Christ Church Cathedral School News

26th June 2026



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

“Far away the staring roads, deep in dust, stared from the hill-side, stared from the hollow, stared from the interminable plain. Far away the dusty vines overhanging wayside cottages, and the monotonous wayside avenues of parched trees without shade, drooped beneath the stare of earth and sky. So did the horses with drowsy bells, in long files of carts, creeping slowly towards the interior; so did their recumbent drivers, when they were awake, which rarely happened; so did the exhausted labourers in the fields. Everything that lived or grew, was oppressed by the glare; except the lizard, passing swiftly over rough stone walls, and the cicala, chirping his dry hot chirp, like a rattle. The very dust was scorched brown, and something quivered in the atmosphere as if the air itself were panting.”

Thus Dickens describes Marseille at the beginning of his great novel Little Dorrit. To read again this incomparable prose reminds me of what it has felt like to have been at Christ Church Cathedral School during the course of this week. As I said in the relatively cool surroundings of the Cathedral this morning, I want to thank the staff so much for navigating their way through these exceptional few days. I’m very grateful to them indeed as conditions in the School have not been optimal. I also want to praise the boys who have been brilliant in dealing with these very difficult conditions. They have remained calm and sensible. I suspect that they have learnt a lot about dealing with extremely hot weather. In these sorts of conditions, learning how to remain calm and how not to fall out with others is essential and I’m very proud of our community.

Rarely in this country, do we get the sensation that we are walking into a wall of heat, but when I have left No 3 Brewer Street and stepped outside I have almost reacted physically to the oppressive nature of the heat. Extreme weather like this is so profound that it makes us feel that the place which we are used to is somewhere different. Another of my favourite literary passages comes to mind from the chapter In “Cider with Rosie” by the excellent Laurie Lee about Snow - and just thinking of the chapter makes me feel less hot! The chapter begins in the following way: “Winter was no more typical of our valley than summer, it was not even summer’s opposite; it was merely that other place and somehow one never remembered the journey towards it; one arrived and winter was here. The day came suddenly when all details were different and the village had to be re-discovered.” I feel as if we have been on a rather taxing journey to somewhere else with an utterly reliable crew of fellow travellers. We have all learnt something, even if the lessons that we were all planning on teaching haven’t quite gone to plan! Thank you very much for your support for what we have done – I’m very grateful and let us enjoy the last week of term in a rather more conventional manner!

One of the rearrangements which we had to make during the course of this week was having to postpone the play Treasure Island. It was impossible to spend days out on the Meadow rehearsing, especially given the number of cutlass fights and general piratical action which would have been involved. Mrs Fairhurst and Mr Davies managed to undertake rehearsals early in the morning and some back at school under the chestnut tree. As such, we will have a performance on Wednesday which I look forward to tremendously. Despite the heat, it has been a pleasure to hear some piratical cursing and some sea shanties echoing around the School.

While all of these things have been going on, a number of pupils have been taking Music exams. I was introduced to the examiner at the end of a day and a half sitting in the Walton Centre and he looked almost liquid. He did say, however, what a successful time he felt that he had had. I look forward very much to hearing what those results were. I am very impressed by the professional way in which the pupils went about taking these exams.

I look for to seeing you all at Speech Day. Our speaker this year will be Lord Ricketts who was Ambassador to France, the country’s first National Security Advisor and the Permanent Secretary to the Foreign Office, ie the senior civil servant advising the Foreign Secretary. I’m sure he will speak with great interest and I look forward to hearing what he has to say. I’m also looking forward to the Head Boy’s speech too. Throughout the term Hugo has been telling us all to sit down in different languages, something he has done with great applomb and expertise. Today he did so in sign language- sometimes actions speak louder than words - and I say this as someone who has made their living out of words!

I hope you have a relaxing and slightly cooler weekend.

Mr Richard Murray,
Headmaster

School Contacts


School Office: 01865 242 561 (8am - 5pm)


Prep Line: 07719 109433 (5pm to 6pm)


Mr Mirko Minibus: 07736 148199


Mr Quen Minibus: 07346 224937

School Calendar

Monday 29th - Sunday 5th July

MONDAY 29 JUNE

TUESDAY 30 JUNE
2.00 - 4.00pm: Enterprise Day

WEDNESDAY 1 JULY
3.00pm - School Play, Treasure Island (Merton Field)
Gates will open at 2.30pm
7.00pm: Friends & Family Concert (WWH)

THURSDAY 2 JULY
8.45am: Form 8 Final Assembly (WWH - Form 8 parents only)
9.05am - 12.45pm: Form 8 walk from Boars Hill to School
9.05am - 12.45pm: Move Up Day
3.00 - 5.00pm: Second Hand Uniform Sale (Dorothy L Sayers Library) & Blue Blood Pop Up Shop (Playground)

