



THE PERSE

PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

15 March 2024

Dear Parents,

Amidst the cold, grey and wet pre-Spring weather, I hope you find that this week's bumper newsletter shines a warm glow on what makes the Prep such a special place, capturing the essence of a Perse education as we enrich and excite the bright minds of the children in our care.

The photographs at the end of this newsletter give a flavour of the amazing outfits and creations produced for World Book Day; many thanks for time spent at home to help your children sparkle so much! My thanks to our Librarian Ros West, assisted by Jo Fenna, for organising the visit of award-winning author [Lisa Thompson](#) and the collection of over 400 donated books to go to Nepal, and to 5Aleph for their form assembly introducing World Book Day. All of this was preceded with even more costumes for the Year 5 Medieval History Day, organised by Annelise Sanders, and also our Year 3 & 4 Ballet Showcase.

Yesterday saw the whole school celebration of our public speaking challenge, run by Raph de Albuquerque. Every child took part, tasked to speak about a world-changing and innovative invention of their choice. Across the class and year group rounds we had speeches ranging from the loo roll to the motor car, from the piano to the iPad and from the wheel to the first vaccine. Congratulations to our finalists who engaged their audience with interest and humour: Y3: **Jacobi Davis** (flushing toilet), Y4: **Simiao Han** (computer), Y5: **Iris Uttenthal** (penicillin) and Y6: **Maggie Rowan-Robinson** (first chocolate bar). I am delighted that these skills will have greater emphasis next year in our curriculum where we introduce Oracy as a standalone lesson for Year 4.



Allons enfants de la Patrie,
Le jour de gloire est arrivé!
Contre nous de la tyrannie,
L'étendard sanglant est levé,
L'étendard sanglant est levé,

Very well done to our many musicians who have had lots of opportunities to shine over the past fortnight – whether performing in the Lent Concert, in the 4Aleph and 4A Form Concerts, ABRSM exams, the fabulous Community Concert at West Road, or in this morning's assembly singing *La Marseillaise* or our combined choir of 132 children singing from Moana and also Adiemus. My thanks to Paul Harris, Lucy van Gasse and the music peris who continue to inspire the children.

After the success of Cows About Cambridge in 2021, the Charity [Break](#) are bringing a new sculpture trail to the streets of Cambridge next week with a herd of 40 giant giraffes in a towering new exhibition entitled [Cambridge Standing Tall](#). *Persey*, the 1.5m giraffe decorated by Prep pupils, is now on display in Heffers in Trinity Street; do check out this [video](#). Next Wednesday, the 2.5m giraffe *Find a New Perspective* commissioned by the Prep will be on display beside Market Square and Great St Mary's Church, with the official trail opening the following day. Do make sure you visit our giraffes and send your photos to communications@perse.co.uk to share on the Perse [Instagram](#) account; one lucky family taking part will win a prize!



- School Calendar via SOCS [here](#)
- House Cross-Country (Mon 18) – all children to wear games kit
- Year 6 *Wind in the Willows* (Tue 19, Wed 20, Thur 21 Mar) – 6pm to 7.30pm in the Hall.
- Foodbank Collection deadline (Fri 22 Mar) – hand in produce to Reception
- Year 5 French Trip (Fri 22 Mar to Mon 25 Mar) – depart 6am and return 5.30pm, both at the Upper
- Term ends (Wed 27 Mar) – normal end of day arrangements

