



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 28th November 2025 —



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

At this time of year, every day brings something to savour. On Tuesday and Wednesday I was able to watch Form 3 and 4's production of Goldilocks, a witty re-telling of the old story by Roald Dahl. In it, Goldilocks is revealed as a "delinquent" and is eventually chased away by a vicious Baby Bear. Every line was beautifully delivered and all the children's performances were full of vitality. The vast majority of the production was sung and we could hear every word. I loved the way in which a group of neatly-blazered attentive young boys had been transformed into a troupe of actors costumed in bear kit, fabulous wigs, policemen's uniform and colourful 19th Century doublets. They were able to transport us immediately to the world of a fairytale. This power to allow an audience to imagine they are elsewhere, is something which children love to command and I was delighted to be at its mercy!

The same was true this morning when Form 8 took part in their annual French play. It was *Les Trois Mousquetaires* – and a very lively production it was too. Madame Williams, whom I had met at the beginning of the day, mentioned that some of the Form 8 boys who were performing today, had been in the School since Reception when she had been teaching them French and so she felt very proud of them. And so she should have done. The boys spoke with great panache and confidence and it was wonderful to see people whom I speak to everyday in English, transformed into fluent French speakers! I was also struck by the warmth of their evident camaraderie – how appropriate then that the play ended with the line most often associated with the Musketeers "Un pour tous et tous pour un!"

Talking of dramatic performances, I thought it worth mentioning that one of our more famous old boys, Toby Jones, (who was at CCCS in the 1980s) the star of many films and television programmes, including the recently released Mr Bates V the post office (in which he takes the title role) and indeed the voice of Dobby in the Harry Potter films, is appearing in a West End production of Shakespeare's gripping tragedy Othello. In it he will play one of the playwright's most terrifying villains, Iago, a role much suited to Jones's complex character portrayal. There is a long tradition of world-famous English film stars returning to the theatre, a much more exciting environment, I imagine, than the film studio, and one where the real depth of their talent is fully demonstrated. The adrenalin of the theatre though comes with a down-side - hard work. The theatre requires the actors to perform night after night for long periods of time. Nonetheless it is one of the most exciting experiences to watch a world class actor perform on stage. I would therefore encourage you to try to get tickets before they sell out. It's at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, a theatre with one of the longest traditions in the West End and with a supremely beautiful understated facade by the leading Regency architect, John Nash. Follow the link here: [Othello | Official Theatre Website](#) I have already booked my tickets. My only hesitation is that it does say it is only suitable for children aged 12 and above so this may be a Form 8 or parents only outing!

The day began with the Christingle service in the Cathedral. I was standing with the new chaplain as the school started to arrive. The Nursery were first, all of them attached to their rope. The girls and boys from Pre-Prep then appeared, all showing signs of great excitement about the thought of holding the Christingles that they had made. They were followed by the Prep School boys for whom a Friday trip to the Cathedral is standard. As they arrived, they were joined by the Cathedral choristers who were rushing in through the cloister door from their morning rehearsal in the Chapter Parlour. But this was only part of the story. Joining us were huge numbers of parents who were there to see their children sing and explain the meaning of the Christingle. And, of course, dotted amongst the pupils were the staff, guiding and supporting, paying attention to their charges. The whole School community was here, gathered in our chapel. I felt a huge sense of affection for this wonderful supportive family of which I am so privileged to be a member.

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 1st December - Sunday 7th December

MONDAY 1

Trinity Music Exams
Form 1 Vision Screening
2.30 - 4.00: U12/U13 Football v MCS (Home)

TUESDAY 2

2.30 - 4.00: U8/U9 Football v New College (Home)
6.00: Worcester Choir Service

WEDNESDAY 3

2.00 - 3.00: Nursery Christmas Celebration (WWH)
4.30 - 6.00: Informal Christmas Concert (WWH)

THURSDAY 4

10.00: Nursery and Pre-Prep Trip: Where's Father Christmas? Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford.

