



THE PERSE

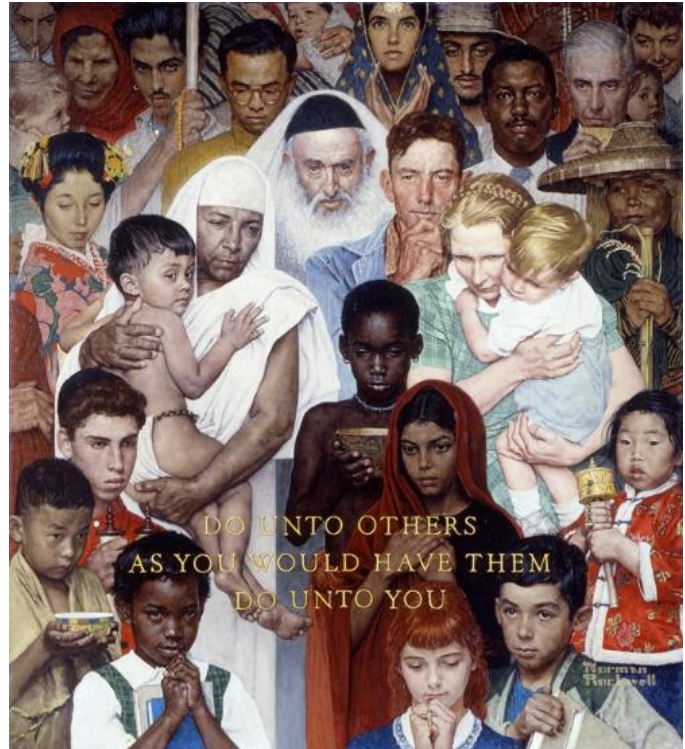
PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

21st January 2022

Dear Parents,

The famous twentieth century artist Norman Rockwell was interested in comparative religion and spotted that many religions had a 'Golden Rule' in common. His eponymous image was at the core of this morning's assembly as I talked about the importance of treating others as you would like to be treated. Your children might remember the example given of two monkeys escaping a flood and their consideration of the plight of the fish in the swirling water beneath them. I reiterated to your children that the ability to get on harmoniously with those around them is more important than academic success, even as we go into a week when Years 4 and 5 sit English and Maths assessments. Understanding how what one says can affect different people is a sign of maturity and true intelligence and can belittle excuses such as "I didn't mean it", or "it was only a joke". Of course, all of this can be boiled down to an even simpler sets of rules which is familiar to all at the Prep: be kind, be kind and be kind!



Covid Update

Currently we have the following number of children self-isolating from current positive Covid cases: Year 3 eleven, Year 4 one, Year 5 seventeen, Year 6 thirty-six.

Last weekend saw a significant number of positive Covid cases reported to covidtest@perse.co.uk which resulted in a sudden spike, especially in Year 6. As mentioned in PersePost messages to all parents, we have kept in close contact with the local authority who have been supportive of all the mitigations and processes put in place. It is not a surprise that the virus has spread quickly amongst this unvaccinated age group but it still causes significant disruption; I am sorry for all those whose daily routines and jobs have been affected with the change in childcare arrangements and those who have subsequently tested positive themselves. There doesn't seem to be an imminent move to vaccinate children under 12 but it is interesting that the DfE are [recommending](#) that parents of children under 12 should get boosted if they haven't done so already.

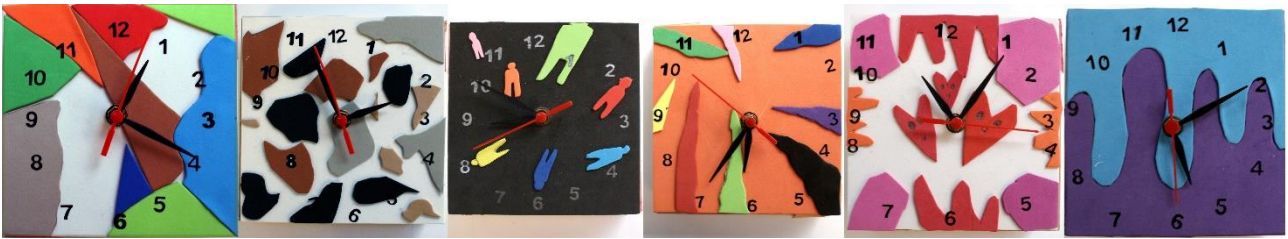
Throughout the recent disruption, the staff have been so impressed with how all of your children have adapted to the situation and kept up with their school work. Those at home have shone with the remote learning via Teams, and those at school have managed the hybrid teaching with aplomb, sometimes in slightly sparsely populated classrooms! I am grateful to all of the staff for managing this operation so smoothly, especially with some inevitable teacher absence to boot.

