



Christ Church Cathedral School News

16th October 2026



Dear Parents,

Today was harvest festival for Pre-Prep. It was a most colourful occasion with some beautifully slick and musical songs. Some of the singers were so excited by their lively rendition of "Run Run Rabbit" and of "Cauliflowers Fluffy" that they were jumping up and down in time to the rhythm. We were also treated to a colourful performance of the epic tale "The Enormous Turnip" which involved a long chain of assorted personalities including a dog (and his friend) the cat (and his friend) the mouse attempting to pull the turnip out of the ground. After much pulling the turnip shot out of the soil and the whole chain of people fell onto the ground. It was wonderfully dramatic. Meanwhile the altar was covered in donations that had been made by the Pre-Prep families on behalf of Cholsey Volunteers which is a remarkable organisation dedicated to assisting vulnerable members of the Oxford community. I told the Pre Prep that the harvest offerings were very important, but could they think of other offerings that they could make at this time of year. One boy responded "The school's kindness!" What a beautiful response! He had so sensitively picked up on the fact that the environment that Mr Robards and his staff have created in the Pre-Prep is one of kindness, and that was so evident in the response of the boy and in the warmth of the occasion.

Talking of Mr Robards, he kindly thanked everyone else but not himself so I thought that I should take the opportunity to thank him as he had overseen the occasions. I told the pupils that there was someone else I wanted to thank and could they work out who it was. "Yourself!" one girl suggested..... as you might imagine that hadn't been my purpose. "Evil Pea!" another suggested, thinking of a villainous vegetable they had been contemplating in some of the lessons recently. I again was able to

answer no. "God!" said another which was a fabulous answer and absolutely right, demonstrating that they had been listening carefully to what the chaplain had just said. But of course when I said that I was thinking of a more terrestrial figure in the form of their Head of Pre-Prep, everyone cheered loudly.

Earlier in the same building the Prep School had welcomed the President of Corpus Christi College, Professor Helen Moore to preach during Cathedral Assembly. She spoke so fluently and interestingly upon the appearance of Jesus to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus soon after the resurrection. The disciples do not recognise who it is until he breaks bread with them. She preached about judging between what was real and fake and brought in one real pear and one plastic pear which resembled each other very closely. It was an honour to have Professor Moore with us.

After her talk we focussed on "the real" by announcing the appointments of some more prefects and of the officers for this year. They were as follows:

Head Boy:	Max C
Deputy Head Boy:	Adam C
House Captain Carroll:	William L
House Captain Sayers:	Randolf S
House Captain Wolsey:	Adam C
Prefects:	Louis C
	George G
	William L

May I wish them all the very best in their new roles. The role played by senior pupils in the School is a vital one, and one of the best things about a Prep School. Senior boys all take on responsibilities and we will announce the Ambassadors after half term. They add so much to the school and gain so much from taking on responsibility that their contemporaries at 11 – 18 school would not do, being the young pupils in those schools. No wonder that boys from schools like ours are so often more mature and accomplished than many of their peers. The present group of senior boys is outstanding and I am certain we will have a very successful year.

As ever, this was born out by Open Morning last weekend where our parents commented upon the pleasure of meeting their pupil guides. Of course without our pupils, the school is nothing! Have a lovely weekend

Richard Murray
Headmaster

School Calendar

Monday 19th October - Sunday 8th November

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

4.30 - 5.45pm: Drama Recital (WWH)

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER

All Day: Form 1 Superheroes Day

4.30 - 7.30pm: Pre-Prep Parents' Evening

4.10pm: School closes for Half Term and re-opens on Monday 2nd November.

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER

7.45am: School re-opens

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

2.30 - 4.30pm: U10 & U11 Rugby v Chandlings (Away)

2.30 - 4.00pm: U12 & 13 Rugby v Kitebrook (Home)

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

ALL DAY: Form 2 Prep School Experience Day

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

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER

7.00pm: Fireworks Night at Merton Field

School Clubs Timetable

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mandarin Rec - Form 2 3.30 - 4.15pm Form 1 Classroom	Multi Sports Rec - Form 4 4.15 - 5.00pm School Field	Chess Forms 1 & 2 3.30 - 4.30pm Form 1 Classroom	Rugby Forms 3 - 8 4.15 - 5.00pm School Field	Greek Club Forms 7 & 8 4.15 - 5.00pm
Football Forms 3 - 8 4.15 - 5.00pm School Field	Chess Forms 3 - 7 4.15 - 5.15pm Darwin		Mandarin Forms 3 - 8 4.15 - 5.00pm Form 4 Classroom	
Real Tennis Forms 5 - 8 4.15 - 5.45pm Real Tennis	Squash Forms 5 - 8 4.15 - 5.00pm Squash Court		Little Musketeers Rec - Form 2 3.30 - 4.15pm Squash Court	
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Fireworks Night

Saturday 7th November

7.00pm

School Pavilion, Merton Field

Back by popular demand is the School Fireworks Display
on Merton Field!

