



# THE PERSE

## PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

17 November 2023

Dear Parents,

We have spent the week thinking about the theme of this year's Anti-Bullying campaign of *Make a Noise About Bullying*. I am hugely grateful to Laura Robertson for leading a range of initiatives this week and to the children for responding so well as they learn about making a noise and standing up for what is right. I loved the children's imaginative wish list of superpowers to help them deal with bullying:

Freeze – to freeze the moment of bullying and rewind the clock      Aquapower – to wash away bullying

Mind control – to control the bully's mind so they don't do it

Invisibility – to sneak up and shout "Stop!" in the bully's ear      Click my fingers – and make the bully calm

The children wore their wacky socks today to highlight variety, difference, uniqueness and diversity. They have also been able to showcase their original art designs with the following two large scale art collaborations kindly put together by Laura and Sally Matthews. I am also grateful to Lucy van Gasse, our singing teacher, and her two choirs who added to the same messaging with Year 3&4 singing *You Raise Me Up* and Year 5&6 singing *You Will Be Found*.



Continuing the theme of 'kindness', my thanks to all those families who sent in Christmas shoeboxes (120 in total) which have been sent off to disadvantaged families in Eastern Europe. A special mention should go to Corinthians for being the House to contribute the highest number.

As well as looking Anti-Bullying, assemblies have recently covered Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night (confidently presented by 3Alpha), Concussion Awareness (Ed McGregor) and a presentation from the Marine Conservation Society, the children's chosen charity for this year.

This week has seen the start of our full programme of girls' football, with fixtures for everyone in Years 4, 5 and 6 and plenty of goals being scored by the Prep. However, the first ever goals to be scored by girls at the Prep were in 2014 by Beatrice Rogers, May Busher and Bella Harvey (all currently in the U6 at the Upper) who were drafted into an U9 boys' team and promptly responded with four goals apiece in a 12-1 defeat of a local rival! We were delighted that Beatrice, currently starring for Cambridge United Women's XI, returned to the Prep this week to talk to our U11 teams and referee one of the fixtures.



My thanks to the Year 6 volunteers and all staff who were in school last weekend for the Year 2 Taster Morning. Over fifty children from primary and pre-prep schools attended. The incoming Pelican cohort will have separate familiarisation events. Finally, best wishes to our musicians who are sitting exams next week.

- Lent Term Clubs deadline (Wed 22 Nov) – see today’s PersePost and follow instructions
- Michaelmas Concert (Thur 30 Nov) – 6pm to 7pm at the PAC, Upper. Parents welcome
- Year 4 Production (Wed 6 Dec) – 6pm to 7pm in the Hall. Parents welcome
- Year 3 Christmas Celebration (Thur 7 Dec) – 6pm to 6.45pm in the Hall. Parents welcome
- Year 6 Ski Trip to Italy (Tue 12 – Sun 17 Dec)

### 3-18 Digital Strategy – 1:1 devices

Today parents in Years 4, 5 and 6 will receive a PersePost which provides some details of our 3-18 digital strategy going forwards, with 1:1 devices being introduced into Years 6 & 8 in September 2024, with Years 5 & 7 following a year later. Children in these four years will retain pen, paper and books but teachers will be able to integrate these devices into their learning where most optimal and in a ‘digital blend’ approach. This will prepare students for a more immersive digital workflow on advanced devices from Year 9 onwards. Significant research, reading, courses, school visits, thinking and discussion have gone into the planning for this over the last few years as we look to ensure that every child retains the best of our existing curriculum as well as being prepared for a future way of working. This work has been led by Tobias Bown (our Assistant Head Academic) as well as Paul Baker (Head of Digital Strategy 3-18) and Fraser Robertson (Director of IT 3-18). Further details, guides and training (for children and parents) will be provided as they are rolled out. If anyone has any specific questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with Tobias at [tabown@perse.co.uk](mailto:tabown@perse.co.uk).

### Lent Term Clubs – deadline Wednesday 22 November

A link to sign up for next term’s Clubs has been sent to parents via PersePost today, with a deadline of next Wednesday for submitting choices via SOCS. Final groups will be confirmed to parents by Friday 1 December.

