



Christ Church Cathedral School News

17th October 2025



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

It has been a delightful end to the week! Pre-Prep and Nursery had their annual Harvest Festival in the Cathedral - one of my favourite occasions. The Nursery sang "Mr Sun" an enchanting song about the transforming nature of our closest star upon the crops which were being celebrated, while the Pre-Prep performed a short play about a hen who keeps asking the other animals on the farm to help her in the baking of a loaf of bread. The other animals all refuse to help her so she answers, wearily, "I'll do it on my own then," an admirable demonstration of self-sufficiency. Eventually the loaf is completed without the help of the other animals. "Would you like to help me eat the loaf?" asks the hen. This time the other animals respond in the affirmative. But the hen's response is consistent. "Well I'll do it on my own!" We were all able to reflect upon the benefits of helping out - along with the hen's hard work.

In fact we learnt a great deal from the service. I have always associated Harvest with ploughed fields and vast rosy harvest moons but, following the Pre-Prep's final song, I have now learnt to associate harvest with a Brazilian dance as we listened to "The Harvest Samba". We also learnt that it was Mr Robards' favourite harvest song, something that became evident as he sung lustily alongside the assembled choir.

My final lesson occurred during Revd Kerr's speech during the service. Earlier in the day when I had visited the Pre-Prep assembly, I had seen a rather delicious looking flat white coffee sitting on the side. At the end of the assembly Mr Berry presented it to me as a harvest gift. Imagine my delight then when at the end of his sermon The Revd Kerr handed Mr Berry part of his Kit Kat as a symbol of the importance of sharing. Mr Berry's earlier generosity to me had been repaid. As the modern idiom puts it: "What goes around comes around." A good harvest message, though I rather suspect that a flat white from the independent café is a rather more desirable gift than a Kit Kat!

We then relocated to the Chapter House. For those of you who do not know it, it is a beautiful refurbished mediaeval room of exquisitely decorated gothic construction. It was built to house the meetings of the monks who occupied the Augustinian Monastery of St Frideswide. As we watched the children of Pre-Prep, now fuelled by the delicious seasonal cakes and biscuits provided, careering round under the gaze of the beautifully carved mediaeval faces, one of the parents remarked: " I don't believe that the original builders of this room had such a gathering in mind!" That is almost certainly true - but to both of us - it seemed like a wonderfully appropriate use of the place!

A number of boys in Form 7 are taking their Abingdon entrance tests this weekend, the first of the entrance tests to occur this year – may I wish them all the very best. They have received help with taking the tests from Mrs Fairhurst for the past few years when they have had lessons focussing specifically upon the taking of senior school entrance tests specifically upon the reasoning element. If they are offered interviews, they will also receive a mock interview with me before they go. I have written personal references for all the boys, relying upon my own knowledge of them both from seeing them around the school and from teaching them. I also consult my colleagues for their views. One of the central purposes of a prep school is to prepare pupils for their senior school. We take that process very seriously and each pupil and family will receive individual support. This is, of course, on top of the outstanding teaching which the pupils receive day in, day out and the wider experiences gained from being at the School.

As I have said before, I love the conversations I have at lunch with pupils. Subjects covered this week included: the historic counties of England including the relative merits of abolishing the county of Rutland (one pupil observing that the county was merely a lake) (he had better not go to Oakham this weekend), different types of mummification, the nature of Anfield Football Stadium and the benefits of the clocks going back in late October, while the knowledge about and consideration given to the Gaza situation on the part of the pupils revealed during the assemblies this week is truly impressive. I love working in a place where ideas and knowledge are viewed with such enthusiasm.

If one is ever tempted to descend into world-weariness, come and have lunch at CCCS!

