



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

23rd June 2023

Dear Parents,

As we build up to the final eight and half days of school (please note the half day on the last day of term), it is good to see so many continuing to shine with their music, drama art and sport. Next week twenty-eight children sit their music exams, Year 5 Centre Stage perform *Theseus*, our final Year 5 Art Trips take place at the Upper on the theme of Land Art, and we have our last cricket fixtures of the season as well as our all-inclusive House Sports Day.

Absent next week will be Tobias Bown; we wish him all the best as he jets to Singapore this evening ahead of visiting the Perse School Singapore for our annual Quality Assurance visit. As well as building relationships and links with staff there, Tobias will be learning from everything that this relatively new site has to offer, as he meets children, staff and parents in his growing role working with international educational projects. In the final week of term, Nick Belcher, Head-elect of Singapore, will be visiting the Prep. Tobias and I shall be visiting Singapore in November once Nick has had a couple of months in post.



Thank you to all those who responded to Laura Robertson's consultation about RSE (Relationships & Sex Education) at the Prep which has been very helpful. Feedback and action points will be detailed via next term's Pastoral Newsletter.

Finally, it is with huge sadness that I write to mention that Mark Stratton, who was a TA at the Prep from 2018-2021 has died after battling cancer. We have fond memories of him throwing himself into school life, especially with Late Stay, Learning Support and outdoor pursuits, and our thoughts are with his wife, Beccs, who used to teach at the Upper before they moved to the West Country. There is a [JustGiving](#) page for the RNLI if anyone would like to donate in his memory.

Double National Tennis Champions

Congratulations to our tennis players who claimed a clean sweep of national titles at the recent IAPS National Tennis Finals at Rugby School. **Etienne Lamb** and **Beau Martínez-McCune** (both Year 6) won the U11 boys' title while **Lillian Ke** and **Anamaya Kumar** (both Year 5) won the U11 girls' title a year early! **Steven Wang** (Year 5) and **Dhruv Ghildyal** (Year 4) also finished an extremely creditable sixth place in the boys' team competition. Do click [here](#) for further details on the Perse website.



Calendar for end of term

Monday 26th June

Trinity and ABRSM Music Exams

Tuesday 27th June

Year 5 Centre Stage Dress Rehearsal: *Theseus* (9.40 – 10.15am)

Wednesday 28th June

5A Art Trip to the Upper (1.40 – 3.25pm)

Year 5 Centre Stage Production: *Theseus* (6 – 6.45pm)

Thursday 29th June

Year 6 Move Up Day. Wear home clothes. Children walk to the Upper mid-morning. Parents arrive at the Upper from 4.45pm for a talk in the PAC at 5pm, drinks with tutors in Ellison Court at 5.15pm and departing with children at 5.45pm

5Alpha Art Trip to the Upper (10.40 – 12.25pm)

Friday 30th June

Sports Day (1 – 3.30pm). Wear games kit

Saturday 1st July

PPP Year 6 Parents' Leavers' Party, St Catharine's College (7 – 11pm)

Monday 3rd July

Year 3 Prize Giving (8.30 – 9.15am)

Quiz Club National Finals, Oxford University

Year 4 Prize Giving (2.30 – 3.15pm)

Tuesday 4th July

Year 5 Prize Giving (2.30 – 3.15pm)

Wednesday 5th July

Myths & Legends House Activity Day. Wear games kit

Year 6 Leavers' Event (including parents)

- Prize Giving (5pm - 6.15pm)
- Cricket v Parents (6.15 - 7.30pm)
- BBQ (7.30 – 9pm)

Thursday 6th July

Final Day at the Prep. Wear home clothes. Years 3&4 12.15pm collection, Years 5&6 12.30pm collection

Sports Fixtures

Tuesday 27th June

2.30pm: Year 5 Girls' & Boys' Cricket House Match finals

Wednesday 28th June

2.30pm: Year 6 Girls' & Boys' Cricket House Match finals

Thursday 29th June

2.30pm: U9 Mixed Cricket v Stephen Perse Foundation (H)

