Christ Church Cathedral School News

6th November 2026



Dear Parents,

This morning in the Cathedral we were joined by Form 2 who were taking part in their moving up day. It was lovely to see them. I mentioned that as a child I had loved cellars but that 421 years ago, rather an unpleasant incident had occurred in a cellar below the Houses of Parliament. I asked what that could have been and one of the Form 2s who had come over gave a detailed and accurate account of the events of the 5th of November, 1605 when Guy Fawkes had been arrested just in time to prevent him from blowing up the King, all the nobility and parliamentarians. It is from that incident that bonfire night comes, when fires are lit and fireworks are let off throughout England. I mentioned that such ceremonies had, for a number of centuries, been associated with suspicion of Catholics, Guy Fawkes being a Catholic who wished to return England to his faith. 2026 is the first year since bonfire night has been celebrated when we have had a Catholic Prime Minister, Andy Burnham being the first Catholic to hold that office. Today the celebrations are about bringing people together rather than excluding them and I hope that as many of you as possible will come together tomorrow evening for the firework display on Merton Field where Mr Robson will mount a tremendous display. I look forward to seeing you there.

It was a great pleasure to go down to Merton Field to see our First XV play Rugby against Kitebrook and St Hugh's. Both games were magnificent, our team showing both extraordinary individual talent and very pleasing teamwork, the ball shooting down the line with great efficiency and elegance. I was extremely impressed by the speed with which many of our boys moved. It's lovely to see so many people playing Rugby with such pleasure and success – and all the most beautiful pitch on England!

I have become an expert in identifying different types of motorised bike. Seeing everybody arrive in the morning is now a most interesting experience. The number of cars has declined significantly though I still pride myself in being able to identify who is coming from their car appearing halfway down Brewer Street, but the story of the day is the number of different types of bike upon which people arrive. We have some traditionalists who have powered their way, under their own steam, from the outer parts of Oxford, but far more common are motorised bicycles with every form of people carrying devices: crates, cages, extensions, baskets, seats - you name it and I've seen it. I've been most interested in how quickly this transformation has occurred. In so many ways it has made the School a much easier place to get to. For those for whom bikes and cars or walking and buses are not an option please don't forget that we have both the Headington minibus and the North Oxford minibus. They work with great efficiency and have the most charming drivers!

Part of what I will miss most when I leave the School, is my time every morning on the Street. This week there was a moment of calm and, I have to confess, that my mind was beginning to wander. There is one thing that I have learned for certain, having been here for 13 years, is that calm doesn't last very long, and, no sooner had this process begun, when I heard a shout from the other end of the Street. "Hello Mr Murray!" And then there was a pounding of feet upon the pavement. The little figure got closer and closer and when it reached me, way ahead now of its mother, it sank to the pavement breathing very heavily. "I wanted to get to you quickly, but I'm now very tired. I need to sit down". He sat there for a little while until his mother arrived. "I will miss you Mr. Murray when you are gone but I will come and visit you at your home every day." Well, maybe my retirement isn't going to be so retired after all and perhaps, when it comes to it, not that much different from my life at the moment.

Richard Murray
Headmaster

School Calendar

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th November

TOMORROW NIGHT: CCCS FIREWORKS NIGHT! 7.00PM AT MERTON FIELD. SEE YOU THERE!

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER

9.00am - Nursery - Form 2 Hearing Class

4.15pm: Music Concert followed by talk with David Woodcock, Director of Music, Harrow School (WWH)

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

2.15 - 4.30pm: U9 Rugby v Oratory (Away)

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

11.00am - School Act of Remembrance

Poppies will be on sale in the School Office from Monday in exchange for a £1.00 donation.

2.00 - 4.00pm: U11 Rugby Festival (Home)

2.30 - 4.30pm: U10 Rugby v Oratory Prep - Away

2.30 - 4.30pm: U12 & U13 Rugby v Oratory Prep – Away

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER

9.00am - 12.00pm: Flu Immunisation, Reception – Form 8

10.30am - 3.00pm: French Speaking Mock Exams

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER

8.45 - 9.15am: Cathedral Assembly with Nursery and Pre-Prep Speaker, The Headmaster

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

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	**Table Tennis** Forms 4 - 8 4.15 - 5.00pm	**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	
			Little Musketeers Forms 3 - 8 4.15 - 5.00pm Squash Court	

JOIN US FOR

FIREWORKS NIGHT

Let's light up the Oxford skyline!



