



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

19 January 2024

Dear Parents,

Assemblies provide an important moment for the Prep community to gather. Whether singing, learning, thinking or listening we try to spark a little 'Intellectual Scholarship & Curiosity'. Over the past two weeks we have discussed *Consent*, discovered what it means to be a *Magistrate*, used balloons to demonstrate *Teamwork*, explored *Adaptability* by hearing about the concert pianist who reached Grade 5 as a child whilst learning on a homemade paper piano, worked out that everyone can display and improve their *Creativity* and today heard from our Year 6 journalists about the dangers of *Fake News*. Do see whether your children can remember any gems from assemblies as these can prompt further discussion and debate at home!



In an example of 'Valuing One Another & Our Environment', our Green Team have been busy with their Upper counterparts collecting litter from Long Road and the surrounding area. My thanks to the children, and also to Mr Reston for leading on this initiative as well as his recent visit with the Green Team and Fawcett Primary School to the Waterbeach Recycling Centre.

Finally, after last week's PPP Meeting, I was delighted to hear that a fantastic surplus of £3,043 was raised for charity at last term's Christmas Fair! A thank you to everyone involved in this special event.

- School Calendar via SOCS [here](#)
- Year 3 Parent Meetings (Mon 22 & Tue 23 January) – booking details were sent on 3 January
- Year 5 French Trip Evening (Wed 24 January) – 7.30pm to 8.15pm in the Hall for parents
- Year 4 Parent Meetings (Mon 29 & Tue 30 January) – booking details were sent on 8 January
- Year 6 Upper Transition Talk (Wed 31 January) – 3.45pm to 5pm in the Drama Studio for parents
- Year 5 Centre Stage *One Night Only* (Wed 7 February) – 6pm to 6.45pm in the Hall. Parents welcome
- Year 5 Parent Meetings (Mon 12 & Tue 13 February) – booking details will be sent on 22 January
- Year 6 Parent Meetings (Mon 26 & Tue 27 February) – booking details will be sent on 5 February
- Parent IE&D Group (Thu 7 Mar) – 3.30pm to 4.30pm in Drama Studio for parents

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases Year 6 abstract paintings inspired by Sonia Delaunay.



Sport – the week ahead

Wednesday 24 January

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

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

Thursday 25 January

2.30pm: U9 Netball A/B/C/D v Stephen Perse Foundation (H)

2.30pm: U9 Hockey A/B/C/D v Stephen Perse Foundation (H)

Do check www.persesport.co.uk for the specific start time for each individual team in hockey and especially netball.

Year 5 French Trip Parents' Information Evening – Wednesday 24 January 7.30pm

All Year 5 parents are invited to this event which explains more about the French Trip at the end of term. Clare Soares Winter will be running through the itinerary and logistics for the trip, showing clips of previous visits and answering any questions that you may have.

Year 6 Parents' Tea Party with Upper Staff – Wednesday 31 January 3.45 – 5pm

This will be a chance to meet Toni Eccles, Head of Lower School, and Nicky Bareham, who will be Head of Year 7 next year. The event will take place in the Drama Studio, with a presentation about transition to the Upper and life in Year 7, and a chance for any questions. To ease the traffic flow, parents should park at the playing fields rather than on the playground. Children may use Late Stay until 5pm for no charge if needed.

Parent IE&D Group – Thursday 7 March

Stef Abbott, our Head of IE&D (Inclusion, Equality & Diversity), is delighted to confirm the date of our next meeting for any parents interested in discussing and listening to views about IE&D at the Prep. Parents should come to the Drama Studio at 3.30pm. We aim to finish by 4.30pm. If you are unable to attend in person but would like to join remotely, do request a link (spabbott@perse.co.uk). Parents have so far found this a helpful opportunity to share ideas and discuss what can be some complex issues. We hope to tap into parental expertise and experience and keep developing a diverse, understanding and inclusive Prep community.

World Book Day – Friday 8 March

I am sure that parents will appreciate some advance warning of our dress-up day for World Book Day at the start of March. There is plenty of leeway for creative spirits, with the theme being 'dress as your favourite book character'! We are fortunate that leading children's author, [Lisa Thompson](#), will be visiting on the day.

PPP Family Quiz – Friday 8 March 6.30 – 9pm

The PPP is looking forward to bringing parents and pupils another fun and social evening at the annual family quiz. Last year saw our largest number of participants enjoy a completely sold-out event. Watch out for details of how to join in which will be coming soon. For now, save the date!

Perse Giving Day – 22 & 23 March

The Perse (3-18) will hold its second Giving Day just before the end of this term when the whole community can come together to support our means tested bursary and social impact programmes. We are conscious that, with cost-of-living pressures and the potential for VAT on school fees, The Perse's affordability is being eroded.

Whilst we are working hard to control our costs without compromising our quality, we know that some families can only attend The Perse with assistance from our means tested bursary programme (11-18). Means tested access bursaries give children life changing places at The Perse for no or partial fees. This in turn preserves the diversity of our pupil body which is a real strength of The Perse. Means tested hardship bursaries are awarded to families in crisis, when prolonged ill health, unemployment, or a bereavement mean fees cannot be paid. In these circumstances hardship bursary funding can allow children to stay in school when they need the stability and support of The Perse most.

Our social impact programme involves Perse pupils and staff working to support less advantaged children in their learning and to provide state schools with training and resources to enhance the education they provide.

