



Christ Church Cathedral School News

6th July 2026



Happy Holidays

Dear Parents,

Thank you all so much for making this such a wonderful School year.

We wish our Form 8 leavers the very best as they embark on their next chapter at their new senior schools. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and know they will go on to do amazing things in the future.

We must also say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to some of our wonderful staff who are leaving us this term: Mr Wilson, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Zeb. Thank you for everything. We will miss you tremendously. Please do stay in touch and come back to visit us soon!

We also wish all pupils who are moving on this summer every success and thank them for their contribution to the school. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Finally, we wish everyone a happy, restful and very well-deserved summer break! we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

School Calendar

Monday 7th - Sunday 13th September

MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

INSET DAY

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

INSET DAY

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

7.45AM: TERM BEGINS

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

9.05am - 10.45pm: Form 8 CAT 4 Tests

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

8.45 - 9.15am : Cathedral Assembly, Speaker, TBC

9.15 - 9.45: Parents are welcome to join us for coffee and refreshments in the Priory Room following the assembly

9.05am - 12.45pm: Form 7 CAT 4 Tests

4.30 - 6.00pm: Prep Staff and Parents School Meeting

Upcoming Events



Prep Welcome Evening

Friday 11th September

4.30 - 6.00pm

CCCS

This is a great opportunity for parents of Prep pupils, particularly those whose children are joining from Pre-Prep or are new to the School to come along, meet the teaching staff, and find out more about the year ahead..

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Friday 11th September

3.00 - 5.00pm

Dorothy L Sayers Library



Donations Welcome

If your child has outgrown any branded school uniform items, we would be grateful if you could donate them to the School's Second-Hand Uniform Shop. Donated items can then be passed on to other families within our school community.

Please note that we are only able to accept branded uniform items and do not require non-branded clothing at this time.

Thank you!

A Message from the Parents' Association

Dear Parents,

Just a quick word to say many thanks for your support throughout the year. Our Sports Day refreshments plus uniform sale made an incredible total of over £800, which we'll be putting to good use after the summer to meet special requests from our various different school departments.

We will have another uniform sale the first week back (showing off our wonderful new library which you've helped fund) and arrange an informal drink shortly afterwards to catch up and also hopefully to meet some new parents.

Have a wonderful summer!

The PA



Thank you from Nursery!

Automated Alex

This young man has been our bus and local area expert since he joined us. He's always been available to offer his opinion about the correct bus to catch around town or the best place for a Gapper to eat a burger with his family - Jericho.

As a leaving gift he has given us three fabulous history books about buses and Oxford. They are so good we are going to put them in the library next term so everyone can share them.

We will think of this young gentleman fondly every time we pass the automated bus time table by our zebra crossing on St Aldates which we have nicknamed the 'Automated Alex!'
HB



Playground Transformation

A big thank you from the Nursery for the most amazing donation of two new play pieces that complement our new playground. The mud kitchen has been very popular in the heat as the children play with bowls, sieves, watering cans and pretend ice cube fruit.

The reading area has been superb to relax with a friend or two. The record of readers in the den has been four, all reading together. It makes a great police car, cable car and superhero base too.

Thank you to Monty's mum and her employer's Nursery Voucher Scheme. If your employer has a similar scheme and you would like to discuss how it could support us, please contact our [School Registrar](#).
HB