Saturday 7th November, 7.00PM

School Pavilion, Merton Field

Suggested donation for entry is £10.00



Hot drinks and treats for all the family!

Friends & Family are very welcome



Get ready to sparkle at the

CCCS Light Show

Friday 11th December

4.30 - 6.00pm

There will be a tombola, Christmas Tree Parade, games, mulled wine, hot chocolate, food and so much more!

Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival 2026



After the success of last year's Christmas Tree Festival, Christ Church will once again be decorating the Cathedral and surrounding areas, and we will have our same tree in the Chapter House. As soon as the booking site goes live, we'll share it with you.

New for 2026, you also have the opportunity to participate in decorating one of the trees yourself. The Family Tree Decorating event is on Saturday 12th December, and you can find out more and book a space here:
Family Christmas Tree Decoration Craft Workshop | Christ Church, University of Oxford

Purple Bean Journeys: From the Garden, to the Art Studio, to the Kitchen!

On our arrival back in Nursery after the half term break, we were surprised to find that our bean plants, revived with lots of rain, were sporting lots of beautiful long purple bean pods. We wondered if the beans would have dried in the wind and be ready to collect as seed, but instead we discovered we had a late harvest of beans.

Miss Helen had to climb in the raised beds to pick the pods and, with armful of beans, we took our bounty to the Art Studio. Here we drew what we found.
'They are so purple.'
'I thought beans were green'
'I'm using so many purple colours.'
'This pod has green and purple on it.'

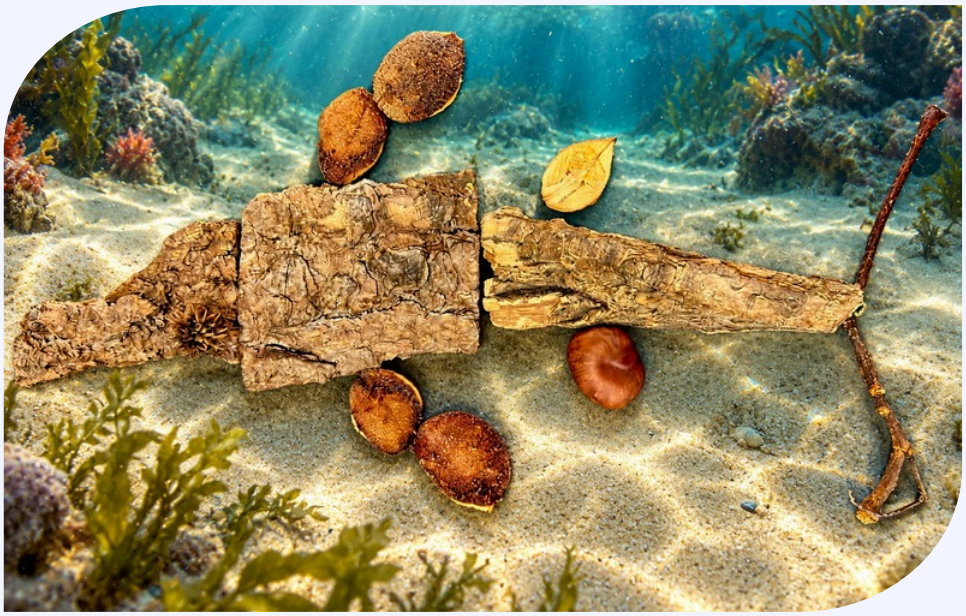
Inside we found soft green beds full of white beans. There was a small army of very keen children to remove the beans and take them to the kitchen for Mr Peter to freeze for a special lunch for the Nursery children.

Helen Backus





Reception's Leafy Friends take a holiday!



We have been making the most of the beautiful autumn treasures around us by creating our very own leaf creatures! Using a wonderful collection of dried leaves, sticks, beech nuts and conkers, the children let their imaginations run wild, transforming natural materials into a fantastic assortment of woodland characters.

Before getting creative, we spent time investigating the different leaves and discussing which trees they might have come from. We explored the wonderful variety of autumn colours, shapes and textures, noticing how some leaves were crisp and crunchy, while others were smooth, curled or crinkly. We also talked about why deciduous trees lose their leaves during the autumn and winter months, developing our understanding of seasonal changes and the natural world.

Once our creatures had taken shape, we brought a little bit of modern technology into our learning! Using AI, we created wonderfully realistic backgrounds for our creations, transporting them into all sorts of magical environments.