Thursday 6th July

10.30am: U11 Boys' Pelicans Cricket ESCA National Finals, Oakham School

Congratulations to the U11 Girls' Pelicans who won their ESCA Regional Finals at Framlingham College yesterday, having beaten Beeston Hall, Culford and Bancrofts with a stunning thirteen wickets taken to ensure a comprehensive victory in the final. Well done to Sophie Hull on being selected as Player of the Tournament but Mrs Seed and Mrs Clark were quick to point out that it was a wonderful team performance from the whole squad: **Reina Brogan, Marianne Gouliouris, Sophie Hull, Sophie Newhouse, Lara Polonius, Willow Sutherland, Nishtha Tiwary, Eda Tunca and Amelie Wansell**. Unfortunately, there is no National Final for the ESCA event, unlike for the boys. I have sent a letter to ESCA to recommend the importance of parity...

Sports Day – Friday 30th June

Children will have an early lunch at school before being walked to the Playing Fields by Form Teachers for Sports Day to start at 1pm. Children will stay with their Form Teachers for the afternoon. Do refer to the Sports Day programme at the end of this newsletter for a guide to the events. Parents can follow their children around as you watch the various year group events in rotation. Every child earns points for their House regardless of their event or year group. We finish with a whole school relay and a short prize giving in front of the pavilion before finding out which House has triumphed.

Parents should sign out their child from their Form Teacher directly after the prize giving. For those not being collected, we shall subsequently take them to after school clubs. Some of these clubs may be amalgamated if numbers are particularly low. To avoid unnecessary to-ing and fro-ing to collect bags from the main site at the end of the day, children should not bring in their school bags on Friday. However, they should bring in a named water bottle.

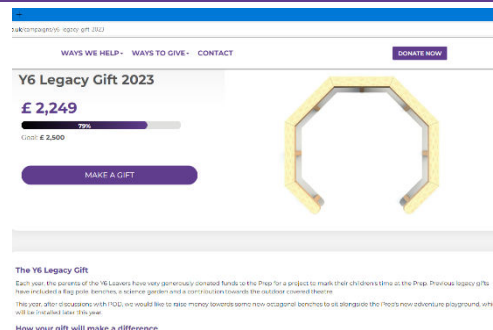
Children will wear their House bibs over their white games shirts. There has been a recent tradition of parents trying to match the colour of their child's House as well – we look forward to some garish red, blue, green and yellow outfits! To avoid traffic chaos on the neighbouring roads, we do open up the Playing Fields for parking – you will be directed around the edge of the field to park behind the ropes. This will be open from 12noon onwards in case anyone wants to arrive early for picnics!

Year 6 Leavers' Event – Wednesday 5th July

Many thanks to everyone who has replied to the PersePost about this event. It would be helpful to have the final few replies in to guide numbers for catering, as well as for the cricket matches after Prize Giving.

Year 6 Leavers' Gift

Many thanks to those Year 6 families who have kindly donated towards the Year 6 Leavers' Legacy Gift which will result in two large octagonal benches being added to the brand-new adventure playground that is being fitted at the start of the summer holidays. Gifts are anonymous and are handled via the Development Department. With Gift Aid declarations, any donations will be worth an extra 25% to this exciting fundraising project. Do visit this giving site: [Y6 Legacy Gift 2023 - The Perse Year-Round Giving](#).



The Y6 Legacy Gift

Each year the parents of the Y6 Leavers have very generously donated funds to the Prep for a project to mark their children's time at the Prep. Previous legacy gifts have included a flag pole, benches, a science garden and a contribution towards the outdoor covered theatre.

This year, after discussing with 'ODG', we would like to raise money towards some new octagonal benches to sit alongside the Prep's new adventure playground, which will be installed later this year.