The PersePost includes instructions for parents on how to fill this in; please do follow the guidance on using ‘no club’ if you do not want to make a choice, or as a final choice for each of the sessions.

### Fitzwilliam Museum Art Trip for Year 6 – next week

Next week, Year 6 will be visiting the Fitzwilliam for their Art Trip to study the work of Lucy Rie and Hans Coper, and see some Chinese Ming Dynasty vases. These trips will take place during the triple Art lessons (6A and 6Alpha on Thursday 23 November; 6Aleph on Friday 24 November).

### Michaelmas Concert – Thursday 30 November

Twenty-one of our ensembles will take part in our upcoming Concert at the Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre (at the Upper). The Concert will be in two halves, with part 1 (6-6.50pm) and part 2 (7.10-8pm). Parents of all those children involved will have received a PersePost from Tom Knowles on Tuesday this week with further details about logistics and how to book tickets. If parents have further questions, they should get in touch with Tom at [tpknowles@perse.co.uk](mailto:tpknowles@perse.co.uk).

### Perse Carol Service – Tuesday 12 December

The Perse Carol Service will take place at St John’s College Chapel on Tuesday 12 December at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm) and is open to all Perse families. The choir and readers are pupils and staff from The Perse Upper and this is always a wonderful way to begin the festive season. Booking details will be made available to parents from 1 December.

### PPP Christmas Fair – Wednesday 13 December

This will take place on the last day of term for pupils only, as part of a series of exciting Christmas-themed events planned throughout the day. Children will visit the Fair in their year groups and enjoy the festive stalls, with funds being raised for *Marine Conservation Society* and *Blue Smile*. The Fair will once again be run on a cash-free basis with parents needing to pre-pay. Each child requires one entry ticket (£10) which includes all of the tokens they need for the fair. Children will then be given a sheet of tokens to spend at the Fair, enough for a turn on all of the stalls. Raffle tickets (£5 for a strip of 5) are not mandatory, but please purchase as many as you like! The website is live and will close on **Friday 1 December**. For any ticket or payment questions, please email Stacy Sinclair ([sinclair.cahill@gmail.com](mailto:sinclair.cahill@gmail.com)).

As always, the PPP rely on the generous help from the parent body to make the event so special. For the raffle, they are seeking donations of new / unused prizes such as tech items, games, books and toys suitable for Prep-age children. In previous years, parents have very kindly donated items such as Kindles, cameras or iPad/tablets which have made fantastic main prizes for the raffle. The search is also on for three parents who would be willing to be Father Christmas (costume provided!) for a one hour slot at the Fair; if you might be willing to do this or have any other questions, please contact the PPP on [perseprepparents@gmail.com](mailto:perseprepparents@gmail.com).

## Sport – the week ahead

### Monday 20 November

11am: Pelicans Girls' Hockey IN2 Hockey Regional Finals at Gresham's (A)

### Wednesday 22 November

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Boys' Rugby v St Faith's (A)

### Thursday 23 November

2.30pm: U9 A/B/C/D Boys' Rugby v King's College School (A) *Note that this is now an away fixture*

### Friday 24 November

1.30pm: Pelicans Boys' Rugby IAPS Festival at Framlingham (A)

2.30pm: U10 A/B/C/D Girls' Football v Dame Bradbury's (H)

2.30pm: U10 A/B/C/D Boys' Rugby v Dame Bradbury's (H)

Congratulations to the U11 hockey side who took part in the National Finals at Millfield last Friday – where they beat Beaudesert Park (3-0) and Derwent Lodge (1-0), drew against Gresham's (0-0) and lost to St Andrew's Eastbourne (0-1), the Dragon (0-1) and two of the eventual semi-finalists, St Michael's Kent (1-2) and St Piran's (0-3). The squad played well throughout a long day, with a 9.10pm return to the Prep! Well done to: **Marianne Gouliouris, Eryn Jonas, Lillian Ke, Hanqi Lu, Annabel Ramsden, Julia Saklatvala, Arabella Sedgemore, Sherry Shao, Arabella Wallace** and **Siobhan Wan** and coaches Mr McGregor and Mrs Clark. The final hockey of the season comes on Monday in the Regional Finals of the IN2 hockey tournament.

