



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

3 November 2023

Dear Parents,

There has been a special buzz in school this week, with children re-energised and straight back into routines, especially in the classroom. It was good to see so many parents for our Year 6 Ski Trip Information Evening this week, and before our group of fifty-seven children and seven staff leave, there is a busy second half of term to look forward to. I hope the key dates reminder box below proves helpful.

A huge thank you to the PPP who handed over a cheque for £4,500 to the School in assembly this morning; this comes on the back of cheques for the same amount sent to our two charities of the year – *Red Hen Project* and *Guide Dogs for the Blind*. We shall discuss with the children how to spend the school funds; the aim is to use them for tangible items which will benefit all children.



- Year 3 Parent Meetings (Mon 6 & Tue 7 Nov) – Drama Studio. Check PersePost for timings
- Individual & Class Photographs ordering early bird deadline (Wed 8 Nov)
- Remembrance Assembly (Fri 10 Nov) – outside in top playground at 8.35am (or in Hall if wet)
- Christmas Shoebox deadline (Mon 13 Nov)
- Year 4/5/6 Online Parent Meetings (Mon 13 & Tue 14 Nov) – check PersePost for timings
- 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 Italy Ski Trip (Tue 12 – Sun 17 Dec)
- Christmas Fair & Festive Day (Wed 13 Dec). Final day of term

Parent Meetings – upcoming for all year groups

Next week, Year 3 parents have in-person ten-minute appointments with your child's Form Teachers in the Drama Studio. At this early stage of your time at the Prep this will allow you to meet in-person, discuss how your child has settled in and the academic progress that has been made so far. I shall also be on hand for any questions and as an opportunity to get to know parents further. A short-written summary has been sent to you today so that you can look at this ahead of the meeting. Please note that however well your child is doing, targets are still provided to guide next steps in learning.

The following week is the turn for Year 4, 5 and 6 parents; these appointments follow the same format but are online.

In the Lent Term, we shall hold Academic Parents' Evenings for all parents for which you will be invited to book a five-minute appointment with a range of your child's teachers. In the Summer Term, all year groups will receive a full written report with comments from all subject teachers, the Form Teacher, and the Head.

Individual and Class Photographs – early bird deadline of 8 November

Following Pret-a-Portrait's recent visit, a viewing card explaining how you can view and order pictures was sent home with pupils on Tuesday, and referring to the early bird deadline of 8 November. If for any reason your viewing didn't make it to you, please contact Pret-a-Portrait directly on 0800 021 7626 or customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net, alternatively email prep@perse.co.uk.

Remembrance Assembly – Friday 10 November

So long as we do not have rain forecast, next Friday we shall be marking next week's Armistice Day with a whole school Remembrance Assembly outside on the playground, and a two minutes' silence. A series of readings, poems and prayers will help us all acknowledge this



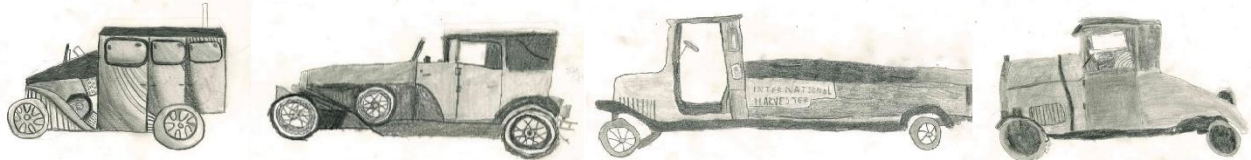
important occasion. It might be worth wrapping up warm with a coat for this morning. Poppies will be handed out by Form Teachers next week. We shall award housepoint certificates and other awards immediately afterwards this assembly.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal – deadline extended to Monday 13 November

The deadline for shoeboxes to be returned to the Prep has been extended; more details can be found at this site [Christmas Shoebox Appeal](#). These boxes should be left in year group areas and should be labelled with names in each House area so that we can award Housepoints!

Artwork

This week's art banners showcase Year 3's tonal drawings of vintage toy cars.