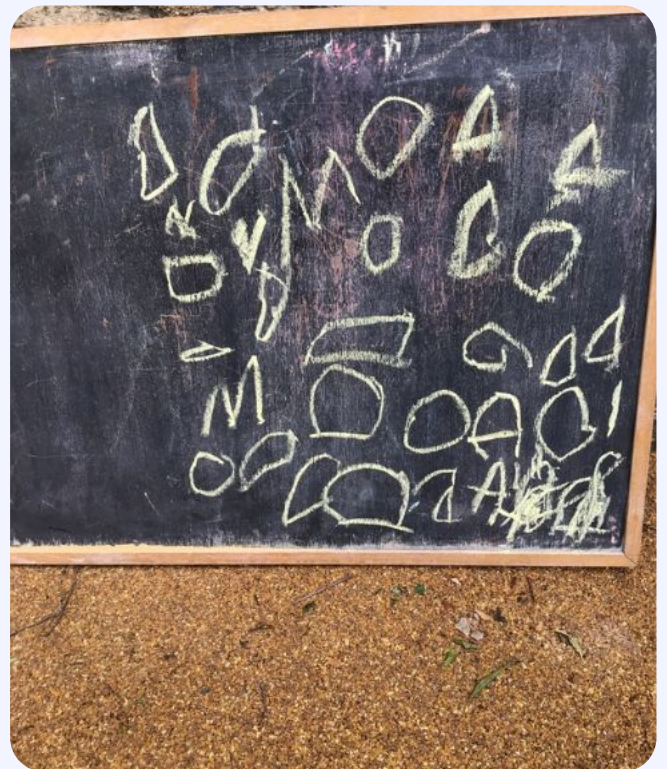


The Great Outdoors Is Our Favourite Classroom

The Nursery children have taken their classroom outside into their amazing new garden. Collaborative art has been very popular with the process and skills being developed around a table, with lots of opportunities for conversation and discussion.

It is fabulous to see the children demonstrating their Reception ready skills. This chalk board full of evenly sized circles shows a child ready to begin to form letters in Mr Berry's class in September. We couldn't be more delighted with the cohorts progress, especially this second half of term. We wish all our children moving up from Upper Nursery the very best, and if you are spreading your wings to pastures new, come back and visit us soon.

HB



A Bird's-Eye View for our Form 1 Cartographers

As part of our Geography topic on 'Mapping our local surroundings', Form 1 climbed to the top of the Westgate Centre to get a bird's-eye view of recognisable local landmarks near to School.

From the top level, the children could see all across Oxford, spotting recognisable landmarks such as Christ Church Cathedral, St Aldate's Church, Carfax Tower, Radcliffe Camera, The Covered Market, and even our own School on Brewer Street, though we could only spot the roof! Well done to our Form 1 Cartographers!

TR



Water Water Everywhere for Pre-Prep!

Our Pre-Prep children capped off another incredible year at CCCS with an epic water fight over at Merton Field. For any conscientious objectors amongst the ranks, there was a more gentle option of bubble wands, but for the majority, the opportunity to load up with water cannons and charge at Mr Robards, soaking him to the skin, was too good to turn down! The battle raged for over an hour, with hoots of laughter echoing around Christ Church Meadow. 'Water' way to have a good time!

TR



Sweet Success

On Tuesday, the whole School got involved in two of our favourite things; enjoying a sweet treat and showcasing our entrepreneurial talent.

The day began with a visit from our friend Akim, the best crêpier in town! The boys and girls had the chance to put their French skills to the test and order a crêpe with a delicious topping of our choice.

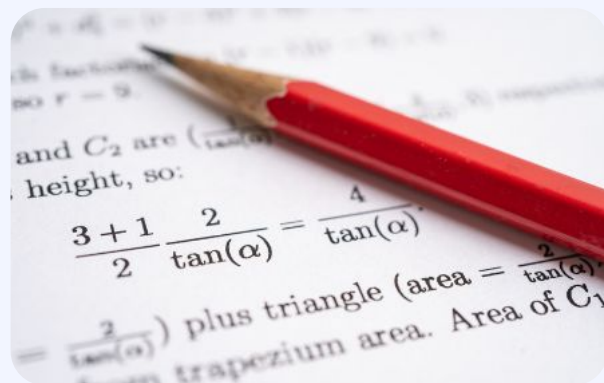
In the afternoon, the excitement continued as everyone headed to the field for Enterprise Day. Pupils showcased their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit by running a variety of stalls and activities, all in aid of the school's chosen charity, Soundabout.

Photos from Enterprise Day will be available on your SPLAAT account.



Mathematics Competition Success

This has been another fantastic year for Mathematics at our school, with pupils from Years 3 to 8 embracing a wide range of national mathematical competitions. These challenges encourage logical reasoning, resilience and creative problem-solving, allowing pupils to apply their mathematical knowledge in unfamiliar and engaging contexts.