## Artwork

This week's art banner showcases Year 4's seasonal tree paintings, inspired by impressionist painters Berthe Morisot and Claude Monet.



## Parent IE&D Group

Thank you so much to all the parents who attended the inaugural Prep parents' meeting organised by Stef Abbott, our Head of Inclusion, Equality & Diversity. Topics raised and discussed included the advantages and disadvantages of mixed and separate girls' and boys' sports; the range and breadth of assemblies and an openness for parents to contribute where appropriate; and the diversity within our own staff body. It is really helpful for parents to have this vehicle to share ideas and discuss what can be some complex issues as we look to tap into parental expertise and experience as we keep fostering a diverse, understanding and inclusive Prep community. This group is complemented by our Year 6 Equality Crew who lead pupil representation in this area, and ongoing staff work in areas such as our department health checks and development plans. Stef will publicise next term's meeting in due course; she is aiming for a 3-4pm hybrid model so that parents can attend remotely. She will continue to welcome any ideas via email at [spabbott@perse.co.uk](mailto:spabbott@perse.co.uk).

## Academic Find out More

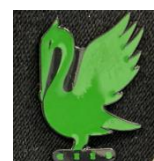
Tobias Bown, our Assistant Head (Academic) has produced the following two videos which explore how we use [homework and Teams](#) plus the [digital learning resources](#) available to your child. These videos, and the others we are updating for this year, can all be found in the ParentPortal.

## Academic Department Snapshot

Throughout the year we are highlighting 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 include a page on History at the end of this newsletter.

## Green Team

**Anamaya Kumar** and **Matthew Wilkins** have produced a Green Team podcast [here](#) to update the community on what they have been up to over the past few months. Many thanks to Mr Reston for overseeing the process (and Mr Bown for his slick radio skills!).



## Remembrance Music

Following on from last week's Remembrance events, I thought I should highlight this recent [recording](#) of a poignant piece entitled *We Will Remember* composed by our Director of Music, Paul Harris, and featuring the vocals of Lucy van Gasse, our singing teacher. This was first premiered in 2016 by the Fairhaven Singers and the Prep Senior Choir in Queens' College Chapel.

## Road Safety

We have had comments from neighbours in Rutherford Road who have complained that some parents are dropping off children at the intersection between Rutherford and Long Road which not only blocks the inflow traffic to Rutherford but also reduces visibility for cars, cyclists and pedestrians. Can I remind parents to follow traffic rules and only stop in safe zones.

## Prep Christmas Card

As we creep closer to some of the end of term Christmas events, it is a good opportunity to thank the 48 children who entered the Christmas Card competition; Mr Wansell notes that the standard was particularly high. Congratulations to **Eilidh Sinclair**, in Year 6, whose stunning bauble design in Perse purple was the stand-out entry. Her design will feature on the official Prep Christmas card. Specially commended entries came from Sakina Amin, Annabelle Daly, Elizabeth Higgins, Maggie Rowan-Robinson and Edward Sage, with their artwork appearing at the end of this newsletter.



## Certificates and Awards



Congratulations to **Alessia Fannon** on coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U8 Waltz at the Ballroom Dancing National Finals in Blackpool; **Peter Rimell** on his Y5 Reading Challenge Award; **Jacob Painter** on achieving respectively 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 25m breaststroke and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 25m front crawl and backstroke during the U10 Cambridge Academy Swim Club Gala; **Sakina Amin** on her Brownie Silver Award and for also cycling 12 miles for the charity 'Race at Your Pace'; **Anaiya Gupta** winning the U11 Hills Road Grade 4 Tennis Tournament; **Yiwei Lu** and **Simiao Han** on their 2<sup>nd</sup> place medals with Cambridge Juniors Hockey Club at the U10 Bedford Tournament; and to **Andrew Villaverde** on his PADI Diver open water diving certificate which allows him to dive in open water to a depth of up to 12 meters supervised.



4 <sup>TH</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	1 <sup>ST</sup>
668	671	697	723

Yours sincerely,

James Piper

James Piper  
Head

Look out for our Perse Prep Gingerbread character in the Grand Arcade over the run up to Christmas. Many thanks to Sally Matthews, her Y3&4 Art Club, and other helpers!





Highly Commended Christmas Card entries.



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