



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

5th November 2021

Dear Parents,

There has been a good buzz in school this week, with children re-energised and straight back into routines, especially in the classroom and I wish the Year 6 all the best with their assessments next week. Momentum is also gathering with rehearsals for various productions and concerts, and children are also busy on the sports pitches. Art has featured heavily, with Year 6 able to take up a last-minute invitation to visit the Faculty of Education as part of their recent art study into local architectural buildings. This newsletter also showcases some outstanding artwork from Year 5, with oil pastels inspired by the work of artist Giacomo Balla.



Routledge House Cup

The House Cup was awarded to Nomads for the first half of term. This took account of all housepoints awarded for academic endeavour and excellence, music and games, as well as kindness and consideration, organisation and improvement. Kavin collected the trophy on behalf of Nomads, as he was their leading Year 6 housepoint scorer.



Covid Update

Currently we have the following number of children self-isolating from current positive PCR cases: Year 3 none, Year 4 one, Year 5 two, Year 6 two.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents not to send their child to school if they have any of the three main Covid symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child does have any of the symptoms above, they must self-isolate immediately and parents should book a free NHS PCR test [here](#) for their child, or contact the school for a chargeable Samba II test by emailing covidtest@perse.co.uk.

If your child does need to self-isolate and is well enough to work, you will receive details of our remote learning provision via *Microsoft Teams* which will entail live lessons with your child taught at home alongside the rest of the class in school.

Individual, Sibling & Form Photographs – Thursday 11th November

Children should wear their normal winter uniform for these photographs. Those who normally have Games on this day should **not** come into school in games kit but in school uniform. Year 3 will have their hockey and rugby sessions on the Astro in school uniform in the morning, but still need to bring mouthguards (boys and girls) and shinpads (girls). Year 4 children should bring in their games kit to change into before Games in the afternoon. They should remember also to bring in mouthguards and trainers.



Remembrance Assembly – Friday 12th November

So long as we do not have rain forecast, next Friday we shall be marking next week's Armistice Day with a whole school Remembrance Assembly outside on the playground, and a two minutes' silence. A series of readings, poems and prayers will help us all acknowledge this important occasion. Poppies and other Royal British Legion merchandise will be brought round to your children in class next week. Any certificates or awards due on this date will be postponed for a week.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal – deadline Friday 12th November

The deadline for shoeboxes to be returned to the Prep has been extended to Friday 12th November. There are some spare [leaflets](#) at Reception and more details can be found on the [website](#). These should be left in year group areas and should be labelled with names in each House area so that we can award Housepoints!

Christmas Card Competition – deadline Friday 12th November

The deadline has been extended to next Friday for this year's Prep Christmas card competition. The children may use any artistic media and should submit their designs on an A4 sheet of paper, using the whole of the page. The winning design will be used for this year's Christmas card. Entries should be handed in to Reception.



Parents' Evenings – upcoming for all year groups

Each term parents receive feedback from every subject teacher; this starts with a series of parents' evenings over the next few weeks. For parents of children in Years 3, 4 and 5, you have a ten-minute online appointment with your child's Form Teacher which provides an opportunity to discuss how your children have settled in 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 Year 6 children 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 Lent Term, we shall hold Academic Parents' Evenings for Years 3, 4 & 5 and evenings with the Form Teacher for Year 6. 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.

Sport

Very well done to all those involved in the football House Matches just before half term, with the following Houses victorious: Y3: Corinthians, Y4: Foresters, Y5: Corinthians, Y6: Nomads, Overall: Nomads.

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

Tuesday 9th November

3pm: U10 A/B/C/D Rugby v St Faith's away. Collect at 4.15pm

Wednesday 10th November

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Rugby v Stephen Perse Foundation (Dame Bradbury's) A/B/C at home. Collect at 4pm.

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Girls' Hockey v St Faith's at home. Collect at 4.30pm.

Thursday 11th November

3pm: U9 A/B/C/D Girls' Hockey v St Faith's at home. Collect at 4.45pm.

