



# THE PERSE

## PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents,

The advent of the Christmas lights at the Prep this week marks the run up to the end of a busy term; my thanks to Norman and Veronica for their time in providing this extra sparkle as we arrive on site.



Less twinkly but equally heart-warming are the values which continue to permeate all areas of school life. Whenever I show prospective parents around the School, I am struck by the *intellectual curiosity and scholarship* in lessons which is evident in the myriad challenges taking place. For example, earlier this week the Year 6 children had to solve puzzles connected to the book 'Nevermoor'. Completing a Crystal Maze-style challenge, they were sent around the School to solve seven cryptic clues, leading them to a final destination and a coveted prize! Congratulations to **Umar Ibrahim** and **Zac Clark**, our winning pair. Elsewhere, many of the children have been displaying *endeavour* as they engage their brains and grapple with the Primary Maths Challenge

and the Bebras Computational Challenge. 5A and Mr Bidwell, in their assembly on Kindness and Manners, and the Eco Team and Mr Reston, with their continued dedication to recycling, highlighted how important it is to *value one another and our environment*. There is also plenty of *breadth and balance* on show in the final two weeks of term, whether in next Tuesday's Concert at the Performing Arts Centre when over 80 children will perform, or in the end of term productions. My thanks to Mrs Robertson, Mr Harris and Mr Reston for all the hard work as we build to live performances of two shows: Year 3's *The Christmas Play...Again!* on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December and Year 4's *Robin Hood* on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. In sport we are approaching our last few fixtures of the season as well as the House Match season, in both hockey and rugby. As usual, parents are very welcome to come and support their children in these very competitive games!

With the sound of Christmas carols beginning to emanate from music practices, and excitement building for the Christmas Fair on the final day of term, the end of term feels nigh – we shall make sure that the children enjoy a well-deserved special conclusion to 2021 at school.



We are delighted that Clare Cassidy will be returning from her maternity leave on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December as 4A Form Teacher and Head of Year 4. We are hugely grateful to Claire Soares Winter for being a wonderful Head of Year 4 over this period, and Laura Robertson for providing such outstanding cover over the last few months. Laura and Clare will work together for the final week of term before Clare takes over with the Year 4 English, Year 6 English and RE, Year 4 and 5 Drama and Year 5 Games. Next term Laura will remain on a part-time basis to provide some extra staffing flex as we move through the remainder of the winter.

### Covid Update

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

### Michaelmas Concert – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Children involved in next week's Michaelmas Concert must remember to bring in their instruments next week, for Monday's rehearsal and Tuesday's concert.

All those taking part in the Concert should come to the school in their school uniform with blazer. The only exception will be the Year 4 children involved who should attend school in their games kit but



bring their school uniform and blazer to change into afterwards. Please note that the Year 5 children involved will be rehearsing in the afternoon and so won't have games.

Children involved in next week's Michaelmas Concert will not be able to attend after school clubs. They will have been rehearsing at the Upper in the afternoon and will stay there for a hot supper before their Concert.

Children in some of the smaller ensembles will be filmed next week, with the recordings available for parents to view on the Parent Portal at the end of term. Further details will be shared with parents when these go live.

## Sport

We look forward to hearing how our Year 6 teams fared in their IAPS tournaments today; our boys have been playing in the Regionals at Framlingham, and our girls in the National Finals down at Millfield in Somerset. My thanks to Mrs Clark and Mr McGregor for taking them down for this overnight trip, and to all the parents who have also travelled there to give their support.

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

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November

2.15pm U11 Girls' Hockey and U11 Rugby House Matches. Normal collection time *(NB note that this has changed date from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December as originally in the Calendar)*

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December

2.30pm U11 A/B/C Rugby v St John's College School (H). Collect at 4pm

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

3.15pm: U10 A/B/C/D Rugby v King's College School (A). Collect at 4.45pm

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

2.15pm U10 Girls' Hockey House Matches. Normal collection time

3pm U10 A/B/C/D Rugby v St Faith's (A). Collect at 4.15pm *(NB note that this is a rearranged fixture)*

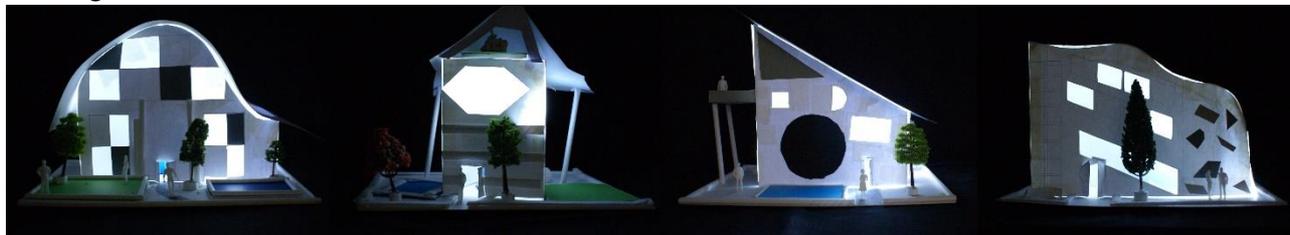
### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

11.15am-12.15pm U8 Girls' Hockey and U8 Rugby House Matches.

