



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

6th October 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope that families are able to make the most of the upcoming weekend of sunshine by enjoying the warm Autumnal weather with time together outside. Fresh air and exercise are a timeless tonic for good health and it is remarkable to see how much running around your children fit in from 7.45am through until 6pm! A nutritious diet and sleep are also crucial for good health – we can help with the former but over to parents to enforce the latter! The NHS recommends 9-12 hours of sleep for Prep-aged children.



Over the last fortnight, Year 3 have enjoyed their Stone Age to Iron Age History Day as well as their PES Teambuilding Day. Year 4 loved their PSHE Trip to Hazard Alley this week as well as their PES Teambuilding Day at the Upper. Today we have all been entertained by inspirational rapper and poet, Breis, who spoke to the whole school before running workshops with Year 6. We were delighted that sixty Year 6 pupils from Fawcett Primary were able to join us for this talk. Many thanks to Annelise Sanders, Eve Bonner, Laura Robertson, Ros West, Jo Fenna and Jules Reston for leading with such special events.

After the success of Cows About Cambridge in 2021, the Charity [Break](#) are bringing a new sculpture trail to the streets of Cambridge next Spring with a herd of 40 giant giraffes creating a towering new exhibition entitled [Cambridge Standing Tall](#). We are working with a local artist on plans for our very own Perse Prep 2.5m giraffe which will feature in the city centre, as well as our 1.5m mini giraffe which will be designed and created in-house at the Prep! We were delighted to take possession of this cute giraffe (provisionally named 'Percy') this week and we would now love to take on board ideas from children, staff and parents for its decoration; a blank canvas of a giraffe is provided at the end of this newsletter on which any budding artists can sketch / jot down their bullet point ideas over the weekend. Do return these to Dan Wansell.



- Open Morning (Sat 7 October) – Year 6 tour guides from 8.30am to 12.45pm
- Photographs (Mon 9 October) – normal school uniform. Year 6 to bring games kit to change into
- PPP AGM (Mon 9 October) – 8pm to 9pm in the Drama Studio
- Flu Immunisations (Mon 16 October) – ensure you have provided consent, see PersePost
- Parent Online Safety Talk (Thu 19 October) – 4pm to 5pm in the Drama Studio
- Parent Year 6 Ski Trip Evening (Wed 1 November) – 7.30pm to 8.15pm in the Drama Studio
- Parent IE&D Group (Thu 2 November) – 9am to 10am, meet at Reception
- Year 3 Parent Meetings (Mon 6 & Tue 7 November) – booking details will be sent on 16 October

Prep Open Morning – Saturday 7 October

For tomorrow's Open Morning, the fifty-four Year 6 children taking part should arrive at the Prep between 8.30am and 8.45am and can be dropped at the roundabout; Prep staff will be there to register them. At the end of the morning, children can be collected from the roundabout between 12.30pm and 12.45pm after they have signed out with a member of staff. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the School. Children

should wear their normal uniform including blazer. Bespoke drop off and collection arrangements can be made, but please contact Mr Knowles directly (tpknowles@perse.co.uk). We are very grateful to all those volunteering to take part and showcase the School; it will be a busy morning with a record number of 145 families on site.

Individual & Class Photographs – Monday 9 October

Please could all children come to school in full uniform (summer dress or white polo shirt with grey tunic / skirt / shorts / trousers, blazer, and school shoes).

- Year 3 should bring trainers to school to wear for Games before lunch. They do not need to bring their Games kit.
- Year 6 should bring their full Games kit (including appropriate footwear) to get changed into before Games in the afternoon.
- 5A should bring trainers for PE in the afternoon.

PPP AGM – Monday 9 October

The AGM for the PPP will be held in person at the Prep (in the Drama Studio) at 8pm this coming Monday and is open to all parents. The meeting will include a summary of the PPP's activities over the last year and the appointment of new Committee members for the year ahead. If parents have suggestions for the charity chosen by the PPP for the coming year, please do email the name of this charity to Liz McDade and Melissa Whelan at persepreparents@gmail.com with a brief explanation that can be shared ahead of the AGM and a vote by the parents. Do also use this email to gain Teams access if you cannot attend in person.