FRIDAY 5

8.45: Cathedral Assembly, Speaker The Chaplain
4.30 - 6.00: School Christmas Fair

No After School Care, Prep or Minibus Service for any pupils

SATURDAY 6

Cathedral Choristers' Christmas Party

Upcoming Events



Nursery Christmas Celebrations

**Wednesday 3rd December
2.00 - 3.00pm**

William Walton Hall

Join our youngest stars as they perform their Christmas Nativity. They can't wait for you to see them in their finery as they act and sing their little hearts out.

Will there be room in the inn?
All will be revealed next Wednesday!



Informal Christmas Concert

**Wednesday 3rd December
4.30 - 6.00pm**

Please do join us for a festive celebration with music performed by our wonderful young musicians. There will be classic carols and Christmas songs to help get you into the festive spirit. Parents are welcome to join us for a drinks reception following the concert.



Pre-Prep Christmas Nativity The Not-So-Silent Night

**Thursday 11th December
10.00am and 2.00pm**
William Walton Hall

Pre-Prep are proud to present 'The Not-So-Silent Night'. Our young performers have been working hard and are excited to share this with you. Please join us for what promises to be a joyful and memorable festive performance.

INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025

Wednesday 3rd December, 4.30pm

William Walton Hall



Featuring solos by Leo R, William U, Ludo M-C, Luqman A, 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!

Trinity Music Exams - Monday 1st December

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.



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.

After School Care

During the last few weeks, the children in After School Care have enjoyed exploring different ways to build challenging constructions with a castle theme, collaboratively using their buildings to express themselves as they narrate their role play.

Puzzles and links have been a firm favourite this term and it has been lovely to see how well our older children have supported the younger children in their play, whilst role modelling good behaviour with beautiful manners.

MM and RDC



Paddington Bear visits the Museum of Oxford with Nursery

This week the Nursery children went to the Museum of Oxford, located in the Town Hall on St Aldates. The visit supported the seasonal discussion around the Christingle, in particular the orange and Oxford's strong association with the manufacture of marmalade. We took Paddington, and in his little suitcase we found photographs, pictures and objects associated with the Cooper's Marmalade exhibit. The children sat beautifully on the steps to the large hall, looking at the pictures before exploring the exhibit with its ceramic jars, large stirring stick and the tin of marmalade taken to Antarctica by Robert Scott.

In the museum, one of the children excitedly saw a beautiful poster of Tom Tower. Surprised, she pointed and said, 'that's where daddy works.' The children were very interested in the watch, which belonged to Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll), playing cards with beautiful illustrations and scissors owned by Alice Liddell.

It is lovely to see the children engaging with projects and enjoying each other's company. These images show two children sharing a favourite wordless book, chatting animatedly about the pictures and imagining the stories of the characters. The second photograph shows two children engaged in pin-poking pictures, concentrating, absorbed in companionable silence, while they work at the task, unconsciously refining their pincer grips.

HB



Westgate Wanders

Reception headed out this week for a walk around the roof of the Westgate Centre in the dazzling Winter Sunshine. We went to admire the views of the spires and also that of the hills visible from the roof terrace. We spotted Tom Tower which we know well as we walk under it when we visit the Cathedral. We spotted different restaurants and spoke about food from all over the world, including sushi from Japan at Sushi and Sticks, Indian food and tiffin boxes at Mowgli and Pho Ramen from Vietnam.

We also enjoyed looking at a painted cow art installation featuring images from Alice in Wonderland, a book close to our heart as one of our school houses is named after its author.

We were very lucky that our budding photographer, Agatha, captured a lovely group shot for us! Annie Leibovitz watch out!

MB



Ashmolean Adventures



On a decidedly frosty Friday afternoon, Reception and Form 1 embarked on an exciting trip to visit the Ashmolean Museum. It was the first time that a number of the children in the group had ever been to a museum, so it was gratifying to see them enjoying the experience so much. I am proud to report that the museum staff commented that the children were a credit to our school, such were their impeccable manners and their inquisitive and intelligent questioning.