Please do come and enjoy refreshments and of course, the
display!

You are very welcome to attend Evensong beforehand at
6.05pm in the Cathedral - our Cathedral Choristers will be
delighted to see you.

Parents' Association

Dear All,

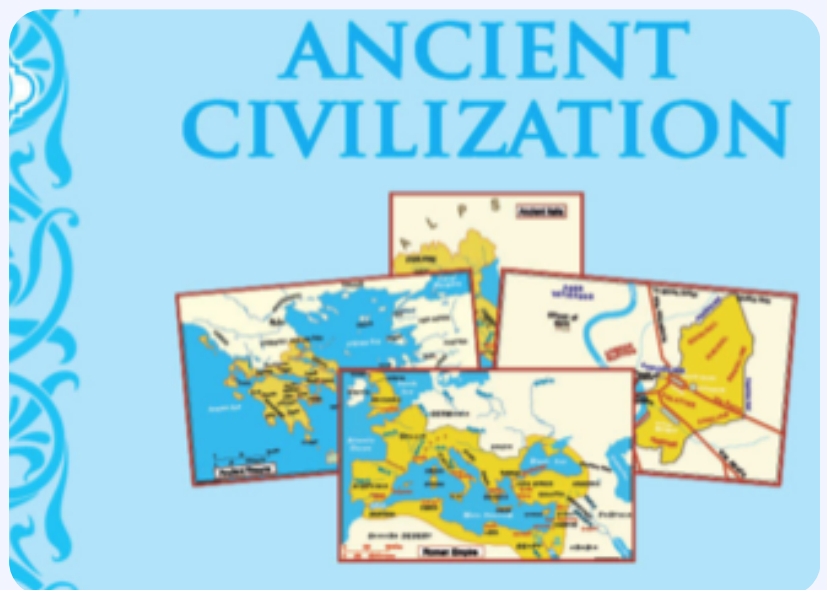
Just a quick update from the PA to say we have made our first purchases from this term's uniform sale: some wonderful new classics maps and a French magazine subscription for the library.

On the social side, we had a very successful pub evening at the Lamb & Flag, with over 30 parents attending: our all-time record!

We hope to arrange a Christ Church visit in the next half term, and of course we will also have the fireworks night and Christmas Light Show.

Hope you all have a great break.

The PA



Discovering the magic of Autumn in Nursery

The Nursery children have been sharing stories and looking at fact books about trees this week. A little like a bear in one of their stories, this year will be their first when they are learning about the changes from summer to autumn, the tree losing its leaves, often by the wind and the revealing of autumnal colours.

We have felt the leaves that have fallen from the trees, tracing veins and feeling the patterns. We have seen the imprint of this, first in play dough and then in ink. The veins and patterns in the leaves are much more noticeable in ink. Indelible ink enabled the children to print and paint with watercolours, choosing and mixing, often very watery paint, watching it blend and bleed into each other. One of the children added blue paint. 'It's the rain,' they told me. Another child in the group of artists nodded sagely, 'Yes, the leaves can float in puddles.'

We hope that many of our families have enjoyed our work in the Chapter House at the end of our Harvest Festival service. For those families who are unable to attend, we shall be displaying our autumnal pictures in the lobby of the Nursery, in Number One Brewer Street from next week.

Helen Backus



Letting imaginations run wild in Woodland school



At Woodland School this week, our Pre-Prep children had lots of fun tackling some imaginative activities. Mr Robards taught the children how to make their own campfires and leaf kebabs, so that the children could work together with a friend to create their own fireplaces and invite one another to visit their campsite for a bite to eat. The resulting creations were so varied, and looked absolutely magnificent in the Autumnal sunshine. We also used our 'mega stash' of conkers to create 'conker snakes'. Hopefully Mr Murray will still dare to come and visit us, given his disclosure that he was rather scared of snakes at our recent Pre-Prep Cathedral Assembly!

Tom Robards



Form 1 capture Evil Pea!