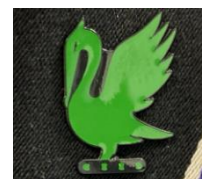
How your gift will make a difference

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award



We are delighted to have heard today that the Prep has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for the significant developments that have been taking place over recent years. We are hugely indebted to Jules Reston for driving the sustainability agenda so much within the School, ably supported by the Green Team and the rest of the children and staff. We have also been ably supported by the Bursar, Estates, Grounds and Gardening Teams as we build momentum in this area.

This is a good opportunity to share an interview with our Green Team (before they had received the news about the Green Flag). Special thanks also to Tobias Bown for his slick radio skills! Three of our Year 6 reps, **Archie Barker**, **Ollie Denny-Gouldson** and **Alastair Griffiths** give an update [here](#) of activity over the past term.



Staffing

We were delighted to welcome some of our new staff to their induction mornings this week: Eleanor Lowe (new Head of Learning Support for the Pelican & Prep) and Gemma Turner (new Sports TA). Next week we welcome Elena Sapsford (new Science TA). In the final week of term, Ros West and Jess Evans come back from maternity leave. A reminder that we shall be saying farewell to Julia Halbert, Kendra Seed, Cat Andrews and Catrin Osborne.

Finally, our thanks to students Holly Wright (daughter of Jackie) who has been throwing herself into her work experience at the Prep this week. For the rest of this term, we welcome Esmé Jonas (OP) back to the Prep.

Gifts for Staff

As the school year draws to an end, sometimes parents and children give staff small thank you gifts. Whilst such kindness is appreciated, there is no expectation of such gifts and parents should not feel under any obligation to give them. The gifts that mean the most to staff are often the ones that pupils have created themselves, such as a well-written card or home-made present. If parents and children do wish to provide a gift with a monetary value, then it must be in accordance with our policy on gifts and hospitality. No employee can accept a gift of more than £50 in value either individually or cumulatively from one parent / family in any one academic year. If parents wish, it is acceptable for small individual donations to be combined into one larger collective gift provided no single individual donation exceeds the annual limit.

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases year 6 ceramic pots, inspired by potter Lucie Rie.



PPP Autumn BBQ – Sunday 17th September 12-3pm

Whilst September may seem far away, the PPP Autumn BBQ comes around very quickly at the start of next term. Tickets are available [here](#) (password: prepbbq2023). Please sign up as soon as possible to help with the planning and ticketing for the event.

To make an event of this scale happen, the PPP rely on the generous help and support of the parent body and are looking for donations for various stalls. Donations such as bottles (wine, fizz, etc), raffle prizes (chocolates, candles, toiletries, etc) or toys and books suitable for prep aged children, can be left at reception for the PPP to collect. Full details can be found in the PersePost from Monday 19th June or please contact the PPP on perseprepparents@gmail.com for more information.

PPP Second-hand Uniform

A reminder that PPP would love to grab any unwanted Prep uniform before you break for the summer holidays! This is so that we can grow our stock in time for the Autumn Fair in September. Please do drop off any of this at Reception before the end of the term. Please note that any blazers sold should bring a commission, depending on their quality.

Items to Donate for Schools in Malawi

Children heard from the charity *Lifeline* in assembly this week – this charity supports education in countries such as Malawi. We learnt that children there are not allowed to take public exams unless they are wearing shoes, and the charity would be thrilled to receive as many pairs of outgrown school shoes as possible at the end of this term – please drop off at Prep Reception before the end of this term. The charity would also like to collect any other outgrown uniform and also exercise books which might otherwise be thrown away:

- **unused or little used exercise books:** many children will take home exercise books that are almost entirely empty. If they cut out the used pages, they could return them and they'd be used next year by children in a less privileged school.
- **old-style Perse sports kit**
- **shoes:** black school shoes or trainers, paired up or tied together at the laces.



Activities Week

Apologies for the error in the newsletter two weeks ago about one of the speakers – our thanks to Dr Lu for his wonderful talk about Cambridge's contribution to the study of genetics.