2.15pm U9 Girls' Hockey and U9 Rugby House Matches. Normal collection time

## Artwork

This week's banners showcase photographs of Year 6's 3D models, created from their own architectural drawings.



## Online Safety – Video Streaming

We are all very familiar with video streaming apps and services such as YouTube, Netflix and Amazon Prime and therefore may feel comfortable with our children also using these unattended. However, it is worth being aware of some of the dangers involved, particularly around live streaming, autoplay, recommendations, chat functionality, screen addiction and binge-watching. Remember that whilst these apps and services have many undoubted advantages, the risks to children are very different to those we faced when watching normal television when we were younger!

We hope that you will find the parental guide at the end of this newsletter helpful – it is also worth reiterating our advice that an hour of screen time on a school day is plenty, and that children should have at least an hour away from screens before bed time. If you have any questions or would like some advice, please do contact Mr Knowles ([tpknowles@perse.co.uk](mailto:tpknowles@perse.co.uk)) or Mrs Crichton Maitland ([mmaitland@perse.co.uk](mailto:mmaitland@perse.co.uk)) in their roles as the Prep's safeguarding leads.

## Chess

Best wishes to the children representing the Prep this Saturday in the third round of the Cambridgeshire Chess League. If anyone else is interested in being involved in the fourth (29<sup>th</sup> January) or fifth rounds (26<sup>th</sup> February) please do contact Nick Jackson ([nick.jackson@chessforkids.co.uk](mailto:nick.jackson@chessforkids.co.uk)). Chess events are held at St Bede's between 9.00am and 12.00pm on each of these Saturdays with our pupils competing against a number of local schools, including some of the Year 7 & 8 children from King's and St Faith's!

## Drop Off

It is important that parents do not use either the BT entrance or exit as a parking bay to drop off children in the morning. The BT security team are concerned for safety, particularly as they have a number of lorries entering their site. Thank you.

## PPP Christmas Fair – reminder for payment

Preparations for the PPP Christmas Fair on the last day of term are well underway! This is a reminder please to organise your child's pre-payment for the Fair if you haven't already via Parent Pay, link here: <https://www.perse.co.uk/parents-area/>. We are also still welcoming donations of raffle or stall prizes (electronic gadgets, unused toys/books), which should be left at Reception – and please return your filled sweet bags on Monday morning if you haven't already done so. Thank you for your help in making the Christmas Fair a memorable occasion for the children. Many thanks – the PPP.

## Club Pelican

There are a small number of places still available at Club Pelican this Christmas. If you would like to book one of the remaining places, please visit the Parent Portal at your earliest convenience. Please be aware the booking portal will close on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## Family Laundry Fundraising

Fresh from a recent appendectomy, Benjamin Danesh launched a fundraising appeal for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust to thank them for the great care he received. He has raised £385 to date by carrying out his family's laundry during the entire month of November. I hear that Benji quickly appreciated the pain of this domestic chore! If anyone would like to contribute to his just giving page, do so [here](#).

## British Schools' Orienteering Championships

Congratulations to **Fred Woodman**, **James Cheng**, **Siobhan Monteith** and **Amy Keen** for being awarded certificates and bronze medals from the British Schools' Orienteering Championships last weekend where the Perse came third in the country. A special extra well done to **Siobhan Monteith** and **Amy Keen** who also won the Silver Year 6 girls' medals.

## Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Henry Potter** and **Hector Borno** for being awarded their Reading Badges; **Joyce Xiao** for her piano recital and Alfred Chan Promising Student trophy; **Ronak Sinha** for his Trinity College Guidhall Grade 3 Drum with Distinction; **Yiliang Liu** on his second place at the U8 British Junior Go Championship; **Annabel Ramsden** on her swimming medals from the recent City of Cambridge Swim Club U8 Championships with gold medals in the 50m Butterfly and 50m Breaststroke and silver medals in the 50m Freestyle and Backstroke events; and Head's Commendations certificates for **Benjamin Danesh**, **Olivia Cutts**, **Esme Hall** and **Niovi Skordos** for their outstanding homeworks in Science, creating models of the human eye.

Congratulations to the following on their Silver Housepoint Awards: **Lanxi Li**, **Annabel Ramsden** and **Alexander Toutoungi**. This leads onto this week's Score on the Doors:

4 <sup>TH</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	1 <sup>ST</sup>
<b>CORINTHIANS</b> 1219	<b>BARBARIANS</b> 1245	<b>NOMADS</b> 1263	<b>FORESTERS</b> 1269

Yours sincerely



**James Piper**  
Head

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