First Maths Challenge (Forms 3 & 4)

This year, our Form 3 and Form 4 pupils took part in the First Maths Challenge for the first time. We entered 19 boys, all of whom embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. The competition encouraged them to think logically, solve unfamiliar problems and develop their mathematical reasoning skills. We were delighted by their positive attitude and the confidence they showed when tackling challenging questions.

Primary Maths Challenge (Forms 5 & 6)

Our Form 5 and Form 6 pupils took part in the Primary Maths Challenge (PMC), where they demonstrated excellent enthusiasm and perseverance. Three pupils achieved outstanding results, qualifying for the Bonus Round, a prestigious follow-on competition for the highest-performing participants and earning Bronze Awards. We are extremely proud of their achievements and the confidence they have shown in tackling challenging mathematical problems.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge (Forms 6–8)

Our Form 6, Form 7 and Form 8 pupils also performed exceptionally well in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge. This year, we entered 40 pupils, and we are delighted that 12 pupils qualified for the second round, the Junior Kangaroo. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the pupils' hard work, perseverance and growing confidence in mathematical thinking.

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge (Form 8)

Our Form 8 pupils also challenged themselves by taking part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, a competition designed for pupils in Forms 8 to 11.

We are delighted to report that six pupils achieved Bronze Awards or higher, while two pupils qualified for the second round, the Pink Kangaroo, where they both went on to achieve Bronze Awards. This is a remarkable accomplishment, particularly as they were competing against pupils up to three years older.

Award Winners

Below is a list of pupils who achieved awards in this year's competitions:

First Maths Challenge

Form 3 Bronze: Oliver, Harrison, Edward
 Gold: Thomas, Fraser, Aaran
Form 4 Bronze: Alexander P
 Silver: Louis, Isaac
 Gold: Teddy, Lucas, Qiheng, Yang, Arlo, Rong

Primary Maths Challenge:

Bronze: Fred H, Thomas X, Terry Z, Gustav B, Périclès, Alexander T
Silver: Harry, Jing, Alexey, Edward, George R, Alexander S, Edwin
Gold: Richard, Armaan, Hugo R, Jaden, Patrick S

Primary Maths Challenge Bonus Round:

Bronze: Jaden, Hugo R, Armaan

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Bronze: Kailuo, William L, George L, Eljireh, Mathew N, Harshadeep, Eaton
Silver: Thomas X, Jaden, John B-E, Arthur
Gold: Jing, Shaun, Richard, Armaan, Hugo R, Patrick S, George G, Randolph,
 Hugo A-L, Luqman, Gerard L, Ludovico

Junior Kangaroo

Bronze: Jing, Armaan, Adam, Hugo A-L, Luqman
Gold: Gerard L

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Bronze: Hugo A-L, Ludovico
Silver: Luqman, Mathew
Gold: Andrew, Leo

Grey Kangaroo

Bronze: Andrew, Leo

Congratulations

Congratulations to every pupil who took part in these competitions this year. Whether they earned a certificate, qualified for a second round, or simply stepped outside their comfort zone to participate, every pupil should be proud of their effort, resilience and commitment.

We are incredibly proud of all our mathematicians and look forward to seeing even more pupils challenge themselves and enjoy the excitement of mathematical problem-solving next year.
CY

A Landmark Recording for Christ Church Cathedral Choir

This week, choir has completed an extraordinary recording project, spending fifteen hours in the Cathedral capturing a programme of music to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral.

At the heart of the recording is John Taverner's magnificent *Western Wind Mass*, one of the great masterpieces of the Tudor choral repertoire. To record this music in the very building where it was first sung over five centuries ago has been both a privilege and a profound reminder of the choir's unique place in our shared musical heritage.

Recording is a demanding process. Every phrase is scrutinised, every detail refined, and the concentration required over many hours is immense. What stood out throughout the sessions was the remarkable contribution of our boy choristers. Time and again they rose to the challenge, performing on an equal footing among seasoned professional musicians.



