



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

13 December 2023

Dear Parents,

Schools should provide challenge, success and a healthy dollop of fun – and all of these have been evident for every child over the course of this long Michaelmas Term. The late summer glow of September is a distant memory; I would hope that all parents are hugely proud of the many different experiences that the children have enjoyed over the past fourteen weeks.

Highlights of the past two weeks include the Christmas Concert, the Concert at Denis Wilson Court, Year 3 author visit from Mark Wells, parent Tamara Novis speaking to Year 3 about Hanukkah, House Matches, the Year 4 Production of *The Keymaster* and the Year 3 Show *Christmas, Christmas Everywhere* which have all provided moments in the limelight for every child. Your children have enjoyed a cracking final festive day complete with PPP Christmas Fair, full Christmas Dinner from Nour and his team, and a day of festive activities organised by Mr Reston, including arts and crafts, a Christmas storyteller and End of Term Awards. Moreover, it has been exciting to see updates from Italy where 55 of our Year 6 are getting stuck into their skiing!



With so much laid on for the children, it is important to recognise the dedication, enthusiasm and high standards of the Prep staff. I am always grateful for the manner in which they consistently go over and above in their commitment to the children, in all areas of school life.



PPP Christmas Fair

I would like to extend my thanks to the PPP for their wonderful organisation of this event, both beforehand and on the day itself. The Christmas Fair is such a highlight of the term for the children and I am grateful to Melissa Whelan and Liz McDade for their phenomenal organisation and ability to manage so many parent volunteers.

The PPP have passed on this message: 'We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all the people who have contributed to this year's Christmas Fair. We are so grateful that we have such a strong community that comes together to create such wonderful events for the children. Whether you donated raffle prizes, helped to set up or clear away, helped prep all the posters, envelopes, tickets and bags, manned a stall, filled sweetie bags or gave money for your children to spend, we truly appreciate your support. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and helpers alike and raised a significant amount for our charities, [Blue Smile](#) and [Marine Conservation Society](#). Huge thanks to you all! Wishing you all a very special Christmas and a fantastic new year for 2024.'



Routledge House Cup

Barbarians managed to hit top spot in the race for the House Cup, taking account of all housepoints awarded for academic endeavour and excellence, music and games, as well as kindness and consideration, organisation and improvement. Full results are as follows for this half term: 1st: Barbarians (3,924), 2nd: Nomads (3,889), 3rd: Corinthians (3,870), 4th: Foresters (3,860). **Angelica Gupta** deputised for holding the trophy aloft for **Eilidh Sinclair** who was the Barbarians' leading Year 6 housepoint scorer. Scores have now been reset to zero, so all is to play for in the new year.



PODcast

POD, our School Council, have produced their first PODcast of the year. Thanks to Mr Reston and Mr Bown for overseeing the process but special thanks to all the children, as POD is one of the main formal ways of listening to the pupil voice. Two of our Year 6 reps, **Thea Wiseman** and **Adam Agarizaev**, give an update [here](#) of Pupil Organised Democracy activity over the past term.



Introducing *The Purple Press*

Journalism Club has been hard at work this term, reporting on some of the major events at the Prep and in the wider world. I would encourage you to read the inaugural edition of [The Purple Press](#) where you'll find articles offering a view of the Michaelmas Term from the children's perspective. My thanks to Mrs Soares Winter for sharing her journalistic expertise and inspiring our fledgling reporters, as well as putting together this slick publication.

Year 6 PSHE

Mrs Toni Eccles, Head of Years 7&8 at the Upper, is returning from maternity leave and will be taking over the Year 6 PSHE lessons next term. Our thanks to Miss Nicky Bareham for teaching this for the past term.

3-18 School Calendar

Events are available to view in the online 3-18 School Calendar and can be viewed via the School website [here](#). The calendar is intuitive and easy to use, and can be synced with personal calendars via the ParentPortal.

The calendar incorporates sports fixtures alongside all other calendar entries, allowing users to **filter calendar** entries by year group and category e.g. Year 3 Parents' Evenings / productions / events.

To navigate to a specific date or change the view (day, week, month, list/grid), click on the options on the left-hand side of the screen.

Prep Office over the holidays

The Prep School Office will be open Thursday 14 – Friday 15 and Monday 18 – Tuesday 19 December from 9.30am – 3pm. It will reopen after the holiday break on Wednesday 3 January ready for term to start the next day. If you need to contact us urgently when the Office is closed, please telephone the Upper School on 01223 403800 (open until 5pm on 21 December and from 8am on 3 January).