We had fun finding Guy Fawkes' Lantern and role-playing the events of the Gunpowder Plot which we have been studying in lessons. What came next was an exciting first for the Ashmolean, as our CCCS Pre-Preppers were given the honour of being the first EVER school group to try out a pilot scheme for a new interactive 'Ashmolean Adventure'. The children were able to experiment with new tour technology linked to exhibits in the museum. Using individual portable iPads and headphones, they were guided through interactive stories, challenges, art tasks, and educational games. We have been invited back to trial the next phase of development in the New Year.

TR



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

The reviews are in...

Form 3 and 4 have been very busy this term preparing for our play, Roald Dahl's wicked little tale of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and we finally got to perform it to our families and friends this week!

The story is about a girl called Goldilocks who gets sent to court for vandalising the bears' house. In the play, Goldilocks gets off scot free, even though she breaks into the bears' house and eats their porridge, breaks their chairs and sleeps in their beds as well. She won the court case and was set free, but then something unexpected happened - Baby Bear gobbled her up and took her wig off!

Most of the amazing props and costumes were provided by the amazing teachers and parents! We loved all the costumes and the face paint. We should also say 'thank you' to Robin F-J for doing the wonderful lights because without him we wouldn't have been able to see anything!

One of our favourite bits was when Goldilocks did the angry dance because it was really funny and it showed tons of expression. We also liked the bit when Goldilocks was eaten because it was very exciting!

The play was great. We were extremely tired afterwards, but it was worth it. At the start, we were a bit nervous because there was a very large crowd, but at least everyone was smiling and it was great afterwards when everybody got used to the audience. We were really excited as well because we wanted to show everybody what we could do.

Overall, we loved our play – we hope you did too!

Form 4



Click [here](#) to view some highlights from the show

Photos from the production will be available to you through your SPLAAT account. It's FREE to register and view watermarked photos, you only pay for the downloads.

Form 8 presents 'Les Trois Mousquetaires'



What a treat! To start off the Christmas festivities, the Form 8 boys performed - in French - Les 3 Mousquetaires, to an enchanted audience. Form 2 to Form 7 pupils loved the performance of this French classic and praised the F8 boys for their French and make-believe performance.

The challenge was to make a play in less than 10 hours, ie. 10 hours of intensive French and drama! The boys had to understand and make their own French script of 15 pages, and then think about how to perform it. They worked incredibly hard under the supervision of Mr Murchie, our visiting Drama Coach, and the French Department, Mme Williams and Mme Loyer.

What a team effort - their performance was a real delight. Un pour tous, et tous pour un!

Merci les garçons!

Mme Loyer et Mms Williams



[Click here](#) to view the Photo Gallery

Match Report



First week of Football.

Having played our final rugby matches of a very successful season last week, this week has seen us make the positive (in Mr Pear's eyes) change to start our football season. The boys have only had one or two training sessions but were thrown straight into competitive action on Wednesday afternoon with our U10/U11s making the short trip over to New College, whilst the U12/U13s welcomed New College to Merton field.

There were some fantastic performances and results, particularly given that we had only changed to football this week and our opponents have been working on it since September. In the home fixtures our first team started slowly and, after finding themselves 2-0 down, really had to dig deep and work together to get anything from the game. Ray fired in a penalty with 10 minutes to play, and five minutes later from a looping, scooped ball from Leo, Patrick struck an unbelievable volley which arrowed fiercely into the bottom corner to draw us level in the game. Either team could have won it, with chances being missed late on at both ends. Great determination and resilience shown to come back from 2 goals down to earn a very respectable draw.

The second team fared even better, with 2 goals from Andrew and a clean sheet for goalkeeper Arthur; they came away with a very impressive 2-0 win.

The third team had a really closely contested game, and even though they eventually came away being defeated 5-4, there were some real positives to be taken from the very entertaining match played out in great spirit.

The U10/U11s also played some brilliant football with the fixtures being very well matched and boys all getting a lot from the first competitive football of the year.

Our A team came back to Christ Church having won 2-1 in a very close match. Once again, the effort and battling attitude shown was something that the sports department are really proud of. Goals from Ted and Harrison made the difference against a well organised New College side. Elsewhere there were narrow defeats, but plenty of goals scored, tackles made and fun certainly had.