But the adventure didn't stop there! Over half-term, our little leaf creatures headed off on their very own holidays. We were delighted to receive some rather special video postcards showing their adventures and travels. From woodland wanderings to exciting new surroundings, it seems our leafy friends have been very busy!

This activity brought together creativity, exploration and technology, supporting the EYFS areas of Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design and Communication and Language, alongside KS1 learning in Science, particularly identifying plants and understanding seasonal changes.

Do take a look at the videos to see what our leaf creatures have been getting up to over half-term. Who knew leaves could have such exciting holidays!

Miles Berry

Pre-Prep’s Autumn Adventures



The Nursery and Reception children enjoyed a seasonal autumn walk on Wednesday.

We were sheltered as we walked past the Memorial Garden, but the absence of our mallard friend was a sign of just how windy it was in front of the Meadow Building.

We crunched our way through fallen plain leaves by the Meadow before stopping under a favourite plain tree to enjoy a story and a snack. The collection of autumn leaves have provided new collage materials for the Nursery children to practise their cutting and the plain tree seeds, beautifully globe shaped, new items for counting and spooning activities.

Helen Backus

Pupils in Reception - Form 8

Please read the email sent from the School Office

School Aged Immunisation Service

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Flu Vaccination

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

12th November 2026

1

Scan the QR code or click the link

Complete the form for your child

2

☑ **Yes**

☐ **No**

Tell us your choice

Choose **yes** or **no**

3

Submit the form

Please submit a form even if your choice is no. It helps us keep your child's record up to date

For more information visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms

Form 1 Fireworks!

Form 1 had great fun this week making lots of colourful Firework pieces for our new classroom display, featuring festivals of fire and light around the world.

Tom Robards

















scrumdiddlyumptious Snozzcumbers!

Form 3 have been learning about persuasive letter writing this week! We delivered our letters to Mr Murray, who was so delighted with his letters he dared to try a Snozzcumber! If you are also persuaded, please come to Form 3 for a tasty treat!

Stephanie Green

Dear Mr Murray,

Are you bored of ordinary, disgusting vegetables? Chillax, Form 3 have got you covered. Try the delicious, yummy, scrumdiddlyumptious, snozzy, Snozzcumber! It's limited edition for only one week, so grab it quick! It will dazzle you with its glory!

It grows in Minecraft. You need to travel to Minecraft World and go to the end, kill the Ender dragon and defeat a shulker to collect them.

The awesome Snozzcumber is filled with delicious bubbles and foam marshmallows with sprinkles on top! Make sure you shake before you eat.

Don't delay, eat today!

Cost:
£54750705472375049570470937407057034572047504750492754097204957049754275074095740925709457094570497290574057942 5.99

Yours Sincerely,
Form 3





Form 3 Fossil Finders



Form 3 had an exciting visit from the fossil expert Mr Scott this week! We carefully observed fossils from different geological ages including the Ammonites and Echinoids from the Jurassic Era, plant fossils from the Carboniferous Era and the Trilobites from the Devonian Era. Sadly, we did not have any dinosaur fossil remains, however, we did have dinosaur fossil poo (Coprolites)!

Stephanie Green

Music Awards Information Afternoon: 4.15pm, Monday 9th November

David Woodcock, the Director of Music from Harrow, will be giving a talk about music awards at senior schools on 9th November, offering advice on the application process which will be relevant to all senior schools. There will be a short performance in the Walton Hall at 4.15pm, followed by the chance to hear Mr Woodcock speak. Please do join us if you can, as it should be a really useful opportunity to find out more about music award pathways at senior schools, and especially to ask any burning questions about how it all works!

Sophie Biddell



CCCS Music Award Winners, 2026

Cathedral Choristers' Tour Video

I'm delighted to share the following video with parents, which features highlights from the cathedral choir's tour to the USA in September and October. It includes audio clips of the choir performing repertoire by William Walton, John Taverner and Nico Muhly, so - along with photos from some fantastic venues - I hope it will serve as an apt souvenir of this historic trip!

Watch the video here.

