



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

14th January 2022

Dear Parents,

The children have been learning about the allegory of the long spoons in assembly this week. This story serves as a neat reminder that we should help each other so that everyone prospers; the alternative being suffering in loneliness when we are only concerned with ourselves. I would hope that your children might be able to demonstrate this simple message at home. However, once they have finished flashing their spoons around, I hope that they can then demonstrate their impeccable table manners after my subsequent demonstration of what not to do at the dinner table! Table manners also incorporate enjoying the social aspect of eating together and not bolting one's food – we are having a push on this so that the children are not rushing out to the playground so soon – I am sure that this onus on manners will consolidate what parents would also expect at home.



This week we have also heard from a representative of the children's chosen charity for the year, the Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity. My thanks to all the children who posed questions and Mr Reston for compering this event.

Covid Update

Currently we have the following number of children self-isolating from current positive Covid cases: Year 3 three, Year 4 one, Year 5 four, Year 6 seven. Numbers in Year 6 are taking us very close to the 10% level; nearly all of the extra mitigations required are already in place in terms of separating Year 6 from other year groups (lunch, playground, assemblies). If we were to move above 10% then we would inform Year 6 parents and ensure Year 5/6 separation in any remaining clubs such as Taekwondo or Fencing, and in the handful of larger music ensembles. We would also have to cancel the Year 6 fixture next Wednesday.

The rules on self-isolation following a positive Covid test change on 17th January. From Monday, children and staff may leave self-isolation early if they have negative lateral flow tests on day 5 and day 6. In order to attend school on day 6, these tests must be taken early morning and before leaving for school on day 6.

It can be difficult to stay on top of the ever-changing Covid guidelines; for any questions, please contact covidtest@perse.co.uk and we can talk you through the various stages. Some key reminders are below:

- Your child should self-isolate and get a PCR test if they have any of these three symptoms, even if mild and short-lived: a temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste. *It is worth noting that we have seen headaches and sore throats as some of the recent symptoms at the Prep.*
- If your child is identified as a close contact, they should take a LFD test every morning for seven days before attending school.
- If your child tests positive on a LFD test, then they should self-isolate and are no longer required to get a PCR test. Please still inform covidtest@perse.co.uk.

NSPCC Maths House Activity Day

Advance warning of an exciting off-timetable day planned for the last day of this half term, on Friday 11th February when we link up with the NSPCC and celebrate their 'Number' Day. Mr Reston, Mrs Coleman and Miss Bonner are organising a raft of Maths activities including a murder mystery, puzzles, Pi skylines, digit games, and a whole school 'rap'. We're excited to hold this on the same day as the Pelican and we hope that your children will be inspired to dress up on the day with number-inspired outfits or accessories!

Artwork

This week's art banners showcase Year 5 who have constructed 3D lighthouse models using cardboard, paper and wood. They also incorporated an electrical circuit into their pieces to light up their work!

Usually we would open up our Art exhibition to parents next week. Please note that this will still happen but we have pushed this back a few weeks until we can have parents back into the buildings.



Sport

For next week, parents are very welcome to attend the following matches:

Wednesday 19th January

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Hockey v Bishop's Stortford at home. Collect from the Astro at 4pm
If your child has a club, then there will be the normal pick-up arrangements.

Thursday 20th January

2.30pm U9 A/B/C/D Hockey Festival v Kimbolton away. Collect from the Prep at 5.15pm
Children should remember to bring face coverings for the coach journey. At this time of increased mitigations, parents should contact the school if they feel strongly that they don't want their child to travel on the coach to this away fixture.

Friday 21st January

2.30pm U10 A/B/C/D Netball v SPF (Dame Bradbury's) at home. Collect from the Prep at 4.30pm
3pm U10 A/B/C/D Hockey v SPF (Dame Bradbury's) at home. Collect from the Astro at 4.30pm



For home netball fixtures, parking will continue to be available at the playing fields. Parents will have to buzz Reception to get onto the main site if they are wanting to watch the matches at the bottom playground. The Gazebo will be up to provide some cover from the elements and also as a focal point for match tea afterwards.

To find out the exact start time for each individual team in hockey, do check www.persesport.co.uk as only two teams can play at any one time. This means that some matches will start a little later than the time advertised above.

U11 Hockey side 2nd in Framlingham Tournament



Well done to the U11 side who came second out of nine schools in Wednesday's early season Hockey Tournament at Framlingham. They came top of their group, having beaten Framlingham and Bedford 1-0, and then beat Orwell Park 3-1 before losing 1-3 to overall winners, Old Buckenham Hall. Other teams at the same event were Felsted, Culford, Gresham's and Barnardiston Hall. Mr McGregor and Mrs Clark were encouraged by the progress made by the squad of nine: **Zac Brennan, Seb Cartwright, Zac Clark, Jack Collins, Theodore Hirzel, Max Jonas, Ferdie Piper, Liam Whelan and Damian Zupan.**

PE

Despite our best efforts for children to try a hybrid uniform for PE lessons (if they are not already in games kit for their PE lessons), we have realised that full games kit is much more conducive for forward rolls, cartwheels and everything else gymnastics! Therefore, the following classes can wear games kit all day on the occasions when they have PE lessons (Monday 4Alpha, Tuesday 3A, Thursday 6A & 5Aleph, Friday 3Aleph). We will revert to normal uniform once the gymnastics topic stops after half term.

Perse Summer School 2022

Please note that the programme for the Summer School, based at the Upper, is now up for parents and children to view. This runs from Monday 11th July to Friday 5th August and is open to all children between the ages of 7-14. Further details can be found at www.persesummerschool.co.uk.



Limited Edition Perse School Umbrella – only a few left!

The PPP marketing team are at full throttle – I hope many of you are able to succumb to the following pitch and the glowing testimonials!

With a busy hockey and netball fixture schedule fully underway for this term, show your support for our glorious Prep teams by purchasing the Perse Umbrella. With only a few remaining, buying one could not be quicker and simpler. Simply log onto ParentPay and then collect from Reception at a time to suit you. Umbrellas are priced at £30 each. Cash or cheques left at Reception in an envelope marked with your name are also welcome. Proceeds from our umbrella sales go towards the school and the PPP's nominated charities.

"The open and close mechanism is really smooth. The umbrella feels really sturdy even though it's comfortably light. I felt cosy and well protected during the entire fixture!". Year 6 Parent

"My son said that seeing a group of Perse umbrellas on the side line made his team feel really proud!". Year 4 Parent

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Adam Agarizaev** on his Trinity College London Entry Level Classical Guitar certificate with Merit; **Reina Brogan** and **Léon Corne** on their Year 5 Reading Quest Badges; **Daniel Fannon** and **Oliver Taylor** on their Trinity College London Grade 1 Classical Guitar with Merit certificates; **Beau Martinez-McCune** on winning the U10 Central & East Tour, the U10 Midlands Tour and being selected to attend the LTA U10 Regional Performance Camps; **William Reddy** on being promoted to yellow tag in Taekwondo; and **John Jeffreys** for his piano performance of *The First Flakes are Falling* by H Madden in today's assembly.

Congratulations to the following children who have recently been awarded their Silver Housepoint Awards: **Lexie Billingham, Florence Boyle, Nikita Brogan, Davinia Cheng, Daniel Fannon, James Gerhard, Noah Higham-Lee, George Hunter, Anna Kreckler, Conrad Lally, Kumara Sathiaseelan, Steven Wang, Seb Warburton** and **Esther Wong**. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:



Yours sincerely



James Piper
Head

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