



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

26th May 2023

Dear Parents,

A wonderful International House Activity Day marked the end of the first half of term today at the Prep; my thanks to Claire Soares Winter and all the staff (Prep, Upper and Catering) and many visiting parents for putting so much into this wonderful day. In their House Families, the children had sessions with parents which included understanding more about Romanian, Hungarian, Danish, Bosnian, Japanese, Tamil, Nahuatl, Arabic, Turkish, Twi, Zulu, Afrikaans, Spanish and Portuguese! The day also included quizzes, puzzles, Kabaddi, Greek dancing, African board games, carnival masks, a French theatre production, traditional tales from Russia, Singapore, South Africa and Argentina before a grand finale with the whole school singing Let It Go in twenty languages, which all parents will get a chance to hear at the upcoming Summer Concerts.



The past week has also seen the Year 6 enjoy a wonderful four-day trip to Bawdsey Manor, in Suffolk. My thanks to Jules Reston and his staff team (Sophia Abbasi, Stef Abbott, Cat Andrews, Jacob Butler, Tom Knowles, Annelise Sanders and Kendra Seed) who made this such a special trip. A selection of photographs appears at the end of this newsletter; do click for a tour video.



Not quite sated with activity, the Year 6 finished their POP (Prep Outdoor Pursuits) programme on Tuesday with orienteering and water sports at Milton Country Park, organised by Eve Bonner. Eve also oversaw the successful overnight camp with PES last weekend for the whole of Year 4. A selection of photographs at the end of the newsletter give a glimpse of the happy campers. My thanks also to Clare Cassidy, Nat Farrant and Dan Nicholes for their time with this trip.

On a different note, thank you to 4Aleph for their Form Assembly on *World Turtle Day*, and to Zak Khan for his whole school quiz on cheese and words like turophobia (!) yesterday before Tobias Bown's assembly on Reading. I am also delighted that a number of parents were able to join Pooky Knightsmith's webinar on ADHD and Autism on Tuesday.

In staffing news, it has been a delight to welcome Pippa Barbour back from her maternity leave. Pippa takes on the classes that Jo Fenna was teaching and reverts to being 3A's Form Teacher and Head of Year 3. My thanks to Emma Piper for taking on the latter role, and to Jo Fenna for her outstanding work as teacher and

Form Teacher over the past year. Jo reverts to her previous role as Teaching Assistant, which meant that we said goodbye to Sophia Abbasi today. Sophia was a GAP student here from 2015-16 and has been a TA at the Prep over the past year, getting involved in most areas of school life – whether in sport, lessons, trips, clubs or Late Stay. We shall miss her very much and wish her well as she applies for a PGCE in the future.

Activities Week – Monday 6th – Friday 9th June

A reminder that we are running our Activities Week immediately after half term and parents will today be receiving a PersePost with **specific details for their child's year group**. An overview of the whole programme can be found at the end of this newsletter; it will clearly be an exhilarating week for everyone involved. I am hugely grateful to all staff for their resourcefulness in helping to put this week together, in particular Ms Abbott (Head of Science), Mr Reston (Director of Enrichment) and Mr Knowles (Deputy Head). We are also blessed to have so many parents able to spare precious time to act as role models to the children with Science talks and practicals; thank you. I look forward to listing these parents and the topics of their sessions in the next newsletter. As for homework, this will be set in English (poetry learning) and Science (rocket making) only in this week; children will receive further details immediately after half term.

Summer Concerts – Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th June

Every child will be involved in one of the upcoming concerts at the Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre at the Upper. For Years 3&4 this will be from 6-6.45pm on Monday 12th June with a range of junior ensembles and finishing with everyone on stage for a choral finale. Years 5&6 have their turn on Tuesday 13th June with a first half (6-6.50pm) consisting of senior ensembles. The second half (7.10 – 8pm) will consist of more ensembles and climax with every child on stage for a choral finale. Parents may book their seats for any of the above options via the PersePost sent this week. For those unable to attend, please collect your child from the Upper after each Concert. Refreshments will be available from 5.30pm onwards, and also at the interval on Tuesday.

Sports Day – Friday 30th June

Advance warning of our Sports Day, which starts at 1pm on the final Friday of term. The fields at Porson Road will be open for parking and picnics from 12pm onwards. There will be four activities (one for each year group) happening simultaneously – 75/100m, 300/400m, ball throw and tug-o-war and every child will be involved in each event. We round the afternoon off with a whole school relay and aim to be ready for pick up and after school clubs to take place as normal. We look forward to seeing you at this event, supporting your child and their House. If parents are feeling particularly brave, you may want to sport a dash of your House's colour to support your children!

PPP Year 6 Parents' Leavers' Party – Saturday 2nd July

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Year 6 Parents' Leavers' event if you haven't done so already. Ticket sales close just after half term, so there are only a few weeks left to make your purchase before we have to confirm numbers to St Catharine's College. This traditional event is a great opportunity to celebrate our time at the Prep and enjoy fine food and wine in beautiful college surroundings

Prize Givings (Years 3, 4 & 5) – Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th July

Prize Givings for Years 3, 4 and 5 take place in the Hall in the final week of term and parents are very welcome to attend. These end of year events will include the Form Academic and Form Progress Prizes as well as the end of term Values Certificates, Departmental Certificates and Library Awards. Only a limited number of children will receive an award at these events. Monday will see Year 3 (8.30 – 9.15am) and Year 4 (2.30 – 3.15pm) and Tuesday Year 5 (2.30 – 3.15pm). Parents should park at the playing fields.

