



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

21st April 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope that many of us can look back fondly on happy summer terms at school. We are keen to help your children create many special memories over these eleven weeks – with their friends, their work, and all the different opportunities available. The Easter break has certainly energised everyone; there is a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation for what lies ahead.

My thanks to Laura Robertson for her assembly on how to combat test stress yesterday; good timing ahead of the upcoming school assessments. We have also looked at the religious festivals of Vaisakhi, Easter and Ramadan. Eid Mubarak to those celebrating Eid-al-Fitr this weekend.

We wish our girls' and boys' table tennis teams all the best as they take part in the National Championships tomorrow, accompanied by Jacob Butler. Next week we welcome both ends of the Perse age ranges with Stef Abbott kindly organising the visit of around twenty Pelican Nursery children on Monday and with Mrs Halbert organising the visit of over fifty ex-Prep children who are now in the Upper Sixth on Wednesday. We wish our two quiz teams all the best as they take part in the National General Knowledge semi-finals on Wednesday – let's hope Mr Bidwell's two teams are quick on the buzzers!

PPP Spring Walk at Wandlebury – Sunday 23rd April

The PPP spring walk is taking place this Sunday, 2.30pm, at Wandlebury Country Park (not Magog Down) and all family members are welcome. No booking is necessary; just turn up and meet your fellow walkers by the map in the car park. Tea, coffee and treats will be provided after the walk and all money raised from cash donations will go towards this year's charities; Guide Dogs and The Red Hen Project. Many thanks to parents Stephanie Trickett and Liz McDade for overseeing this.

POP – Tuesday 25th April

Next week's Year 6 POP (Prep Outdoor Pursuits) session is at the Upper again and involves climbing, cooking, teambuilding and archery. Children should come to school in their games kit (with winter shirts) and ensure they have sufficient warm clothing and rainproofs if required. Pickup is from the Upper at 6.30pm.

Coronation Lunch – Friday 5th May

We shall be marking the Coronation of King Charles III with a series of events. This will culminate with a special outside lunch the day beforehand, to which all children this week received their invitation (see end of the newsletter). There is an optional competition which they can enter – to design a poster to reflect one or more of the four Coronation themes of Youth, Community, Diversity and Sustainability. It would be lovely for all children to design their own crown for the lunch – we are hoping that these can celebrate Diversity and Sustainability!



Sport – the week ahead

Saturday 22nd April

9.00am U11 Pelicans IAPS National Table Tennis Championships, Edge Grove School

Wednesday 26th April

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Boys' Cricket v King's College School (H)

2.30pm U11 A/B/C/D Girls' Cricket v King's College School (A – Trinity College)

Friday 28th April

2.30pm U10 A/B Girls' Cricket v King's College School (H)

2.30pm U10 C/D Girls' Cricket internal fixture (H)

2.30pm U10 A/B/C/D Boys' Cricket v King's College School (A – Trinity College)

Please note that finish times for cricket can vary with A team fixtures often lasting a little longer. Do check SOCS for more specific advice for each team.

Staffing News

With Julia Halbert retiring at the end of this term, I would like to announce that we have appointed **Eleanor Lowe** as the **Head of Learning Support for the Pelican and Prep**, to start in September. Eleanor is currently Head of Learning Support and a Year 6 Class Teacher at St Mary's Junior School, Cambridge where she has been teaching for the past four years. She has a Psychology degree from the University of Liverpool, a PGCE from Homerton, University of Cambridge, and was recently awarded a Distinction for her National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCo) from UCL. Outside of school, Eleanor has been an Army Cadet Force (ACF) instructor over the past four years, giving back to teenagers after being a member of the Air Training Corps for most of her teenage years.

Fresh from producing *The Demon Headmaster* last term, **Clare Cassidy** has been appointed as the full **Head of Drama** for September, having recently shared this role with Jules Reston. Clare is already on the case with planning options for next year and I am thrilled that she will be taking on this key position within the School.

Nicky Clark and **Dan Nicholes** have both been appointed as **Assistant Directors of Sport**, to start in September. They will both work across all four year groups, and help to cover the admin of all our sports across all three terms. This means that we shall be discontinuing the existing Heads of Sport roles. Not only will this rationalise the leadership and management structure under Ed McGregor, it will reduce the growing inconsistencies between the individual Head of Sport roles (length of season, girls' sports, boys' sports, mixed sports etc).

