



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

4th February 2022

Dear Parents,

It is a blessing to be involved in education and surrounded by such bright, curious and polite children – no day is ever the same! It helps to have similar minded staff around too, as the following email exchange between a Year 6 pupil and our Director of Enrichment this week demonstrates! The bones of contention were the precise lyrics of the House rap being rehearsed for next Friday's House Activity Day:

Dear Mr Reston, I am writing to tell you about the lyrics you wrote for '3 is the Magic Number'. I am so sorry to trouble you, but you got the sequence of Pi wrong. It is supposed to be 3.141592653589. However, you wrote it without the 8 that is before the 9. Please change this as swiftly as you can. Thank you so much.

Many thanks for your email. You certainly have a keen eye! Yes, the numbers of Pi do run in the way that you have mentioned. However, when you are rounding to make the number shorter, you end up with the 9 at the end as Google also shows! Furthermore, with a little creative licence allowed for the creation of songs and art – we felt that this was a better fit for the purposes of a rap. If you try saying the lines (I have included them below for ease) exchanging the numbers, I think you will agree that the way we have it fits better for the purposes of rhythm and rhyme in this particular verse:

*Three is the number of harmony
It's past, present and future, see!
Beginning, middle and end, you know!
It's the number of Pi, that starts below
Three point one four one five nine
Two six five, three five nine
To go any further would drive us mad
That's why Barbarians feel so glad..*



Once again, many thanks for your email, but I shall be keeping the lyrics the same. Kind regards, Mr Reston

Much of the joy of school has also been evident this week at the many sports fixtures taking place. Thank you to everyone who has been able to attend and support the children – it really does feel uplifting to see the buzz of competitive action in front of so many parents on both sides. Mr McGregor, our Director of Sport & Clubs, was also delighted to receive three separate emails from opposition schools remarking on the special atmosphere, and the warm welcome from our children and staff.

Your children have already been throwing themselves into so many other areas of school life as well. Mrs Wright reliably informs me that 1151 individual clubs slots are taken up weekly by the 282 children at the Prep, and that 194 of these children enjoy a total of 234 music lessons each week!

With Melanie Crichton Maitland retiring at the end of the academic year, we have been conducting interviews for the position of Assistant Head (Pastoral). There was significant interest in this role with 41 applicants and, after a very thorough interview process this week, I am delighted to announce that Laura Robertson will be taking on this major pastoral and leadership role within the Prep. Laura is well-known to the children, staff and many parents, and has significant experience of the Prep, first teaching here back in 2012. She will take up this role in September, which allows plenty of time for a smooth transition.

Finally, my apologies for some incorrect dates in last week's newsletter – updated dates are below. We will be in touch with relevant parents after half term with more details about these exciting upcoming events:

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

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

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

Tuesday 29th March (6 – 6.45pm and 7 – 7.45pm): Lent Ensemble Concert



Covid Update

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

With case numbers settling this week, we have managed to return to in-person year group assemblies a little earlier than we had imagined – my thanks to Mr Bown for talking about Safer Internet Day in assembly yesterday, and Mr Knowles for deputising for me while I have been away today and using the story of *The Koala Who Could* to discuss the message of how “life can be GREAT when you try something NEW” in our Friday Assembly!

Year 5 Centre Stage Production – Wednesday 9th February 6.00 – 6.45pm

We look forward to seeing parents and families at next week’s production of *The Enormous Crocodile*. With a smallish cast involved, no pre-booking of seats is required. Seating will be distanced within the Hall. Doors will be open from 5.30pm, with car parking on the top playground.

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

The rest of Year 5, and Year 4, will be able to watch the dress rehearsal next Wednesday morning.

Support Groups next week

As a one-off, we are not running any of our academic support groups next week. This will relieve pressure on some areas of staffing in the final week before half term. Having worked so hard over the past few weeks, I am sure that children will benefit from some extra free time over their breaks before school and over lunch...



Catering at the Prep

I would like to thank our outstanding chef, Nour El Ahmad, and his wonderful catering team, for their dedication and team spirit over recent weeks when they have been beset with a number of tough challenges including illness, injury and absence. Without any fuss, they have maintained our core provision at mealtimes and retained their usual high standards, and always with a winning smile. Thank you.