The Perse is one of Cambridge's oldest charities and spends over £1 million each year on its important charitable work; we can only do this with your support. To find out more about Giving Day, or become a Giving Day ambassador, please contact Erin Charles, Head of Development, on echarles@perse.co.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Residential Trips – rest of this academic year

As well as their Italy Ski Trip, Year 6 will have a Leavers' Trip to Bawdsey Manor in the Summer Term (Friday 17 – Mon 20 May). Year 5 have their French Trip later this term (Friday 22 – 25 March) and Year 4 have a one night camp just outside Cambridge next term (Friday 17 May). Prep staff accompany this Year 4 trip but this is run by PES (Perse Exploration Society) at the Upper. The children will leave school on Friday afternoon and should be collected from the campsite at 8am on Saturday. Further details will be sent round in due course but we thought you might want to note this in your diaries now.

Parents' Prayer Group – Wednesday 24 January

This Christian group of parents and staff is open to all parents and will meet next Wednesday at 7pm in the Margaret Stubbs building at the Upper School. Please email Catherine Keen and Catherine Harter if you have any queries or would like to put in any confidential prayer requests: perseparentprayers@gmail.com.

Perse Exam Invigilators

The Upper is currently advertising for more exam invigilators for the public exam season. The closing date is 2 February and applications for these paid positions can be made through the following link: [The Perse School Careers | Exam Invigilator \(ciph-irecruit.com\)](https://www.ciph-irecruit.com).

Academic Find Out More Videos

Our series of videos exploring aspects of the academic side of school life continues. Mr Bown shares our approach for [marking and feedback](#); Mr de Albuquerque has tips for supporting [reading at home](#); Mrs Coleman explains our rationale with [written methods for calculation](#) and Ms Abbott focuses on the use of [keywords in Science](#).

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 English at the end of this newsletter.

Christmas Holiday Short Story Competition

Congratulations to everyone who handed in their entries for the Christmas holiday short story competition and especially to the following children for their 500 word winning entries on the theme of *Winter*. Copies of these stories have been displayed at the entrance to New School: Year 3 **Beatrice Toutoungi** (*The Hedgehog Farm*), Year 4 **Robbie Macnair** (*The Lonely Sprout*), Year 5 **Daniel Teng** (*Frostbite*) and Year 6 **Noah Scourfield** (*The Ski Trip*).

Dan Wansell

Congratulations to our Head of Art & DTE, Dan Wansell, on having his artwork displayed at the prestigious Gallery 8 (Duke Street, London) in an exhibition hosted by Bryanston School and featuring the work of current pupils and other distinguished former pupils including Lucian Freud and Sir Howard Hodgkin.



Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Sarah Cacciottolo** for her gold medal in the U9 floor routine and silver medal in the U9 vault routine and to **Evelyn Taylor** for her bronze medal in the U9 Floor routine – all at the Gymfinity Christmas Gymnastics competition; **Simiao Han** on her LAMDA Level 1 award with distinction; **Elizabeth Higgins** on her LAMDA Acting Grade 2 with distinction; **Clara Mukherjee** on her ABRSM Grade 1 Piano; **Sakina Amin** on her ABRSM Grade 3 Piano with merit; **Joyce Xiao** on her ABRSM Grade 3 Viola with merit; **Joseph Lilley** on his ABRSM Grade 3 Piano with merit; **Charlotte Wang** on her ABRSM Grade 4 violin with distinction; **Andrew Villaverde** on his ABRSM Grade 5 violin with distinction and also for being awarded the yellow belt in Judo by the British Judo Association; **Juliette Prewett van Beesten** on her Nore Rein's Ski certificate; **Ted Hayes** on his medal for skiing in Italy as the best and fastest in the advanced Junior Group; **Charlize Church** on setting the club record for the 200m Freestyle and Medley and being awarded Best Swimmer for her age group at City of Cambridge Club Swimming Club, and also qualifying for the 50m Breaststroke in the U11 County Championship; **Yuru Li**, **Charles Balfour** and **Anushka Jadon** on their Year 5 Reading Challenge Award. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

Yours sincerely



James Piper
Head

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788	818	835	836





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



Subject	English
Nutshell	Learn the value of reading, writing, speaking and listening in the 21 st century to become a confident communicator.
Head of Department	Mr Raph de Albuquerque
Lessons per week	7
Approach	We place reading at the heart of the English curriculum, using a diverse range of set texts to open the door to all of the year's learning objectives. Children are actively engaged in reading, writing, speaking and listening activities to promote a love of literature and give them the confidence to unlock learning across the rest of the curriculum. We utilise drama and media techniques to bring learning to life and celebrate a broad range of genres, styles and forms. A weekly spelling/grammar masterclass lesson ensures the fundamentals of written communication are in place, whilst regular trips to the Library inspire appreciation of fiction and non-fiction. Author visits complement the work in the classroom and we always love a chance to dress up for World Book Day or take part in a debate (sometimes also in costume)!
Current topics	<p>Y3: Year 3 are immersed in the wonderful fictional world of Phillip Pullman's 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', which is set in Indonesia.</p> <p>Y4: Year 4 are exploring the challenges facing refugee children when reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf.</p> <p>Y5: Year 5 are delving into the dystopian 'Thief' by Malorie Blackman,.</p> <p>Y6: Year 6 are following the journey of David, who is escaping from oppression in Soviet era Bulgaria in 'I Am David' by Anne Holm.</p>
Highlights of the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Year 3, the children love studying <i>Danny the Champion of the World</i>, entering the wonderful, rural world of the central character as he takes on the tyrant, Victor Hazell.• In Year 4, the children enjoy tasting pomegranates and write about the sensory experience as featured in <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i>.• In Year 5, the children strive to win their Space Quest reading badge, by reading books from a range of different genres and telling their classmates about them.• In Year 6, the children take part in a "puzzle trial" in the style of the ones that feature in <i>Nevermoor</i>, solving a series of challenges to get to their answers.
Homework?	English sets a weekly task that reinforces the week's learning or prepares the children for something to come. In addition, spellings are sent home in Years 3 – 5 in preparation for a weekly test.