I am delighted and relieved to report that our Form 1 Superheroes have finally been victorious in their hard-fought battle with the Evil Pea, capturing him in a jelly trap and bringing his reign of terror and mischief to a sticky end. Thank you to all of the parents for so enthusiastically joining in with our little 'mantle of the expert' mystery! Thank goodness we will all now be able to enjoy a modicum of **PEAce!**

Tom Robards



Biscuit builders bring Stonehenge to life

This week in History, Form 3 have been learning all about Stonehenge, the world famous and historical monument built around 3000BC in Wiltshire.

We discovered that the stones used to build the circular structure were likely placed on giant wooden sledges and pulled along the ground using log rollers, then pulled on ropes to raise them. We also learnt that there are various theories about what Stonehenge was for. Some people believe that Stonehenge was used to study the movements of the sun and moon. Other people think it was a place of healing, or used for burials.

Form 3 then had great fun building (and eating!) their own 'Biscuit-Henge'!

Holly Pear



Are you ready for our French Challenge 2026?

Our pupils have until Monday 2nd November 2026 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?



A French Bake-off

Choose a recipe, follow it and present it in French- Photos/PPT/ videos needed!



Lights! Camera! Action!

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



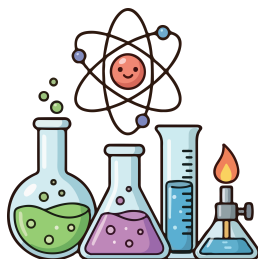
Holiday Adventure

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/or Microbit. Can your characters speak French on Minecraft?



Other!

You can create your own task., whether it involves drama, art, lego models... the choice is yours!

We're also inviting all the families to join us in a CCCS Cake Bake-off over half-term!
Please do email us a photo of what you are cooking! Which country will your cake decorating represent?
Happy baking...and tasting!

Jo Marsh visits CCCS



To celebrate the founding of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra 80 years ago this year, flautist Jo Marsh has been travelling around the UK visiting schools with the aim of inspiring a new generation of woodwind players. We were thrilled to host her here at CCCS this Monday, as her final school visit of 2026 (after seeing 24,500 children in over 100 schools!). Jo gave an assembly for the Prep School, in which she played a piece especially written for her by John Rutter, as well as showcasing the contrasting sounds of the piccolo and alto flute.

Jo spent the morning giving a workshop to the boys in Ms Mogridge's Woodwind Band, where they focused on tuning, breathing and improving their ensemble skills, before performing a newly-learned piece written for the CCCS boys. This was modelled on Benjamin Britten's 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra', with melodies from 'Jurassic Park', 'Superman' and 'Harry Potter' hidden between sections from well-known sea shanties. We finished Jo's visit by giving a performance to the children in Pre-Prep, demonstrating everything that had been learned throughout the day.

There is a huge amount of potential in the woodwind players at CCCS, many of whom are in the younger years of Prep and have exciting years still ahead of them. Hearing a performer from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Walton Hall was such a wonderful way to begin the week. I am very grateful to Ms Mogridge for supporting us throughout the workshop, and to Jo for giving her time to inspire the whole school!

Sophie Biddell



THE | OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7 - 13 who love to sing. Established in 2013, the Singing School provides the opportunity to experience great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop confidence in singing and performing.

Pupils will learn some beautiful carols and seasonal music from around the world, led by our regular team of expert coaches. To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingingschool.com or email

oxbridgess@gmail.com

21 & 22 December 2026

**St Barnabas Church, Jericho, Oxford
St Catharine's College, Cambridge**

www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk

Karate Kickmaster



Kick-starting the new term in the right direction is Hendrik, who has been competing in the JKS England Southern Development tournament.

Last month he successfully won a gold medal in the U9 Kickmaster and a bronze medal in the Boys Kumite 9-10 age group.

Well done Hendrik! We're very proud of your success and look forward to sharing updates on your future tournaments.

Courtesy of Mrs Eloff

CCCS Sports - Rugby Ruck

Rugby Festival



On Tuesday afternoon we hosted our first ever Form 3 Tag Rugby Festival.

Merton Field was looking glorious with the rain clouds parting and the autumn sunshine breaking through. We were hosting three other schools with Cokethorpe, Ashfold and Chandlings the visitors. Each team was able to play five matches and continue to build on all the work we have been doing during recent games lessons. The Form 3 boys were certainly in the mood and performed excellently throughout the afternoon, scoring loads of tries, defending with real determination and improving with every game they played. Special mentions must go to Abraham whose running and agility led to the team scoring on numerous occasions, Enzo who supported the runners excellently and was always available for a pass and also to Sam and Jason for making some excellent last ditch tags. It was great to see the hard work in training paying off during the fixtures.