Mr Richard Murray,
Headmaster

School Contacts

School Office - Tel: **01865 242 561** (8am - 5pm) Email: schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk
Prep - **07719 109 433** (After 5pm)

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

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

School Calendar

Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd October

Monday 3rd November - Friday 7th November

MONDAY 20

All Day: Form 4 Trip to Elm Farm - POSTPONED

TUESDAY 21

Hearing Test: Reception - Form 2

Form 1 Superheroes Day

9.00 - 4.00: Forms 5 and 6 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

WEDNESDAY 22

Prep School Experience Day for F2

2.00 - 4.00: House Rugby for Forms 5 and 6

4.10: SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM

No After School Care or Minibus Service for Nursery and Pre-Prep

Choristers not required for services from Wed 22 Oct to Mon 3 Nov inclusive

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

8.20: SCHOOL REOPENS

TUESDAY 4

Form 6 Trip to the John Radcliffe Hospital

WEDNESDAY 5

2.00: First XII Rugby v Kitebrook (Away)

2.30: U10/U11 Rugby v Chandlings (Home)

THURSDAY 6

FRIDAY 7

Form 2 Trip to The Oxfordshire Museum Learning Service

Upcoming Events



Neurodiversity Parental Pastoral Seminar

Monday 10th November

5.00pm - 6.00pm

William Walton Hall

Join us for a talk led by Magda Bouwman, an experienced and qualified Clinical Psychologist registered with the HCPC, on Neurodiversity.

This is the first in a series of seminars we plan to host. Other topics we hope to cover include screentime, puberty, children in sport, and social media.

If you would like to attend please email

harrison.n@cccs.org.uk



Our Boys Need YOU!

The autumnal chill may have arrived but that's not stopping our boys giving their all on the sports field.

We have a warm Pavilion, a delicious match tea... the only thing missing is our Cheer Squad. So come along and give our boys a cheer if you can.

Parking is available at the School between 2pm - 4pm on match days.



After School Clubs

Chess Players, Assemble!

Did you know that our Chess Club produces some of the best players in the county, if not the country?!

Qi Heng is a shining example of the brilliance the club produces. At age seven, he, and fellow CCCS pupil, Jing represent Oxfordshire in the Under 9s, and he has won a flurry of awards and medals; all this success he attributes to our Chess Grandmaster, Mr Dodd!

Amongst his awards Qi Heng has qualified for the "Gigafinal" stage of the UK Chess Challenge and for the prestigious London Junior Chess Championships, always proudly representing CCCS.

Such is the popularity of the club, it is now open to boys in Forms 5 and 6.

Can your child be the next Chess Mastermind? Why not sign them up to chess club to find out. Mr Dodd would love to welcome them into the Club!



After School Club Timetable

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|--|--|---|---|
| 3.30 - 4.15: Chess Club, open to Form 2 | 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 - F4 | 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 | 4.15 - 5.00: Chess Club, open to F3 - F6 | | |

To sign your child up for a club, please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk with your child's name and form, the name of the club they want to join and the day.

Nursery News

Settling into the cosiness of Autumn

Last week the Nursery children learnt all about cows in our weekly French lesson. The children listened intently, watching a video of the cows wearing their heavy bells coming down from the mountains in Switzerland.

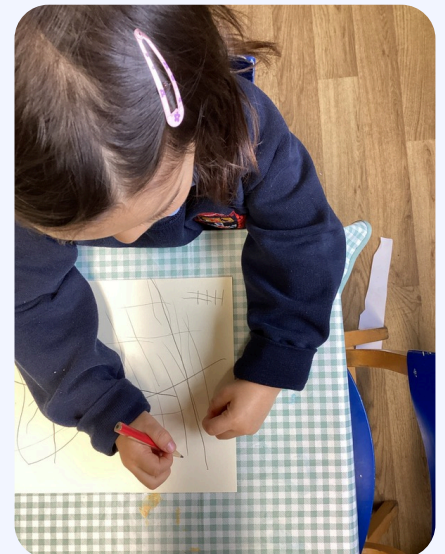
The children have explored the book Pumpkin Soup this week, taking turns to cut up pumpkin with Miss Rebecca and Miss Antonella. The children then added the ingredients of pumpkin, water and onion to Miss Rebecca's soup maker. We were delighted to see that everyone tried the soup at morning snack time.

During the week the children have been looking at autumnal colours, noticing the difference in colours in apples and other autumn produce. We have made apple prints to share with our families and some of the children are beginning to write their letters on their work. Look at those emerging pencil grips.