FRIDAY 3 JULY
8.45 - 9.15am : Cathedral Assembly, The Headmaster
There will be no Cathedral Coffee Morning
1.15 - 1.45pm: Pre-Prep Speech Day at Christ Church Cathedral
2.00 - 4.15pm: Prep Speech Day at Christ Church Cathedral
Parking available on the Broad Walk from 12.30 - 2.00pm.
4.15pm: SCHOOL CLOSES FOR SUMMER BREAK; REOPENS FOR NON CHORISTERS ON WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER
Please note that there will be no Prep or After School Care, and the minibuses will not be running on Friday afternoon.
7.30 - 11.00pm: Parents' Summer Ball (Ticketed Event at Christ Church)

Upcoming Events



Treasure Island

Wednesday 1st July
3.00pm
Merton Field

Ahoy, shipmate! If you're up for an adventure on the high seas, then come along to Merton Field for our spectacular summer play.

Bring your friends and pack a picnic to enjoy the adventure.

Gates open at 2.30pm.



Friends & Family Concert

Wednesday 1st July

7.00pm

William Walton Hall

We're looking forward to our annual Friends & Family Concert.

Whether your're taking to the stage or watching from the audience, we look forward to welcoming you to this wonderful evening of talent.



Second Hand Uniform Sale & Blue Blood Pop Up Shop

Thursday 2nd July

3.00 - 5.00pm

Dorothy L Sayers Library

Back Playground

Get a head start on the new term with our second hand uniform sale and Blue Blood pop up shop. Both will be running from 3-5pm, giving you a chance to sort all your uniform needs for next term.

If you have any donations of second hand uniform, please try to drop them off in the front office before Thursday morning. However, we're very happy to accept more donations over the summer holidays, when you have a bit more time for a clear out!



Speech Day

Friday 3rd July

Christ Church Cathedral

Please join us on the last day of term to celebrate all of our pupils and their achievements this year.

Should you be unable to make the event, please click here to watch the live stream.

Pre-Prep's End of Term Celebration will begin at 1.15pm

Prep Speech Day will begin at 2.00pm

School Clubs

After School Club Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Mandarin Club Reception - Form 2 Form 1 Classroom 3.30 - 4.15pm	**Multi Sports Club** Reception - Form 4 School Field 4.15 - 5.00pm	**Chess Club** Form 2 Form 1 Classroom 3.30 - 4.30pm	**Table Tennis Club** Forms 3 - 8 School Playground 4.15 - 5.00pm
Cricket Club Forms 3 - 8 School Field 4.15 - 5.00pm	**Chess Club** Forms 3 - 6 Darwin 4.15 - 5.15pm		**Mandarin Club** Forms 3 - 8 Form 4 4.15 - 5.00pm
Real Tennis Forms 3 - 8 Real Tennis Court 4.15 - 5.45pm	**Squash Club** Forms 5 - 8 Squash Court 4.15 - 5.00pm		**Little Musketeers** Reception - Form 2 WWH 3.30 - 4.15pm
			Little Musketeers Forms 3 - 8 WWH 4.15 - 5.00pm

To book your child in to one of our clubs, please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk and confirm your child's name and Form group.

Polite Reminder

We have received a complaint from a member of the public about cars being parked along St Aldates close to drop off and pick up times. Could we remind parents that pick up and drop off by car should be on Brewer Street, and that people should not park on St Aldates.

Thank you so much.

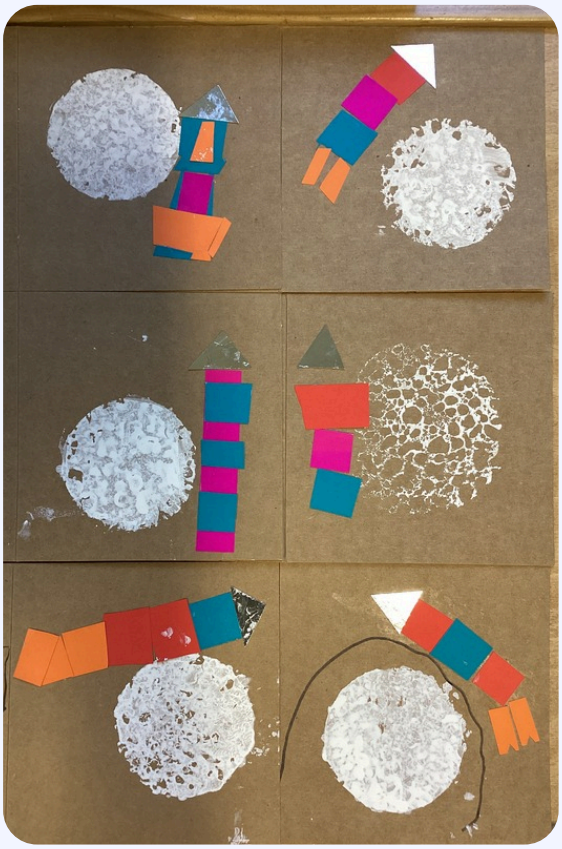
From Sunshine to Moondust

The Nursery children made the most of the sunshine, playing with flowers and making little flower arrangements with their friends.