Well done to all the boys that took part.

Dan Pear

CCCS Sports - Rugby Ruck

Cokethorpe v CCCS

Form 5

On Wednesday afternoon the Form 5 Contact Rugby team went away to Cokethorpe for a rugby fixture. The boys dominated the match from start to finish and were well ahead by the time the first quarter was over. Wonderful running from Jasper, and Louis was supported by Teddy and Lucas. But there were other fine performances from Alex and Hendrik who were keen to get stuck in. It was very noticeable how organised the boys were in defence, after working so hard last week during games lessons. The team is also improving significantly with the ball and with the support play that the games staff have been trying to encourage for the past few weeks. Well done to the whole team for another convincing victory on the rugby pitch.

Dan Pear

Form 6

On Wednesday, the Form 6 Contact Rugby team travelled out to Cokethorpe to play a match. With the return of the Choristers, CCCS looked strong as a team despite not having a match together this season! With lots of communication with each other, the boys' game improved as the first half went on. CCCS were slightly behind the 8 ball at halftime, but with a strong and engaging team talk, with a side of oranges, the boys came out and scored two quick tries! Unfortunately the boys couldn't finish the job, with lots of improvement during the game and team spirit, shining light on future matches after the half term break! Very well done boys!

Tom Gordon

U10/U11 Touch Rugby

The Under 10/11 touch team travelled to Cokethorpe. Cokethorpe came out firing with a couple of tries, however CCCS didn't drop their heads. It was a thrilling game to watch with great tries being scored from both teams. Our defence was strong and nicely spread out in a straight line, which made it very difficult for Cokethorpe. Shoutout to Qi Heng with a great try down the sideline. However, man of the match went too Thomas X who scored a whopping five tries! An outstanding effort by Thomas, who led from the front and helped CCCS secure the 6-5 win, in a great game of touch rugby.

Charlie Morgan

CCCS Sports - Rugby Ruck

CCCS v Ashfold



On Wednesday, our U12/13 Contact Rugby team took on Ashfold on Merton Field in a thrilling and closely contested fixture. The boys made an excellent start, scoring three tries in quick succession to take an early lead. However, Ashfold fought back strongly, scoring four tries to turn the game around. With the match entering its final moments, CCCS showed tremendous determination and resilience. A brilliant break in the very last play of the game created an opportunity for Ted Y, who capitalised to score a dramatic equalising try, bringing the final score to 4–4. MOTM goes to Theo H for his relentless effort and commitment in both attack and defence throughout the fixture.

Finlay Boarder

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The Form 7 & 8 Touch team played at home against Ashfold on Wednesday this week. They started well with some good passing plays and strong defence, but the speed of Ashfold's key players made it hard to keep them in their own end. Our boys pushed hard but eventually Ashfold broke through the line and scored a few tries. Considering the Ashfold team also played contact, the boys played very well showing the skills that they are learning during training. Shout out to Sergey and Max, who were both very influential, getting their hands on the ball as much as possible. Harry also played very well, exploiting any holes in the opponents' defensive line.

Toby Rowland

Spanish Enrichment at CCCS:

Opening Doors Through Language



CCCS is an amazing place for languages! Approximately 56.8% of children across the school are bilingual or speak another language. For some, English is an additional language; for many, another language is their mother tongue. Across our school community, children and staff speak Mandarin, Thai, Polish, Croatian, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian, Pashto, Hindi, Punjabi, and Spanish, alongside English. This linguistic diversity is something truly special!

Being able to switch from one language to another is an extraordinary ability. Behind every conversation, our brains perform incredible work, selecting words, navigating grammar and adjusting pronunciation to communicate meaning. For children learning English as an additional language, this process can be particularly demanding. Sometimes, things get lost in translation, jokes don't quite land, and frustration creeps in when the right words simply won't come. Yet, how remarkable it is to navigate between languages and cultures!

Learning a language is about so much more than communicating. It opens our minds to different perspectives, helps us understand other cultures and builds connections between people. It also opens doors to the wider world. Imagine travelling to Spain and ordering your own food, asking for directions or chatting with a local. A few words can transform a holiday into a genuine cultural experience, bringing us closer to the people, places and traditions around us.

In our Spanish Enrichment Club, the children have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, curiosity and a wonderful willingness to make mistakes. Together, we have explored Spain, discovered its cities and traditions, learnt about Spanish food and eating habits, practised counting and explored colours in Spanish. We even enjoyed a delicious Spanish tasting menu, kindly prepared by Mr Kilby and his team, to celebrate the end of our enrichment sessions.