Any urgent safeguarding matters should be raised with Cambridgeshire Social Care via [Members of Public – Making a Referral | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](#).

'Home Run' App

As part of our commitment to valuing one another and the environment, The Perse is subscribing to the 'Home Run' app. Home Run is an opt-in system that allows parents to arrange lift sharing for the school run. More details will follow in the New Year.

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases Christmas cards made from all year groups.



Christmas Holiday Challenges

The only expected work for the holidays is for children in Year 4 to complete their Reading Bingo Challenge, those in Year 5 to read *Thief* and those in Year 6 to read *I Am David*. Copies of all of these books should have come home already.

More general optional activities in English (500 word story writing competition) and in Maths (investigative challenges) are available for anyone who is keen. These can be found on Teams.

Lent Term Form Concerts

Next term, on Tuesdays at 4pm, we host our Year 5 and Year 4 Form Concerts in the Hall (4 – 4.45pm). Parents are very welcome to attend these popular informal concerts; they provide a chance for all children, whatever their level, to practise performing in front of a friendly audience of peers and parents! Dates for your diary are: 5Aleph – 9 Jan, 5A – 16 Jan, 5Alpha 6 Feb, 4Aleph – 5 Mar, 4Alpha – 12 Mar, 4A – 26 Mar.

Lent Term PE

Usually, children wear normal school uniform and just change their footwear for PE lessons (unless it is a day on which they are already changed for Games). However, school uniform is less conducive for forward rolls, cartwheels and everything else gymnastics! Therefore, the following classes can wear games kit all day on the occasions when they have PE lessons (Monday 5A; Tuesday 3A, 4A, 4Aleph, 6Alpha, 6Aleph; Wednesday 3Alpha; Thursday 5Alpha, 5Aleph; Friday 6A). We will revert to normal uniform once the gymnastics topic stops after the Lent half term.

Sport

Well done to the following Houses on their victories in the recent House Matches:

Rugby: Y4: Foresters Y5: Foresters Y6: Nomads Overall: Foresters

Girls' Football: Y4: Corinthians Y5: Foresters Y6: Barbarians Overall: Corinthians

Mixed Y3 Rugby: Foresters

As for school fixtures in Years 4, 5 and 6, parents may be interested to know that sport at the Prep continues to shine brightly with 241 fixtures played, resulting in 73% wins, 8% draws and 19% losses. My thanks to Director of Sport Ed McGregor, Assistant Directors of Sport Nicky Clark and Dan Nicholes, and the rest of the Sports Department for their commitment and expertise.

Cycling

I wish to thank parents for ensuring that their children are well equipped when cycling into school. With Christmas approaching, now might be a good time to badger relatives for any cycling accessories such as new lights, helmets, hi-vis vests and reflectors as useful ideas for presents.

Perse AI Networking Event – Thursday 25 January 6-8pm

Parents are warmly invited to join the [Perse AI Networking Event](#) which will be held at the Upper. This networking event aims to unite local expertise and interest in AI (artificial intelligence) to make new connections and start exciting discussions. Do [sign up here](#) and reply by 18 January.

There will be two guest speakers presenting on the evening:

Professor Neil Lawrence who is the inaugural DeepMind Professor of Machine Learning at the University of Cambridge, leading the University's flagship mission on AI, AI@Cam. He has been working on machine learning models for over 20 years and recently returned to academia after three years as Director of Machine Learning at Amazon.

