



# THE PERSE

## PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents,



Children and staff, fresh from their half term breaks, have been buoyed further by the return, this week, of lunch time clubs, 'normal' lunch timings and whole school assemblies. Unfortunately, we can't fit parents into Friday Assemblies yet but we are thrilled that all staff and year groups can gather together again in our well-ventilated Hall. The children do thrive on the special buzz of the Prep and it is easier for this to be modelled when we are together. On this topic, I was delighted to hear from the parents of one of our opposition schools this week that they were struck by 'the outstanding attitude and enthusiasm of your pupils who were a brilliant advert for the Perse and its ethos'.

It is perhaps indicative of such enthusiasm that the children can get so excited by Mr Knowles' mid-year assembly on Rewards & Sanctions, highlighting how this process works. He gave some interesting statistics, such as the number of Housepoints given (36,353 – an average per pupil of 129), the number of Fridays given (91 – average 0.3) and the number of Detentions (30 – average 0.1). It is good to see a consistent share of Housepoints between the year groups (Year 3 24%, Year 4 26%, Year 5 26%, Year 6 24%)!

The children have also been learning the anthems of all the home nations in recent weeks, singing these ahead of each of England's rugby fixtures in the Six Nations Championship. Before half term we had *Flower of Scotland* and *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*, and were treated to *Land of My Fathers* this morning. We still have *Ireland's Call* and *La Marseillaise* to come.

Well done to the cast of *The Enormous Crocodile* who sang and danced their hip-hop tunes again this week, much to the delight of Years 3&6. Whilst this was happening, Years 4&5 were treated to a mini-assembly from **Isla Riddoch** on the Cubs and Scouts, before **Noah Higham-Lee** educated us about palindromes and the significance of the date 22/2/22 on 'Twosday' this week!

Your children are still very young but many of you will discuss current affairs with them, including the unfolding situation in Ukraine. I did refer briefly to this in assembly this morning and our thoughts and prayers are with all those caught up in the conflict, including some Perse families; we hope that resolutions emerge from international leaders. It is important for the children to remember that it is governments who make decisions to go to war and any ill-feeling that we have should not be projected onto individuals around us. As a school we continue to build a culture of valuing one another, believing that by educating children to be actively inclusive, considerate and kind, we will build a better future – please do get in touch if there is any specific support we can offer to your child.

### Covid Update

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

Following the Prime Minister's Living with Covid announcement on Monday and subsequent more detailed DfE guidance, we have updated our 3-18 Perse Covid Code of Conduct [here](#). The key points are:

- Adults and children who test positive **continue to be advised** by the government to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days. They should then continue to follow the guidance [here](#) until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. Anyone who tests positive and is unable to order lateral flow tests kits [here](#) to leave self-isolation early should contact [covidtest@perse.co.uk](mailto:covidtest@perse.co.uk).
- Anyone with any of the three main symptoms should still book an NHS PCR or chargeable school Samba II test.
- Close contacts are no longer required to take lateral flow tests for 7 days.
- Face coverings are optional, including on school transport.

### PE

Now that the gymnastics topic has finished, from next week children should revert to normal uniform for their PE lessons, but changing into their trainers.

### Year 3 Parents' Evening Meetings – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

On Monday and Tuesday next week, we hold our online Academic Parents' Meetings with Year 3 Teachers. I am very grateful to Jackie Wright ([prepadmin@perse.co.uk](mailto:prepadmin@perse.co.uk)) who is on hand to deal with any issues during these events but do follow these key reminders to ensure the meetings can run smoothly:

- Please log on with the same account that the appointment was booked with.
- Please log on a little before the appointment time, to ensure that there are no problems with audio/video permissions.
- If you intend to log on from two devices simultaneously, please ensure the invitation to the second account has been shared from the main account in advance.

