



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

28th January 2022

Dear Parents,

If you provide your child with two apples this weekend, they should be able to demonstrate the differences in their cores, and how to discover the star at the heart of one of them! Today's assembly centred on the star deep within each of us and how we can show this every day in the choices we make, the things we do, the decisions we make and the way we talk to people. It doesn't matter what type of apples you have and what they look like on the outside – whether you have a *Granny Smith*, a *Braeburn* or a *Pink Lady*, or whether your fruit is slightly bruised, battered or wrinkly, every one of them will contain a star.

A star that we remembered yesterday on *Holocaust Memorial Day* was Anne Frank. Your children learnt about the persecution of the Jews during the 1930s and 1940s, and the example of this young girl as she hid away for two years. The hope, determination and positive attitude of her diary continue to shine as brightly now as they did when she wrote these words, 'As long as this exists - I thought - this sunshine and this cloudless sky; and as long as I can enjoy it, how can I be sad?'

This week we have also heard in assembly from a representative of the parents' chosen charity for the year, EACH. My thanks to all the children who posed questions and Mr Reston for compering this event.

We are busy planning already for the Prep's celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next term. One of the national projects is tree planting and, if you want to get started with this straightaway, you might want to head to [Wandlebury](#) this weekend to help out as part of the 'Green Canopy' project. I know that others will be preparing to celebrate the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Tiger; I hope that everyone has a super weekend.



Covid Update

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

Case numbers have settled down after the recent spike which has meant that we have been able to remove some of the extra mitigations put in place last week. Straight after half term we shall revert to the normal lunch arrangements which will mean the reintroduction of the full range and variety of lunchtime clubs. We shall also move to larger gatherings for assemblies, with two year groups in the Hall and one each in the Drama Studio and Computing Room. This will allow much more of a community feel to these all-important school gatherings.

I am grateful to staff for managing the hybrid teaching on *Teams* so impressively; many thanks for the numerous notes of gratitude from parents.

On a minor note, please can children remember to bring into school their own, named, water bottles.

Upcoming Events

I am delighted that we can host a full live audience for the following performances. Further details will be published in due course:

Wednesday 9th February (6 – 6.45pm): Year 5 Centre Stage performance of *The Enormous Crocodile*.

Tuesday 22nd February (6 – 7.30pm): Year 6 Musical of *Peter Pan* (Cast 1)

Wednesday 23rd February (6 – 7.30pm): Year 6 Musical of *Peter Pan* (Cast 2)

Thursday 24th February (6 – 7.30pm): Year 6 Musical of *Peter Pan* (Cast 3)

Tuesday 29th February (6 – 6.45pm and 7 – 7.45pm): Lent Term Concert

Parents should be mindful of the latest government guidance on [testing](#) and [face coverings](#) when attending live events.

Some of the Year 4 and 5 Form Concerts have already been filmed so we shall continue to record these in lessons; links to these will be published after half term when they are all completed.

Parents' Evenings – upcoming for all year groups

Each term parents receive feedback from every subject teacher; over the next few weeks we have the second set of parents' evenings.

Parents of Year 6 children have a ten-minute online appointment with your child's Form Teacher which provides an opportunity to discuss the general progress of your child and the academic progress that has been made so far. A short written summary in each subject will be sent to you on the morning of your Parents' Evening.

Parents of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 have an Academic Parents' Evening for which you will be invited to book a five-minute appointment with a range of your child's teachers. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the English and Maths assessments.

In the Summer Term, all year groups will receive a full written report with comments from all subject teachers, the Form Teacher and the Head.

NSPCC Maths House Activity Day

A reminder that we have 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'. This is a 'dress up' day so home clothes are allowed, but we would love to see any number-inspired outfits or accessories!

Artwork

This week's art banners showcase Year 3's vibrant landscapes created with a variety of mark making techniques with permanent markers and felt tip pens.



Sport

Parents are very welcome to attend the following matches:

Wednesday 2nd February

2.45pm U11 A/B/C/D Hockey v Kimbolton at home.

2.45pm U11 A/B/C/D Netball v Kimbolton at home.

Thursday 3rd February

2.30pm U9 A/B/C/D Netball v Stamford away. Collect from the Prep at 5.30pm

2.30pm U9 A/B/C/D Hockey v King's College School at home.

Friday 4th February

2.30pm U10 A/B/C/D Netball v Kimbolton (& Bedford) away. Collect from the Prep at 5.30pm

2.30pm U10 A/B/C/D Hockey v Kimbolton (& Bedford) away. Collect from the Prep at 5.30pm

For home fixtures, 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 on 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.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Arthur Davis** on being awarded 'player of the match' for Shelford Rugby Club U8s; **Esther Wong** for her ABRSM Singing Grade 6 with distinction; and the **Brass Ensemble** for playing in this morning's assembly.

Well done to the following children on being awarded their Silver Housepoint Awards: **Archie Barker, James Cheng, Linus Chin, Kirill Smirnov, Andrew Villaverde, Liam Whelan, Bailey Wiseman and Chloe Yan;**

and to **Jacqueline Danesh** on being awarded her Gold Housepoint Award. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
CORINTHIANS	FORESTERS	ROMANS	BARBARIANS
718	722	730	780

Yours sincerely



James Piper
Head

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