HB



English Longhorn Cows on Christ Church Meadow





CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

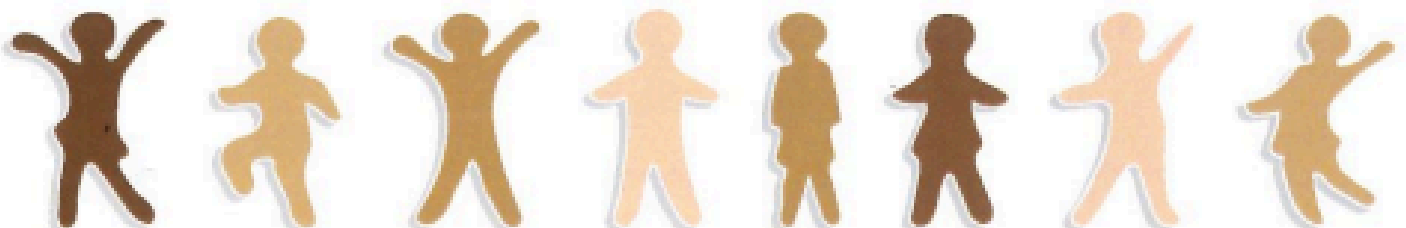


Discovering Christian faith through story and song

Free weekly sessions with refreshments
for pre-school children (from birth) and their adults

Mondays in term-time from 6 October, 10-12 noon in the Priory Rooms →

For more details contact wonderlings@chch.ox.ac.uk

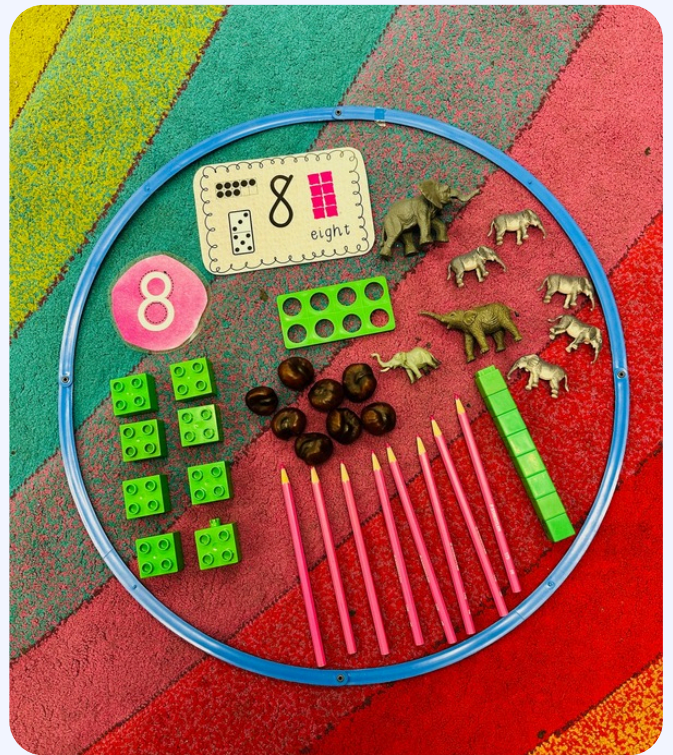


Reception News

Number Circles

This week in Reception we have been cementing our understanding of one-to-one correspondence by going on colour themed object hunts. To keep things interesting we also included a selection of wild animals and random objects! The class loved this activity and it was fascinating to see what they chose to include in their number circles.

MB



Woodland School

Pre-Prep's Wriggly Expedition

In Woodland School this week Pre-Prep went on a worm hunt. Fortunately, we were supported by two of our fantastic gap students and resident worm experts Mr Moody & Mr Lydiard!
MB, TR & SB



Form 1 News

Form 1 capture the Evil Pea!

There have been some strange goings-on in Form 1 in recent weeks. The notorious Evil Pea broke free from the freezer in the school kitchen and embarked on a campaign of mischief across the Pre-Prep, striking abject fear into the hearts of peace-loving fruit and veggies!

First, Evil Pea captured our Supertatoes and locked them up. Next, he raided the kitchen and took carrots, pears, tomatoes, lemons, and satsumas hostage, leaving daily ransom notes in our classroom, mocking our inability to catch him.

