



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

8th October 2021

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to the sixty-five Year 6 tour guides who did an outstanding job in showing around our many visitors at our Open Day last Saturday. Along with all of the staff, they showcased the warmth, vibrancy and energy of the Prep and ensured that this was such a successful event.

Today's Head's Assembly considered what we can learn from some of the writings of Maya Angelou, in particular the concepts of tolerance and also empathy, as demonstrated by her words in this photo; thank you to Miss Montecalvo for her beautiful illustration. Such qualities feed into how we interact with each other – especially important for tired children just ahead of the half term break! After five weeks of term, it is a good reminder for us all occasionally to press the pause button and remember that we are human beings, not human doings!



I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs Fenna for her outstanding work covering the teaching of French to Year 6 over the course of this term. We are delighted that Mrs Crichton Maitland will be able to take this on from next week, as she continues her return to full duties.

Finally, all of our congratulations to Mr Knowles and his wife Claire on the birth of Robert (Robbie) Edward Patrick Knowles, born at 4pm yesterday, weighing 10lbs 1oz. Tom, Claire and big sister, Lexie, are all doing very well and we look forward to seeing Mr Knowles back at the Prep next Friday.

Covid-19 Update

The local Director of Public Health and Cambridgeshire County Council have been in touch with all schools in the region because of an increase in Covid-19 cases and made a number of recommendations for the next couple of weeks up until half term. This does mean that, other than for teaching, staff will be wearing face coverings indoors where they cannot social distance. We continue to remain vigilant with our ventilation and hand hygiene practices for all pupils and staff.

Parents should be wearing a face covering when inside the school building, whether popping into Reception or into the Library, when Late Stay is inside.

Visiting Poet – Paul Cookson



Top poet Paul Cookson brought plenty of laughs and smiles yesterday with his special National Poetry Day visit. He kept pupils entertained with a dynamic performance of his hilarious verses, ensuring maximum audience participation from both children and teachers. He also read his most well-known work *Let No-One Steal Your Dreams* – a thought-provoking verse outlining to pupils why they should follow their ambitions. Paul was delighted to be back at the Prep, saying, "Poetry comes alive in front of a live audience. You can't beat that interaction where you can see the children's responses. We're laughing at each other and we're laughing together which is really good. All poetry should be read out loud because it brings it to life and when you get audience participation, it becomes a bit like a panto, especially when you've got the teachers joining in." My thanks to Ros West, our Library TA, for organising this special visit.

Winter Uniform – after half term

A reminder that children should all be wearing winter uniform from after half term (long sleeve shirts and ties rather than the polo shirt). We do expect children to learn to do up their top buttons and tie their own ties with the knot up to the top button – this does give a few weeks for practice at home for some children!

One of the school's Covid-19 safety measures is to ensure that rooms are well ventilated. Even with heating on, we recognise that some classrooms may become a little colder as we move into winter. In addition to the usual compulsory school uniform items, children may wear under-layers as they feel necessary for the weather conditions. This could include a sports under-layer (skins or thermals) and/or a plain vest and/or plain T-shirt worn under their shirt.

Grey V-neck jumpers are part of the optional uniform and these may be worn, but we recognise that jumpers may not give sufficient protection if the weather becomes significantly colder. Therefore we are allowing children to wear their Perse mid-layer under their blazer.

Year 3 POD and Eco Reps



Very well done to the following members of Year 3 who demonstrated great public speaking skills and powers of persuasion in the recent hustings to join POD, our School Council: **Yiliang Lu, Max Tysome** and **Billy Norton** (with **Sara Omori-Rison, Lara Daubeney** and **Tilly Crosby** taking over mid-year).

And congratulations to the following who were voted in as reps for the Eco Committee: **Leopold de Ris, Joyce Xiao** and **Tom McDade** (with **Samaira Bedi, Charles Balfour,** and **Annabel Griggs** taking over mid-year).



Artwork

This week we showcase Year 3's pieces inspired by the work of Van Gogh. They used acrylic paints and metallic pens on black card, focussing on brush strokes and building layers to create movement.