Everyone involved in the project has every reason to be immensely proud of what has been accomplished. This recording marks not only an important anniversary in the choir's long history but also showcases the continuing excellence of the musical tradition that has flourished at Christ Church for five centuries.

After an intensive and immensely rewarding fifteen hours of recording, the choir now looks forward to a well-earned break, with great anticipation for the release of what promises to be a very special recording and of course, our tour to the USA next term.

JR



A Day of Celebrations

Sunday saw the choir achieve the sort of productivity normally associated with a small nation state. In the space of a single afternoon, we managed to play cricket, welcome new choristers, bid farewell to old ones and consume an alarming quantity of cake. There can be few institutions that regard this as a perfectly sensible order of business.



Proceedings began with the annual Choir Cricket Match. It really is a unique affair watching so many exceptionally talented musicians attempting to throw, catch and bat... Cricket, as everyone knows, is a game that proves character, encourages teamwork and occasionally involves someone remembering where the ball has gone. Victories were claimed, catches were dropped with conviction (butterfingers!), and honour was satisfied (sort of) although the scorebook may tell a different story with only one run in it! Our thanks to Mr Boarder for umpiring such a hotly anticipated and contested match.

We then welcomed our newest choristers, Artie, Harrison and Fred, who were formally installed and can now look forward to years of musical discovery and achievement. Every beginning is accompanied by an ending, so we also bade a fond farewell to our Form 8 choristers: Patrick, Henry, Eaton and Ian. Between them they leave behind countless services, concerts and rehearsals, along with a body of accumulated wisdom that can be summarised thus: always bring a pencil, never underestimate the length of Evensong, and don't ever get on the wrong side of an organist!



Finally, everyone repaired to Walton Hall for one of the choirs' warmest traditions. The new choristers shared a celebratory buffet and cake decorated with figures of themselves. We are all very grateful to Mr Kilby and his team for such lovely food throughout the year and especially for the care they take in making such occasions special for Choristers and their families. All in all, it was a splendid afternoon: a little cricket, a little ceremony, a few goodbyes, several warm welcomes and just enough buttercream to remind us that traditions endure for a reason. JR



From Taverner to Today: Christ Church Cathedral Choir at 500



Last week's concert marked another memorable milestone in the Cathedral Choir's 500th anniversary celebrations and was a wonderful opportunity for our choristers to be part of an occasion of genuine historical significance.

The programme celebrated the extraordinary musical heritage of Christ Church, tracing five centuries of choral tradition from John Taverner, appointed by Cardinal Wolsey as the Foundation's first Informator Choristarum, through to composers associated with Christ Church today. It served as a powerful reminder that our choristers are not only preserving a remarkable tradition but are also helping to shape its future.

One highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the world première of *The Shadow of the Sun*, a newly commissioned cantata by our Composer in Residence, Nico Muhly. Through a sequence of seven beautifully crafted movements, the work explored themes of light, faith and the ways in which poetry, art and glass can offer glimpses of the divine. It was a privilege for the choir to give the first performance of such an imaginative and thought-provoking new work.

As the boys' Housemaster, I have the privilege of seeing the dedication that underpins performances like this. Behind every concert are numerous early morning rehearsals, practice sessions and a great deal of perseverance. Watching the boys perform with such confidence, maturity and dedication to bringing off this new work was immensely rewarding, and they should be tremendously proud of their contribution to such a significant occasion. All the boys eagerly insisted that Nico sign their scores after the concert. Nico has been such an inspiration to our boys and many of them have begun composing music as a result of his lessons.

The warm reception from the audience reflected not only the quality of the performance but also the commitment and professionalism shown by every member of the choir. My congratulations go to all the choristers, together with the music staff, whose expertise and encouragement continue to inspire the boys to achieve the highest standards.

To perform at the heart of Christ Church's 500th anniversary celebrations is an experience our choristers will remember for many years to come. This is especially significant for our departing senior choristers whose time here has culminated in performing during this very significant period in the choir's history. All our boys represented both the Cathedral and the School with distinction, and everyone at Christ Church Cathedral School can be immensely proud of their achievement.

