

11th November, 2016**Key Information (details below)**

- Home clothes in return for a donation to Children in Need on Friday, 18th November
- Snow Action Plan attached
- **Christmas Club Pelican booking open** – email clubpelican@perse.co.uk
- Cedar Class Assembly, Friday 18th November at 9am
- APP Book Fair, 3 – 4.30pm, Monday 21st – Thursday 24th November, Library
- Club Watching Week, Monday 21st – Friday 25th November
- Closing date for registrations for Nursery 2017 is 15th December 2016

**Dear Parents,**

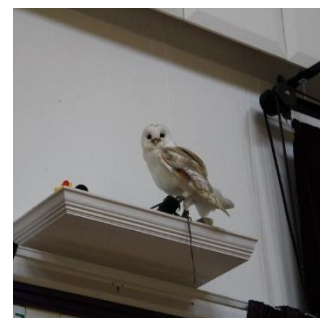
Working with young children is an ongoing joy. Earlier in the term, in response to a “how are you today?” asked of two children, I received the answers “normal” and, after some thought, “nice”. This week, as a child watched me squeeze lemon on to my lunch, he told that “lemon is my fourth favourite food”. How wonderful to have a fourth favourite food; how many of us have fourth favourite foods and what would they be if we did?

The week has been filled with diverse lessons and experiences. Nursery have been making symmetrical crowns (and could tell me what ‘symmetrical’ means), Reception were in awe of the birds brought here by the Raptor Foundation, Year 1 have experienced Victorian wash days – in very cold weather and Year 2 have used pastels to create some stunning poppy pictures in the style of Georgia O’Keefe. Today children in assembly received Golden Bricks and Mathematician of the Week certificates for demonstrating determination, perseverance or resilience as well as for trying and practising new skills and for growing confidence and enthusiasm. The sun is shining and it does feel that all is well with our Pelicans.

The Raptor Foundation visit Reception



Maple and Beech had 5 very special visitors come to see them this week. Minnie (who looks just like Plop!), Goliath, Topaz and Sharney the Owls and Spike the Hawk! They had the opportunity to stroke the owls to feel how soft their feathers are and were told all about what they eat, when they sleep, how they can fly and much more. Did you know that not all owls sleep during the day? They also can't taste or smell anything they eat! The owls did a flying display for us and when we closed our eyes we couldn't even hear Minnie swoop across the room!



Year 1 visit to Cambridge Folk Museum

This week year 1 went to the Cambridge Folk Museum to experience a Victorian wash day. The children found out how to pump water, grate soap and used a posser to help clean some very dirty clothes! They then used a Victorian mangle to squeeze out all the water, being very careful of their fingers, before hanging the clothes on the line to dry. After all that there was still the ironing left to do! They all agreed that washing day for the Victorians was very hard work and they were grateful that we have washing machines today to do it for us. Liam really enjoyed grating the soap because "it was quite a dangerous thing to do!" and Cillian was really glad we don't still have to use "that very smelly soap!"





Armistice Day

Today the whole school stood in a large circle on the playground for 2 minutes silence at 11am. I am always impressed by how well such small children are capable of doing this and that they have the chance to gradually become aware of the importance of remembering.



Reception and Year 1 Christmas Productions

Thank you to everyone who has returned their preferences for attending the Out of This World Christmas Production. Currently the numbers for each of the performances are spread evenly so I am not envisaging needing to limit numbers or issue tickets, however, this is dependent on parents keeping us informed of their plans. I would be most grateful for further responses if you have not yet sent them to us. I know how much families enjoy seeing the children perform and would be very happy if we are able to accommodate everyone's wishes.



Pelican School Uniform



Now the cold weather is here, all children need to wear a school uniform coat. These are in stock at John Lewis and cost approximately £30 depending on size. They are fleece lined, cosy yet waterproof. Hats and scarfs should also be as per the uniform list and are also available from John Lewis.



Year 2 Activity Morning at The Prep

For logistical reasons, the Year 2 Activity Morning at The Prep tomorrow is **only for external candidates**.

However, our Year 2 children will have a marvellous Monday morning when they visit The Prep to play hockey during the school day on 14th November.



Pelican parents are always most welcome to tour The Prep and should contact Mrs Dannert at PrepHMSec@perse.co.uk if they would like to arrange a visit and meet Mr Piper.

Link to Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

48 boxes were filled and are already on their way to Eastern Europe. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this time-consuming but very worthwhile charitable cause. It provides a lovely opportunity for our children to experience at first hand that Christmas is about giving as well as receiving.



Children in Need Day, Friday 18th November

We will be fundraising for Children in Need again this year and **children may dress up in home clothes for this special day if they bring a donation for Pudsey**. We shall be selling Pudsey wristbands from Monday 14th November for £2.





Cedar Class Assembly. Friday 18th November at 9am

I am looking forward to our first class assembly of the year and know that Cedar will delight us all next Friday. All families and friends of children in Cedar are most welcome to attend.

APP Book Fair, 3 – 4.30pm, Monday 21st – Thursday 24th November, Library

Who needs Amazon when you have the Pelican APP Book Fair?! Do come and order/purchase all your Christmas presents during this week. Each class will visit the book fair during the week and, in case you are not able to visit yourself, they will come home with a list of a book or two that they showed an interest in.



Club Watching Week

This also takes place in the week commencing 21st November so, if you are able to, you are most welcome to join us to watch your child at gymnastic, Stagecoach, kung fu, street dance and ballet clubs.

Gymnastics – Reception – Monday 21st at 3.15pm

Gymnastics – Years 1 & 2 – Monday 21st 4.30pm



Stagecoach Drama - Years 1 & 2 – Tuesday 22nd - watching week will begin at **4.45pm**.

Kung Fu – Year 2 - Wednesday 23rd at 8am

Kung Fu – Year 1 - Thursday 24th at 8am



Streetdance – Years 1 & 2 - Friday 25th at 8am



Ballet – First Steps - Reception - Friday 25th at 3.20pm

Ballet – Pre-Primary – Year 1 - Friday 25th at 3.55pm

Ballet – Primary – Year 2 - Friday 25th at 4.30pm

Christmas Club Pelican

A letter accompanies this newsletter with full details of the Christmas Club Pelican. Due to how the days fall this year we shall only be running it on 4 days, but a trip to see Beauty and the Beast will be included as well as a range of Christmas activities. The hall will be decorated and the Christmas tree will be up; what more could be needed for four days of fun with your friends? And that is just how the staff feel about it all! To book a space please email ClubPelican@perse.co.uk.



Play your part in The Perse's new performing arts centre



This dramatic development to the Upper School site has started to take shape over the last few months; you can see a time lapse video of the latest progress [here](#). The building is on track to be completed by autumn 2017 and we are looking forward to having even our youngest children using this exciting new space. You can make your mark on the most significant change to The Perse site since our move to Hills Road in 1960 by naming a seat in the auditorium. Find out more and name a seat [here](#), or please contact Dr Maša Amatt or Mrs Sarah Gordon in the Development Office on PerseADO@perse.co.uk or (01223) 403808 if you have any questions.

Community Lecture, 16 November

Professor Harold James (Princeton University) will be delivering a Community Lecture at the Upper School on Wednesday 16 November at 7.30 on the topic 'Britain & Europe, past and future'. The lecture is free and open to the public, but entry will be by ticket only. For more information and to register for the event, please visit www.perse.co.uk/lectures.

Registrations for entry to Nursery in September 2017

A reminder that the closing date for registrations to enter Nursery in September 2017 is 15th December 2016.



With best wishes from us all at The Pelican