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**Purwell Primary School**  
**21<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

*'Don't tell others how to do things. Tell them what needs to be done and let them surprise you with their results.'* - George S. Patton

**Sports Day - this Friday**

This Friday is our Sports Day. The children will be taking part in a range of athletic events such as long jump, javelin and discus, in addition to running races on the track. In the morning, from 9:30am, it will be the turn of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children: Acorn, Holly and Willow Classes, with Key Stage 2 children: Beech, Maple, Aspen and Oak competing in the afternoon, from 1:30pm.

All children should make sure they have their PE kit (including proper trainers) in school so that they can take part.

Parents are most welcome to watch their children on Sports Day - come and join us! For the relay events, parents will be required to stand in the centre of the field. It is worth noting that Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June will be our reserve day if the weather is not good on Friday.

**Parent survey results and feedback**

With this newsletter you should receive a supplement which shows all the comments offered to us, by parents, as feedback in our recent parent survey. We had about one third of the surveys back and have put those result in a table that can be found at the end of this newsletter. Thank you to all those who completed and returned their surveys.

**You said...We did**

At Purwell, we continually strive to improve what we do and how we work. As part of this process, we value parent feedback and see it as a crucial component in supporting us in school improvements. Since the parent questionnaire, the school has sought to improve in several areas that were highlighted to us. This first improvement comes in home-school communications, with the introduction of the Schoolcomms text messaging system. This will help us reach parents with urgent and timely messages and reminders. We have also responded to the suggested change to the way we do commendation certificates as, now, we write the reasons children have been given the certificates directly onto it. A small, but important, adjustment for many parents. We have, also, purchased a school minibus, to explore learning opportunities out of school and to keep the costs down for parents on expensive coach trips. We will be reviewing the curriculum at the next Inset Day. At the Open Day, parents will be informed of further improvements we are making.

**New minibus**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of our first school minibus. It is hoped that the minibus will allow us to explore more learning opportunities out of school for our pupils. It will also help keep travel costs down for parents, for local trips, as private hire coach costs continue to escalate.



**Spanish Day - Friday 1st July**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, we will be having a whole school Spanish Day. Everyone will be involved, from Nursery to Year 6. Children may come to school dressed in the Spanish national costume or the colours of the Spanish flag...red and yellow.

Teachers are planning a number of activities, and everyone will take part in a Flamenco workshop. There will even be a Spanish themed lunch for that day. Please look out for any further notices that may pertain to this event or to a particular class. This promises to be an exciting day to immerse the children in cultural activities and provide opportunities to develop and practise their language skills.

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream for Years 4 and 5**

The Director of *The Railway Children*, Sue Scott-Davidson, has offered two classes an opportunity to see her experimental take on William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Wednesday 22nd June. The theatre production has been organised to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> year since the death of Shakespeare.

The production will take place at Standalone Farm, in Letchworth, and children will be able to follow the actors around the farm, to the various settings that have been created as stages, where the action and drama will take place. As this out of school learning opportunity requires 4 coach trips, it would not have been possible to accept without having our new school minibus.

### **Twitter page proving a huge success**

The success of the school's Twitter page has entirely surpassed our expectations. Members of staff have been very active in posting lots of exciting pictures showing pupils enjoying the variety and fun of our creative curriculum. We now have a impressive 99 followers in our closed group. If you do not have a Twitter account, then perhaps you might consider getting one so that you can join. Maybe you could be our 100<sup>th</sup> parent.

### **Open Day/Evening - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

We can confirm further details for the Open Day and Open Evening for parents on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Parents are invited to come into their child's class, from 1.30pm until 2.30pm, where they will be invited to join the children in fun learning activities which reflect our diverse and creative curriculum. At 2.30pm, parents will come to the hall for refreshments before a short, but informative, presentation from Mr Cano.

To accommodate the working parents, the school will open again at 6.00pm with refreshments in the hall, when Mr Cano will repeat his talk (but it will be worth listening to twice), before introducing to the parents the new teachers for September and announcing class allocations. After this, parents will be free to tour the school. There will be displays of children's work, subject information, ICT interactive demonstrations, with staff and pupils available to guide and answer any questions.

### **Hitchin Duck Race - Sponsor a duck**

Around the school, you will find posters advertising a duck race in Hitchin on Saturday 9th July. Money for various charities is being raised; however, I would like to draw your attention to the 2pm race for Hitchin Partnership. Schools across Hitchin really rely on the work the Hitchin Partnership does. If you would like to support on the day, please purchase a duck number from the office for £1. All donations gratefully received.

### **Time Lord - Years 5 and 6 summer production announced for July**

For the summer production, this year, the children of Oak and Aspen Classes will be the villains of the piece when they take on the performance of *Time Lord*. Will the Time Lord be rescued before the mysterious creatures overtake the world? Come along and find out. There will be two opportunities to see the comedy play on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00pm and again at 6.00pm. Tickets will go on sale from next week at 50p per ticket for primary aged children and £2 per ticket for everyone else. Refreshments will be available before the performance. Even if you do not have children in those classes, it will be a very enjoyable experience for all, so do buy your tickets and come along.

### **Fiver Challenge**

Over the last few weeks, classes have been hard at work, working on their business ideas for the Fiver Challenge. Classes have chosen their ideas; with some designing logos and writing business plans. During the next few weeks, classes will start to put their ideas into action, with stalls running at different times of the day. Look out for the flyers sent home to tell you what's going on! There will be also several stalls running throughout sports day, including potted plants and a range of refreshments. We hope to see you there!

	<b>Before school</b>	<b>Break time</b>	<b>Lunch time</b>	<b>After school</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> June			Oak	
23 <sup>rd</sup> June		Beech	Beech	Oak Cake sale Maple
24 <sup>th</sup> June		A variety of stalls selling plants and refreshments throughout the day.		Class stalls and games until 4pm.
28 <sup>th</sup> June				Oak and Maple
29 <sup>th</sup> June		Aspen	Aspen	Oak and Maple
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Holly and Willow			Holly and Willow

## Parent Questionnaire Results 2016

*We had about 35% return rate from parents.*

*We would like to thank all the parents that took the time to complete the survey and send it back.*

	<b>Strongly Agree/Agree</b>	<b>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
My child likes school	40	2	
My child is making good progress	41		1
My child feels safe at school	41		1
Pupils behave well	36	1	5
Incidents of antisocial behaviour are dealt with appropriately	20	3	18
Teaching is good	42		
Parents evenings and reports inform me about how my child is getting on	38		4
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions	39	3	
I use the school website	29	9	4
The school celebrates my child's successes	29	9	4
The school is well led and managed	36	1	5
Staff treat my child fairly	36	2	4
The school seeks the views of parents and takes into account their views and concerns	32	2	8
The school provides appropriate homework and staff explain how I can help my child.	33	6	3
Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent	38		4
There is a good range of after school activities available	28	11	3
The arrangements for my son/daughter to settle in when he/she began school were good	39	2	1
The school encourages my child to be healthy	34	2	6
The school has a good reputation locally	36	2	4
I enjoy coming to the social and fund-raising events at school	39	1	2