JR

American Choir visits CCCS



As a school with many boys who have experienced the excitement of choir tours, I was delighted that we were able to host an American choir during the Oxford leg of their UK tour this week. The Heritage Youth Chorus is an ambitious US choir for teenagers, working under the umbrella of the renowned choral system at BYU University in Utah. Over 150 singers squeezed into the school playground, singing folk songs and hymn arrangements for pupils in the Pre department before a light lunch.

It was wonderful to hear another country's singing culture up close, and to see so many passionate young singers gathered in one place. We hope to welcome them again when they return to the UK in a few years... and with some joint singing next time!

SB

Friends and Family Concert 2026



Music at CCCS is about so much more than playing the right notes under the direction of a teacher (although this is very important!). It involves developing independence, flexibility, listening and organisation skills, as well as learning how to communicate and how to perform well without fearing mistakes. It should also bring people together - and our annual Friends and Family Concert works as a brilliant demonstration of all of these elements in action.

I would defy any other school to put on as varied an evening of music as we heard in the Walton Hall on Wednesday night. From Pre-Prep piano duets to brother viola players, from a family brass ensemble to beginner bassoonists, from pianistic Brahms to a Ghanaian song in Twi, and from Steve Reich to Lana Del Rey to a rhapsody about stolen spoons... the variety was just superb. This concert is completely voluntary and it always comes at the end of a busy term, so I am incredibly grateful that so many musicians took the opportunity to organise their performances. I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to all the parents, children and staff who joined us to make this year's Friends and Family Concert such a joyous event. Please start plotting your performances for 2027!

SB



Swimming Stars

Last weekend, Jing (F5) and Patrick (F6) competed in the Oxford COSC Raging Bulls Splash & Dash Competition with tremendous results.

Huge contragulations to Jing who placed second in the 50m Backstroke and third in the 50m Breaststroke.

Big congratulations to Patrick wo won a silver medal in the 11-year-old 50m Free Style Event.

These results are well deserved following the boy's determination and hard work. We are all very proud of you!



Photo credit @ Mr Teong

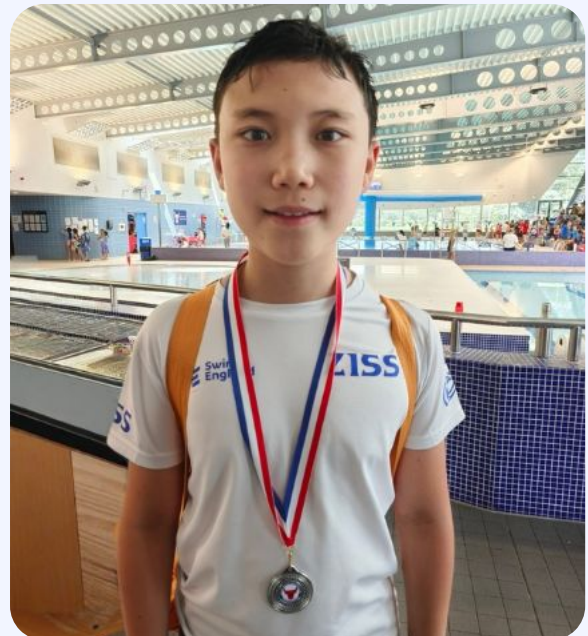


Photo credit @ Mrs Chen

Cardinal Scholars Visits

This week the Cardinal Scholars (plus scholar friends) had two educational forays – one without, one within Christ Church. The first on Monday to the Meadow, where Head Gardener Steve Howes told us of the restoration, begun six years ago, of the area to a wildflower-rich, insect-friendly habitat.

As soon as we strode into the knee-length grasses we could tell from the abundance of happy grasshoppers that this was a healthy ecosystem – over forty acres boasting the fancifully named flora of Old England: ragged robin, devil's bit scabious (the devil bites off the roots, apparently), goatsbeard, with its grander-than-dandelion seed head, beady blue forget-me-not and the dense burgundy torches of great burnet.