Sophie Biddell

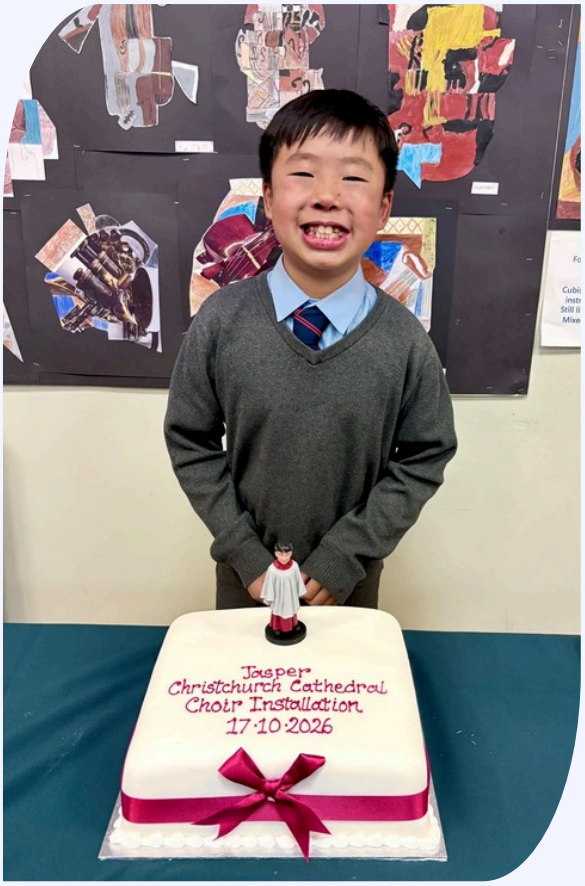


Welcome to the Cathedral Choir, Jasper!

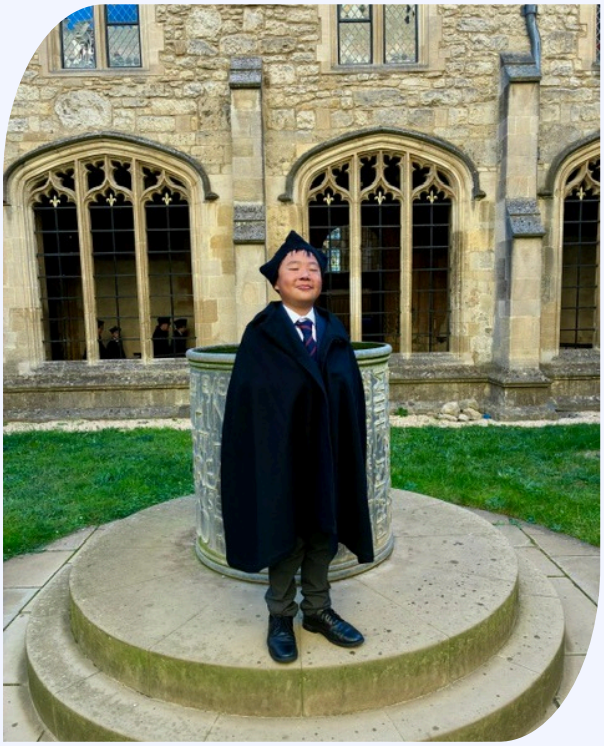
On Saturday 17th October, the Cathedral Choir welcomed Jasper into the fold as a full chorister. Jasper has been a probationer since September last year, and he has patiently and steadily worked hard to become a full member of the choir.

It was very special to welcome parents, pupils and staff to an event in Walton Hall celebrating this milestone for Jasper. We are all very proud of him.

John Robson











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

Whirlwind Wednesday

Rugby v Chandlings & Kitebrook

Form 6 Triangular v Chandlings & Kitebrook

On Wednesday afternoon the Form 6 Contact Rugby team took part in their first full contact fixture of the season. The ground had finally softened slightly so we headed over to Chandlings to take on both them and a team from Kitebrook in an afternoon triangular.

We came up against a tough Chandlings side in our first match and although it was a slow start, the boys really grew into the game. Trailing at half time, I really encouraged them to continue working on the excellent things we had done in the first half, such as being brave in the tackle and supporting team mates. We needed more forward running with the ball and a belief that we could get over the line and score some tries. The effort and improvement in the second half was incredible and the boys came away victorious in the second half. Special mentions to Fred, Andy and Ntiamoah for getting really stuck in.

We then were able to watch Kitebrook play Chadlings. Kitebrook were very impressive and showed why playing regular rugby outside of school can really improve performance, understanding and teamwork. We therefore knew it was going to be a really tough match against Kiteebrook, but the boys stood up to the challenge brilliantly. It was really worthwhile playing against such a strong side and we were able to learn a lot to take into future fixtures.

Player of the afternoon - Fred, for getting involved at every break down and being fearless when tackling.