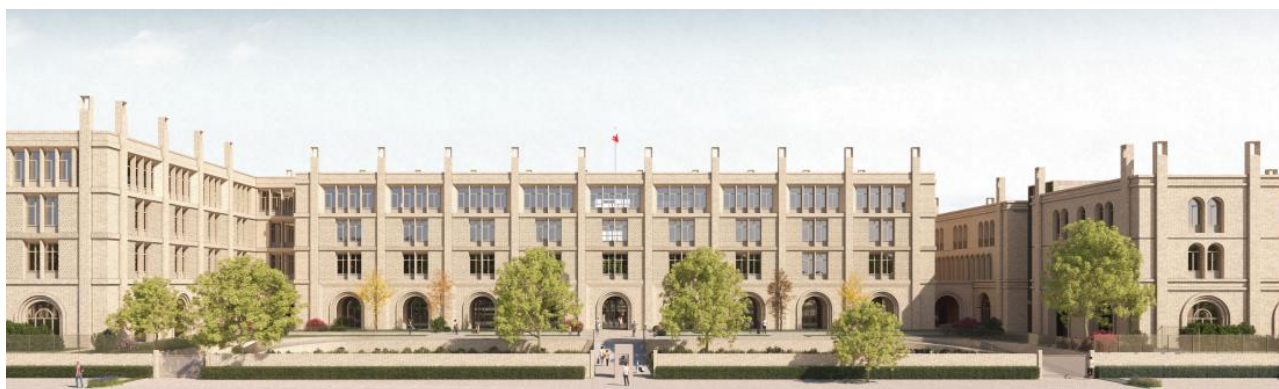
Dr Anthony Cox who is a computer scientist and bioinformatician who led the expansion of AI and machine learning capabilities in the UK when he was working at Illumina. He is currently a visiting researcher at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, Cambridge.

The Perse recognises the importance of embracing this new era of innovation, and has launched the pupil [Perse AI Club](#) and the [Perse AI Forum](#) for OPs & parents to explore the impact of AI in education.

Perse Oman

The Perse has always been an outward looking school, and we are excited by the opportunities created by Perse Schools overseas to enrich the learning of Perse Cambridge pupils as we prepare them for life in an increasingly globalised, complex, and inter-connected world. The income generated by Perse schools overseas is also a welcome source of additional funding that keeps a downward pressure on Perse Cambridge fee increases.

As previously announced, The Perse has formed a partnership to open a 3-18 co-ed school in Muscat, Oman. The Omani partners, who are funding the project, will begin construction shortly. The school, designed by Squire and Partners, is located adjacent to the Sultan Qaboos Mosque, and will have some of the best facilities in the region. The architectural drawings below give a flavour of the project. Unfortunately, The Perse Singapore is being rebranded as Invictus Bukit Timah on 31 December following a change in ownership of our Singapore partner.



Primary Maths Challenge

We were thrilled that twenty-four Year 6 and three Year 5 children qualified, from a field of 58,000, for the Bonus Round of the Primary Maths Challenge, where they will compete against children on a worldwide level! Congratulations to the following Year 6: **Linus Chin, Dhruv Sajog, Steven Wang, Isla Riddoch, Adam Agarizae, Rania Hassanain, Emma Meng, Annabel Ramsden, Julia Saklatvala, Sherry Shao, Austin Zhang, Marianne Gouliouris, Anaiya Gupta, Tom**



Lance, Karl Nguyen, George Pullan, Torrin Somner, Hanzhe Wang, Matthew Wilkins, Samuel Hong, Anamaya Kumar, Carmen Li, Ronak Sinha, Siobhan Wan, and Joyce He, Elliot Woolley, Jiho Yoo in Year 5.

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

In the last newsletter we highlighted the children in Year 6 who came in the top 10% nationally and have qualified for the next stage of the competition in the Oxford University Computational Thinking Challenge. This is the first time that children have completed this challenge in all year groups. There were some exceptional high scores but there is no further round for Years 3-5. However, we wanted to highlight the top three in each year group:

Year 5: 1st **Joyce He, Anneliese Heck, Freddie Heftman, Austin Jiang, Billy Norton, Daniel Teng, Nicholas Williams, Elliot Woolley**; 2nd **Sihua Wang**; 3rd **Iris Candea, Angus Edgar, Jake Juniper, Harry Kelliher, Elizabeth Kennedy, Hanyao Li, Xixi Lin, Felix McDonald, Aurora Short and Alexis Wu Williamson**.

Year 4: 1st **Sakina Amin, Everett Black**; 2nd **Rayne Ho, Andy Ren**; 3rd **Veronica Wilson**.

