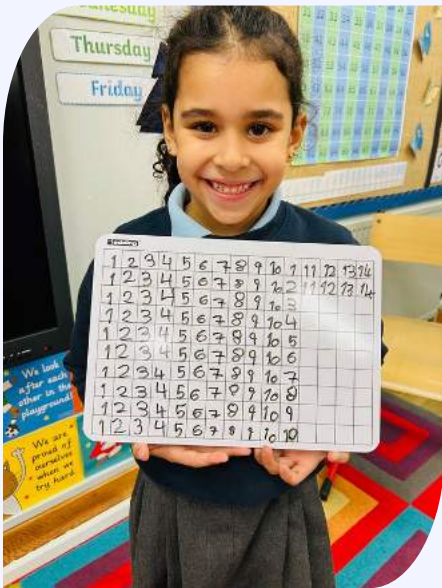
School Photobook



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.