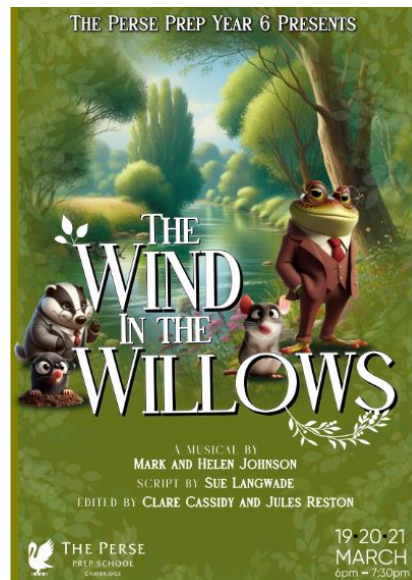
Sport – the week ahead

Saturday 16 March 2.15pm: Pelicans Regional Cross-Country Tournament at Old Buckenham Hall
Monday 18 March 11.15am - 12.25pm House Cross Country (internal event, no parents)
Thursday 21 March 2.30pm - 3.25pm Year 4 House Matches (during games, parents welcome)

The Wind in the Willows – Year 6 Musical – 19, 20, 21 March

Year 6 children are involved in all three performances and will stay at the Prep after school, receiving a hot meal before the performances. Doors open around 5.30pm for the performances. There will be drinks and nibbles provided at the interval and we should finish by approximately 7.30pm. In total the children will give six performances, with a dress rehearsal each morning to be viewed by each year group.

When collecting your child on a different night from their cast night, do feel free to pop into the Hall, standing room only (and via the side door), to catch the finale.



Shakespeare in Love – Sixth Form Production – 21, 22 March

This family friendly comedy is based on the Oscar winning screenplay and follows the story of a young Will Shakespeare, tormented by writer's block until he meets the beautiful Viola De Lesseps, daughter of a wealthy merchant, who disguises herself as a man to pursue her dream of becoming an actor. Featuring intellectual high jinks, well-known historical characters, live music, stage fighting, dancing and a dog, this Sixth Form production has something for the whole Perse community. Free tickets can be booked at www.perse.co.uk/box-office.

Foodbank Collection for Perse Giving Day – 22-23 March

To mark the biennial Giving Day, all Perse pupils (3-18) are being encouraged to support the Cambridge City Foodbank appeal by dropping off any of the following items at Reception on any morning next week: **tinned fish** (e.g. tuna), **tinned meat** (e.g. corned beef, chicken, minced beef, stewing steak, chilli con carne, meatballs, hot dogs etc.), **tinned vegetables** (e.g. carrots, sweetcorn, mushrooms, ratatouille), **tinned fruit / puddings / custard**, **tinned soup**, **jam**, **noodles or rice**, **pasta sauce**, **UHT milk**, **long life juice**, **instant coffee** (small jars), **snacks and confectionery**.

Whilst mindful of the many financial pressures Perse families face, we hope that Perse parents might feel able to engage with the Giving Day (www.givingday.perse.co.uk) on 22-23 March to support Perse means tested bursaries and hardship bursaries.

PPP Cheese & Wine Evening with Pastoral Talk – Thursday 18 April 7.30pm

Please save the date for a Cheese & Wine Evening with Mental Health Pastoral Talk from ex-Prep School Head Mike Crossley. This event is being organised by Laura Robertson, Assistant Head Pastoral, in collaboration with the PPP. It is open to all parents at a cost of £5 which includes the talk plus a selection of cheese and wine. Please visit www.eventcreate.com/e/persespeaker to book tickets.

PPP Social Event – Saturday 11 May 7-11pm

Please save the date for the PPP's next social event, to be held at the Prep. This is open to all parents, costs £20 per person, and involves food from [The Wandering Yak](#). More details coming soon.

Diversity Activity Day – 24 May

Many thanks to everyone for their contributions to the IE&D parent meeting last week as we share ideas and gain further insights from the parent and pupil experience. Next term we will be celebrating a Diversity Day. Ms Abbott would like to invite parents to participate in running an interactive session that introduces our students to something different or new e.g. learning about a particular celebration or different cultural music or art. Please email Stef (sabbott@perse.co.uk) to discuss your ideas if you are interested in being involved.