French Trip Video

I am very grateful to Claire Soares Winter for putting together this video of the recent Year 5 French Trip. I hope that parents will be proud to enjoy the rich variety of images, video clips, smiles and laughter which capture the highlights of a very special trip. I am sure that parents will be very proud to see their children growing up in front of their eyes.

Pastoral Newsletter

If you haven't read the latest Prep & Pelican Pastoral Newsletter, do click [here](#). There has been good feedback already about the format on Microsoft Sway, especially if accessing through a mobile device. We'll do some further exploration to see how easy it will be to adapt the current Prep Newsletter into the same format for next academic year.

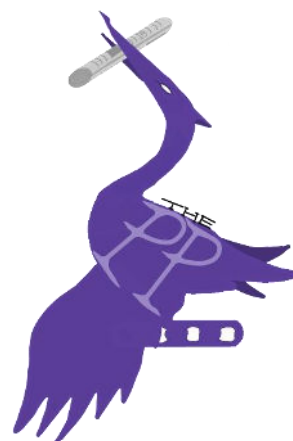
PODcast

POD, our School Council, have produced their second PODcast of the year. Many thanks to Mr Reston for overseeing the process (and Mr Bown for his slick radio skills!) but special thanks to all the children, as POD is one of the main formal ways of listening to the pupil voice. Two of our Year 6 reps, **Fred Woodman** and **Eunice Stewart-Wallace**, give an update [here](#) of Pupil Organised Democracy activity over the past term.



The Purple Press

Journalism Club were hard at work last term, reporting on some of the major events at the Prep and in the wider world. I would encourage you to read the second edition of [The Purple Press](#) where you'll find articles offering a view of the Lent Term from the children's perspective. My thanks to Mrs Soares Winter for sharing her journalistic expertise and inspiring our fledgling reporters, as well as putting together this slick publication, also on Microsoft Sway.



Year 6 Independent Study

My thanks to Mr Bown for launching the Year 6 Independent Study project for one of their weekly homework sessions this term. We look forward to seeing what creative ideas and projects that the children get up to over the course of the term.

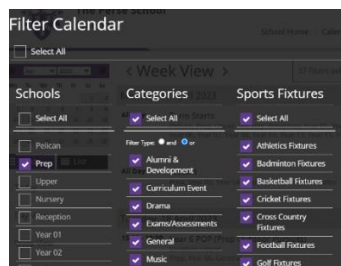
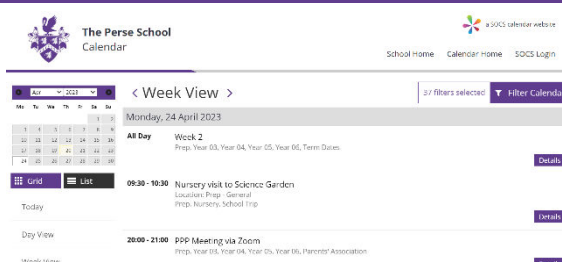
London Marathon

All the very best to Ed McGregor, our Director of Sport & Clubs, who will be running the London Marathon this weekend. Ed ran in the Cambridge half marathon last term and then was (un)lucky enough to get a ballot

place for London and raise some more money for Alzheimer's Research UK. Many thanks indeed to the many parents who have kindly supported Ed. If you would like to donate to this cause, do visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ed-McGregor>.

3-18 School Calendar

Events are available to view in the new online 3-18 School Calendar and can be viewed via the School website [here](#). The new calendar is intuitive and easy to use, and can be synced with personal calendars via the ParentPortal.



The calendar incorporates sports fixtures alongside all other calendar entries, allowing users to **filter calendar** entries by year group and category e.g. Year 3 Parents' Evenings / productions / events.

To navigate to a specific date or change the view (day, week, month, list/grid), click on the options on the left-hand side of the screen.

Uniform

As the weather becomes warmer, the summer dress might become an option for some children. These are now available to purchase online from Mr Cricket, as are the new black backpacks. However, the current blue backpacks are absolutely fine for children to keep using indefinitely. A reminder that all Prep and Pelican branded uniform is now sourced from Mr Cricket, and not from John Lewis.