We look forward to continuing our work on the training pitch over the coming weeks so that we are ready for the challenges that await.

Well done to all the boys who played their part in a fantastic first week of football.

On Monday our U12/U13s have their next fixture against MCS, and on Tuesday afternoon the U8/U9s have their first fixture of the year at home against New College. Kick off for both of those fixtures is at 2.30pm. It would be great to see as many parents as possible coming along to support the boys and enjoy the refreshments in the Pavilion.

Have a great weekend.
Mr Pear.

Kids Take Over Day

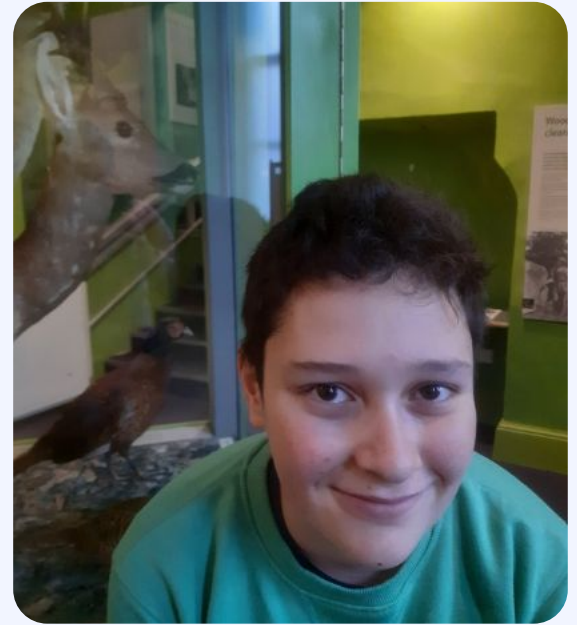
Adam takes over the Oxfordshire Museum

Each year, museums around the county run a Kids Take Over writing competition, where children 'apply' for different jobs at different museums, and Adam was lucky enough to be chosen to work Front of House at the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock.

His tasks for the day included learning to manage the Point of Sale equipment and serving customers, creating a trail around the museum for younger visitors and filming a video, which will hopefully be on the museum website soon!

Everyone was very kind and helpful, and Adam would highly recommend everyone to apply for a position next year.

MC



Thank you to Mr Crooks for sending us these great photos of Adam 'taking over'!

Enrichment

A very special trip to the Paper Boat Cafe

Last Friday, the Making the Most of Oxford & Photography enrichment groups were treated to a special viewing in the lovely Paper Boat Cafe by Folly Bridge.

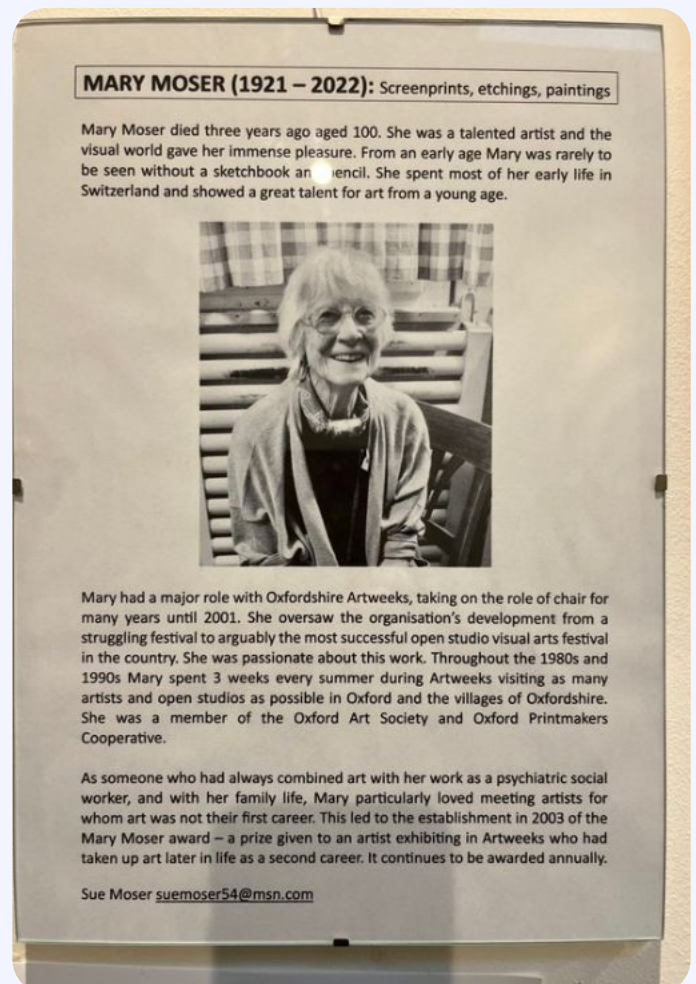
Mr Pear's grandmother, Mary Moser, was an artist, and some of her beautiful and varied paintings were displayed in the cafe.