International Taekwon-do Cup for Children

Congratulations to **Sophia Alexander** and **William Reddy** who have just got back from their international competition in Poland. Over 600 competitors from 22 countries took part in this weekend event. Cambridge Taekwon-do club were highly successful, with Sophia winning an individual bronze medal for sparring in her category.

Junior Kangaroo Maths Competition

Congratulations to the following students who had already qualified through to the Junior Kangaroo stage of the UKMT challenge that was held at the Upper this week: **Nivedh Vinodhkumar**, **Ivy Chen**, **William Reddy** and **Daria Minasyan**. A special mention to **Sophia Lee**, **Alexander**



Toutoungi and **Ethan Liu** on their Merit certificates and for coming 3rd, 5th and 6th respectively out of the sixty children who had also qualified from Year 7&8 at the Upper.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Alessia Fannon** on being the top scorer in the Cambridgeshire Wildcats' Football tournament; **Lucia Whelan, Aurora Short, Arabella Wallace and Tilly Crosby** coming second in the Cottenham Girls' 5-a-side Football Tournament and qualifying for the semi-finals; **Ellie Zhu and Charlize Church** for both winning in different age groups in 100m backstroke, 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle in the Cambridge Swimming Club Gala, and **Jacob Painter** for coming second in the U10 freestyle and backstroke; **Moer Sha, Charlie Qin, Daniel Teng and Ethan Liu** on qualifying respectively from the U8, U10 and U12 Chess Megafinals for the Gigafinal; **Jacob Butler** for hitting an enormous six for the staff cricket team who lost in a close game last week against Grantchester; **William Reddy** who came first in the Gog Magog Junior Stableford Golf competition; **Neha Sathiyamoorthy** in successfully completing the Tamil Language Course in Advanced KG at the MKMM Tamil School; **Andrew Villaverde** on his Grade 1 Drum Kit with Distinction; **Dan Nicholes** for completing his iPGCE at the University of Buckingham with a Distinction; **Tobias Bown** for his input in mentoring Mr Nicholes (!); **James Parry, Charlotte Goodfellow and Harry Frostick** on their Y5 Reading Challenge Award.



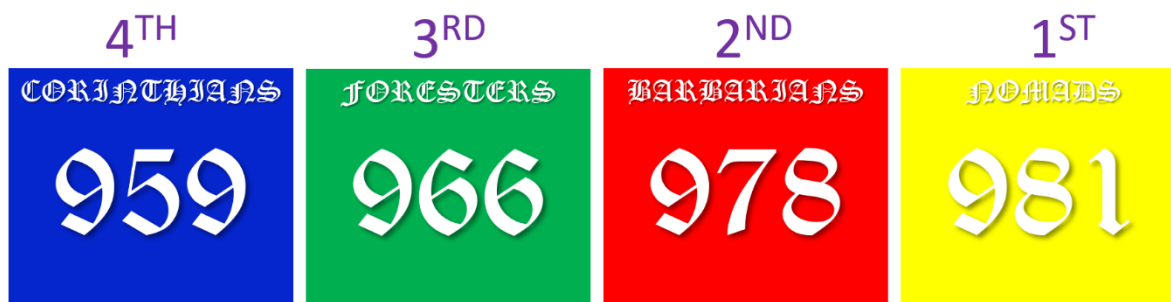
Congratulations to the following on achieving their Housepoint certificates:

Gold: **Hugo Jones, James Mead, Daniel Shenker, Deniz Yakici, Anna Keith-Roach, Jamie West.**

Platinum: **Anamaya Kumar, George Li, Lillian Ke, Annabel Ramsden, Thea Wiseman; Oliver Roland.**

Titanium: **Ted Hayes, Juliette Prewett van Beesten; Daniel Teng.**

Scores on the Doors are as follows:



Yours sincerely

James Piper
Head

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