



9th June 2023

Dear Parents,

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom the emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand wrapped in awe, is as good as dead - his eyes are closed.

The unforgettable learning experiences of our Activities Week gives credence to the words of Albert Einstein above with eyes well and truly opened – I hope your children have experienced plenty of wonder and awe. I am enormously grateful to over twenty different parents / visitors for giving up their time to organise practicals, talks and events for the children, for exercising their curiosity, and for sowing seeds of knowledge for years to come. Many thanks to Stef Abbott, our Head of Science, for putting together all of the science activities in this week-long event; do see the article below for further details.

We have also enjoyed a number of trips off site: Year 6 Beach Trip to North Norfolk and cricket fixtures against Gresham's, Year 6 Science Day at the Upper; Year 5 Geography, Computer Science and Classics Day at the Upper; Year 4 visit to the 'Playground' adventure training centre; and Year 3 trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park. Years 3 and 4 have visited the University Botanic Gardens and Years 3, 5 and 6 have had outdoor pursuits days at Abington with PES. We have also fitted in Summer Concert Rehearsals, a rocket-launching competition, artwork for next year's planner, a Year 4 History Day and a Year 5 Performance in a Day. Do check out Perse Prep Twitter for an explosion of images and video clips of the week. Your children are clearly being exposed to a heady mix of academic excellence and an all-round education; I hope that they have some rest time as well this weekend...

Summer Concerts – Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th June



We are excited about showcasing our concerts next week at the Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre at the Upper. For Years 3&4 this will be a short event from 6-6.40pm on Monday with a range of junior ensembles and finishing with **everyone** on stage for a choral finale. Years 5&6 have their turn on Tuesday with a first half (6-6.50pm) consisting of ensembles and orchestras. 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 in the week before half term. For those unable to attend, please collect your child from the Upper after each Concert. Soft drinks will be available from 5.30pm onwards, and also at the interval on Tuesday at which there will also be a paid bar.

Your children will have been walked to the Upper during the afternoon for rehearsals and will have a hot meal before the evening event. Parents should collect their child from the Upper afterwards. Please remind children to get their instruments ready the night before. Children should wear normal school uniform on Concert days; this means that Year 3 will do games in this uniform on Monday morning. Year 5 will not have Games on Tuesday because of the rehearsals in the afternoon.

Sports – the week ahead

Monday 12th June

10.00am: U11 Pelicans Boys' Cricket IAPS Festival, Oundle School

Wednesday 14th June

10.00am: U11 Pelicans Boys' Cricket ESCA Regionals, Chigwell School

2.30pm: U11 B/C/D Boys' Cricket v St John's (H)

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C Girls' Cricket v St John's (A)

Thursday 15th June

3.00pm: U9 Mixed Cricket v St John's (A)

Friday 16th June

2.30pm: U10 A Girls' Cricket v Dame Bradbury's (H)

2.30pm: U10 A&B Boys' Cricket v Dame Bradbury's (H)

Sunday 18th June

9.00am: U11 Pelicans Tennis IAPS Championships, Rugby School

Activities Week Talks

Cambridge has a rich tradition of learning and research which we have been able to tap into this week. Year 6 heard about the role the city and university have played in developments in computer discoveries (Dr Winsey). Year 3 learned about Cambridge's contribution to the study of genetics (Dr Liu) before making DNA models with sweets (Dr Papatheodorou) and Year 5 were able to study genetics through the medium of Harry Potter (Dr Papatheodorou again!). The importance of DNA sequencing was explained to the children before they extracted this from strawberries (Dr Ellershaw). Various activities helped them understand the immune system (Dr Coggle).

The children learned from a haematologist (Dr Sturgess) about red blood cells and how to grow stem cells before using a nutrient mixture and incubator for their own practical. They also learnt about the heart and blood vessels with ultra-sound equipment before racing around outside as they 'carried' blood around the body (Mr Hayes and Dr Hayes).

Moving to other areas of anatomy, children learnt how the brain works as a processing centre for a variety of sensory inputs and how it can fill in gaps via perception tools (Dr Shenker). In an insight into paediatric orthopaedics (Dr Ashby), the children could see not only how broken bones can be fixed but how bones can be surgically stretched to make them longer, and Year 6 experienced an amazing insight into the complex world of surgery (Mr Jawaid).