We hope the children take away more than just a few Spanish words: a curiosity about other languages, the confidence to keep learning and a deeper appreciation of the richness that different languages bring to our lives.

After all, every new language gives us another way to connect with the world!

Alma Padin Ramos



Enzo enjoying his jamón ibérico, pan con tomate and croquetas in sunny Spain

Enrichment

Life Skills

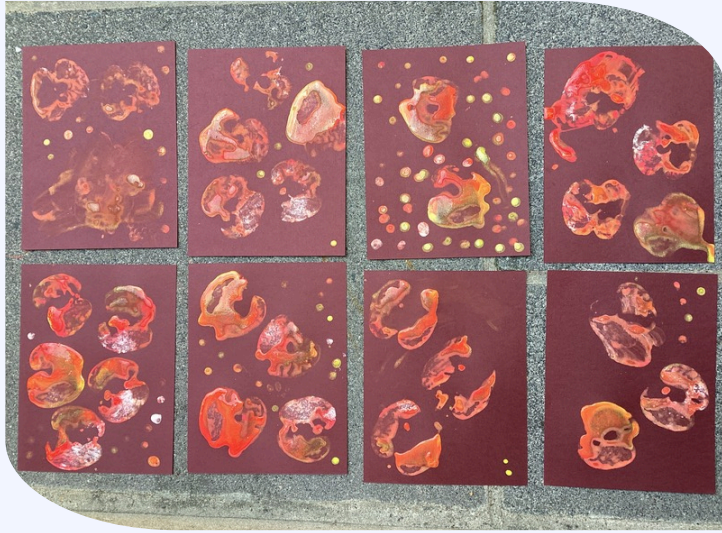


Life Skills and Spanish Culture Enrichment groups joined forces this afternoon to entertain guests with mocktails, canapés and Spanish delicacies. What a treat for the last Friday of half term!

Emma Price



School Photobook



Autumnal
Art in
Nursery



The Nursery gang were excited to welcome George (F6) who settled them in with a story.

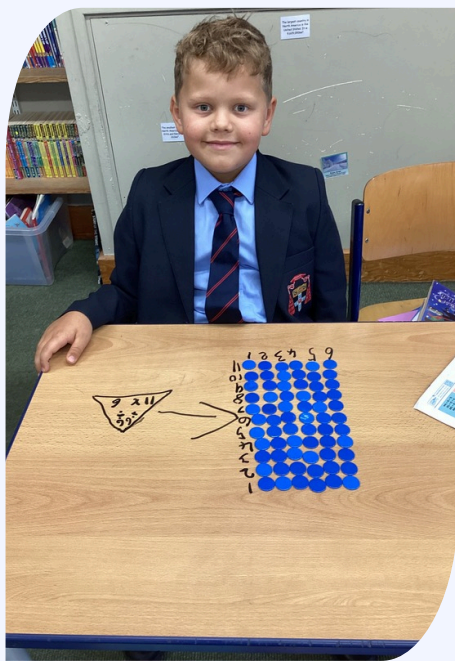
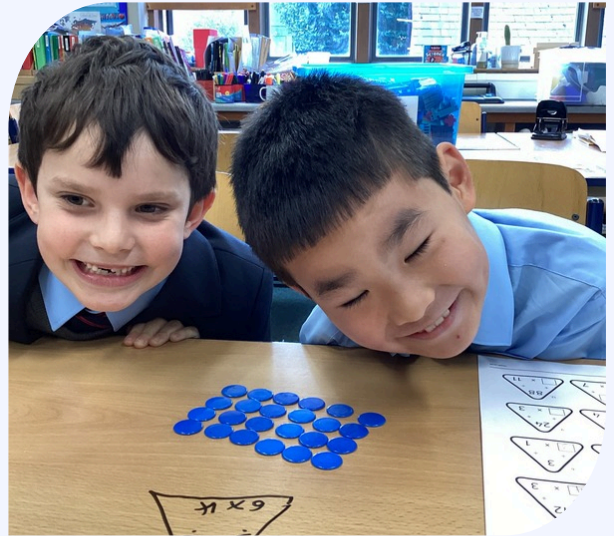
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Form 4 helping Aaran celebrate his birthday (and devour that beautiful chocolate cake) on Wednesday!

School Photobook

Maths, Fun and Biscuit-henge in Form3!



School Photobook

Pre-Prep in Woodland School



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.