



20th October, 2016

### Key Information (details below)

- School resumes on **Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November!**
- School photographs available to view online
- Reception and Year 1 Production: audience numbers needed
- Please fill a Christmas shoebox for charity and return to school by 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Christmas card orders to be returned by 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the latest, together with the original artwork
- Year 2 selling poppies after half term
- Home clothes in return for a donation to Children in Need on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November
- Tickets available for Perse Fireworks Display on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Necklace found following American Night



### Dear Parents,

What a busy week! Year 1 have had a visit from Amey Cespa recycling and now have extensive knowledge of what types of materials should be put into which coloured bin – probably better than many adults! At this stage of the term in Years 1 and 2 children complete a piece of writing without any adult assistance and I have been so pleased to see the progress since the start of term.



Reception children have been receiving messages from a creature in their woodland and writing replies. Year 2 have completed some beautiful pastel drawings based on Aztec art as they considered hot and cool colours. Nursery have greatly enjoyed their igloo and ... all classes have made Christmas cards for you!

## Harvest

Everyone participated with gusto in our Harvest Thanksgiving service yesterday. Thank you so much for the produce you donated; it will not only provide meals for the homeless in Cambridge, but also enhances the children's understanding of where food comes from, what it looks like in its natural state and that it has an existence before arriving in an Ocado van or on supermarket shelves, pre-wrapped in plastic. The retiring collection was much appreciated by St John's and raised £257.55.



## APP American Night



What a jolly evening was had by all at the APP World Food Evening last Friday! Many thanks to Mrs Bowler and Mrs Clark for organising the event and to Steak and Honour for bringing one of their celebrated vans to school to cook delicious burgers.

## Necklace found

A necklace was handed in at the end of the evening. If you have lost one Mrs Butler may be keeping it safe for you.

## Open Morning

You may be interested to know that our Open Morning last Saturday was very busy with over 80 families attending. Some of our ex Pelicans, now at The Prep, returned to play their instruments in the hall and it was, as always, wonderful to see them and hear the progress they have made.



## Feedback from Parent Survey

Last academic year was a busy year for surveys with the ISI questionnaire to all parents prior to our inspection, the results of which are not shared with the school, followed soon afterwards by our own biennial parent survey. The feedback from so many of you was much appreciated.

The overall picture was very positive, with high levels of parent satisfaction; thank you. However, there were also some helpful comments on areas for us to review. Parents highlighted the difficulties with dropping off and picking up. This is a thorny issue. We continue to try to find inventive new ways to beat the Cambridge traffic and the Bursar is reviewing travel options across the 3 schools.

Some parents felt that the level of homework had become too great and the tasks rather complex. So we reviewed the reasons for setting homework, focussed on the key objectives and have cut the amount and type of homework required whilst ensuring our children are prepared for The Prep.

Most parents responded that their children enjoy their lunch, but a further word or two of explanation may be helpful. The menus are designed to be healthy, appetising and child-friendly; it is important that the children eat well to prepare them for the afternoon. Each class teacher or teaching assistant supervises the lunch the children choose, checking they have a balanced meal and do not choose only carbohydrates for example. The children are well supervised and we ensure they eat enough. I know from personal experience that it can be frustrating when children go through a phase of choosing the same food every day, no matter how much they are encouraged to try a wider choice of food, but this does pass – eventually!

## Individual School Photographs



The photographs taken by Pret-a-Portrait on their recent visit to the school are now available to view online at [www.pret-a-portrait.net](http://www.pret-a-portrait.net). To view your pictures please enter your unique Sitting ID listed on the flyer sent home in your child's book bag.

When you are ready to place your order, go to the online shop on the right side of the website. Images viewed online are straight from the camera. Any pictures you order will be re-touched to make the background clean and any extraneous objects or background will be removed. (Excludes whole sitting USB). If you have questions or need any help or advice please email [customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net](mailto:customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net) or call + 44 800 021 7626 or Skype Pret-a-Portrait.

**All orders placed by 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016** will qualify for an **Earlybird discount** which gives you **10% OFF the list price and FREE delivery** (straight to your home or chosen address). Orders of unframed prints or JPEGs will normally be shipped within 10 working days. Framed items and canvases may take up to 28 days. You will be sent an email notification when you order is shipped.

## Reception and Year 1 Christmas Productions

Please could you indicate on the accompanying Persepost the dates on which you plan to watch the Reception and Year 1 production and how many of you there will be in your party. Last year one of the performances had a very large audience and for obvious health and safety reasons we may need to restrict the numbers at a performance if all families choose the same date. However, we shall do all we can to ensure that everyone who would like to see the production, can. The production will be recorded on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December so it would be much appreciated if some of the younger, more vociferous members of Pelican families could avoid that date!



Due to the age of our Pelicans, events have to be scheduled during the day. As your children progress through The Perse events take place during the evening on most occasions. We give parents as much notice as possible of daytime events during the year and put them at the start or end of the day for your convenience. You will find future dates in the Parent Handbook, both on the Parent Portal, in your hard copy and on the back of each term's calendar.



## Link to Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

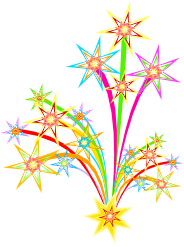
Every year, children from all 3 Perse Schools contribute to this appeal. Families fill a shoebox with items that are not available to children or elderly people in Eastern Europe. Children from The Upper School came to assembly this week to tell the children about this appeal. You may like to fill a shoe box over half term; full details can be found by following this link <http://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal>.

Filled shoeboxes should be brought into school after half term. The final collection date is **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November** to allow time for the shoeboxes to travel across Europe in time for Christmas.

## Christmas Cards

A reminder to please return your child's original artwork to school, together with your order form for Christmas cards **immediately after half term** so that the artwork can be sent to the printers. **The final deadline for all orders is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**





## PES Fireworks, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November

The Perse Exploration Society will once again be holding a fireworks display on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 may be purchased from the Pelican, Prep and Upper reception desks. Advance tickets cost £9.50 per individual ticket or £32 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children). Your ticket includes a hog roast and a hot drink (hot chocolate or mulled wine). Tickets may also be purchased at the gate on the evening and will cost £11 per individual ticket. All proceeds will go towards supporting the PES Summit 12 Moroccan School Community Project.



## British Legion Poppy Appeal

Year 2 will be touring classrooms to sell poppies during our first 2 weeks back after half term. We would suggest a minimum donation of £2 and shall endeavour to name all poppies! On 11<sup>th</sup> November we shall stand together silently in a large circle on the playground at 11am.

## Children in Need Day, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> November for £2.



## 5K Rudolph Run to celebrate Addenbrooke's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Rudy would like 250 people to join in on this year's sponsored fun run **on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December** to commemorate Addenbrooke's momentous 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

The festive fun run will be on a pushchair-friendly, 5k route, suitable for all the family, around the Cambridge University Hospitals with merry activities occurring along the way.

Festive fancy dress is highly encouraged and there will be a prize for the top fundraiser!

The entry fee (£15 Adults, £7.50 Children) includes reindeer antlers, water and a finisher's medal presented by **British Paralympic athlete, Laura Sugar**. Check-in is between 9.30am - 10.00am.

It has been a busy half term and the children deserve a break from their school routine; I hope you are able to enjoy the time together.



With best wishes from us all at The Pelican