Safety

Further to a newsletter message last term and also two weeks ago, parents should **not** be using the BT entrance to drop off their child in the morning. This is not Perse land and it does obstruct the commute for pedestrians and cyclists. It is also not acceptable for parents simply to move to a different private entrance along this road. There was a complaint this week from residents at the ‘Orangery’ block of flats because their drive was blocked; I gather that the residents are eager to note down registration numbers.

Artwork

This week’s art banners showcase Yr 4’s images of tropical bird, created with coloured pencils and collage.



Sport

Parents are very welcome to attend the following matches:

Monday 7th February

7.45am U11 A IAPS Hockey Regional Tournament at Framlingham. Collect from the Prep at 5.30pm

Wednesday 9th February

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Hockey v St Faith’s away. Collect from the Prep at 4.30pm

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Netball v SPF (Dame Bradbury’s) at home.

Thursday 10th February

2.30pm U9 A/B/C/D Hockey v Kimbolton at home.

Friday 11th February

12.00pm U11 A IN2 Hockey County Tournament at Wilberforce Road. Collect from the Prep at 4.30pm

Apologies that we have had to cancel the U10 A/B/C/D fixtures away at St Faith's on Tuesday 22nd February because of a clash with our Parents' Evenings. Despite our best efforts, we can't rearrange this set of fixtures but, fortunately, we already have home fixtures for these same girls against St Faith's on Tuesday 8th March.

PPP Family Quiz Friday 11th March 6.45pm – 9pm

Don't forget to book your tickets for the PPP Family Quiz to enjoy an evening of fabulous fun and intellectual challenge. Each team, comprising of both parents and children, will battle it out to win the Quiz Night Trophy. Individual or team entries are welcome, supper will be provided, and there will be a paying bar and prizes up for grabs! Tickets are available to purchase via ParentPay. Entries can be registered via the following link: [PPP Quiz Night - Registration Form](#).

Primary Maths Challenge

This week, seventeen children, who had qualified from November's Primary Maths Challenge, took part in the Bonus Round where they competed against children on a worldwide level! Well done to the following children in Year 6: **Sylvan Amads, James Cheng, Olivia Cutts, Daniel Fannon, Kavin Gahlaut, Olivia Griffiths, Theodore Hirzel, George Hunter, Umar Ibrahim, Sulayman Jawaid, Maggie Kent, Ferdie Piper, Shriya Siddharth, Isabel Tong, Ruolan Wang, Esther Wong** and also **Alexander Toutoungi** in Year 5.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Olivia Cutts** on her ABRSM Grade 5 Theory with Distinction; **Leopold de Ris** on completing the 30 miles walking challenge during January; **Francesca He, Ethan Liu** and **Oliver Roland** on being awarded their Reading Quest Badges; and **Annabel Ramsden** on being awarded her "Best in age" trophy in the Cambridge Swimming Club Championships.

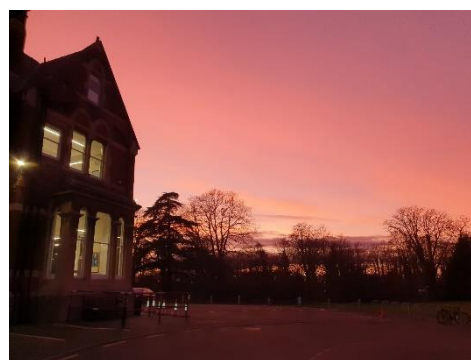
Well done to the following children on being awarded their Silver Housepoint Awards: **Rufus Crabb, Sophie Hull** and **Sophia McDonald**; and to **Benjamin Keen** on being awarded his Gold Housepoint Award. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
BARBARIANS 1004	ROMANS 1026	FORESTERS 1037	CORINTHIANS 1038

I would like to share this wonderful image of the dusk sky over the Prep earlier this week – perhaps in celebration of the Lunar New Year!

Yours sincerely

James Piper
Head



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