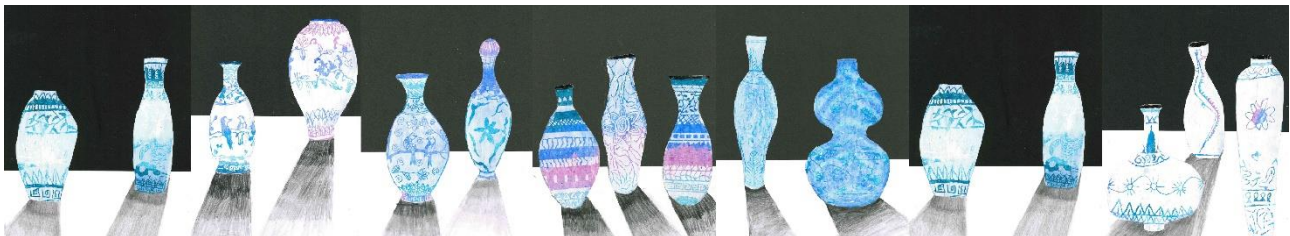
If a little downcast at the diseases and issues with the body, there was time to have some respite with understanding the science behind construction and architecture (Dr Sinclair) which involved marshmallow and spaghetti structures and all of Year 3 taking away their own goodie bag! There has been lots of study of net-zero construction with Year 3 considering what to think about when designing buildings (Mr Carter) and Year 4 constructing their own wind-powered circuits and turbines and testing this out with a hair dryer (Dr Sinclair again!). Year 5 have taken this to another level as they studied green architecture (Dr Sinclair for a third time!). Children also uncovered the secrets of rocks, including the best rock type to build the Eurotunnel, as they handled fossils and learnt about geology from around the world (Mrs Keen).

We had an assembly from the Charity *Cultivating Change* which inspired us to get into the garden more to link with nature (Sally Nye and Rosie Ferrandino) and every child has been presented with a sunflower seed to cultivate – a summer challenge is to grow the tallest flower! Year 5 have become more expert at managing their waste even more sustainably (Mr Crisp from Cambridgeshire Recycling). Children also experienced a Virtual Lab, explored Our Changing Planet, tried dissection origami, 'built' flowers and invented their own science board games. Moreover, Year 6 also heard from a commentator on BT Sport (Sam Roberts) who gave tips about journalism, public speaking and coping with the excitements and stresses of working on television.

The impressive variety of talks and workshops, many delivered by Perse parents, is a real tribute to the thirst for knowledge and intellectual curiosity in our school community. My thanks go to everyone who contributed to this outstanding learning opportunity for the children.

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases Year 6's drawings of Ming Vases.



Brass – free taster lessons

Mr Townend, our brass teacher, has some spare spaces before the end of term if anyone would like to sign up for a free taster session (trumpet, cornet, tenor horn, French horn, trombone, euphonium). Please contact Jackie Wright (prepadmin@perse.co.uk).

PPP Autumn BBQ

The PPP will be running the ever-popular Autumn BBQ on Sunday 17th September from 12.00pm to 3.00pm to welcome new and existing families at the start of term and to raise funds for our nominated charities, *Guide Dogs for the Blind* and *The Red Hen Project*. There will be old favourites and new stalls to enjoy this

year and we hope to see you there! As always, for an event of this scale to happen, the PPP rely on the generous help from the parent body to make the event so special and so in the coming weeks they will be looking for help with donations for the various stalls and volunteers to help out on one of the stalls on the day. There will be more details from the PPP and your Class Reps on how you can help in the coming weeks including a PersePost with details on how to buy your entry ticket, raffle tickets and tokens. For now, make sure to make a note of the date in your diary and look out for further communications!

PPP Water Bottles

The new Prep purple water bottle is available to buy priced at £15 each. This aluminium bottle has a screw-on lid with a handle for easy carrying. It holds 650ml, is BPA free and has a space to write your child's name. Profits from sales go to our two chosen school charities. These can be collected from Reception from the Friday following your order and payment.



Parents' Prayer Group

The Parents' Prayer Group, a Christian group of parents and staff, are planning to meet again on Thursday 15th June at 7.00pm at the Upper School. They would like to invite anyone who would like to join in praying for the school and those within it. Do contact Cathy Savage if you have any queries or would like to put in any confidential prayer requests.

International Taekwon-do

We wish **Sophia Alexander** and **William Reddy** all the best before they head off to Lublin, Poland, next week for the International Taekwon-do Cup for Children. A full article about this amazing achievement and how they got interested in this martial art at the Prep can be read [here](#) on the school website.



Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Ethan Liu** on his winner's trophy at the Bury St Edmund's U13 Junior Chess Tournament and his first place in the U12 online Mega finale in the Delancey UK Chess Challenge; **Léon Corne** on his bronze medal in the U11 200m backstroke and **Felix McDonald** on his silver medals in the U9 50m butterfly and 200m freestyle, and bronze medals in the U9 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke and 50m backstroke, with both boys competing at the West Suffolk Summer Swimming Championships; **Lara Addis** and **Saskia Addis** on taking part in the gruelling Rob McLean Triathlon; **Charlotte Gower** on achieving her RYA Stage 1 Sailing Award; **Anamaya Kumar** who was a runner-up in the U10 Surbiton Tennis Tournament; **Dhruv Ghildyal** on being runner-up in the U10 Grade 3 Harpenden Tennis Open; and **Willow Sutherland** on being awarded with the match ball for five wickets in seven balls for the Cambridgeshire U11 cricket team.