Year 3: 1st **Mythri Kulkarni**; 2nd **Aria Thirkettle, Athena Townsend, David Walpole**; 3rd **Sophia Wang**.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Jana Batuwangala-Mallorqui** and **Joyce He** on their Y5 Reading Challenge Awards; **Charlize Church** on her 12 gold medals in 12 swimming races (including front crawl, freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly across 50m, 100m and 200m) at the U9 City of Cambridge Swimming Club Championships; **Ellie Zhu** on her two silver medals (100m backstroke and 100m breaststroke) and bronze medal (200m individual medley) at the U10 City of Cambridge Swimming Club Championships; **Ryan Smith** on his gold medal (200m front crawl) in the U10 Newmarket and District Swimming Championships; **Leeladharahas**



Kanchi on his Stage 3 Swim Award (and impressive chess performances); **Amelie Lindsay** on her Learn to Stage 4 Swim Award and **Elissa Skeete** on her Stage 6 Swim Award; **Charlotte Wang** on her ABRSM Grade 4 Violin; **Selina Wong** on her ABRSM Grade 7 Piano; **Sam O'Reilly** on his Trinity College Grade 1 Guitar with Distinction; **Clara de Lucena Rigat** on her Trinity College Grade 4 Recorder with Distinction; **Athena Townsend** on her 7th Kyu (yellow belt) Karate Grade; **Ilyas Khan** on being leading goal scorer and Most Valuable Player for the Cambridge Grizzlies as they won their Ice Hockey Tournament; and **Rosalind Selby** on being commended for her original choral composition for the U17 Sir David Wilcocks Carol Competition as well as having her Remembrance Day poem published in an Anthology.



Yours sincerely

James Piper

James Piper
Head







Michaelmas Term Prize Giving

The following awards are handed out termly; we share these out as much as we can between the children over the course of the year. Department Certificates are awarded for a variety of reasons (effort, improvement, excellence etc.), specific details of which are outlined on each individual certificate.

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATES

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Art	William Yin	Teddy Broodbank	Billy Norton	Juno Gough
Classics	n/a	n/a	n/a	Emma Meng
Computing	Christina Furlano	Kirsty Hau	Joseph Lilley	Torrin Somner
Drama	Rafi Everett	Veronica Wilson	Iris Candea	Theodora Pring
DTE	Chloe Andrews	Finn Voss	n/a	n/a
English	Tessa Davies	Simiao Han	Anneliese Heck	Ben Finch
French	Ananya Cox	Yiwei Lu	Sihua Wang	Amelie Guthrie
Boys' Games	Evan Somner	Andy Ren	Daniel Teng	Karl Nguyen
Girls' Games	Akshara Acharya	Neha Sathiyamoorthy	Catherine Cope	Marianne Gouliouris
Geography	Nicholas Copeland	Ted Hayes	Nicholas Williams	Henry Crossley
History	Athena Townsend	Shashwat Kumar	Dhruv Ghildyal	Conrad Lally
Maths	Gennadiy Smirnov	Isaac Marshall	Max Tysome	Julia Saklatvala
Music	Emily Jin	Charlize Church	Peter Rimell	Carmen Li
PE	Harry Brixey	Chloe Flynn	Sam D'Arcy	Luke Welchman
PSHE	Edward Pitt	Katherine Elvidge	Charles Balfour	Lucas Simpson
RE	Daniel Rubin	Yash Saravanan	Dina Wortley	Adam Agarizaev
Science	Poppy Humphrey	Ptolemy Brown	Leopold de Ris	Linus Chin
Library (A)	Clare Mukherjee	Henry Johnson	Annabel Griggs	Jacqueline Danesh
Library (Alpha)	David Walpole	George Saklatvala	Jake Juniper	Maggie Rowan-Robinson
Library (Aleph)	Kiara Werren	Poppy Potter	Freddie Heftman	Rosalind Selby

VALUES AWARDS

These awards correspond to the four Perse Values and have been chosen by Form Teachers; there will be different winners of these each term during the course of this academic year. Year 6 recipients receive trophies as well as certificates.

Intellectual Curiosity & Scholarship

3A Isabella Piekarek, 3Alpha Aurelia Pacitti, 3Aleph Aria Thirkettle
 4A Hamish Sills, 4Alpha Sakina Amin, 4Aleph Nikolas Hardcastle
 5A Jeeon Bhattacharya, 5Alpha Iris Uttenthal, 5Aleph Austin Jiang
The Gahlaut Trophy for Intellectual Curiosity & Scholarship
 6A James Parry, 6Alpha Sherry Shao, 6Aleph Siobhan Wan



Endeavour

3A Alex Smith, 3Alpha Myles Couper-Marsh, 3Aleph Michael Wang
 4A Ayaan Kakad, 4Alpha Robert MacNair, 4Aleph Spencer Myer
 5A Iain Henry, 5Alpha Lucas Guthrie, 5Aleph Ryan Smith
The Carey Quach for Endeavour
 6A Angelica Gupta, 6Alpha Adam Lee, 6Aleph Beatrix Dickinson