I am delighted to report that, thanks to our ingenious children, Evil Pea's reign of terror finally came to a sticky end, when he was trapped in a strawberry jelly, trying to kidnap yet more innocent veggies from the kitchen. Finally, he is back where he belongs: in the freezer!

TR



Form 2 News

Bringing harvest to life through poetry

As the leaves turn gold and the air grows crisp, Form 2 have embraced the spirit of the season with a sensory celebration of harvest time. As well as creating some colourful crafts, they have been inspired by the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures of autumn, culminating in the children crafting vivid poems that brought harvest to life in verse.

Harvey wrote of “cylinder-y smooth hay” and the “whooshing of the cool breeze,” while Enzo imagined “creamy pumpkin pie” and “bumpy pumpkins.”

Allorah added a playful twist, tripping over shiny apples and crunching carrots in the sun.

Jason captured the joy of children laughing and the spicy scent of cinnamon, while Dougie presented “the hum of the tractor, collecting wheat to make some pasta.”

Thomas described the smell of warm yeasty bread; “I can’t wait to taste it with butter before bed.”

Sophie brought us into the moment with the sound of “apples plumping from the tree, ready for a party with apple tea.”

Sam presented “wet dewy grass, green as can be” and “deep red apples shining in the sun.”

We’re incredibly proud of Form 2 for their thoughtful and imaginative work. Their poems remind us that the harvest isn’t just about gathering crops - it’s about gathering memories, joy and appreciating what we have.

MH-W



Form 3 News

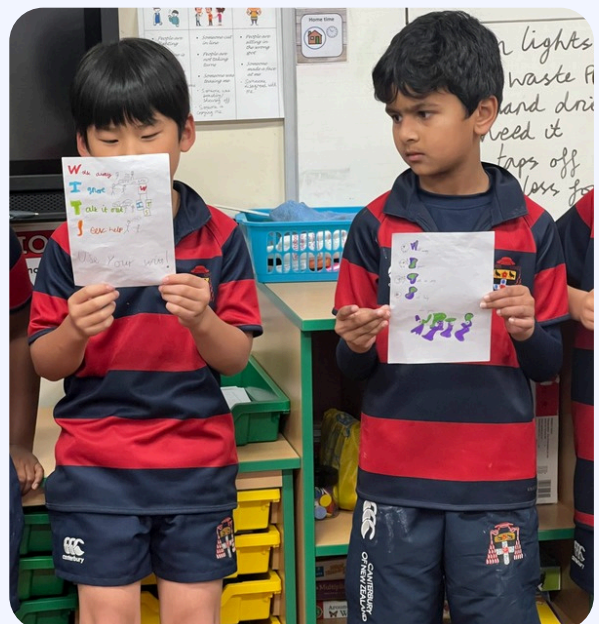
Form 3 teaches us how to use our WITS

Form 3 introduced Form 2 to our new framework for helping the children to develop strategies for dealing with disagreements in the playground, called 'Use Your WITS'.

W.I.T.S. stands for Walk Away, Ignore, Talk It Out and Seek Help.

The older boys did a great job of presenting and all the children were then involved in a really positive discussion afterwards, sharing ideas and experiences.

Well done, everyone - we look forward to you Using Your WITS!
CZ





National Children's Orchestra - Triple Success

It was thrilling to hear news this week that three CCCS instrumentalists have been awarded places in the National Children's Orchestra for 2026. The NCO is a highly competitive organisation that runs a series of courses and concerts throughout the year, bringing together the very best players from across the UK to work under leading conductors. This is terrific news for William (violin), Terry (double bass) and Ian (double bass), and recognises their exceptional ability and diligent approach to practice. To have even one NCO member in a school is cause for celebration, but three is very special! I am so proud of them and I hope they enjoy participating in their NCO activities next year.

