

16th October, 2015

Key Information (details below)

- Orders needed by 22nd October, 2015 for Christmas cards created by your child
- Flu Vaccinations – Please return all consent forms to school by Monday 19th October at the very latest, confirming whether or not you wish your child to be immunised
- 400th Anniversary Noel Young Wine Tasting Evening, Wednesday 11 November at 7pm
- PES Fireworks, Perse Upper School, Friday 6th November at 6.30pm
- Creative Writing Evening for Year 1 and 2 Parents, Thursday 12th November at 7pm

Dear Parents,

Thank you to you all for supporting the children at our Harvest service on Monday. There was a marvellous bustle to the church as every child brought their produce and the quote of the day came from one of our



youngest children, as they came up the aisle, "Oh! I have never been to a vegetable party before!" Jimmy's Night Shelter gratefully received the fruit and vegetables and a good quantity of it all was going to be made into dinner for that very evening.



Year 1 visit The Upper



For their science lesson this week Year 1 learnt to use microscopes and were thrilled to visit "a real science lab" at The Upper to do so. The visit was highly successful and one of our children caused everyone to think when he asked if the daphnia they were looking at was a girl or a boy! There were many comments of "amazing!" "awesome!" as well as "it's interesting because I can see it all!" Budding scientists of the future. Many thanks to The Upper School staff for accommodating us.



Year 2 visit The Cambridge Science Centre



Mrs Hurt took the Year 2s to The Science Centre for the children to explore, investigate, problem solve and experiment, although I suspect they thought they were just having fun. A series of marvellous beach buggies were created and then raced, enhancing the class work on forces.



The Raptor Foundation visit Reception

Reception had some very special visitors this week when The Raptor Foundation brought 4 of their owls to see the children as part of their topic on "The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark." The children watched amazed as food was held in the air for the birds to fly to. They knew that owls are nocturnal and must therefore have very good eyesight and commented on their very scratchy claws.



Flu Immunisation Programme for Schools - Years 1 and 2



A reminder that for the first time this year all children throughout the country in Year 1 and Year 2 are being offered the opportunity to participate in the flu vaccination programme. The vaccinations have been booked to take place at school on Thursday, 19th November.

All consent forms must be returned to school by Monday 19th October at the very latest, confirming whether or not you wish your child to be immunised.



400th Anniversary Noel Young Wine Tasting Evening Wednesday 11 November 7pm.

We are delighted to be working with award winning wine professional and Old Persean, Noel Young, during our anniversary year. Noel will showcase wines from the exclusive 400th anniversary wine club during this fun and relaxing evening. Don't miss this opportunity to taste and order your selection of Christmas wine!

Tickets cost £25, including prosecco on arrival, tasting wines, a light supper and a cheese course, and can be purchased from our online box office www.perse.co.uk/box-office. For assistance booking tickets, please email 400@perse.co.uk.

Tables of 8-12 are available. Guests may state which families they would like to share with when booking a ticket, but do not necessarily have to make up a whole table.

Aged 18 and over only please.

400th Anniversary and The Enduring Gift – a message from Ed Elliott

Throughout our 400th anniversary celebrations we will be raising money for three charities. They are: East Anglian Children's Hospices (who provide care to children with life limiting illnesses and support affected families); Christel House Schools (who provide an excellent free education to children in some of the world's poorest communities) and The Perse School's Enduring Gift campaign.

I am confident that our founder Dr Perse – a committed philanthropist - would support our decision to follow his example, and raise money for the School. The Perse is - and always has been - an educational charity. Its charitable work includes the provision of means tested bursaries so that children from families who could not afford the full fee, and children from families who unexpectedly fall on 'hard times' (for example through unemployment or ill health) can benefit from a Perse education. The number of Perse bursary holders is inevitably limited by the School's means to support them. To help children beyond our school community, The Perse runs an outreach programme that now includes work with 17 local primary schools. Our outreach programme responds to the needs of primary schools and involves the provision of teaching and support in maths, literacy, modern foreign languages, classics and gifted and talented programmes to children across Cambridgeshire.

We are very aware of the financial pressures our parents face which is why we try to fund many of our charitable activities through fundraising, and via commercial lets of our facilities. (Masa Amatt, our Development Director, explains more in the attached message).