Sunscreen, Headwear and Water

We recommend that parents oversee the application of long-lasting sunscreen at the start of the day. If sending sunscreen into school for your child, please ensure it is labelled. Staff are not able to provide or apply sunscreen, and children are not allowed to share sunscreen due to the risk of allergy. If children do not wear sunscreen in sunny conditions, they will be asked to cover themselves appropriately or relocate to a shaded area and not take part in the activity. School staff taking outdoor activities are responsible for:

- Checking that pupils have applied sun protection and reminding to re-apply this at regular intervals.
- Ensuring that pupils are reminded to use shaded (or indoor) space when relevant.
- Ensuring that plenty of water is provided and made accessible to students.
- Being vigilant for signs of effect from the elements.



Children need a suitable hat or cap which should be Perse branded and can be purchased from Mr Cricket.

Perse Prep Water Bottles – Now Available!

The new Prep purple water bottle is now available to buy priced at £15 each. This aluminium bottle has a screw-on lid with a handle for easy carrying. It holds 650ml and is BPA free. Profits from sales go to our two chosen charities, the Red Hen Project and Guide Dogs for the Blind.



To order your Perse Prep water bottle, go to <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/pppwaterbottles> (password: PPPwaterbottles). These can be collected from Reception from the Friday following your order and payment.

PPP Volunteer Request – Second-hand Uniform Rep

After 2 years as the Prep's second-hand uniform rep, Catherine Keen is stepping down from the role at the next AGM. Catherine has done an amazing job looking after requests, sorting donations and taking the lead on the second-hand uniform sales held throughout the year. The second-hand uniform sales help raise lots of money for our chosen charities each year and are an invaluable source of good quality and good value uniform for parents. We are so grateful to all that Catherine has done and now need a new volunteer (or volunteers) to take on this role. The position will involve being the main point of contact for second-hand uniform enquires, running these uniform sales, and sorting donations from parents.

If you are interested in finding out more, or volunteering for this role, please contact Melissa and Liz on perseprepparents@gmail.com and we will be more than happy to provide further information.

Year 6 Parents' Leavers' Party – tickets now on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the event of the year – the Year 6 Parents' Leaving Do! Join us for a chance to celebrate our time at the Prep as it won't be long before our children will be hanging up their purple blazers and heading off to the Upper. This traditional event is a great opportunity to share stories and enjoy fine food and wine in the beautiful surroundings of St Catherine's College. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases Year 3's Henri Matisse inspired drawings of flowers.



Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Eddie Carter** on his ESF Bronze Star Skiing Award; **Max Taylor** for his skiing medal; **Hanzhe Wang** for passing the Swiss Ski School blue star and red prince levels and coming 3rd in his ski race; **Ilyas Khan** on winning the team spirit award for his resilience as netminder (goalkeeper) for the Cambridge Grizzlies in an ice hockey tournament; **Zak Khan** for finishing reading the Quran in Arabic during the period of Ramadan; **Dhruv Ghildyal** for winning the U10 Riverside Grade 4 tennis tournament and for being a runner-up in the U10 Grade 3 UEA Easter Open; **Sam Brennan** for being offered a place in the Cambridge United Football Regional Development Centre; **Charlize Church** for her silver medal in the 50m butterfly and 100m front crawl in the Cambridge City Swim Club Competition and **Felix McDonald** for winning the 25m butterfly race; **Jonathan Goldsmith** on his U10 player of the season award for Cambridge City Hockey Club; **Leopold de Ris** for successfully completing his singing Easter School at St Catherine's College; **Joseph Lilley** on his ABRSM Grade 2 Piano; **Ellie Zhu** on her Trinity Grade 8 Piano with Distinction; **Annabel Ramsden** for performing in the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain in their 40th anniversary concert at the Royal Albert Hall; **Juno Gough** and **Beatrice Mather** on their Y5 Reading Challenge; and Head's Commendations for their brilliant DTE work creating moving vehicles: **Sophia Lee, Deniz Yakici, Alice Yang** and **Luke D'Arcy**.

Gold Housepoint certificates: **Felix McDonald, Lucia Whelan, Maria Antonik, Sam D'Arcy, Cecily Hirzel, Sara Omori Rison; Robert McFadzean-Ferguson, Mia Bird, Willow Sutherland** and **Alexander Toutoungi**.

Platinum Housepoint certificate: **Elliot Woolley**. Our first *Scores on the Doors* read as follows:

Yours sincerely

James Piper
Head

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
NOMADS	CORINTHIANS	FORESTERS	BARBARIANS
180	187	191	225

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