Year 6 Leavers' Event – Wednesday 5th July

The Year 6 Leavers' Event is open to parents and wider families. This starts with a Prize Giving (5 - 6.15pm) followed by cricket matches against the parents (6.15 – 7.30pm) and then a BBQ (7.30 – 9pm). The focus is on our Year 6 leavers but, if well-looked after by parents, we are happy for younger or older siblings to attend, or even other members of the family. The Year 6 Prize Giving includes the Form Academic and Form Progress Prizes as well as the Academic, Music, Drama and Sport Trophies. We also award the Greg Harper Spirit of Perse Award and the end of term Values Trophies. All children will receive an award at this event. The Prize Giving will be held outside, behind New School (or in the Hall if poor weather).

Sports Fixtures – the week ahead

Wednesday 7th June

9.00am – 7.00pm: U11 A/B/C/D Boys' & Girls' Cricket v Gresham's (A) & Beach Trip

Friday 9th June

8.45am – 7.00pm: U11 East Regional Athletics, Bedford International Stadium (leave and collect from Upper)

Routledge House Cup

Well done to Foresters who managed to hold off the other three Houses to win the House Cup for this half of term. Amelie Wansell was the leading Year 6 housepoint scorer for Foresters; the full results are as follows:

| 4 TH | 3 RD | 2 ND | 1 ST |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| CORINTHIANS | ROMANS | BARBARIANS | FORESTERS |
| 1946 | 2001 | 2028 | 2051 |



PSHE 'Life Bus'

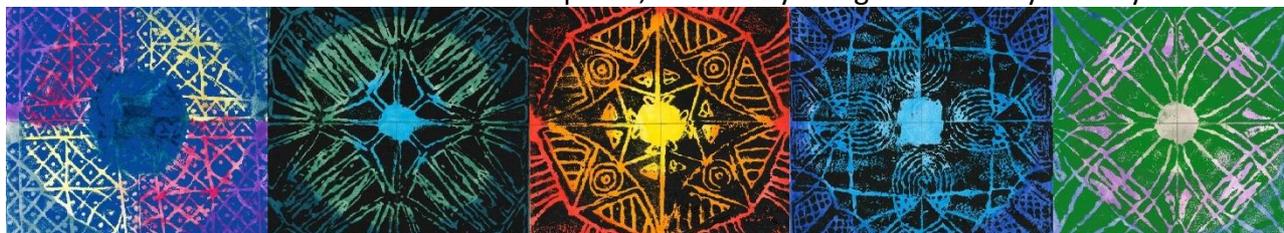
As part of our PSHE curriculum, a mobile classroom from the Cambridge and Peterborough Life Education Centre will be visiting on 7th and 8th June for Year 3 and Year 5 during Activity Week. All these children will have a lesson in their high-tech classroom, appropriate to their age and understanding and will be developing the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding about the human body in order for them to make healthy choices. Year 3 will look at "It's great to be me" (how organs work together as systems inside the body, and personal safety and behaviour). Year 5 will look at "Decisions" (peer influences and group dynamics, and the effects of drugs on the organs and systems of the body). If parents are interested to see this for themselves, there are spaces to come for a 20-minute presentation on the Thursday (8th June) morning from 8.30 – 8.50am. If you do wish to attend, please email Jackie Wright (prepadmin@perse.co.uk); places will be allocated to those who reply first. Parents should park at the playing fields during these times.

Chess – Sunday 18th June

Shortly after half term, the Upper will host one of the biggest chess events of the year: the Play Professors Cambridge Megafinal. This is an all-day event where children of all abilities play six games against others in their age category. The players are paired by a computer in such a way that children are matched against others of a similar ability, meaning everyone enjoys a suitable of competition, no matter how much chess experience they have. In the past, The Perse have enjoyed great success in this annual event, with many players advancing to the next phase, the Gigafinals, which are held in July. If your child is a keen chess player, or would like to improve rapidly by playing competitively, please sign them up [here](#).

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases Year 5's prints, created by using rotational symmetry.



Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Ryan Smith** for winning the East of England competition with Newmarket & Thurlow Pony Club in Mounted Games and moving closer to the Nationals, and for being selected for the Suffolk Show over half term; **Adam Lee** for his 59 in the Cambridgeshire U10 cricket match against Suffolk; **Andrew Villaverde** for winning the silver medal in the Regional Judo Competition and for his Trinity Grade 1 Drum with Distinction and congratulations also to **Maggie Rowan-Robinson** on her Year 5 Reading Challenge Award.

Congratulations to the following on their Housepoint certificates:

Gold: **Jessica Ryan** and **Alexander Daubeney**.

Platinum: **Florence Boyle**, **Fred Brisby**, **Catherine Cope**, **Tilly Crosby**, **Sam D'Arcy**, **Alexander Freeborough**, **Jonathan Goldsmith**, **Ivy Green**, **Florence Houghton**, **Cecily Hirzel**, **Harry Kelliher**, **Lily Liang**, **Felix McDonald**, **Annousheh Sayed**, **Lotte van Spaendonck**, **Sihua Wang**, **Joyce Xiao**, **Samuel Hong**, **Benjamin Keen**, **Marissa Ojha**, **George Pullan**, **Noah Scourfield** and **George Gregory**.

Titanium: **Ella McCabe**.

Yours sincerely



James Piper
Head

International House Activity Day





**Thank you,
everyone!**

Y6 Leavers' Trip







Year 4 Overnight Camp last weekend



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