



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 21st November 2025 —



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

It was a real pleasure to be able to welcome our new chaplain this morning in the Cathedral. The Revd Catherine Gledhorn told us all that she was delighted to be joining us and that she would enjoy getting to know everyone. She will be coming to the Cathedral every Friday and speaking to the Prep School every Tuesday morning and to the Pre-Prep every Thursday morning. She will be available for pupils for pastoral support, spiritual exploration or just general chat and will be running confirmation classes for those boys who wish to make a more formal commitment to the Church. The late autumn sun streamed down on the Cathedral, bathing the Cotswold stone in the most bewitching light, an utterly appropriate time to welcome her to our community. Her main job is to be the Cathedral Succentor, the person who sings the services in the Cathedral and who helps to organise the services that occur there. I am sure that you will all be able to meet her over the next few weeks.

On Wednesday evening at 6.00 we are privileged to have been invited for a private tour of the Christ Church Picture Gallery – it would be foolish to let this opportunity pass by. The Picture Gallery is the oldest publicly-displayed collection of art in the country – significantly older than the National Gallery for instance, and indeed the Louvre in Paris. It has some extremely important works of art and has a drawing collection past compare. The incomparable Curator of the gallery, Dr Jacqueline Thalmann will be showing us round. Not only is she extremely knowledgeable – we will all learn a great deal - but she is immensely enthusiastic and engaging.

On all previous tours we have been given access to some of the rarely displayed treasures of the collection – we have seen Leonardo sketches, Michelangelo drawings and newly discovered Botticellis – we really are in for a feast. I could not recommend the date more highly. Remarkably there are still one or two places available. I would urge you not to miss out and contact Mrs Messenger on messenger.m@cccs.org.uk. I hope to see you there.

Another unmissable event is to be held on Friday 5th December at the end of the school day when we hold our annual light show. This is always an immensely enjoyable event, featuring seasonal food and drinks, stalls, entertainment and this year, the return of the Form Christmas Tree display when all forms will be asked to decorate their trees in different colours. It is all held in the dark and there is a wonderful yuletide atmosphere. This event is jointly hosted by the School and the Parents' Association. The Chair of the PA, Michael Crooks, has already put a great deal of work into the event. We would be very grateful if parents would volunteer to help prepare and run stalls during the course of the events. Obviously the more people who are involved, the less work there will be to do on the part of any one individual. If you felt that you were able to help, do please get in touch with either your class rep or with Michael directly - mjcrooks@gmail.com. Thank you so much.

While talking about major events this term, it's probably also worth mentioning that the Michaelmas Term ends with the School Carol Service which is in the Cathedral on the morning of Saturday 13th December. Please therefore do not organise for anything else to happen at this time. The Carol service is an unforgettable experience in so many ways – all three of our College choirs (Christ Church, Worcester and Pembroke) will be singing, along with a number of other school choirs too. There will be the traditional readings and of course the whole school will sing together some well-known carols. Do please come and feel free to bring any guests or relations – it will be a great pleasure to see you.

I went to read to Nursery this Wednesday. As they tend to, they listened to the well-known tales with great attention. At the end of the final story, one of the children stood up and clapped. One by one the others stood up and began to applaud too. I realised that I was receiving a standing ovation. Then a girl whooped and, as you can imagine, many others followed suit. I knew, at that moment, what it was to feel like a pop star I can't wait to hear how my reading of Hairy Maclary at the Vets will be received next week!

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 and/or collecting your child from Prep and unable to park)
Minibus on the North Oxford route with Mr Mirko - **07736 148199**
Minibus on the East Oxford route with Mr Quen - **07346 224937**

School Calendar

Monday 24th November - Sunday 30th November

MONDAY 24

TUESDAY 25

2.30 - 3.30: Forms 3 and 4 Present Goldilocks and the Three Bears

WEDNESDAY 26

2.30 - 4.30: U12/U13 Football v New College (Home)

2.30 - 4.00: U10/U11 Football v New College (Away)