Flu Immunisations – Monday 16 October

A reminder that these immunisations (more information can be found at www.schoolvaccination.uk/nasal-flu/) will take place at school for all children, whose parents have consented. Do ensure that you have completed the consent form sent via PersePost on Monday 25 September. This process is run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Immunisation Team who can be contacted on 01480 757098 or camsandpeterborough@v-uk.co.uk. Alternatively contact Emma Day-Small at prep nurse@perse.co.uk.

Parent Online Safety Talk – Thursday 19 October

Highly regarded online safety expert Karl Hopwood will be hosting a **face-to-face seminar for Prep parents** at 4pm in the Drama Studio on the stroke of half term, entitled 'Life Online - How to Manage Children's Safety and Wellbeing Online'. There is no need to book; do turn up on the day.

Parent IE&D Group – Thursday 2 November

Stef Abbott, our Head of IE&D (Inclusion, Equality & Diversity), is delighted to confirm the date of our first meeting for any parents interested in discussing and listening to views about IE&D at the Prep. Parents should come to Reception at 9am on 2 November.

Artwork

This week's art banners showcase Year 5's abstract colour system drawings, inspired by Beatriz Milhazes.



Sport – the week ahead

Wednesday 11 October

1pm: Pelicans ISFA Football Regional Tournament (H)

2.30pm: U11 B/C/D Football v Heath Mount (A)

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Hockey v St John's (A)

Thursday 12 October

2.30pm: U9 A/B/C/D Hockey v King's College School (H)

Friday 13 October

10am: Pelicans IAPS Hockey Regional Tournament at Ipswich School (A)

2.30pm: U10 A/B/C/D Football v Kimbolton (H)

2.30pm: U10 A/B/C/D Hockey v Kimbolton (H)

Well done to the 'Pelicans' football team who played in the IAPS Regional Football Tournament at Fairfield Prep today. They beat Fairfield (2-0), The Croft (3-0), Wolverhampton Grammar (1-0), drew against Repton

(0-0) and Laxton (0-0) and lost to The Beacon (0-2) as they qualified from 14 teams for the quarter finals where they sadly lost to Solihull (1-0). The whole squad played some eye-catching football and look forward to building on this at next week's ISFA Regional Tournament. My thanks to Dan Nicholes and Jacob Butler for coaching the boys; well done to the squad of **Adam Agarizaev, Sam Brennan, Ted Jenkin, Tom Kelliher, Tom Lance, Adam Lee, Hugo Magliano, George Pullan and George Robson.**

Perse Sports Centre and Perse Swimming School

Progress is rapid with the sports construction projects for next year, which all Prep children are set to use. Below are recent images of the Sports Hall and the Swimming Pool.



Visiting Poet – Breis

To celebrate National Poetry Day, the whole school heard from Breis (breeze) who is a rap artist, author and Hip Hop educator who is inspired by his London and Lagos roots. He is the author of *Brilliant Rappers Educate Intelligent Students* which collates his rap lyrics for children and the inspiration behind them. He is also the founder of *Student of Life*, which is a Hip Hop inspired arts organisation delivering rap and poetry workshops to young people. He has worked with hundreds of schools across UK, America, Asia, Europe, and Southern Africa. After Year 6 had finished their workshops, our Journalism Club had the opportunity to brush up on their skills by interviewing Breis about his inspirations.