SB



CHRIST CHURCH

FIVE CENTURIES OF MUSIC | 1525 – 2025

Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

HAYDN THE CREATION

Carolyn Sampson – soprano; William Balkwill – tenor; Thomas Humphreys – bass
Christ Church Cathedral Choir and Frideswide Voices
THE ENGLISH CONCERT conducted by Peter Holder

Thursday 9 October 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

VIOLIN AND PIANO RECITAL

Charlie Lovell-Jones – violin; Julian Chan – piano
Works by Mozart, Walton, Respighi

Thursday 30 October 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

ORGAN RECITAL

Peter Holder
Works by J S Bach, Brahms, Wallen, Swayne, Farrington

Saturday 1 November 2025 at 14.00

Christ Church Upper Library

ERROLLYN WALLEN CBE

Master of the King's Music
in conversation with Dr Leah Broad

Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

ALAMIRE SINGS TAVERNER

directed by David Skinner
Works by John Taverner

Thursday 20 November 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

LITTLE KITCHEN

to include works by
Bobby McFerrin,
Phoebe Bridgers
and João Gilberto

Saturday 22 November 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

DOWLAND LACHRIMAE

Phantasm Viol Consort

Tuesday 25 November 2025 at 18.15

Great Hall, Christ Church

WALTON FAÇADE

conducted by Nicholas Cleobury
performance followed by dinner

**PIANO RECITALS IN
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

Tuesday 28 October 2025 at 20.00

LOUISE GUY

Works by Mozart, Schubert/Liszt, Chopin, Liszt
and Louise Guy

Sunday 16 November 2025 at 20.00

JUDITH VALERIE ENGEL

Works by Josepha Aurnhammer,
Maria Theresia von Paradis,
Helene Liebmann and others

Friday 21 November 2025 at 20.00

LIBBY BURGESS

Works by J S Bach, Bach/Busoni,
Clara Schumann, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
and Christ Church composers and visitors

BOOKING INFORMATION

Tickets for all main events starting at £10
available from:



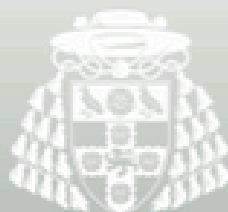
Music at Oxford

www.musicatoxford.com

Cornelia Norie-Miller Tel: 01865 244 806
boxoffice@musicatoxford.com

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday
2pm until 5pm

The Upper Library has no step-free access



CHRIST CHURCH

500 YEARS | 1525 – 2025



FRENCH CHALLENGE 2025

Are you ready to take on this year's challenge?

Our pupils have until **Monday 10th November 2025** to submit their French challenge entry. We've suggested 9 categories but we are open to new initiatives!
Why don't you ask your child what he is planning to do?

Our tasks include:



A French Bake-off

Choose a recipe, follow it and present it in French and don't forget to send us photos/videos. (We'll happily taste a sample too!)



Lights, camera, action!

Choose a scene from a sitcom or a film and re-enact it in French. Why don't help your child do the French voice-over?



Holiday Adventure

Become a holiday ambassador! Design a 5 day tour around a country or region of your choice, in French obviously!



Ancient Tales

Research and choose a folktale, myth or fable from another culture. How will you present it in French?



Science Experiment

Choose a science experiment and make a presentation with all the props!



Sing it your way

Choose one of your favourite songs and rewrite it in French. Or, why don't you sing a famous French song with your friends?!



Game Player

Choose a traditional game from another culture or make your own game where participants are required to play in French.



Programming

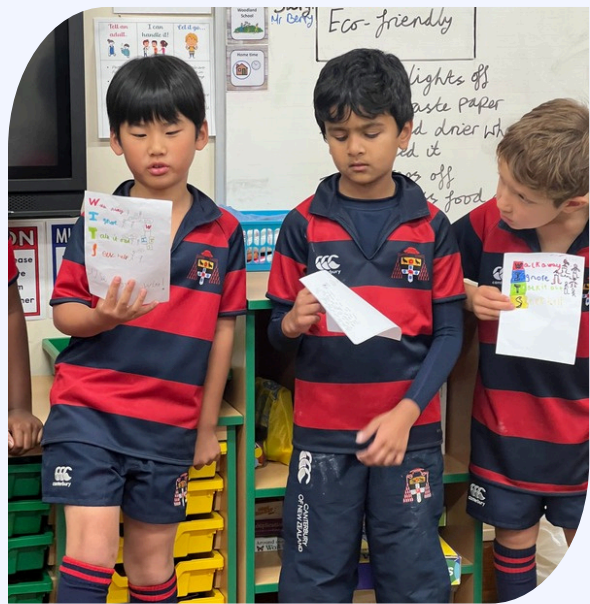
If you are into computers and/or games, you may already know about Scratch, Kodu and Microbit. Can your characters speak French on Minecraft?