Sport

Parents are very welcome to attend these matches; collection for home fixtures is from the Playing Fields:

Saturday 9th October

U11A IAPS Football Regional Qualifier, Bishop's Stortford (10am – 1pm). Please meet at school at 8.30am. Collection at 2pm if returning to school.

Monday 11th October

10am: U11A Girls' Hockey IAPS Regional Qualifier away at Framlingham. Return at 5pm.

Wednesday 13th October

9.30am U11A Girls' County In2 Hockey Tournament at Wilberforce Road. Return at 2.15pm.

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Football v Kimbolton away. Return at 5pm.

2.45pm: U11 B/C/D Girls' Hockey v Kimbolton at home. Collection at 4.30pm.

Thursday 14th October

2.30pm: U9 A/B/C/D Girls' Hockey v Kimbolton away. Return at 5.15pm.

2.45pm: U9 A/B/C/D Football v Kimbolton at home. Collection at 4pm.

Friday 15th October

2.15pm: U10 Football House Matches. Collection at 3.35pm

Mr Bown – BBC Radio Cambridgeshire

Did you hear Mr Bown on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire all this week? He featured live from his office at the Prep, joining Amir Suleman each day at 3:45pm, with an assembly style thought for the day (links below):

- [Monday: Intellectual curiosity and scholarship](#): learning from your mistakes and embracing failure (starts at 1:48)
- [Tuesday: Breadth and balance](#): trying something new (starts at 1:47)
- [Wednesday: Endeavour](#): the importance of effort (starts at 1:46)
- [Thursday: One another and our environment](#): perseverance and kindness in the face of adversity (starts at 1:49)



Cambridge Half Marathon

Mrs Soares-Winter and Mr Reston are running the Cambridge Half Marathon on the 17th October. [Claire](#) is raising money for Mind and [Jules](#) for Cancer Research UK. If you would like to make a donation, please click on the links above. Thank you.

PPP AGM – Monday 11th October

A reminder that the AGM for the PPP will be held at 8pm this coming Monday. This will include a summary of the PPP's activities over the last year and the appointment of new Committee members for the year ahead. The AGM is open to all parents and if anyone is interested in joining the meeting please do email valerie.hirzel@outlook.com and then arrangements can be made to send you a Zoom meeting invitation.

e-Safety

The children have been, or shortly will be, covering the topic of e-Safety as part of both their PSHE and Computing studies. These lessons always bring to light how competent our children are with using technology so it is an opportune moment to reiterate some key principles for both children and parents.

- Children should only be playing on age-appropriate games and apps. Parents should make the decision on what they feel is appropriate and the following websites might be useful: www.thinkuknow.co.uk and www.commonsemmedia.org.
- Children should speak to a trusted adult if they see something online that makes them uncomfortable or upsets them.
- Children should only be communicating online with those they know and have met in real life. Anything they say or type should be something they would be prepared to say in front of a parent or teacher!
- Children should not share any personal details online.
- General advice is to try and avoid computers in bedrooms. Parents should be fully aware of what their children are doing online, and who they are communicating with.
- Children 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.

County Cricketers

Congratulations to the following children who were selected for the Cambridgeshire Cricket County squads after the recent trials: **Freddie Billingham** and **Atharv Kurade** (U10 Boys), **Angelica Gupta**, **Sophie Hull**, **Bella Lloyd**, **Sophie Newhouse**, **Ella Scourfield** and **Willow Sutherland** (U11 Girls) and **Cillian Harrison**, **Rithvik Krishna** and **Ferdie Piper** (U11 Boys).



Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Benjamin Danesh** on his Trinity College Grade 6 Piano Award; **Jacqueline Danesh** on her Trinity College Grade 1 Piano with Distinction Award; **Amy van Spaendonck** on her Head's Commendation for her bravery and confidence in singing in front of the whole school, and sharing with us all such a powerful message ahead of our Mental Health Awareness Week.

Well done to **Jacqueline Danesh** on being the first person in the school to gain the Bronze Housepoint Award! This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
ROMADS 2148	FORESTERS 2212	CORINTHIANS 2229	BARBARIANS 2230

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "James Piper".

James Piper
Head

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