BREIS

- Brother Reaching Each Inner Soul
- Bigger Risks Evolve Into Success
- Big Readers Enjoy Intergalactic Stories
- Behind Reality Everything Is Stupid
- Banana Rice Exists In Somalia
- Brilliant Rappers Educate Intelligent Students

Assemblies

Assemblies provide a valuable opportunity for the whole school community to gather together. Parents are very welcome to attend on a Friday (8.40 to shortly after 9.00am) when we celebrate special efforts and achievements both in and out of school, hear moral messages, sing, listen to musicians and finish with *Scores on the Doors!*

Tuesday assemblies are usually led by me but sometimes we have a guest speaker. During the course of the year we also include Form Assemblies for every child; these are low-key events (no parents!) where children present a particular theme of interest and can get practice at performing on stage in front of the whole school. My thanks to Jo Coleman's 6Alpha who opened our Form Assembly series with a nod to Harvest and the importance of water as a commodity in the global food chain before managing to tempt us with delicacies from around the world!

Thursday assemblies are usually led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team but with the occasional guest speaker. My thanks to Eleanor Lowe this week who acknowledged Dyslexia Awareness Week with a memorable presentation which included various challenges, a study of left and right brain thinking, and a [video](#) about how to see dyslexia differently.

Assemblies will cover a range of messages and will also aim to touch on some of the key moments from various world religions. If any parents would like to talk about: a particular subject that is of interest, about their workplace, or suggest any particular festivals for us to talk about or are interested in speaking about their own religion, please do get in touch with me via prep@perse.co.uk.

Online learning

The school has a number of online subscriptions available which can enhance learning at home:

Typing: *Typing Club* (which should be familiar to Year 5 as they are currently using it for weekly homework) is a great platform for developing typing skills. It can be accessed via <https://the-perse.typingclub.com>. If children are unsure of how to log in, their Computing teacher can confirm their username and password.

Maths: *MangaHigh* is a fun and interactive way to develop maths skills, either through tasks assigned by the teacher or just general practice. This can be accessed by visiting www.mangahigh.com, logging in with the user ID and password noted in their planners. We also make use of the activities on *Maths Frame* via www.mathsframe.co.uk (login details shared with children upon first use).

French: For improving knowledge and understanding of French vocabulary, children can log into *Linguascope*, via www.linguascope.com, using the login details they have in their planners.

Current Affairs: Children also have access to the digital newspaper *First News* by visiting <https://schools.firstnews.co.uk>. Year 6 should already be familiar with this as it is one of the main sources we have suggested (as part of our Year 6 homework timetable) for developing their awareness of current affairs throughout the week.

Charity Vote – Marine Conservation Society UK

Many thanks to all the children who nominated charities for the recent Big Vote. After Mr Reston’s informative presentation on each charity, with support from Fenella Clarke and Alissa Devereux (Upper 6th Form Charities Committee), children and some of the staff marked their ballot papers. The Marine Conservation Society UK was duly selected in a process that required several recounts! We look forward to welcoming representatives (!) from this charity to speak to the children and explain their work in the coming months. After the upcoming PPP AGM we shall also find out the new charity chosen by the parents. As the PPP’s financial year ends, fundraising will switch from *Guide Dogs* and *Red Hen Project* to the new charities.

Charity	Tick one
Blue Smile	11
The Magpie Centre	26
Designability	10
Cambridge Sport Lakes	12
Cultivating Change	15
East Anglia Air Ambulance	21
War Child	33
The Mary Seacole Trust	13
Global Penguin Society	79
Marine Conservation Society	80

Academic Department Snapshot

Throughout the year we shall highlight each of the departments in the school to provide a little more information about some of the current work that is going on in lessons. This week we start with a page on Computing at the end of this newsletter.

Music

Piano and violin continue to be popular instruments at this age. We are always eager to promote all instruments and are particularly keen to encourage some of the less mainstream instruments, all of which enable the orchestral opportunities which play a large part in the musical life at the Prep and Upper.

The Prep does have the following instruments that can be hired out: clarinets, flutes, alto saxophone and a tenor saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, cornet, French horn, trombone, and a euphonium. For these instruments, where space and timetable allow, we do offer two free ‘taster’ lessons with an expert music per; if this is of interest, please do contact Jackie Wright (prepadmin@perse.co.uk) so that we can collate interest and arrange these where possible.