Breadth & Balance

3A Joseph Wilkins, 3Alpha Dian Zhou, 3Aleph Seren Lay
 4A Matilda Trickett, 4Alpha Alessia Fannon, 4Aleph Charlie Qin
 5A Mia Wei, 5Alpha Saskia Addis, 5Aleph Ted Jenkin
The Clarke Bowl for Breadth & Balance
 6A George Gregory, 6Alpha Anaiya Gupta, 6Aleph Harry Frostick



Valuing One Another & Our Environment:

3A Martha Foster, 3Alpha Soren Jubb, 3Aleph Beatrice Toutoungi
 4A Sarah Cacciottolo, 4Alpha Alexander McKechnie, 4Aleph Grace Guan
 5A Jiho Yoo, 5Alpha Prerona Chakraborty, 5Aleph Wilson Wingham
The Richards Cup for Valuing One Another & Our Environment
 6A Sunny Li, 6Alpha Olivia Reynolds, 6Aleph Matthew Wilkins



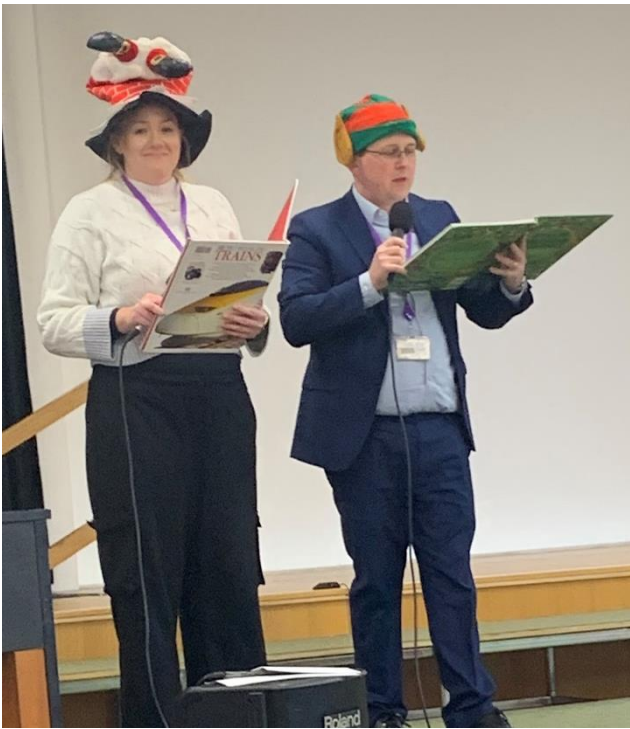
YEAR 3 SHOW *Christmas, Christmas Everywhere*
Many thanks to Mr Harris and Mrs Cassidy



YEAR 4 SHOW
Button Box
Many thanks (again!) to Mrs Cassidy and Mr Harris







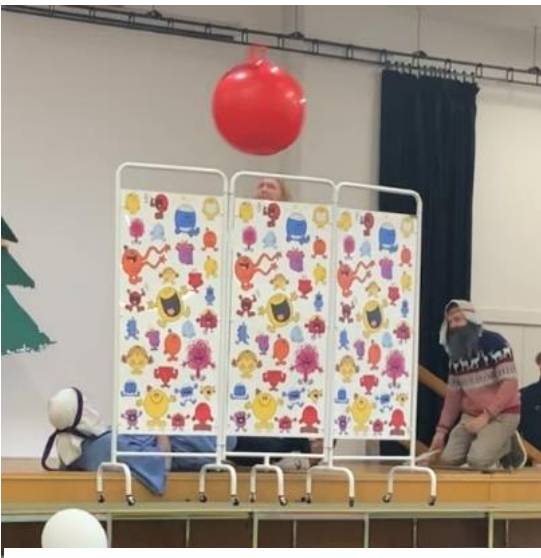
Every Nativity needs narrators...
...and fluttery angels!



...the main protagonists travelling on a Little Donkey!

It's a wonder they weren't welcome at the inn...





After entertaining the audience, the midwife holds aloft the new baby...

...before a star guides shepherds and kings to the stable.



Dastardly King Herod would have got away with it were it not for those pesky kings...

Many thanks to directors Eve Bonner and Ros West and their cast of willing amateurs...