We shall review case numbers at the start of next week before confirming to the children whether to cancel the mixed year group ensembles again. We are desperate to get going with our fixtures but we shall also have to review case numbers before making a decision; some of this depends on whether children are able to return from self-isolation on day six or at a later stage. We shall look to reschedule any missed fixtures where possible.

In line with the updated government guidance this week, parents do not need to wear face coverings when popping into Reception or into New School to collect from Late Stay from next Thursday. The Local Authority continue to advise that face coverings should be worn on school transport until further notice.

Artwork

This week's art banners showcase Year 3's clocks, designed and made in DT.



Christmas Holiday Story Competition

Congratulations to everyone who handed in their entries for the Christmas holiday story competition and especially to the following children for their outstanding stories:

Year 6 Winner: **Ella Scourfield** Runners Up: **Niovi Skordos, Ruolan Wang** (judged by Ms West)
 Year 5 Winner: **Jamie West** Runners Up: **Jack Robertson, Fred Woodman** (Mr DA)
 Year 4 Winner: **James Parry** Runners Up: **George de Albuquerque, Benjamin Keen** (Mr Bown)
 Year 3 Winner: **Arabella Wallace** Runners Up: **Jana Batawangala Mallorqui, Daniel Teng** (Mr DA)

Sport

All of our fixtures next week involve A-D sides but precise team sheets are not yet being published until we can review cases numbers at the start of next week. If on, parents will be very welcome to attend the following matches:

Wednesday 26th January

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Hockey v Barnardiston Hall at home. Collect from the Astro at 4pm
 2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Netball v St Faith's away. Collect from the Prep at 4.30pm

Thursday 27th January

2.30pm U9 A/B/C/D Netball v Kings College School at home. Collect from the Prep at 4pm

Friday 28th January

3.30pm U10 A/B/C/D Hockey v King's College School at home. Collect from the Astro at 4.45pm
 3.30pm U10 A/B/C/D Netball v King's College School at home. Collect from the Prep at 4.30pm

For home fixtures finishing at 4pm, your child will have the normal pick-up arrangements. 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. For hockey fixtures, do check specific start times on 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.

BT entrance

Further to a newsletter message last term, parents should **not** be using the BT entrance to drop off their child in the morning. This is not Perse land and it does obstruct the commute for pedestrians and cyclists.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Nikita Brogan** on her ABRSM Grade 3 Violin; **Rosie Colvin** and **Seb Warburton** on their Year 5 Reading Quest Badges; **Olivia Griffiths** on her ABRSM Grade 2 Piano; **Harry Hutchinson** on his ABRSM Grade 1 Flute with Merit; **Umar Ibrahim** on his Trinity College Grade 3 Drum with Distinction award; **Beau Martinez-McCune** on winning the U10 Winter Regional Tour in North Devon and being awarded a Wild Card entry into the LTA Grade 2 U10 National Tour; **Siobhan Wan** on her ABRSM Grade 3 Piano; **Reuben Shenker** on his ABRSM Grade 3 Alto Saxophone with Distinction; and **Elizabeth Kennedy** for her piano recital of *Angelfish* in assembly this morning.

Congratulations to the following children who have recently been awarded their Silver Housepoint Awards: **Sylvan Amads, Maria Antonik, Jeeon Bhattacharya, Freddie Billingham, Mia Bird, Robert Carter, Prerona Chakraborty, Jack de Albuquerque, Ollie Denny-Gouldson Alexander Freeborough, John Jeffreys, Elisabeth Lindemann, Henry Lloyd, Hugo Magliano, Beau Martinez-McCune, Samantha Payne, Toby Rayner, Jessica Ryan, Rhea Sethi, Amy Van Spaendonck, Lotte van Spaendonck, Jago Vindis, Fred Woodman, Alice Yang** and **Thavish Wickramasekera**. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

Yours sincerely

James Piper

James Piper
Head

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
CORINTHIANS 571	ROMANS 572	MARBARIAHS 608	FORESTERS 644

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