After School Clubs and Poor Weather

For the sake of logistics, we avoid cancelling after school clubs so that parents do not have to change pick-up plans at late notice. If weather conditions are extreme, such as with heavy rain, various outdoor clubs would move inside but would still run. So that we do not overrun the car park on the top playground, pick-up for sports clubs would continue to be at the playing fields.

Porson Court

Halfway up the drive to the Prep is a vehicular access for the residents of Porson Court. If queueing, please do leave a gap so that residents can come in and out of their homes.



Photograph, Audio and Video Permission

Before children start at The Perse, all parents make a choice about whether they permit their child’s photographs (or video or audio) to appear on internal Perse publications (such as this newsletter which is

distributed via PersePost). Parents also make a similar choice about external publications (such as the newsletter on the website, Prep and Perse X (formerly known as Twitter) accounts and other social media). If you would like to amend your choices, please contact Elinor Schneider, the Head's PA, at prep@perse.co.uk.

Parents' Prayer Group

The Parents' Prayer Group, a Christian group of parents and staff, meet regularly in an evening at the Upper School. They would like to invite anyone who would like to join them in praying for the school and those within it. Do email Catherine Keen and Catherine Harter perseparentprayers@gmail.com if you have any queries or would like to put in any confidential prayer requests.

ABRSM Awards

Congratulations on the following students on their ABRSM certificates: **Charles Balfour** Grade 3 Cello with distinction; **Charlize Church** Grade 4 Piano with merit; **Tilly Crosby** Initial Grade Piano with merit; **Annelie de Kock** Grade 3 Violin with distinction; **Lavanya Gupta** Grade 2 Piano with distinction; **Anushka Jadon** Grade 3 Piano with distinction; **Carmen Li** Grade 3 Trumpet with merit; **Sunny Li** Grade 4 Piano with distinction; **Ella McCabe** Grade 2 Piano; **Marissa Ojha** Grade 3 Piano with merit; **Annabel Ramsden** Grade 4 Violin with merit; **Peter Rimell** Grade 1 Flute; **Julia Saklatvala** Grade 3 Piano with merit; **Arabella Sedgemore** Grade 1 Alto Saxophone with merit; **Rosalind Selby** Grade 2 Violin with distinction; **Ronak Sinha** Grade 3 Piano with merit; **Siobhan Wan** Grade 3 Flute with merit and Grade 5 Piano with merit; **Matthew Wilkins** Grade 3 Piano with merit; **Veronica Wilson** Grade 2 Piano and **Ruohan Zhu** Grade 1 Flute with distinction.

Certificates and Awards



Congratulations to **Sarah Cacciottolo** on her Grade 1 Modern Theatre with distinction; **Lachlan Galbraith** on his Solo Introductory Stage 2 LAMDA with distinction; **Simiao Han** on her LAMDA Entry Level Award; **Siobhan Wan** on her Grade 2 LAMDA with distinction; **Ted Hayes** on his Summer Reading Challenge certificate; **Nicholas Copeland** in completing 5km during the UK Running Event; **Katherine Elvidge** and **Sophie Itani** on completing the 2km run in the Abington Festival of Running; **Felix McDonald** on winning the 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle at the

West Suffolk Swimming Gala, and at the same event **Ellie Zhu** on winning the 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle; **Charlie Qin** and **Oscar Qin** who came 3rd and 4th respectively in the Colchester Junior Chess Tournament; **Léonie Ricciardi-Baquié** on her Pony Club badges; and **Matilda Trickett** on her two Bronze awards at the 1st Bottisham Brownies. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
ROMANS	CORINTHIANS	FORESTERS	BARBARIANS
1374	1435	1446	1447

Yours sincerely

James Piper
Head



Year 3 Stone Age to Iron Age History Day



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