“Daddy we love you to the moon and back”

We didn’t want to spoil the surprise last week, but the children made beautiful Father’s Day cards, featuring rockets flying to the moon. Each card was made with such creativity and love - a reflection of just how much they adore their dads!
HB



Our visit to the Botanic Garden

The children in Nursery and Reception enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Oxford Botanic Garden last week where they explored the beautiful surroundings despite the changeable weather. We were fortunate to avoid the heaviest rain and even managed to enjoy a picnic together in the greenhouse, which was a novel experience!



Using the Montessori Colour Box 3, the children carefully observed and matched colours found in nature and around the gardens. They were particularly interested in the sculptures displayed throughout the grounds, including the Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland. This encouraged the children to talk about what they could see, compare colours and shapes, and develop their observational skills.







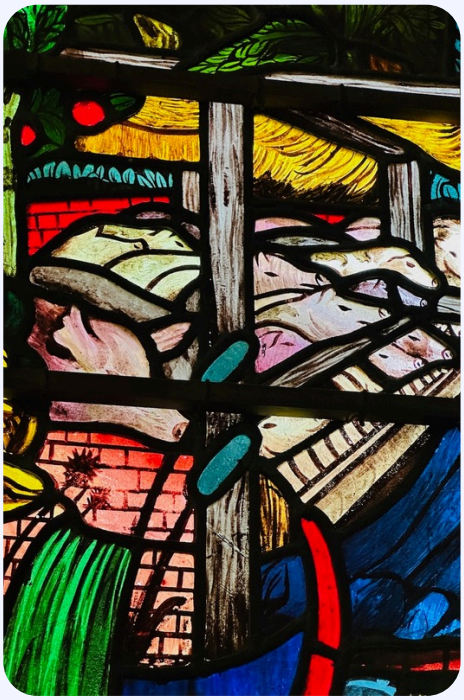
The rainforest and arid glasshouse proved especially popular. The children were fascinated to discover banana trees and were excited to spot young bananas beginning to grow. They also found the cacti very funny if rather spiky. They discussed the different plants they could see and experienced the warm, humid environment of the rainforest and dry heat of the desert.

This trip supported many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage including Understanding the World as children explored the natural environment and learned about plants from different climates. It also promoted Communication and Language through conversations, questioning and sharing ideas, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development as the children enjoyed new experiences together, practised turn-taking and demonstrated confidence while exploring an unfamiliar setting.
MB

Inventive ways to keep cool in Pre-Prep

This week in Pre-Prep we kept cool by exploring various forms of water play in our own playground including, ice, bubbles and shaving foam. We also escaped to Christ Church Cathedral to look at the stained glass story window of Saint Frideswide, patron Saint of Oxford. We spoke about the story and the way the window was made and how it was like a comic strip outlining her association with the city of Oxford. We looked at various details in the Edward Burne Jones window. If visiting again see if you can spot the details below!
MB













Pre-Prep Visit La Glacerie

On Friday, the Pre-Prep playground was transformed into *La Glacerie* by the Form 8 Language Ambassadors and their glamorous assistants, giving Nursery and Pre-Prep the chance to enjoy a refreshing ice cream break.

Placing their orders in French, the children were rewarded with their sweet treat by the Form 8 boys.







From Rouen to Oxford: Bringing French culture to life at School

We are very lucky to have with us Mademoiselle Lecompte! Our French assistant for 2 weeks comes from Rouen and is currently doing her work experience with us. From supporting Carroll during Sports Day and encouraging all the boys, making French culture real for our boys in class, she is learning about British culture and loving every minute of her stay with us! Our boys also benefited from an old boy Ivo, doing his work experience and coming to help in French lessons too to enjoy fairly different lessons.

Our end of year activities enable the boys to learn French in various ways - French sentences to unjumble on jigsaws, 'Les 7 familles - Happy families' highly competitive games to practise speaking, Pre-Prep ordering ice-creams before next week's visit from Akim, our famous 'crêpier', we have a lot of work/fun in store!