Inspiration Week – Monday 24 to Friday 28 June

The Prep Activities Week is being rebranded as 'Inspiration Week' and will now take place during the penultimate week of the Summer Term. Rather than just calling on scientists in the Prep community, we would love to involve any parents who would be happy to showcase aspects of their jobs and careers and so inspire the next generation. If you would like to take part, please consider what activity you would like to run or what talk you might wish to give, the year group you would prefer to have as an audience, as well as the amount of time you are able to help for, and then apply via this [link](#). We would like to accommodate as many requests as possible but can't guarantee all of these! The deadline for applications is Monday 20 May.

Summer Term Fundraising

Advance warning that 24 May and 3 July will both be home clothes days with funds raised for our two school charities *Marine Conservation UK* and *Blue Smile*. An extra charge of £4 will appear on next term's bill. If you wish to opt out of donating for these charities, then please email fees@perse.co.uk.

Perse Sports Centre and Perse Swimming School

Excellent progress continues with the sports construction projects for next year, which all Prep children will benefit from. Below are recent images of POD members, and a couple of roving reporters from our Journalism Club, gaining VIP access to the Sports Hall, Climbing Wall and the Swimming Pool. My thanks to Jules Reston, our Director of Enrichment, for organising these two trips.



Giving Notice for the end of the Summer Term

Parents are required to give one term's notice of any pupil withdrawal. If you intend to withdraw your child from The Perse at the end of this academic year, then you must write to the Head to give formal notice by the first day of the Summer Term (Monday 15 April). If you haven't informed the School already, a term's notice in writing is also required for pupils who are leaving The Perse to go elsewhere at the end of Year 6. This applies also for those pupils who have already accepted a transfer place at the Upper School but will not be taking up this place. Parents giving notice after the deadline will be liable for the Michaelmas term's fees in lieu of notice, as the School will have committed to Michaelmas Term expenditure on the assumption that pupils were staying.

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 Science at the end of this newsletter.

PPP Family Quiz

My thanks to Catharine Dickinson for organising such a fantastic PPP Family Quiz last Friday. Parents and children enjoyed the opportunity to meet and mingle again, appreciative of the smooth running of the whole evening – no mean feat with over 173 attending and 14 teams battling it out. A special shout out also to our quizmaster, Steve Dickinson who kept order with his warmth, humour and sense of fun, as well as to all of the parents who contributed questions. After a titanic tussle, well done to the *Oompa Loompas* who ran out as champions!



Quiz Club General Knowledge Area Heats

Well done to our three quiz teams who took part in the Area Heats. Sadly, it was not to be a repeat of last year's qualification for the National Finals in Oxford but a big well done to the following who were all involved: **Jackie Danesh, Julia Saklatvala, Rania Hassanain, Dhruv Ghildyal, Daniel Teng, Austin Jiang, Hamish Sills, Neha Sathiamoorthy, Olivia Betts, Oscar Qin, Arun Jadon and Ronav Bilku.**

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases the 2.5m giraffe commissioned by the Prep for the Cambridge Trail.



Club IN2 County Hockey Tournament

Well done to all those children involved in last week's U10 IN2 Hockey County Tournament: **Catherine Cope, Mia Wei, Alexis Wu Williamson, Freddie Heftman, Yash Saravanan, Alex Smith and Francis Thaventhiran** (Cambridge South HC) and **Arthur Davis, Ilyas Khan and Max Taylor** (Cambridge City HC). The following all

qualified for their respective Regional Finals: **Ryan Smith** and **Nick Warburton** (Cambridge South HC); **Ellie Zhu**, **Simiao Han** and **Yiwei Lu** (Cambridge Junior HC); **Sam Brixey**, **Sam D'Arcy**, **Alexander Freeborough**, **Jonathan Goldsmith**, **Tom McDade**, **Felix McDonald** (Cambridge City HC).