### World Book Day – Dress-Up Day – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

It's World Book Day next week and we are celebrating this on the Friday with award winning author, [Sally Gardner](#), visiting us and giving talks to all year groups. We are also looking forward to seeing children and staff dressed as their favourite book character!

Our Librarian, Ms West, is also collecting **book donations** which are going to charities in Nepal and The Gambia. Please can you encourage your child to have a look through their bookshelves and bring any unwanted children's books to the Library during next week.

### Giving Day – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March

The Perse has a long-standing commitment to granting means-tested bursaries at the Upper so that children from families who cannot afford the fees can still benefit from a Perse education. Providing opportunities for those who would not otherwise have them is the right thing to do and it enriches the School by making the community more inclusive and diverse. The Perse bursary programme is funded in part by the income from our overseas franchise schools (The Perse Singapore and The Perse Suzhou) and from charitable donations. This year's Founder's Day on 25<sup>th</sup> March will also be our first-ever Giving Day when we remember, as a 3-18 school, Dr Perse's original charitable bequest by asking others to follow in his footsteps by donating to The Perse so that future bursaries and outreach can be funded. If you would like to find out more about Giving Day or assist the Development Office in their fundraising efforts, please contact Erin Charles on [echarles@perse.co.uk](mailto:echarles@perse.co.uk).

Prep children should aim to accessorise their uniform with even more purple on Founders' Day. We shall be focusing on each of the Perse values during the week, with a particular focus on Valuing One Another & Our Environment towards the end of the week. There will also be a House Competition to see how many items can be brought in to give to our local Food Bank, with a number of financial pledges already made if a certain number of items are collected.

### Artwork

This week's art banners showcase Year 3's vibrant leaf images.



Can I encourage parents to pop upstairs in New School to see our Art Exhibition with your child after school over the next few weeks. Parents do not need to wear face coverings when onsite

### Science Week 2022 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Ms Abbott, our Head of Science, is excited to start advertising the annual Prep Science Week. She was thrilled to have so many parents involved last year, despite Covid disruptions, and is looking forward to welcoming even more of you this summer. The children were so inspired by the talks and workshops on topics ranging from microbes to broken bones, and from computer science to catching criminals. There are few limits on these sessions so long as they are science-related! If you would like to participate this year with a session please register your interest via this online [form](#). Stef will then be in touch to confirm details over the coming weeks.



### Form Concerts

Most of the Year 5 and Year 4 Form Concerts have been filmed and a Parent Portal link will be sent to parents by the end of this term. The Year 3 Form Concerts will take place next term and parents will be able

to attend in-person. These provide a low-key opportunity for any children who play a musical instrument, whatever their level, to play in front of their parents and their close peers in a relaxed concert from 4-4.30pm in the Hall. Specific dates will be published in the Summer Term Calendar at the end of this term.

## Sport

Parents are very welcome to attend the following matches:

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

10am U11 A Hockey IAPS National Finals away at Rugby School. Meet at school at 7am, return at 5pm.

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Hockey v King's College School at home.

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Netball v King's College School at home.

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

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

3pm U9 A/B/C/D Netball v St Faith's away. Return at 4.45pm.

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March

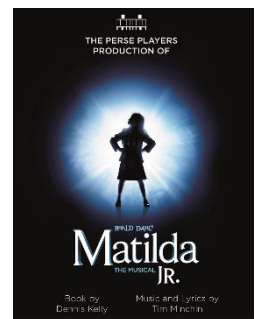
10am – 1pm U11 A Football ISFA Regional Tournament at home.

Congratulations to our U11 netballers who shone at this week's IAPS Regionals, coming 4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 schools. They beat York House (2-1) and St Mary's Hampstead (9-2) before losing against Stormont School (2-4) in the group stage. We knew that only the finalists at this tournament would qualify for the Nationals and were confident after beating Manor Lodge (4-3) in the quarter final. However, we then lost a nail biter against Beechwood Park (2-4) in the semi-final, and then came up short against St Alban's (3-5) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> place play off. Well done to the following: **Clara Gohel, Emily Herriot, Maggie Kent, Sophie Lewis, Elisabeth Lindemann, Harriet Sedgemore and Esther Wong.** My thanks to Mr Nicholes for his coaching and time with this squad and to Miss Diss, from the Upper, for her support on the day.



