



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

10th September 2021

Dear Parents,

It was fitting that the arrival of hundreds of excited Perse children on Monday was enough to clear the residual grey skies and herald a sunny start to the new academic year. I suspect that many parents will remember fondly the buzz at the start of the school year and this feeling is accentuated for the current generation with the return of normal routines. We hope that we are able to help your children settle into the new term and create many special memories of their own. Assemblies this week have encouraged the children to make the most of many of the opportunities on offer and also to remember our three school rules – see if they can recall them for you!



Can I congratulate all seventy-nine new children who have joined across the year groups for navigating their way through their first few days; those in Years 4, 5 and 6 have even managed to wear the Prep Sorting Hat to discover which House they are in! I am sure that all children will require a little downtime this weekend to recharge batteries after assimilating so much over the first week.

Earlier this week, it was good to have so many logging in to the remote Parents' Evening meetings with Form Teachers. It is especially important to build this relationship between home and school at the start of each school year. Do continue to keep in contact over the coming days

and weeks if you have any concerns, or indeed have any information which might help us to provide the best education we can for your child.

On staff news, congratulations to Miss Walker who metamorphosed into Mrs Evans after her holiday wedding. I am also delighted to welcome our new staff: Mr Ed McGregor (Director of Sport & Clubs), Mrs Rebecca Rundle (Teaching Assistant) and Miss Catherine Andrews (Science Teaching Assistant). Catherine will also be helping Amie Montecalvo with the running of Late Stay.



PPP Autumn BBQ – Sunday 19th September 12 – 2pm

There is not long to go until the Autumn BBQ which takes place a week on Sunday and is organised by the PPP (Perse Prep Parents). This is a very well-attended event which provides a valuable opportunity for parents to catch up with each other in an informal setting at the start of the academic year, and is especially useful for those families who are new to the School. Just a polite reminder, please, to book your Entry Tickets, Raffle Tickets and Tokens by this coming Monday (13th September).

Thank you to those who have donated so many wonderful prizes; the PPP are really grateful for your support. However, just a reminder that before Tuesday 14th September, the following are still urgently needed:

- Bottles of any description for the adult tombola
- Raffle prizes e.g. bottles, toiletries, preserves, chocolates, candles, wine, fizz and other small treats or gifts
- Good quality pre-loved toys and books suitable for Prep age children only
- Children's Tombola – Prizes MUST be new. These could include a voucher, a toy or gadget, stationery and other accessories. Please email Zoe Robson at zafrobson@gmail.com with your details before leaving your prize behind Reception for safe keeping.

The PPP are also still looking for one more volunteer First Aider who would be happy to help out, should the need arise during the event. If you are able to volunteer your assistance, please contact Zoe Robson on zafrobson@gmail.com. With many thanks from the PPP.

Prep School Open Morning – Saturday 2nd October (advance warning)

Bookings have been coming in over the last few months for the Prep Open Morning at the start of October. Prospective parents are signing up for individual time slots, with a guided tour taking an hour. All children in Year 6 will be invited to attend all morning and act as tour guides for this event. Visitors will be required to wear masks during their visit. As in previous years, this is not obligatory for Year 6 children, but I wanted to flag this particular event. Mr Knowles will be sending a PersePost to Year 6 parents with further details and asking for confirmation of whether your child will be involved on that morning.

Sport

Key events for the week ahead are:

Wednesday 15th September

U11 A/B/C/D Football v St Faith's at home at 2.30pm. Collection from the Prep Playing Fields at 4pm.

U11 A/B/C/D Girls' Hockey v Felsted away at 3.00pm (note later start time). Collection from the main Prep site at 5.30pm.

Thursday 16th September

U9 Girls' Hockey Festival v Kimbolton away at 2.30pm. Collection from the main Prep site at 5.15pm.

Friday 17th September

U10 A/B/C/D Football v Kimbolton away at 2.30pm. Collection from the main Prep site at 5.15pm.

U10 A/B/C/D Girls' Hockey v Kimbolton at home at 2.45pm. Collection from the Prep Playing Fields at 4.45pm.

Parents are very welcome to attend these fixtures, both home and away. Specific details for each fixture can be found on SOCS at www.persesport.co.uk. Remember to look for hockey fixtures under 'hockey sevens'.

Clubs

Most clubs finish at 4.30pm, with pick up from the main Prep site (Year 3 near the Pirate Ship, Year 4 by the footprints, and Years 5&6 by New School).