Dan Pear

The U10/U11 Touch team played two games. Despite the cold and windy conditions, the boys had a great warm-up and carried that positive attitude into both games.

In the first game, CCCS played Chandlings and came away with a great 2-1 win. The boys initially struggled a little in attack. However, once they realised they needed to run straight and look for the space, they started making some great metres. Shoutout to Thomas X for a great try after spotting the space and tricking the opposition, and Giorgio for running straight through a gap in the defence for another try, which would turn out to win the game.

In the second game, CCCS faced a very strong Kitebrook team who were excellent with their offloads and attacking play. Despite losing 4-2, the boys' defence was outstanding throughout the game and they worked very hard. Qi Heng scored a fantastic try after catching the opposition lacking, taking a quick tap and scoring in the corner. George F also scored an impressive try in the corner. A really solid effort from the boys across both games, with plenty of positives to take away!

Charlie Morgan

Form 5 v Chandlings

On Wednesday, the Form 5 rugby team came upon a strong Chandlings outfit with an impressive set of skills. With a positive start to the first half, the boys made strong runs with great support play, utilising this through offloads to gain metres. Unfortunately, some of these offloads turned into turnovers through a lack of communication. With impressive tackle attempts, the boys were able to limit Chandlings' ability to score. Despite CCCS' persistence the boys fell short in the end, taking positives out of the match, as well as things to work on in future games sessions.

Tom Gordon

U12/U13 Touch Rugby

The Forms 7 & 8 Touch Rugby Team had a double header this Wednesday at home, first against St Hughes, and then against Kitebrook.

After a tough but promising start to the rugby season, the boys have improved out of sight, as shown in their first game. Edwin got the team off to a fast start, jumping on a loose ball and running away to score a wonderful try. They showed grit in defence, rushing out of the line as a team keeping St Hughes trapped inside their own half. Harry and Jaden used their speed to capitalise on the field position, both scoring tries to secure the team's first win of the year.

Following that game, we came up against a much bigger Kitebrook team. The effort could not be faulted, constantly throwing themselves in front of the much faster boys, only conceding two tries. Overall, it was an extremely successful afternoon, and the boys played in great spirit.

Toby Rowland

Sporting Stars

Acing his way to success

We are delighted to share with you that Richard has recently received the Development Award at the County Tennis Awards!

If you have been following Richard's tennis career so far, you will know that his game is going from strength to strength. Last year, he took part in the TEN-PRO Global Junior Tour, held by the Rafa Nadal Academy by Movistar in Mallorca, competing against other rising stars from over 50 countries.

Richard's achievements are testament to his incredible talent, hard work and dedication.

Congratuations Richard! We are so delighted that your committment has been recognised and we can't wait to see what you do next!



Courtesy of Mrs Wei

Howzat! The next cricket legend in the making!



Courtesy of Mrs Wykes

We have some very exciting news to share...

Isaac in Form 5, has been selected for the Oxfordshire Cricket County Pathway! Isaac regularly represents Oxford Cricket Club U11 hardball team, and following a recommendation from his coach, was put forward for the pathway's first phase. This involved a four-week programme of observation, coachng and assessment.

Following this initial phase, Isaac has been selected to progress to the Preparation and Competition phases in the under 10 age group. An exciting programme of winter and spring training programmes follow, with Isaac playing in matches and competitions in the summer.

Congrulations Isaac! We are all incredibly proud of you.

CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
OXFORD

REAL TENNIS



1620
LEAVE FROM SCHOOL

1630
COURT BOOKING

1745
BOYS BACK IN SCHOOL

COST
DETERMINED BY NUMBERS

MONDAYS

OPEN TO FORM 5-8

PROFESSIONAL COACH

Enrichment

Life Skills

More Life Skills car washing fun, this time with Forms 3-5! Mr Pear and Mr Berry were so impressed the first time round that they came back for more sparkling service! We hope they weren't disappointed!!

Emma Price

















School Photobook





Happy Birthday to Edward in F4 who celebrated his birthday over Half Term!
Before the holidays, Edward celebrated with his friends with a delicious chocolate cake by our very own chef, Mr Kilby!

From French dinosaurs to creative fun!

Adam, one of our Language Ambassadors joined the Nursery gang in French today. They really enjoyed the dinosaur colour story that he shared with them.









School Photobook

Leaf Creatures in Reception















School Photobook

Early Years Wanders

Early Years Wanders







More fun at the car Wash!













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.