Friday 12th November

10.30am: U11A Girls' IN2 Hockey East Regional Finals away at Gresham's School. Collect approx. 6.15pm.

3pm: U10 A/B/C/D Rugby v Stephen Perse Foundation (Dame Bradbury's) A/B at home. Collect at 4pm.

Online safety

With increasing numbers of children claiming to have their own electronic device at home (such as a phone or tablet), or having regular access to a device belonging to a family member, we hope that parents might find the documents at the end of this newsletter helpful. They outline, for both Apple and Android devices, how to set up parental controls to protect your child's privacy when using this technology.

A reminder that our general advice is to try and avoid these devices being used in bedrooms so that parents are aware of what their children are doing online, and who they are communicating with. Research shows

that children of Prep age should not be having too much screen time each day – we recommend a maximum of 1 hour during any school day, and having at least an hour away from screens before bed time. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any aspect of keeping your children safe online, please contact Mr Knowles (tpknowles@perse.co.uk) or Mrs Crichton Maitland (mmaitland@perse.co.uk) in their roles as the Prep’s safeguarding leads.



Music

This week, music per Adam Dopadlik introduced a wide range of different recorders for Year 3 in their weekly showcase. If your child expresses to you an interest at taking up the recorder, or any other instrument, please do contact Jackie Wright (prepadmin@perse.co.uk) who can liaise with you as to the possibilities of a taster lesson or signing up full-time.

Michaelmas Concert – Tuesday 30th November

Apologies for the error in the pdf calendar published at the start of term which gave the date of the Michaelmas Concert as Monday 29th November. This will take place on Tuesday 30th November at the PAC. More details will be circulated shortly.

Snow Procedure

We are not predicting any imminent snow (!) but it is the time of year when we highlight the procedure if snow is forecast. Do follow this [link](#) to the Perse Portal and look under the 3-18 Information / Snow Procedure.

PPP

We were thrilled to hand over a cheque for £5,000 to a representative of Addenbrooke’s Charitable Trust this week, a third of the total amount raised by the PPP over the past year.



Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Dhruv Ghildyal** on his runner-up medal for U8 Central and East Tour for Cambridge Lawn Tennis Club Tournament and for being chosen in the U9 Cambridgeshire County Tennis Team; **Lanxi Li** and **Alice Yang** on their Year 5 Reading Badges; **Beau Martinez-McCune** on winning the HEAD West Bridgford Grade 3 regional U0 singles tournament and the DUNLOP Woodford Wells Grade 3 regional U9 singles tournament, being runner up in the Grade 3 regional U10 Easton Autumn Challenge tournament and being selected to play in the Grade 2 U9 LTA Winter National Series; **Daniel Teng** on his Bronze Medal from Mike’s Tennis Academy for active participation and good progress; **Alexander Toutoungi** on his Swimathon, raising £210 for Cancer Research with a 550m swim; and **Ethan Xu** on his ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory with Distinction.

Congratulations to the following on their Bronze Housepoint Awards: **Prerona Chakraborty, Tilly Crosby, Lotte van Spaendonck, Freddie Billingham, Linus Chin, Henry Lloyd, Anvita Adapa, Sophia Alexander, Tilly Anderson, Max Brisby, Rosie Colvin, Ellie Cope, Alexander Daubeney, James Gerhard, Alastair Griffiths, Helena Harter, Sophie Hull, Jack Jarman, Hugo Jones, Atharv Kurade, Etienne Lamb, Anna Lindner Santinoli, Bella Lloyd, Cara Mannion, Wren Myers, Henry Potter, Nandika Prasad, Toby Rayner, William Reddy, Adam Roth, Daniel Shenker, Eunice Stewart-Wallace, Willow Sutherland, Seb Warburton, Jamie West, Carla Williams, Ethan Xu, Alex Balmus, Harry Lance, Theo McKechnie and Amy Scott.**

With Diwali falling this week, I wish all those who are celebrating this five-day festival of light the very best.

Yours sincerely

James Piper
Head

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