



# THE PERSE PELICAN NURSERY AND PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL

28 May 2010

## HALF TERM

We send our best wishes for a relaxing break with some summery weather!

## TERM DATES

We are sending out the dates for your diaries. **Please can you particularly note that the end of the Summer Term 2011 has been brought forward from Friday, 08 July to Wednesday, 06 July.**

## REPORTS

In line with the Prep and the Upper School procedures, your child's End of Year Report will be sent out by PersePost. Reports will be sent out on Friday, 18 June.

## SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS

The season will shortly be coming to an end. Would parents/friends kindly send their vouchers in to school after half term so that we can complete our collection. Once we know the totals we can then select items from the supermarkets' catalogues. We are grateful to you for participating in the schemes – they allow us to 'purchase' extras for the playground as well as other resources.

## EXTERNAL EXAM INVIGILATION

I have received this message from the person responsible for organising this at the Upper School:

*We are looking to recruit additional members of our examination invigilation team at the Upper School. Exams take place throughout January and from late March to late June each year, and we are able to accommodate drop off/pick up times where needed. These positions are remunerated, and are subject to CRB disclosure at enhanced level.*

*If you are interested in joining the invigilation team please contact Jonathan Green, Director of Qualifications and Progression on 01223 403853 or e-mail [jngreen@perse.co.uk](mailto:jngreen@perse.co.uk).*

## LATE STAY

A polite request – once the children have been collected would parents/carers please leave the school site promptly, particularly after 5.30p.m. I really do need the Teaching Assistants to get home for a rest! Thank you for your consideration.

## PERSE PARENTS' SURVEY

Many of you kindly completed the Perse Parents' Survey back in March. This was an internal survey, and separate from the one carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). Our Marketing Department have now completed the analysis of your responses, and as promised, I am writing to provide you with a brief overview of the main findings and our responses to them.

Overall parents were very pleased with The Pelican; 91% felt children were sufficiently challenged intellectually, whilst 100% believed their children to be happy at school. 93% of parents felt the school had met their expectations, although there were a number of 'don't knows', which I suspect are relatively new parents reserving their judgement, and 97% said that the quality of teaching is good.

However, rather than concentrating on the overwhelming number of positives, I want to focus on the areas parents felt could be improved further. These can be summarised as:

1. **Extra Curricular Activities**

Some parents felt that we need to offer more opportunities for physical activity through sports clubs. We have begun to consider how this might work in practice and will keep you posted.

2. **Trips**

Some parents commented that they would like to see more trips to local museums and parks. We undertake trips to support the curriculum in the Reception, Years 1 and 2, which the children always enjoy, but because of the age of our pupils we must provide a very high adult: pupil ratio which could stretch our resources were we to go out more often.

3. **Communication**

Most parents felt they were kept well informed. We have noted the suggestion that parents would like a list of staff email addresses so that they can be contacted direct and this will be circulated at the beginning of next term. Some parents reported finding their child's report somewhat generic in format but correctly volunteered that this might be because we have to meet government guidelines in the Early Years. We have already adapted these reports, with effect from the end of this academic year, in response to this feedback. A number questioned the value of the Perceptions Magazine. We have decided to discontinue Perceptions for existing parents.

4. **Environment and Facilities**

Not surprisingly a number of parents raised the issue of traffic and parking in Glebe Road and some made suggestions for the School to consider. We continue to discuss this matter and are pleased to note the significant increase in take up for Early Start since we reduced the daily charge.

5. **The School Day**

Some working parents have commented about the challenge presented by the current pattern of attendance for Nursery pupils, which we have noted. Others indicated that they would like the afternoon Nursery session to be longer. This is difficult as the staff need time to reset the classroom after the morning children have departed and to have a break.

6. **Transport to School**

There was a suggestion that it would be useful for Pelican children to be able to use the Park and Ride service from Trumpington. On the surface we acknowledge that this seems a sensible idea but in practice the level of staffing required is beyond our current resources.

The Parents' Survey was a great success and has provided us with much information and food for thought. We intend to repeat it on a biennial basis so that we can monitor our performance and your views through time.

P Oates  
Headmistress