Sport – the week ahead

Tuesday 7 November

3pm: U10 A/B/C/D Hockey v St Faith's (H)

Wednesday 8 November

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Rugby v King's College School (A)

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

Thursday 9 November

3pm: U9 A/B/C/D Hockey v St John's (A)

3pm: U9 A/B/C/D Rugby v St John's (A)

Friday 10 November

10am: Pelicans Hockey IAPS National Finals at Millfield (A)

3pm: U10 A/B/C/D Rugby v King's College School (A) *Note that these U10 fixtures are now away and start slightly earlier.*

Snow Procedure

Despite plenty of recent rain, we are not yet predicting imminent snow (!) but it is the time of year when we highlight the procedure if snow is forecast. Do follow this [link](#) to the Perse Portal and look under the 3-18 Information / Snow Procedure.

Safety on Site

Can I remind parents to watch their speed when driving on school grounds. Your children's safety is of paramount concern, and this is especially relevant as the afternoons become darker. Parents should collect children from the relevant pick-up areas so that we avoid any children making their own way unattended across the car park.

We have also had contact from a neighbour who was concerned about cars exiting the Porson Road playing fields too fast and endangering pedestrians who are crossing this entrance. Pick-up can be a busy time, especially when collecting tired and excitable children. Please be alert to pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists around you.

Emergency Text Message – testing

Over the next week The Perse (3-18) will be testing the emergency text message service, whereby parents receive a text from the School in the case of a school closure (for example due to snow) or any other important information that needs to be urgently communicated.

If you do not receive the text message on your phone by next Friday 10 November, please log into your PersePost account and check that all of your details are correct (phone numbers, address etc). Once you have confirmed your details are correct, you can email communications@perse.co.uk who will investigate further if the text didn't reach you.

Upper School Invigilation vacancies

In advance of the summer exam season, the Upper are looking to increase the size of their external exam invigilation team. These positions are remunerated, and exact working hours are determined according to availability. For further details and to express interest, please contact Leila Redfearn, Qualifications & Progression Officer (LRedfearn@Perse.co.uk).

Certificates and Awards



Congratulations to **Sophia Wang** on her Learn to Swim Stage 7 Certificate; **Sophie Oldfield** on her Swim England 1 mile Distance Award; **Julian Zhu** on his Runners Up Medal in the Hills Road U8 Tennis tournament; **Elizabeth Davies** for her performance with her Youth Stage Choir in five sell-out shows over half term of Disney's *Frozen Jr* at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds; **Ziyan Lu** on passing her Nation Suzuki Piano Level 1 and being invited to play at the Royal Academic of Music; **Naomi Ellershaw** has been offered a violin place in the National Children's Orchestra; **Charlie Qin** and **Oscar Qin** for participating in the 46th Yorkshire Chess Congress in Scarborough and respectively winning the bronze award

on rapid play and scoring 3 points on classical play; **Sophia Hardcastle** on raising £138 for the UNHCR refugee charity with a cake bake sale over half term; **Yash Saravanan** on this photo evidencing what he has grown from the seeds provided by the charity *Cultivating Change* in our Mental Health Awareness Week; **Annelise Heck** and **Annousheh Sayed** on being the first two to be awarded their Year 5 Reading Challenge badges.



Routledge House Cup

The House Cup was awarded to Foresters for the first half of term. This took account of all housepoints awarded for academic endeavour and excellence, music and games, as well as kindness and consideration, organisation and improvement. Beatrix Dickinson is featured below as she was the leading Year 6 housepoint scorer for Foresters.

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
CORINTHIANS	ROMANS	BARBARIANS	FORESTERS
2909	2945	3021	3101



Farewell to Ted

The children sang their farewell to Ted the Chef (on the right of the photo alongside long-time colleague of sixteen years and Head Chef Nour), in assembly this morning before he heads off to take on the Head Chef role at Bottisham Village College, where he lives. Ted has been a wonderfully positive role model to everyone at the Prep during his time here and will be sorely missed, as well as for his wonderful cooking! I suspect he will not pine for his current 50-minute cycle ride commute, but as he said this morning, he will very much miss the Prep community. My thanks to Raph de Albuquerque for the imaginative and poignant lyrics for the farewell song, and to Paul Harris for putting all the music together for this special finale.



James Piper

James Piper
Head

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