5.00 - 6.00: Forms 3 and 4 Present Goldilocks and the Three Bears

THURSDAY 27

9.30 - 11.00: Nursery visit to the Museum of Oxford

FRIDAY 28

8.45: Cathedral Assembly with Pre-Prep Christingle Service

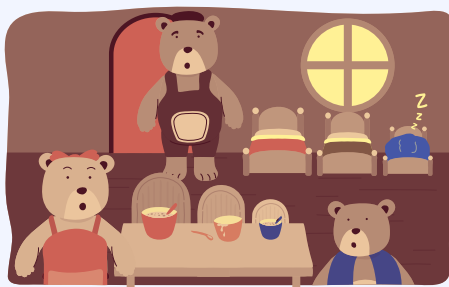
12.00 - 4.00: Forms 3 and 4 visit Oxford National History Museum

Ski Trip Information Evening

SATURDAY 29

10.00 - 12.00: Orchestra Workshop with Nicholas Cleobury

Upcoming Events



Forms 3 and 4 Present Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Tuesday 25th November

2.30 - 3.30pm
and

Wednesday 26th November

5.00 - 6.00pm

William Walton Hall

Such a special production deserves two show runs! You are warmly invited to enjoy this spectacular performance from our Form 3 and 4 pupils.

Will it be the matinee or the evening performance? It doesn't matter, they will both be fabulous!



Christ Church Picture Gallery Tour

Wednesday 26th November

6.00 - 7.30pm

Christ Church

£12.00 per ticket

Don't miss your last chance to book your place on this private tour of the Picture Gallery.

Enjoy a child-free evening at the Picture Gallery, where fine wine and fine art go hand in hand!

There are limited places available, so if you would like to book, please email

messenger.m@cccs.org.uk



Pre-Prep Christingle Service

Friday 28th November

8.30 - 9.30am

Christ Church Cathedral

Please do join us for this special service in the Cathedral, where our Pre-Prep children celebrate Christingle.

You are very welcome to join us for refreshments in The Priory Room following the service.



CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
OXFORD



£10
Entry*

*in exchange for food,
drink and games
tokens.

Christmas Fair

Light Show

Friday 5th December
4.30pm - 6.00pm
School Playground

Glow sticks ● Legendary CCCS Hamper Raffle ● Christmas Tree Parade

Parking available on the Broad Walk



Mulled wine



Food



Games

Games



BLUE BLOOD

Uniform Shop



Firepit and marshmallows



Tombola

After School Clubs

After School Club Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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: Greek Club, open to Forms 7-8
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 - 5.45: 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.

Could a neurodiversity club help your family?



Do you have a neurodivergent child?

Would you be interested in meeting other parents to share experiences, ideas and support?

Following the recent presentation on neurodiversity several parents have suggested that a parent support group might be useful. If you would be interested in joining, please email Mrs Fairhurst at fairhurst.a@cccs.org.uk

Our Littlest Learners

Nursery children build their communication skills

The Nursery children engage with communication and language activities in the classroom every day, working with self-paced activities from the shelves in the classroom. It has been rewarding to see some of the children taking those next steps with new work this week, some independently and others working with a teacher. One of the children was able to recognise more words in English, and another recognising sounds playing 'I spy'.

It was fabulous to use the moveable alphabet with one of the children, who successfully sounded out the letters to the corresponding picture. What is fabulous is that these activities have sparked the children's interest to develop their own skills.

HB



Staff Vacancies

We currently have three vacancies, including one in the Nursery, and we would love to welcome applications from the School community. So, if you or someone you know is looking for a new role, please click [here](#) to view and apply.

Art Critics In The Making

Reception visit Modern Art Oxford

On Tuesday, Reception headed out on their first trip to Modern Art Oxford. Our mission was to go on a colour hunt, so armed with clipboards and a camera we explored their new exhibition, Suzanne Treister: Prophetic Dreaming.

We were very lucky to have the support of Ms Andrei & Dr Namit who helped Mr Berry and Mrs Balu guide the children around the space. After finding the colours we have looked at this term, we took photographs of details from the paintings and sculptures. We discussed how the art was displayed and looked at different textures and mediums along with finding shades of our favourite colours. It was the perfect way to brighten up a dull cold autumn day and to bring our term's topic alive.