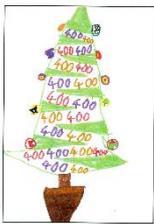
Link to Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Advance notice that we are once again supporting this initiative. Children from The Upper School will be visiting us for an assembly on 19th October to explain how to participate. You may like to find your shoe box early and begin to fill it with useful Christmas items for families in Eastern Europe. Full details will follow in due course, but in the meantime you may find out more from

<http://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal>.

Filled shoeboxes may be brought into school from after half term until Monday 9th November.

Christmas Cards – it's that time of year again!



No need to shop for Christmas cards, gift tags or mugs this year! The children have been busy creating their own amazing 400th themed festive designs. A proof, order form and instructions will be sent home in the book bags. Parental order forms must be returned by 22nd October and will be processed during half-term. Please make cheques payable to The Perse School.

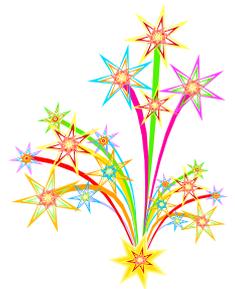


Half term

A reminder that we finish school next Thursday afternoon for the half term break, Friday 23rd October to Monday 2nd November inclusive, and return again on Tuesday 3rd November.

PES Fireworks, Friday 6th November

The Perse Exploration Society will be holding a Fireworks display on Friday 6th November at the Perse Upper School site. Gates open at 1830 and the Fireworks display will begin at 1930. Please find attached to this PersePost a poster advertising the event. Tickets can be purchased from the Pelican, Prep and Upper reception desks. Advance tickets cost £8.50 per individual ticket or £30 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children). Your ticket includes hog roast and a hot drink (hot chocolate or mulled wine). Tickets may be bought on the evening and will cost £10 per individual ticket. All proceeds will go towards the purchasing of materials for the PES Summit 12 Bolivia Community Project.



British Legion Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale during our first week back from half term and Year 2s will be touring classrooms with them. We would suggest a minimum donation of £2. On 11th November we shall stand silently in a large circle on the playground at 11am.

**Creative Writing Evening for Year 1 and Year 2 Parents
Thursday 12th November at 7pm**

I hope you can come along to hear all about how creative writing is taught at The Pelican from our Year 1 and 2 staff. Please complete the attached form for catering purposes.



Children in Need Day, Friday 13th November

This major event for the children is coming up shortly after half term. We shall be focussing on putting our best efforts in to fund-raising. Children should dress up in spotty clothes for this special day. We shall be selling Pudsey wristbands from Monday 9th November.



I look forward to seeing many of you at the APP Mexican Evening tonight...



With best wishes for the weekend and the half term ahead,

Mrs W and all the staff at The Perse Pelican



An Enduring Gift

In March this year we launched [An Enduring Gift](#) - a major fundraising campaign. Thanks to generous donations from the entire Perse community, including parents of current pupils, we have already passed the £1 million mark. We are very grateful to all those who have chosen to give.

The fundraising campaign and the 400th anniversary celebrations are independent of each other. The campaign began before the anniversary year and will extend beyond it. But as the school community celebrates its history, we are reminded that The Perse would not be here today were it not for the generosity of others. Our *An Enduring Gift* goals are inspired by our founder's philanthropy and a shared passion for education:

- ❖ doubling the means-tested support from the [Bursary Fund](#) to keep The Perse accessible to families who cannot afford a full fee and support cases of unexpected hardship
- ❖ growing our educational [reach into the community](#), locally and beyond
- ❖ the [Performing Arts Centre](#) project: a once in a life-time opportunity to transform and enhance the very heart of the School

This is an aspirational campaign, and the Bursary Fund goal is the most ambitious. This year, there has been an increase in demand for mean-tested bursaries and hardship support. With your help we can double the number of children we support (typically 120 per year) by 2025. That requires at least doubling the current annual income of £1m for the Bursary Fund, while keeping fee increases to a minimum.

The Bursary Fund helps us maintain a healthy social mix among our pupil body by making The Perse accessible to children of all backgrounds. Parents tell us that, alongside the School's academic reputation, this inclusive, broad-based culture is one of the key reasons why they chose the School. It is the very reason pupils – and indeed parents – from all walks of life feel comfortable here.

We need your support - alongside OPs (alumni), past parents, staff and friends - to achieve these goals. During your time at The Perse, you will hear from me and my team seeking voluntary donations. Please rest assured that all gifts, no matter what size, will make a difference, but also that there is no obligation to give. We are all acutely aware of the many pressures that families face today, particularly those – like you – who are making significant sacrifices to give their children the best possible start in life through an excellent education.

Masa Amatt