Congratulations to the following on their Housepoint certificates:

Gold: **Atharv Kurade, Oli Taylor, Jack Jarman, Toby Rayner, Ethan Xu, Archie Barker, Sophie Hull, Jack Robertson, Nishtha Tiwary.**

Platinum: **Maria Antonik, Prerona Chakraborty, Angie Che, Angus Edgar, Naomi Ellershaw, Hanyao Li, Yuru Li, Yiliang Liu, Sara Omori Rison, Aarav Shadakshari, Lucia Whelan; Angelica Gupta, Maggie Rowan-Robinson, Sherry Shao, Yueer Yuan; Willow Sutherland, Alexander Toutoungi.**

Titanium: **Elliot Woolley.**

Scores on the Doors are as follows:

Yours sincerely

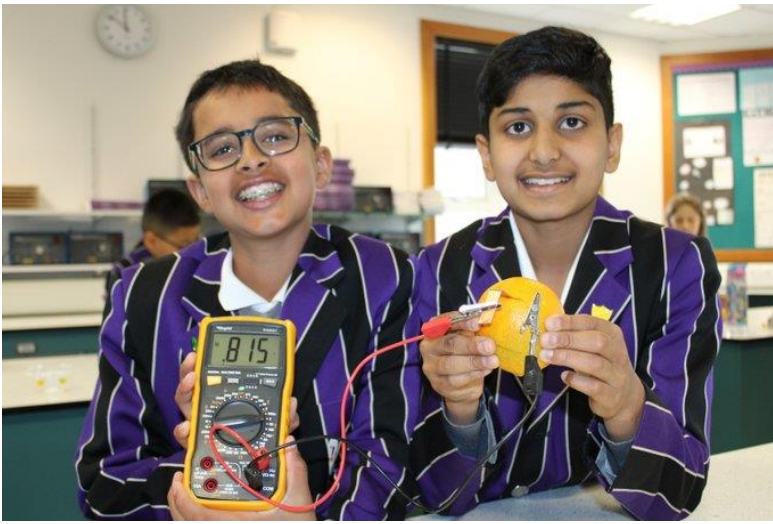
James Piper
Head

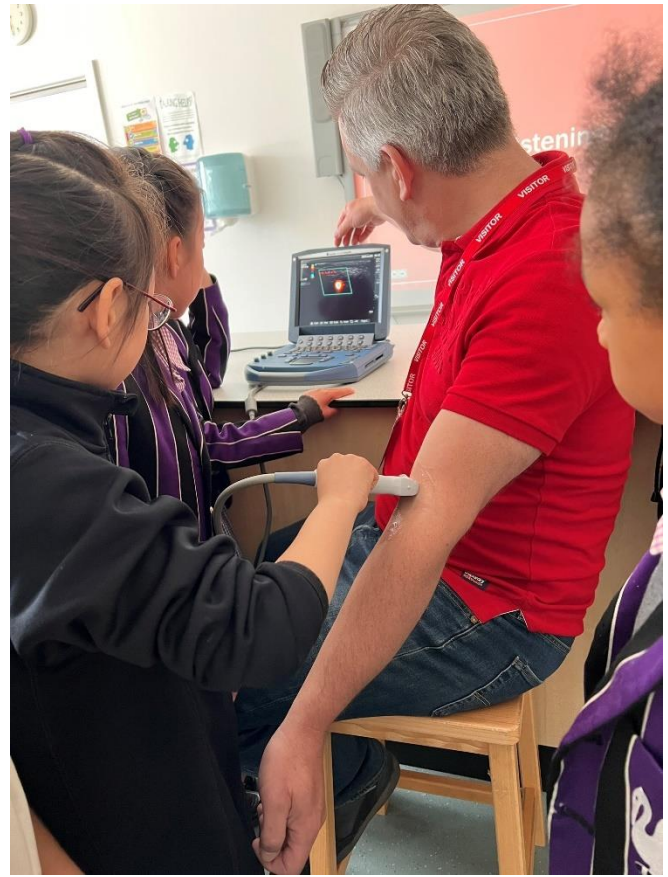
4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
165	180	183	186

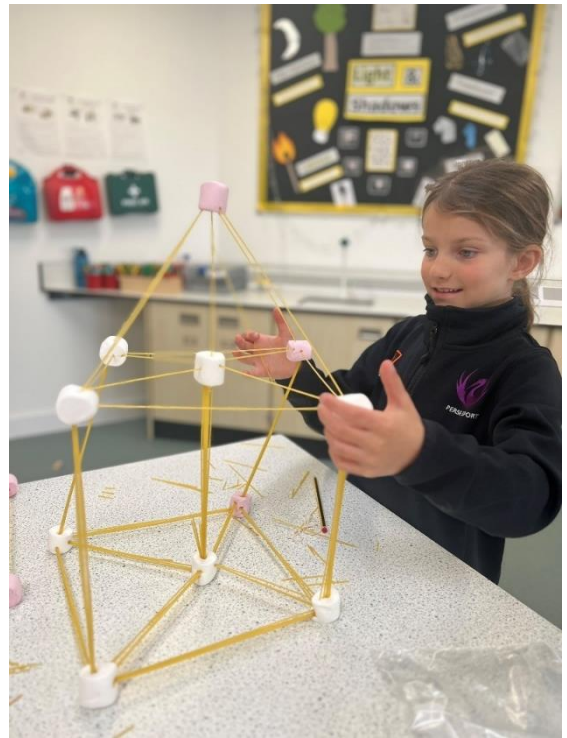












Can anyone be as dapper as Mr DA in this w/e's heat...?!



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