



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

15th October 2021

Dear Parents,

“Each of us, famous or infamous, is a role model for somebody. You can be sure someone is watching and taking deliberate and diligent notes.” Maya Angelou’s words resonate as we head into our final week of this first half of term. I would like to thank the wonderful team of staff at the Prep who are indeed outstanding role models and I am sure that your children would certainly recognise the teachers’ hard work in ensuring such a positive school experience thus far.

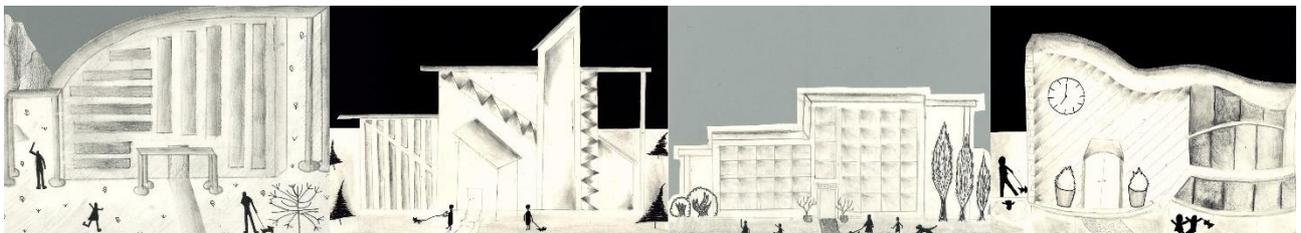
And some of these staff do manage, occasionally, to escape school. Our best wishes to Mrs Soares Winter and Mr Reston who, like many parents, will be amongst the fifteen thousand runners in this Sunday’s Cambridge Half Marathon. [Claire](#) is raising money for Mind and [Jules](#) for Cancer Research UK. If you would like to make a donation, please click on the links above. Thank you.

I would also like to congratulate Miss Marks on winning her first cap for England this weekend in the Home Nations’ Aussie Rules Tournament. Kate is one of our Teaching Assistants and also a Games Coach at the Prep. For those who haven’t experienced Aussie Rules, she describes it as an even more demanding sport than rugby, a comment she is well-qualified to make, as a past fly-half and captain of the Cambridge University Rugby Union side! It’s worth pointing out that this particular role model has a strong academic background too, having just started on a PhD, after completing her MPhil last year.

Mental Health Awareness Days – Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st October

Next week we have normal school on Monday and Tuesday before off-timetable activities for all children on Wednesday and Thursday to mark our annual Mental Health Awareness Week. There are some reminders from Mrs Crichton Maitland below:

- Games kit to be worn on Wednesday and Thursday for all children.
- On Wednesday, Year 3 will need wellies and also a coat.
- On Thursday, Year 6 will need a coat, if it is cold, as they will be involved in Outdoor Pursuits.
- Children will not need their school bags on Wednesday or Thursday.
- Individual music lessons will take place as normal.
- Morning academic support groups will not run on Wednesday and Thursday (as well as Mrs Seed’s support group on Monday).
- Children will need to bring in anything they need for clubs. Some will be involved in fixtures (Year 6 boys on Wednesday) or House matches (Years 3&4 boys on Thursday) and these children must remember to bring in their boots and shin pads.
- For various activities it would be a big help if children could bring in some of the following: Year 3 – empty egg shells; Year 4 – old pairs of tights and one small clean yoghurt pot; Year 6 - an old empty jam jar with a lid. Children should hand these in to Form Teachers next week; many thanks.



Covid Update

We are striving hard to ensure as normal a school experience as possible for your children. However, we are conscious that there are an increased number of Covid cases in the region, and across The Perse. We currently have six Prep children self-isolating with a confirmed positive PCR test.

We have increased our mitigations by no longer holding whole school assemblies in the Hall. When the weather allows, we shall continue with these outside, otherwise we shall conduct these online to smaller year group gatherings around the School.

