



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

24th September 2021

Dear Parents,

My thanks to Mr Knowles for running today's Assembly, with a special section led by Mrs Soares Winter, our Head of French, which celebrated the European Day of Languages coming up this Sunday. Obviously at the Perse, our community extends far beyond Europe's borders, as the results from our annual languages survey reveal. In total, Prep pupils speak a staggering 37 languages, with Mandarin being the most widely-spoken after English, and more than 40 percent of the children speak an additional language to English at home. Wow – or Azta as they say in Hungarian! In our Friday assembly, some of our bilingual children put Mr De Albuquerque, Mrs Robertson and Mr Bidwell through their paces with a quiz about unique European words. Did you know that in Slovak there is a specific word (prezvonit) that means 'to call someone's mobile phone just to give them your number'? It was a wonderful celebration of all the different cultures, experiences and languages that make our school such a fantastically diverse place. If you fancy celebrating at home, visit <https://edl.ecml.at/> for details of how to enter the Happy Birthday 20-second video challenge and the Great Languages Bake-Off.

It was special to welcome so many families onto the Prep site last Sunday for the PPP Autumn BBQ. My immense thanks to all those families who volunteered their time and expertise in the buildup and on the day itself as we raised funds for *Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust* and *Stand for Trees*. A particular thank you to Stacey Sinclair for managing the ticketing so professionally to enable this to run as a cash-free event for the first time and, of course, to Zoe Robson, co-chair of the PPP, who managed the whole event so expertly.

It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying school fixtures again, and to see so many parents supporting at the Playing Fields. A special mention to the U11A Girls who came 3rd out of sixteen schools in the Framlingham Hockey Tournament on Wednesday this week. Mrs Clark and Mrs Seed were very impressed with the development of the side over their six matches on the day.

Yesterday and today I have been away at the annual IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) conference for Heads. It has been valuable to share expertise with colleagues from around the country, and to keep abreast of the latest developments within the sector as well as pandemic experiences over the past eighteen months. It is very clear that the benefits of a 3-18 education, especially situated in Cambridge, continue to keep The Perse in a strong position.

Prep Open Morning – Saturday 2nd October

For next Saturday's Open Morning, those taking part should arrive at the Prep between 8.30am and 8.45am and can be dropped at the roundabout; Prep staff will be there to register them. At the end, children can be collected from the roundabout between 12.30pm and 12.45pm after they have signed out with a member of staff. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the School. Children should wear their summer (or winter) school uniform (including blazer but no tie required). Bespoke drop off and collection arrangements can be made, but please contact Mr Knowles directly (tpknowles@perse.co.uk).

Year 6 Positions of Responsibility

Over the past two weeks, all of Year 6 have been writing applications for positions of responsibility. Children have been enthused to create some wonderfully persuasive letters as they sought some of the following roles: Bookworms, Eco Committee, House Elders, Property Poppets, Met Officers, Munch Bunch, Scribble Squad, Cyber Squad, Rhythmic Readers, Quizmasters, Postcard Posse, PE Quartermasters, Thirst Aiders, Musical Youth, Scorers for the Door-ers and Chiefs of Chill! This is their chance to give back to their School and to their peers. Many thanks to Mr Reston, our Director of Enrichment, and the Year 6 Form Teachers for managing this process; the children discovered their roles earlier in the week.

Holiday Competitions: Art, DT and Library

There was a very high standard of entries for this year's DT construction competition on the theme of designing and making a boat and testing it out to see whether it floats successfully and whether it can hold any weight. Mr Wansell judged the strong competition and awarded the Neelkantha Mukherjee Trophy to **Olivia Cutts** for her outstanding creation, with **Léon Corne** in a highly commended second place.



In Art, well done to **Shriya Siddharth** who was awarded first place in the challenge to create a bird of paradise in 2D or 3D form. In second place was **Bella Meng**, with **Harry Hutchinson** in third. Everyone who took part will receive a small prize from Mr Wansell.



In the Extreme Reading competition, congratulations to the following year group winners: **Cecily H** (Year 3), **India S** (Year 4), **Hugo L** (Year 5) and **Sebastian C** (Year 6). All those who entered their photographs will receive a housepoint.



India reading "The Incredible Journey" on the roof



Sport

Key events for the week ahead are:

Tuesday 28th September

U10 A/B/C/D Boys' Football v St Faith's at home at 3.10pm. Collection from Porson Road playing fields at 4.30pm.