We were welcomed by the cafe owner and enjoyed a delicious snack on the river terrace in the winter sunshine. Then we had time to look at the paintings and choose our favourites whilst Mr Pear related some artistic memories of his grandmother.

It was hard to choose, but many of us liked the views of Oxford, and in particular one of the skyline of Christ Church! We then enjoyed a fitting and lovely walk back through Christ Church Meadow in the stunning golden evening light.

Thank you, Mr Pear, for sharing something so special with us.

EP





Creative Oundle for Organists

Pulling Out The Stops

Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 April 2026

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

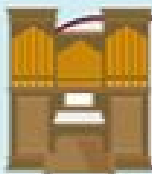
A friendly, fun, and action-packed three days for beginner organists (aged approximately 10 - 15) up to Grade 5, as well as pianists who want to try the pipe organ for the first time.



"[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.



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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!



ART CLASSES

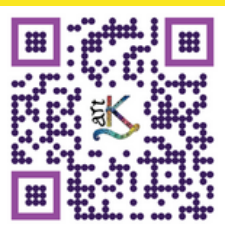


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Exclusive limited-edition Emma Bridgewater mugs specially commissioned to celebrate 500 years of Christ Church



Your tea, coffee or 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 Stoke-on-Trent, England.

Order now in time for Christmas

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 messenger.m@cccs.org.uk confirming your order and we will arrange for you to collect your mug(s) 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

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...



Who needs Santa when we have Mr Mirko!? One of our unsung heroes here at CCCS, with a hundred-and-one things already on his to-do-list, he still finds the time to help us get into the Christmas Spirit!



THANK YOU

We also have our very own Mrs Claus, or Mrs Johnson as we all call her! Thank you for adding more festive cheer in the School Office and for creating this beautiful chorister who adorns the top of our Christmas tree in The Chapter House.



And of course, Miss Helen is Santa's little helper, getting Nursery dressed for the festive season. How wonderful for the children to step into their own Christmas world. Thank you so much!

School Photobook



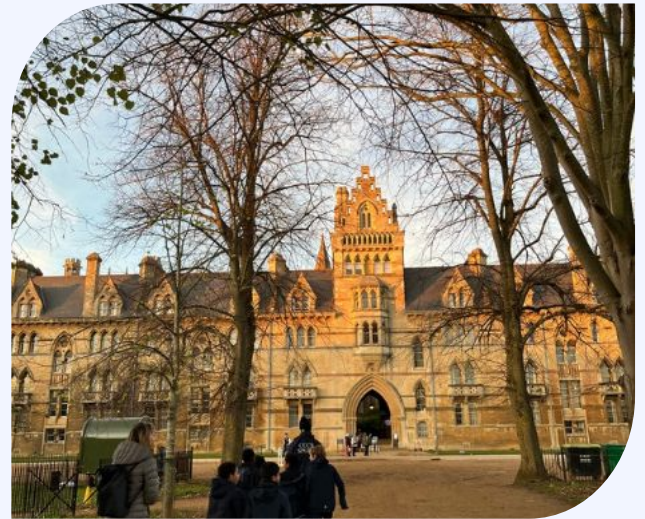
School Photobook



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. You can email Chef Peter directly at franks@cccs.org.uk

Please do not bring any outside food into the School.