We would like to thank Mademoiselle Lecompte for all her energy and joy - I have no doubt that her telling the boys about famous French rap singers simply won't be forgotten over the summer!
SL

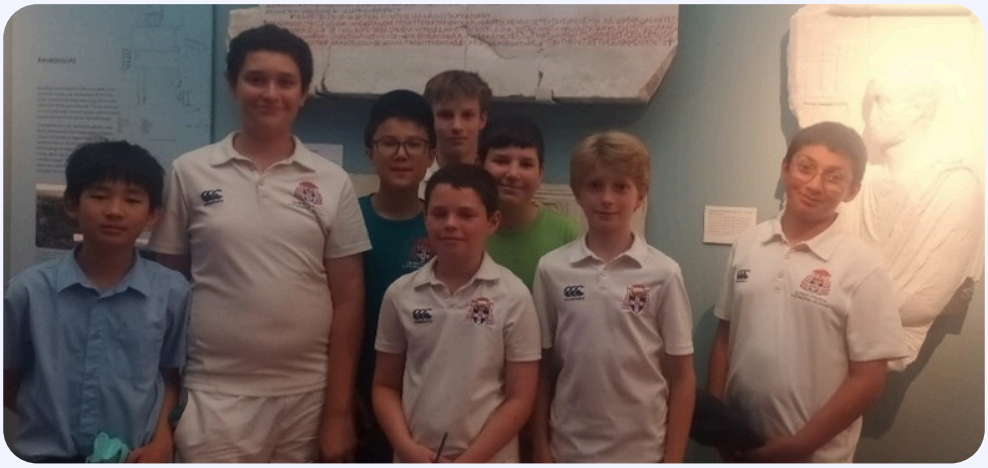








Greek Club at the Ashmolean



Today the Greek Club had a lesson at one of the coolest venues in Oxford: the Ashmolean.

With our Greek teacher Mr Vernon we looked at Greek inscriptions and artefacts: an epitaph for a wife here, an Athenian inscription of friendship with a king there, and otherwheres several mythologically painted pots. We admired too the Artemision Bronze (perhaps Poseidon, probably Zeus), the poetic epitaph to the Greek doctor and his wife, and the masterful art of Greek coins.

In future heatwaves perhaps each Form could be assigned a different gallery to learn in air-conditioned and aesthetic bliss.
NR



Trinity Term: Friends and Family Concert

7pm, Wednesday 1st July



Our annual Friends and Family concert will take place on the evening of Wednesday 1st July in the Walton Hall. The aim is to get as many people involved as possible, so do please get planning (and practising…). There are only two rules: boys must perform with at least one other person, and they must organise their own performances.

This is the opportunity for:

- Parents to perform with their children
- Pupils to perform duets with each other
- Family ensembles to play together

…and any other combinations you can think of!

Please email biddell.s@cccs.org.uk with details if you or your son(s) would like to perform. A sign-up sheet will also be going up in school by the practice rooms.
SB


CCCS
SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB
MONDAY–WEDNESDAY
20TH JULY – 25TH AUGUST
8:30AM – 4:00PM
SPORTS & GAMES!
COOL CHALLENGES!
TEAM ACTIVITIES!
ONLY £60 PER DAY!
BOOK NOW!
SCAN TO BOOK!

LEGO DONATIONS NEEDED!

LET'S BUILD SOMETHING AMAZING TOGETHER!



We are collecting LEGO® for a LEGO® Enrichment Club!

Your donations will help us inspire creativity, build skills and have fun through hands-on learning and play.

WE ACCEPT:

- All LEGO® bricks and pieces
- LEGO® sets (complete or incomplete)
- Baseplates, minifigures and accessories
- New or gently used (please ensure clean and in good condition)

School Photobook









Pre-prep
Enjoy the
Botanic
Garden









School Photobook

Origami in Form 3



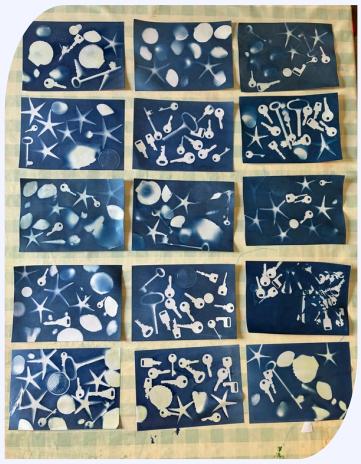
French culturre in Class

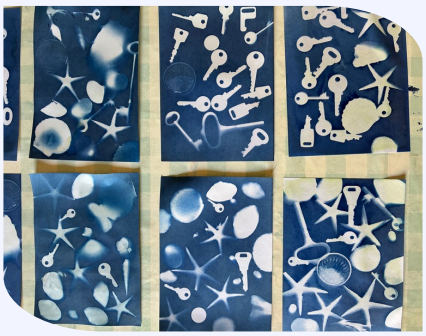




Sunprints in Nursery







La Glacerie









Cookery Club in Enrichment kept their cool by making smoothies today!

School Photobook



Sports Day 2026











Photos will be available on your SPLAAT account

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.