Wednesday 29th September

U11 A/C Girls' Hockey v Stephen Perse Foundation at home at 2.30pm. Collection at 4.30pm

U11 B/D Girls' Hockey v Stephen Perse Foundation at home at 2.50pm. Collection at 4.30pm

U11 A/B/C/D Football v Stephen Perse Foundation & Kimbolton at home at 2.30pm. Collection at 4.30pm

Thursday 30th September

U9 A/C Girls' Hockey v Stephen Perse Foundation at home at 2.30pm. Collection at 4.00pm.

U9 B/D Girls' Hockey v Stephen Perse Foundation at home at 3.05pm. Collection at 4.00pm.

U9 A/B/C/D Boys' Football v Stephen Perse Foundation at home at 2.30pm. Collection at 4.00pm.

Friday 1st October

U10 A/C Girls' Hockey v Stephen Perse Foundation at home at 2.30pm. Collection at 4.00pm.

U10 B/D Girls' Hockey v Stephen Perse Foundation at home at 3.05pm. Collection at 4.00pm.

Parents are very welcome to attend matches; do note that collection for home fixtures is from the Playing Fields.

Chess

We are delighted to be able to offer a new chess club for Year 3 children, starting next Monday. When the club finishes at 4.45pm, children can be collected from the Year 3 footprints area.

We would also like to advertise the following dates when Mr Jackson, the chess coach, has entered two Perse Prep teams of six into the prestigious Cambridgeshire Schools' Chess League. If your child would like to represent the School in this tournament, do contact Mr Jackson directly (jacques.nixon@gmail.com). There is no charge for this and it is open to all Prep children so long as parents are supervising their children at the event. If this is over-subscribed, just the points from the top twelve children will count. All rounds are held in the Ashburton Hall at St Faith's on Saturday mornings (9am – 12pm) this term and next, on the following dates: 9th October, 6th November, 27th November, 29th January and 26th February.

British Schools' Orienteering Championships – Sunday 21st November

This year's championships are taking place at Stowe Park, Buckingham, and is aimed at children from Years 5 to 13, though younger children with appropriate experience are allowed to take part as well. As previously, Miss Darwin, Upper staff, is hoping to take teams from both the Upper and the Prep. If you are interested and would like further details, please do contact Camilla (cjdarwin@perse.co.uk). Transport is being provided by the School from the Upper.

Remote Learning and children at home

If your child is self-isolating at home, we shall provide remote work via *Teams*; Mr Bown (tabown@perse.co.uk) will be in touch with details for how to access this. If your child is at home and not well, then recovery should be the priority.

International Space Station computer code

Well done to Mr Bown and our Year 6 Computing Club who have taken part in a challenge to write some code that will be run by a computer on the International Space Station. They worked together to produce a program that delivers a short text-based message for the astronauts before taking a reading of the humidity aboard the ISS. The code is expected to run in May 2022 and all those who took part will receive a certificate



telling them where the ISS was when their code ran. Anyone under the age of 19 can take part by visiting <https://trinket.io/mission-zero>, using the class code *faithful-rain* to add it to the batch of programs produced by Prep and Upper students.



Cycling

I am delighted to see so many parents and children cycling to school and using the cycle racks at the playing fields as well as at the Long Road and main entrances. With cycle safety being of paramount importance, I would like to remind parents that we would expect children to be wearing helmets when cycling to school.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Sophia Hardcastle** on her ABRSM Grade 2 Recorder Award; **Rithvik Krishna** on his LAMDA Level 2 Award in Communication and Speaking in Public Grade 4 with Distinction; **Beau Martinez-McCune** on his medals for winning the 10&U Grade 4 Bromley Tennis Centre London and South East Tour and the 10&U Grade 4 Chingford Central & East Tennis Tour; **Jack Robertson** on his Trophy for 'Most Improved Player' for Worlington U11 Cricket Club; **Amelie Wansell** on her Trinity College London Grade 3 Acting (Group) Award and **Oriana Wei** on her ABRSM Grade 2 Piano with Distinction and Bronze Award in the 18th UK Mandarin Reading Competition.

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

| 4 TH | 3 RD | 2 ND | 1 ST |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ROMANS 1038 | BARBARIANS 1133 | FORESTERS 1153 | CORINTHIANS 1198 |

Yours sincerely



James Piper
Head

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