Those involved in sports clubs (hockey, football, rugby) should be collected from the playing fields. Tennis and netball/basketball take place on the bottom playground and so collection should be from the main Prep site. Apologies for the error in the Clubs Booklet which incorrectly stated that Thursday's Year 5 Netball/Basketball club was at the fields.

Club finishes for external (chargeable) clubs tend to be a little later:

Tennis (4.45pm), Chess (5pm), Taekwon-do (5pm), Fencing (5pm) and Ballet (Grade 1: 4.30pm, Grade 2: 5.30pm).

Safety on Site and Pick-up Reminders

Can I remind parents to keep a close eye on their children as they walk them to their cars at the end of the day. Parents should also watch their speed when driving on school grounds; your children's safety is of paramount concern. This also applies as you enter the gravel drive to the playing fields, especially at the end of the school day when Prep children may be walking back to the main site after games or clubs.

If parents are delayed at pick up at the end of the school day, we shall supervise your child at a homework club. You should go to Reception and ask Mrs Webb who will message the teachers in charge of each group and the children will be sent out to the normal collection points.

If you are delayed at pick up after the clubs finish, we shall supervise your child at Late Stay. You should go to the grass in front of school (or Library if poor weather) to collect from Miss Montecalvo and Miss Andrews. Other than the first few minutes, there is a charge for the use of Late Stay.

Friday Assemblies

The Friday Head's Assembly will continue to celebrate achievements in and out of school. If I can make a special mention of something that your child has done out of school, please do send details, including any photographs of medals or certificates, to Mrs Clare Webb (prepreception@perse.co.uk).

Weather dependent, we shall aim to allow parents at our outdoor Friday assemblies up until half term. A confirmation PersePost will be sent the preceding day once we have a more accurate weather forecast; this message will provide reminders about where and when to arrive.

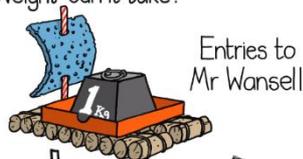
PPP Perse Umbrellas

The PPP limited edition Perse Umbrellas are very nearly sold out but there is still time to purchase one if you haven't already! These are priced at £30 and can be ordered and paid for online via Parent Pay or, stock permitting, be purchased at the Autumn BBQ via the 2nd Hand Uniform Stall. Thank you for supporting the PPP fundraising initiative.

Holiday Competitions (Art and Design)

DESIGN COMPETITION

Design and build a boat that can float which is made from recycled materials. How much weight can it take?



Don't forget the Design Construction Competition; Mr Wansell is looking forward to judging the boat entries. There is still a chance for any final entries to be handed in by the end of next week. We can then see who wins the coveted Mukherjee Trophy!

In a similar vein, any budding artists have one more week to get their entries in for the Holiday Art Competition and any adventurous bookworms one more week for their Extreme Reading entries...



Make a picture or a 3D model of a bird of paradise in its natural environment. Use any media of your choice.

Entries to Mr Wansell

Parent Directory – a reminder to 'opt in'

In years gone by we have produced a Parent Directory for each year group, which contained the names of pupils and parents, listed by form, as well as addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. The majority of our parents usually wished to be included.

In line with GDPR requirements we are unable to publish all of this information in the same way. The Parent Directory is now available on the ParentPortal and you can decide to 'opt in' (or not) and choose what information is shared with other parents/carers (by using the tick boxes). You can also decide whether your information is available to all parents/carers in the school or just those with children in your child's year group or form. This is a good way for other families to be able to contact each other to arrange playdates or touch base with each other. A PersePost has been re-sent today so that you can see how to opt in to this facility.

Visiting the School during the School Day

In accordance with regulatory requirements, and as part of the School's Visitor Policy (across all three sites), we are required to inform you at the start of each academic year about the procedure for parents and guardians visiting the school during school hours, 7.45am – 6.00pm (not including dropping off and picking up children at either end of the day):

All those visiting during the middle of the day must report to Reception and will be signed in as appropriate. The Visitor Code of Conduct appears on the visitors' badge which must be visible at all times during a visit:

- 1. You must be accompanied by a staff member throughout your visit.*
- 2. You must return the visitors' badge to Reception on leaving the School and sign out.*
- 3. If you notice any unsafe or inappropriate behaviour or health and safety issues you must report it to one of the Safeguarding Personnel (as identified on the poster in Reception).*
- 4. You must take reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of others at the school.*
- 5. You may only use staff cloakrooms in school. You may not use the toilets designated for pupils.*
- 6. You must not reveal to anybody outside school, personal information you may learn in the course of your work or visit.*
- 7. Should there be a fire evacuation, a member of staff will accompany you out of the building and to the visitor assembly point.*
- 8. The School operates a no smoking policy (including e-cigarettes) on all school premises.*

When attending ad hoc events (such as Friday Assemblies, concerts, productions or sports fixtures), the School recognises that it is not practical or desirable for parents to have to follow the strict registration arrangements (points 1 and 2 on the Code of Conduct).

Clearly, the current situation has reduced the number of visits onto the school site. If parents are coming onto site for a meeting they should wear a mask.

Music Awards

Congratulations to the following on their ABRSM Awards: **Linus Chin** on his Grade 2 Piano; **Jack Collins** on his Grade 1 B Flat Cornet with Distinction; **Léon Corne** on his Grade 1 Trumpet; **Kamran Djamarani** on his Grade 1 Saxophone with Distinction; **Charlotte Goodfellow** on her Grade 1 Piano; **Olivia Griffiths** on her Grade 1 Flute with Distinction; **Theodore Hirzel** on his Grade 5 Trumpet with Merit; **Max Jonas** on his Grade 1 Saxophone with Distinction; **Anna Kreckler** on her Grade 1 Flute with Merit; **Hanqi Lu** on her Grade 2 Piano with Merit; **Beau Martinez-McCune** on his Grade 3 Piano with Distinction and Grade 2 Saxophone with Merit; **Ella Scourfield** on her Grade 2 Oboe; **Isabel Tong** on her ABRSM Grade 5 Violin with Distinction; **Esther Wong** on her ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory with Distinction and ABRSM Grade 5 Performance Singing with Merit; **Selina Wong** on her Grade 5 Music Theory; **Fred Woodman** on his Grade 2 Piano and **Ethan Xu** on his Grade 5 Piano with Merit.

Congratulations to the following on their Trinity College London Awards: **Umar Ibrahim** on his Grade 2 Drum with Distinction, **Toby Rayner** on his Grade 1 Drum, **Daniel Shenker** on his Grade 2 Drum with Merit; **Selina Wong** on her Grade 4 Violin with Merit and **Damian Zupan** on his Grade 2 Drum with Distinction.

Great Britain Number 1 Ranking

Well done to **Beau Martinez-McCune** on a remarkable summer of tennis. Beau is currently ranked Great Britain's number 1 in the LTA rankings at the U9 age level, which is a staggering achievement. Beau secured his number 1 ranking in August, a month in which he won an impressive eight regional level tournaments.



Certificates and Awards



Congratulations to **Charles Balfour** on winning the Hamilton Cup in the U8 Ockleford Golf Competition in Elie, Fife; **Benjamin Danesh** on coming third in the online British Chess Championships U11 Rapidplay category; **Leopold de Ris** on his Gymfinity Proficiency Level 3 Award; **Daniel Fannon** on his Gold Certificate and Gold Medal for taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge; **Marianne Gouliouris** on being selected for the Girls' Development Centre at Cambridge United Football Academy, her RYA Level 2 Sailing qualification and climbing a snow-capped Ben Nevis in the summer; **Cillian Harrison** on becoming Cambridgeshire Cricket's U10 'Player of the Year', and scoring three undefeated fifties and his debut century for the County, for which he was awarded his county cap; **Etienne Lamb** on winning the U10 Regional Tennis Tournament at Tarragona, Spain; **Sophia McDonald** for playing Matilda in Saffron



Walden Theatre's Unboxed production of Matilda Junior; **George Robson** on his Trumpington FC U8s Manager's Player Award and Stapleford CC Batter's Award; **William Robson** on his Stapleford CC Improver's Award and **Nivedh Vinodhkumar** for running for GOSH in a 31km challenge, raising £336 and appearing in *The Week Junior* for this.

This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
NOMADS 135	CORINTHIANS 144	FORESTERS 154	BARBARIANS 164

Finally, well done to all of you for managing the start of term so well; I wish you all a super weekend.

Yours sincerely

James Piper
Head

We value endeavour, intellectual curiosity and scholarship, breadth and balance, one another and our environment.