In line with the Upper and guidance from the Local Authority, if we reach the 10% threshold of a year group self-isolating (considered an outbreak), we would ring fence a particular year group with a series of further mitigating measures, including changes to lunchtimes and playgrounds, splitting after school mixed year clubs, and cancelling fixtures. Specific details would be communicated to all families within the affected year group.

We continue to maintain our strict ventilation policies as well as to emphasise the importance of good hand hygiene. Other than when teaching, staff are wearing face coverings when unable to social distance indoors. We urge you to remind your child to apply hand gel at the entrance to the school as soon as they arrive in the morning.

As we move further into winter, we shall also see more evidence of flu symptoms amongst children, staff and staff children, and this might mean occasional teaching cover is required in the classroom. My thanks to our outstanding Teaching Assistants who ensure an impressive sense of continuity; many of these staff are experienced qualified teachers themselves. A sign of a strong staffroom is when so many individuals also volunteer to cover duties, clubs and games sessions; I am very grateful.

Artwork

This week we showcase Year 6's artwork. The children made shaded drawings of their final contemporary building designs as part of their architecture project.



Sport

Next week the boys will finish off their football season with their House Matches before moving on to rugby after half term. All Year 3 boys will be playing touch rugby. Parents of boys in Years 4, 5 and 6 should reply to this week's PersePost to opt for either contact rugby or touch rugby. The deadline for replies is next Wednesday. If you have any questions about our rugby provision, do get in touch with Mr Nicholes, our Head of Rugby (djnicholes@perse.co.uk) or Mr McGregor, our Director of Sport (egmcgregor@perse.co.uk).

Parents are very welcome to attend these matches:

Monday 18th October

2.15 – 3.35pm: U11 Football House Matches (during games session)

Tuesday 19th October

2.55pm: U10 A/B/C/D Football v St Faith's away. Collection from the main Prep site at 4.15pm.

Wednesday 20th October

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Football v Bishop's Stortford College away. Collection from the main Prep site at 5pm.

Thursday 21st October

11.15 – 12.25pm U8 Football House Matches (during games session)

2.15 – 3.25pm: U9 Football House Matches (during games session)

In a change to the calendar, the U10 Rugby matches scheduled for Friday 26th November have been moved to Friday 3rd December.

IAPS Nationals and IN2 Hockey Regionals

Congratulations to our U11 hockey players who shone on Monday by winning the IAPS Regional Tournament at Framlingham School, and qualifying for the National Finals, to be held at Millfield School on Friday 26th November. The squad of nine won all six games during the event without conceding a single goal, beating Old Buckenham Hall, Gresham's and Felsted in the group stages before beating Town Close in the quarter finals, Framlingham in the semi finals and defeating Langley in the final. Head of Girls' Hockey, Mrs Clark, and Director of Sport, Mr McGregor, were hugely impressed with the girls' approach throughout the day.



Just two days later, the girls were back on the astro, this time at Wilberforce Road, as they came second in the County, and qualified for the Regional rounds of the IN2 Hockey Tournament to be held on 12th November. They beat Stephen Perse Foundation, Kimbolton, St John's and King's Ely and drew against King's before losing in the final few seconds to St Faith's in the final. Very well done to the team of **Elizabeth Balfour, Emily Herriot, Sophie Hull, Maggie Kent, Sophie Lewis, Elisabeth Lindemann, Bella Meng, Harriet Sedgemore** and **Esther Wong**.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal – deadline Friday 5th November

On Tuesday we were introduced to this year's [Christmas Shoebox Appeal](#) by a number of students from the Upper. The charity *Link to Hope* delivers Christmas boxes to disadvantaged families and elderly people in Eastern Europe. Any donated boxes should be handed in to year group areas by 9.00am on Friday 5th November at the latest. Each entry will earn a housepoint for that person's House. Printed leaflets (with labels to stick on the wrapped boxes) have been handed out to your children; extra leaflets can be downloaded. Key points are:

- Find a medium size shoe box.
- Fill a 'family' or 'elderly' box by ticking the appropriate option on the leaflet and choosing a range of gifts from those listed, ticking off on the customs label.
- Sellotape £3 on the leaflet to cover postage (complete the gift aid form if possible).
- Wrap up the whole box with Christmas paper as a single unit (completely sealed) and sellotape the customs label on at the edges marked, so the postage slip can be torn off to leave the customs label on.