Or, why not create your own task? Whether it involves drama, art, Lego models... the choice is yours!

Bonne Chance!



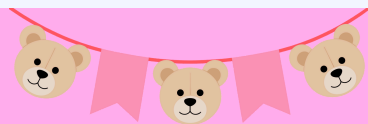
School Photobook



It's a girl!

Join us in celebrating the wonderful arrival of the newest *and cutest* member of the CCCS family - Romy Alba Pear, who was born on 9th October.

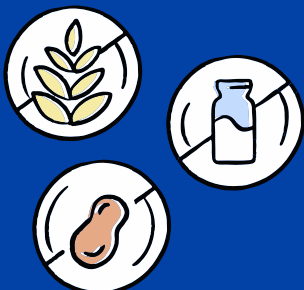
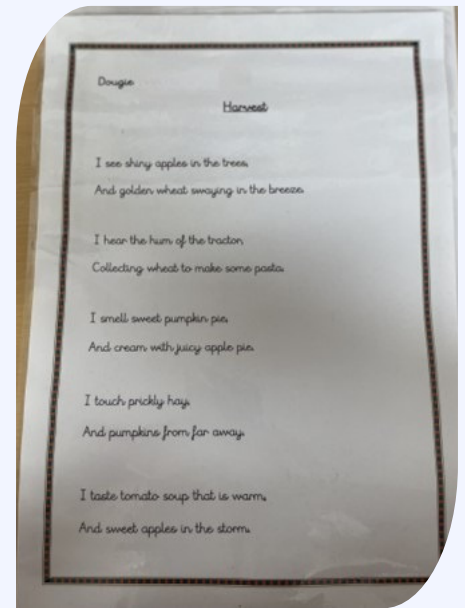
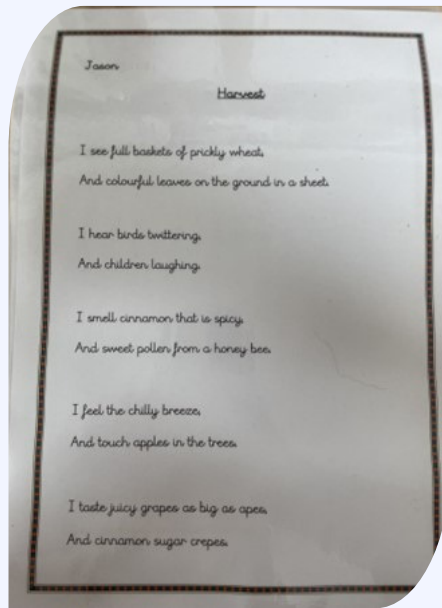
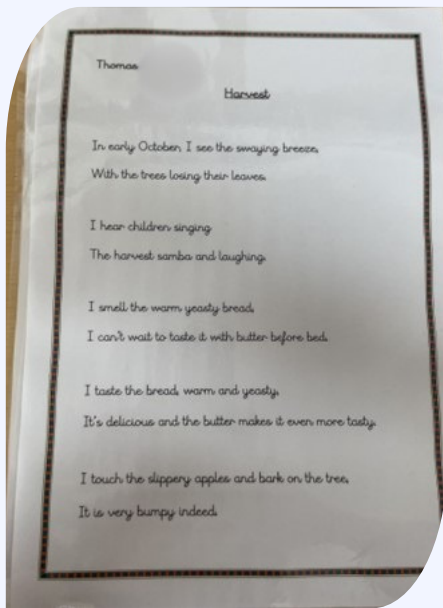
Huge congratulations to Miss Browne, Mr Pear, Frankie and Georgie!



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. You can email Chef Peter directly at franks@cccs.org.uk
Please do not bring any outside food into the School.