MB



Teddy Bear Hospital

Teddy bear check ups complete

Last week, our Pre-Prep and Nursery children had a very special experience when medical students from Oxford University visited to run a 'Teddy Bear Hospital'. The children rotated through a series of exciting stations, each designed to teach them about health and the human body in a fun, hands-on way.

At the first station, the children learned about the importance of a balanced diet and regular exercise. After feeling their resting pulse, they jumped into action with star jumps before checking their heart rate again. The children were fascinated to discover how much faster their hearts beat after exercise, sparking lively conversations about how our bodies respond to movement.

Next, the children met a teddy bear filled with toy organs. Together, they named each organ and then had a go at slotting them back into the teddy. This activity helped them understand where our organs fit and how they work together to keep us healthy.

At another station, the children explored real medical instruments such as stethoscopes, blood pressure monitors, and asthma inhalers. The medical students explained how each tool works and how doctors use them to help patients. The children were especially excited to listen to heartbeats through the stethoscope!



Teddy Bears Hospital (con't)

Finally, the children gave their own teddy bears a full health check. With the guidance of the medical students, they treated any “illnesses” or “wounds,” ensuring their cuddly patients left the hospital feeling much better.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful partnership with Oxford University. The Teddy Bear Hospital was not only educational but also full of joy and laughter. The children had a fantastic time, and we are grateful to the medical students for inspiring our youngest learners to think about health, care, and the amazing work doctors do.

MHW



CHILDREN'S FLU VACCINATIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Visit our website to:

- Register a new consent form
- Book a community clinic appointment
- Find your school code
- Find out more information



<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms/parents/>

For further information about the Flu vaccine follow the link below

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

When In Rome...

Visit to the Ashmolean brings Roman-Britain to life

Form 4 visited the new Roman galleries at the Ashmolean last week, to help their understanding of why the Romans were so determined to conquer Britain, how they did it, and what they did when they got there.

They examined the many astonishing treasures that archaeologists have uncovered and used their detective brains to work out how things were made and what they reveal to us about life in this cold, damp corner of the Roman Empire.

The boys also demonstrated their artistic skills in the construction of mosaic designs, and their competitive spirit in a game of gladiators!

In the casts room, they were impressed by the scale of many of the statues, and fascinated by the very human stories told by the magnificent friezes.

"I like school trips!" perfectly summed up the experience for all.

EP



Sports at CCCS

End of season rugby at The Oratory

Well done to Forms 3 and 4 at their final rugby matches of the season this week, where they played away at The Oratory.

DP

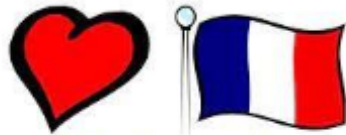


Enrichment

Pom poms at the ready!

Here are some photos from last term's Pom Pom class. The boys had great fun, and really showed their creativity!





J'aime le
français.

CCCS French Challenge 2025

Merci Beaucoup!

Entries in Pre-Prep:

'Merci beaucoup'! to all children who took part in the French Challenge as well as siblings and parents who joined in as participants and part of the production team!

We have received a wonderful selection of entries and it is going to be extremely difficult to choose winners and super winners.

In the end though, thank you so much for encouraging your sons and daughters to take up the challenge. We hope you all enjoyed some good fun and learnt something new about France, its culture and language in the process.

All entries, as far as possible, will be on view in the display case at the entrance to Pre-Prep, and the pupils will be able to see, share and enjoy all entries in a special Assembly when the winners will be announced. In addition, all contestants will have a special reward of a hot chocolate with or without cream and marshmallows during the Prep break time next Friday.

Mme Williams

Entries in Prep:

'Merci beaucoup' for your support – the entries for the French Challenge are heart-warming! All contestants will get a hot chocolate with marshmallows at break time next Friday and a special edible prize will go to the winners... who will be revealed in Assembly next Wednesday. We'll endeavour to show all the boys, snapshots of all the entries - a real treat for all of us!

Mme Loyer

Music News

Trinity Music Exams

This term's music exams will take place on Monday 1st December. If your son has an exam this term, please encourage him to check the exam timetable, available on the music noticeboards by the Walton Hall.