## Upper Production of Matilda Jr.

Students and staff from across the Upper are deep in rehearsal for this year's Perse Players' production of *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* Currently celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year in the West End, and with the Broadway Junior version of the show now available to perform in the United Kingdom for the first time, *Matilda* is a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination, packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs. This production will run in the Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre from March 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> and tickets are now available online via [www.perse.co.uk/box-office](http://www.perse.co.uk/box-office). There are three evening performances and a Saturday matinee. This is open to all Perse families.



## Perse Summer School 2022

The Perse Summer School 2022 will be open for bookings from 10am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Parents can visit [www.persesummerschool.co.uk](http://www.persesummerschool.co.uk) for full course details, prices and the ability to sign up to the mailing list. A 10% discount will apply to early-bird bookings made before Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March but please note that childcare vouchers are no longer accepted as a means of payment.

There are certain age restrictions as follows:

- The age range is 7-10 and 11-14 for all courses except where stated. There are a few exceptions to this, for example; Piano Duets is 7-14, Adventure Travel is 16-19, Multi Sport is 7-12 and Rugby is 7-9 and 10-12.
- Children who turn 7 during the summer holiday (July – August 2022) will be able to attend (with the exception of rugby).
- Children who turn 11 during the summer holiday (July – August 2022) will be able to choose either age category when selecting courses.

## Giving Notice for the end of the Summer Term

This is the time of year when we remind all parents of our terms and conditions re giving notice of pupil withdrawals from The Perse. Parents are required to give one term's notice of any pupil withdrawal. If no notice is given, it is assumed that pupils will remain at the school and staffing, resources and the timetable will be finalised accordingly.

If you intend to withdraw your son or daughter from The Perse at the end of this academic year, then you must write to the Head to give formal notice by the first day of the Summer Term (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April). If you haven't informed the School already, a term's notice in writing is also required for pupils who are leaving The Perse to go elsewhere at the end of Year 6. This applies also for those pupils who have already accepted a transfer place at the Upper School but will not be taking up this place. Parents giving notice after April 2022 will be liable for the Michaelmas Term's fees in lieu of notice, as the School will have committed to Michaelmas Term expenditure on the assumption that pupils were staying.

### Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Jago Vindis** on his Reading Quest Badge; **Tilly Crosby** on her ESF Snowflake skiing award; **George Crosby** on his ESF 3-star skiing award; **Theodore Hirzel** on being selected on the trumpet for the National Children's Orchestra; **Beau Martinez-McCune** on winning the Sutton Grade 3 Tennis U10 Regional Indoor Clay tournament and the Bromley Grade 3 Tennis U10 Regional Spring Open; and **Beatrice Mather** for playing her own cello composition 'Hiding in the Shadows' in today's assembly.

Well done to the following on their Silver Housepoint Awards: **Aadya Acharya, Alex Balmus, Sebastian Cartwright, Austin De Young, Cillian Harrison, Emily Herriot, Sophie Lewis, Rowan Riordan, Amy Scott and Savvas Fronimidis.**

Congratulations to the following on their Gold Housepoint Awards: **Aurora Broodbank, Reina Brogan, Grace Butler, Anushka Jadon, Elizabeth Kennedy, Lanxi Li, Léonie Ricciardi-Baquié, Annousheh Sayed, Arabella Wallace, Marissa Ojha, Samit Salaunkey, Eilidh Sinclair, Eunice Stewart-Wallace, Amelie Wansell, Matthew Wilkins and Ethan Xu.** This leads onto this week's *Scores on the Doors*:



Yours sincerely



**James Piper**  
Head

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