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Charlize Church**, **Elizabeth Kennedy**, **Sunny Li**, **Rosalind Selby** and **William Yin** on taking part in the EPTA Piano festival at Gonville and Caius College; **Hugo Magliano** on his PADI open water scuba diving certificate and for his 2nd Ski Award; **Anaiya Gupta** on being runner up in the U11 Grade 3 Easton Tennis Tournament; **Dhruv Ghildyal** and **George Gregory** for being runners up in the U12 Grade 4 Harlow Tennis Tournament; **Ayaan Kakad** on his Silver Medal for Sparring in the 20th South East LTSI Tae-Kwondo Competition; **Leopold de Ris** and **Lucia Whelan** on their Y5 Reading Challenge Award, and **Leopold de Ris** for his Royal Ballet School Junior Online Certificate; **Jacob Painter** on winning the 400m Front Crawl in the Cambridge Academy Swim Club Competition; **Juliette Prewett van Beesten** on her Gymfinity Level 4 Award; **Matilda Trickett** on her ESF 1st Star Skiing Award; **Athena Townsend** on her Green Belt (6th Kyu) in Karate; **India Short** on winning a Gold Certificate at the U13 Bright Light Education Creative Writing Competition; **Oscar Qin** and **Charlie Qin** on coming 3rd in the U9 English Primary Schools Chess Tournament with the Essex County team; and **Oscar Qin** on coming 3rd in the U11 Brentwood Chess Tournament. This leads us on to this week's Scores on the Doors:

4 TH	3 RD	2 ND	1 ST
CORINTHIANS	ROMANS	MARK	JOHN
971	1004	1042	1051

Yours sincerely

James Piper

James Piper
Head



YEAR 5 COMMUNITY CONCERT



Prep School Uniform Reminder

Trousers, shorts, skirts, pullovers, cardigans and socks can be sourced from any supplier but must be plain. **All** branded items of uniform* are sourced at MR Cricket Hockey (either instore at The Old Blacksmith's Yard, Burwell CB25 0EA or online at www.perseschoolkit.co.uk). A free delivery service is offered to the Prep every Tuesday for items ordered by the previous Sunday.

The PPP (Perse Prep Parents) sell second-hand uniform via two uniform sales per year, but specific requests for items can be made by contacting Mrs Johnson at 2ndhanduniformppp@gmail.com.

All items of uniform and sports kit must be named (name tapes, permanent markers/sharpies or stickers). Please name on the inside of clothing (collar or rear waist band). MR Cricket Hockey offer a labelling service.

Everyday Uniform List

School blazer*

White crested polo shirt*

Grey V-necked pullover, or cardigan

Plain dark grey trousers, shorts, skirt or grey box pleat tunic

Grey socks (long or short), or grey tights

Alternatively, a "summer" dress* with plain white socks (long or short)



Sports Clothing List

School games top* (winter) and school white cricket shirt* (summer)

School black shorts* or skort*

School black socks* (winter) and plain white socks* (summer)

School black midlayer*

School black tracksuit bottoms* (optional) and white cricket trousers* (optional)



Other Sports Items

Pupils should wear trainers for PE and Games (velcro or laced) and, as they become more involved in hockey, may want separate astro-turf trainers. Football boots are required for those playing football and rugby.

Pupils need a mouth guard (self-moulding from MR Cricket Hockey or dental moulded are available) for rugby and hockey, and shin pads for hockey and football. These are essential for safe participation. A boot bag* is optional but useful for football boots.

Other Items

A cricket sun hat* or baseball cap* or bobble hat* with the School logo are the recommended headwear.

Outdoor coats can be any colour. Children should have a backpack* with the School logo on.

Shoes must be black, of a conventional design and polishable. They can be laced up or velcro but should not be trainer-type shoes or boots. Any heel should be low-heeled. For safety reasons no open toe shoes or sandals are allowed.





YEAR 5 MEDIEVAL HISTORY DAY









**LOTS OF FUN LAST WEEK WITH
WBD COSTUMES...
...AND THIS WEEK FOR MR DA
AND YEAR 3 CREATIVE ARTS
CLUB – SHOWING THAT HIP HOP
IS DEFINITELY BACK IN VOGUE!**



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