SB

INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025

Wednesday 3rd December, 4.30pm

William Walton Hall



Featuring solos by Leo R, William U, Ludo M-C, Eaton DB, Henry P, Ian Z, Andrew P and Patrick D-D, as well as festive performances by all the School ensembles.

Refreshments will be available after the show.

Please contact schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk to reserve a place!



Creative Oundle for Organists

Pulling Out The Stops

Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 April 2026

For more information see <https://www.creativeoundle.co.uk>

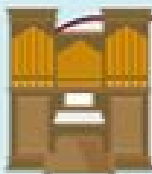
A friendly, fun, and action-packed three days for beginner organists (aged approximately 10 - 15) up to Grade 5, as well as pianists who want to try the pipe organ for the first time.



"[Our daughter] had a fantastic time on POTS. 'I've been in a bubble for a few days. A very happy bubble – with lots of other people like me.' She also seems to have learned so much and be so motivated – all of which I hoped POTS would do for her but I think it has exceeded my hopes."



Inspiring classes on organs in and around Oundle from top organists including Ann Elise Smoot, James Vivian, Gerdi Troskie.



'Organ crawl' in Cambridge, including a demonstration at King's College.



Comfortable accommodation, great pastoral care, and good food at Oundle School



Plenty of fun with like-minded students, making new friends



Cost: £390. We have never turned away a student for financial reasons. If you wish to apply for a bursary, please get in touch.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2026

Early applications are encouraged. Apply here!



Still looking for a special Christmas Gift?

How about this exclusive offer from one of the college's most celebrated alumni...?



Exclusive limited-edition Emma Bridgewater mug specially commissioned to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christ Church.

Your tea, coffee, hot chocolate will never taste so good as when sipped from this beautiful half pint mug depicting the iconic buildings and grounds of Christ Church with hand drawn watercolour and pen and ink illustrations by Matthew Rice in his unique and distinctive style. Handcrafted and hand decorated in in Stoke-on-Trent, England.

Price: £17.99 (40% off RRP £29.99)

How to order and receive your Emma Bridgewater Mug

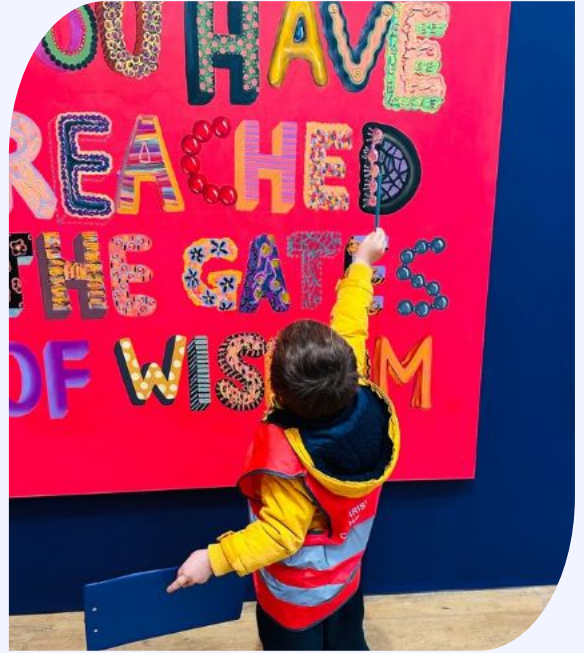
1. Click [here](#) to go to the store website
2. Enter your email address and preferred payment method information
3. Click the red 'Pay' button
4. Please email your purchase receipt to messenger.m@cccs.org.uk who will arrange for you to collect your mug from the School Office.

Please note that when purchasing a mug, you also have the option to buy a 'seconds' mug. These mugs are still good quality but may have minor variations. If you decide to purchase a seconds mug, please be aware that they are sold as-is and the school is unable to offer refunds for them.

Mug Specifications:

Capacity 300ml. Height: 9cm. Width: 12cm. Diameter: 8cm. Dishwasher safe. Liquid detergent recommended to maintain appearance. Not recommended for use in the microwave. Earthenware pottery can sometimes get hot in the microwave, so we recommend you don't put Emma Bridgewater pottery in the microwave. Not oven safe. Made in England.

School Photobook



School Photobook



Our boys modelling their brand new CCCS hats ahead of January's Ski Trip!



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.