Mr Howes is able to trace with GPS last year's hopeful plantings of marsh marigold, and delights to find where the unpromising plugs have taken. We also listened to the rattle of the seeds of yellow rattle, which, by binding to the roots of grasses, gives other less confident plants a chance. Nature can smile unbidden too; for we learned of the surprise appearance of the scarce adder's-tongue fern in the Meadow – from seeds that have lain dormant for centuries. There is hope.

Our thanks to the Head Gardener for giving us his time to open up a treasure we walk past so often and often so unreflectively.

And then Wednesday to the Upper Library in Palladian Peckwater Quad, where William Hale, Senior Rare Books Librarian, had spread ready for us a rich array of bookly treasures: a 15th century edition of the Canterbury Tales, a colourful Book of Hours, drawings of skeletons by Vesalius, a map of the World from 1570, first editions of Newton's *Principia Mathematica* and Darwin's *Origin of Species*, an eccentric edition of Euclid with primary school colours to aid the geometrically slow, and recently acquired models of Alice in Wonderland characters. We also saw Wolsey's putative galero, the cannonball which hit the Great Hall in 1646, and the original head of Mercury. (The rest was destroyed by a future Prime Minister.)

Thanks to Mr Hale for his illuminating tour of these highlights.
NR



Class of 2026

We can hardly believe the time has come to bid farewell to our formidable Form 8 boys.

It has been a privilege to watch you grow into kind and confident young men, and we look forward to seeing where your adventures take you. Remember, wherever your journey leads you, there will always be a warm welcome for you at CCCS!



Hugo - Europa School



Ludovico - Abingdon



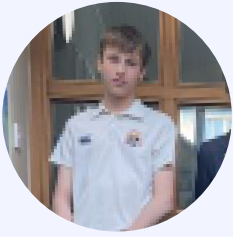
Emilio - d'Overbroeck's



William - Bloxham



Henry - Wells Cathedral



Andrew - Winchester College



Ian - Harrow



Luqman - Abingdon



Milan - Bradfield College



Karel - Cokethorpe



Navraj - Abingdon



Harshadeep - Abingdon



Robin - Chipping Norton School



Matthew - MCS



Leo - Winchester College



Eaton - To be Confirmed



Gerard - St Edward's Oxford



Gabriel - Winchester College



Patrick - Winchester College



Scholarship Successes



We are delighted to share that a number of boys have won academic or music scholarships for their senior schools. Huge congratulations to:

- Eaton DB: Music Scholarship at Royal Hospital School
- Patrick D-D: Music Scholarship at Winchester College
- Emilio DM: Academic Scholarship at d'Overbroeck's
- Ludovico M-C: Academic Scholarship at Abingdon
Music Scholarship at Abingdon
- Henry P: Music Scholarship at Wells Cathedral School
- Andrew P: Academic Scholarship (Major) at Winchester College
- Leo R: Academic Scholarship at Winchester College
Music Scholarship at Winchester College
- William U: Music Scholarship at Bloxham
- Ian Z: Double Music Scholarship at Harrow
- Luke B-P: Specialist Music Award at Wells Cathedral School

We look forward to adding these boys to the School Scholars Board.

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)

**DONATE
TODAY!**



School Photobook

Form 1
Cartographers



Last week of
term in Pre-
Prep



School Photobook

Goodbye Mrs
Zeb from
Form 3!



Treasure
Island



Don't forget to
check your SPLAAT
account for more
photos from the
play!



School Photobook

Outdoor
Nursery Fun



Pre-Prep
Water Play
Fun!



School Photobook

Move up Day!
Introducing
the new F3



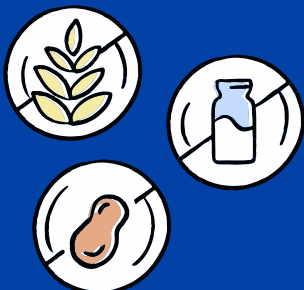
Welcome back, Mrs. Pear!



Friends &
Family
Concert 2026



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.