Christmas Card Competition – deadline Friday 5th November

Children are invited to take part in this year's Christmas card competition; they may use any artist's media and should submit their designs on an A4 sheet of paper, using the whole of the page. For printing purposes, going over any pencil lines with a fine line pen would be advisable. The winning design will be used for this year's official Prep Christmas card. Entries should be handed in to Reception by Friday 6th November.

Flu Vaccinations – Wednesday 17th November

NHS Cambridgeshire will be visiting the school on Wednesday 17th November to provide flu vaccinations for all year groups; further information has been sent in a separate PersePost. Unfortunately this is not online and requires a paper form, to be returned to Prep reception by 9.00am on Wednesday 3rd November.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Anaiya Gupta, Anamaya Kumar** and **Lilian Ke** who have been selected for the U9 Cambridgeshire County Tennis team; **Lillian Ke** who won the David Lloyd U9 tennis tournament and came third in the U10 event; **George Pullan** on being selected by Norwich City FC to join their Elite programme for this season, after training with the Player Development Centre for two years; **Dhruv Sajog** on being selected for the U10 Cambridgeshire County Cricket team; **Arthur Hirzel** on successfully auditioning for a role in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* at The Leys this Christmas; **Harry Hutchinson** on his Grade 3 Piano Award; and **Lanxi Li** and **Alice Yang** on their Year 5 Reading Badges.

Congratulations to the following on their Bronze Housepoint Awards: **Charles Balfour, Samaira Bedi, Iris Candea, Lara Daubeney, Dhruv Ghildyal, Jonathan Goldsmith, Ivy Green, Joyce He, Freddie Heftman, Anushka Jadon, Harry Kelliher, Elizabeth Kennedy, Xi Xi Lin, Yiliang Lu, Léonie Ricciardi-Baquié, Aurora Short, Ryan Smith, Daniel Teng, Arabella Wallace, Nicholas Williams, Wilson Wingham, Elliot Woolley, Alexis Wu Williamson, Joyce Xiao, Oriana Wei, Jiho Yoo, Ellie Zhu, Adam Agarizaev, Elizabeth Davies, George de Albuquerque, Beatrix Dickinson, Florence Fast, Charlotte Goodfellow, Marianne Gouliouris, George Gregory, Sophia Hardcastle, Rania Hassanain, Samuel Hong, Eryn Jonas, Lillian Ke, Benjamin Keen, Conrad Lally, Tom Lance, George Li, Karl Nguyen, Marissa Ojha, Sophie Oldfield, James Parry, Miriam Ponder, Theodora Pring, Annabel Ramsden, Olivia Reynolds, George Robson, Maggie Rowan-Robinson, Dhruv Sajog, Julia Saklatvala, Kumara Sathiaselan, Noah Scourfield, Arabella Sedgemore, Sherry Shao, India Short, Lucas Simpson, Eilidh Sinclair, Ronak Sinha, Siobhan Wan, Steven Wang, Matthew Wilkins, Selina Wong, Yueer Yuan, Austin Zhang, Reina Brogan, Lanxi Li, Alexander Toutoungi, Deniz Yakici, Aurora Broodbank, Grace Butler, Olivia Cutts, Benjamin Danesh, Jack de Albuquerque, Kavin Gahlaut, George Hunter, Umar Ibrahim, Amy Keen, Maggie Kent, Sarika Kondel-Laws, Ferdie Piper, Sophie Prewett van Beesten, Harriet Sedgemore, Reuben Shenker, Shriya Siddharth and Esther Wong. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:**



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'James Piper'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke under the 'e' in 'James'.

James Piper
Head

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