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Purwell Primary School
2nd June 2014

'If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.' - Rachel Carson.

Art Week Begins

This week is Art Week in school so we have an exciting week ahead. During the week, we are focusing on 'Art in nature' and on the work of the artist, Andy Goldsworthy. On top of the work being produced in class, Key Stage 1 pupils are working with the artist Antony Lycia on a sculpture that will soon appear in the Key Stage 1 playground - so keep an eye out! Also, Key Stage 2 pupils are working with Lee Sullivan, a graphic designer, who is working with them on telling stories through comic artwork. This will really help to enhance children's art skills and will, hopefully, be an enjoyable week! Come and see the blue boards next week for a peek at the work produced.

New Purwell Website Goes Live!

The new website has gone live. Some people may have spotted it already. If you have the site bookmarked, you will need to refresh the link. You do this by going to the website and pressing the Ctrl and F5 buttons at the same time. An immediate difference between the old and new sites is that buttons are seen only down the left side of the screen on the new site, rather than two columns of buttons, more centrally placed, on the old site. If you wish to read more about refreshing your browser, you can do so by following this link - <http://www.wikihow.com/Force-Refresh-in-Your-Internet-Browser>.

Open Day/Evening - Thursday 19th June

We can confirm further details for the Open Day and Open Evening for parents on Thursday 19th June. Parents are invited to come into their child's class from 1.30pm until 2.30pm, where parents 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.

New Faces This Half Term

Two new staff members have joined the team this week. They are Mrs Clare Lawson who joins the team as a Teaching Assistant, and will be supporting in Oak Class this half term. The second new face is Ms Loren Christian, who will be our School Sports Coach and joins our team from John Henry Newman School. Welcome to Purwell, Mrs Lawson and Ms Christian.

Home Packed Lunches

A reminder that home packed lunches should not contain any form of confectionary. This includes bars of chocolate, sweets and lollipops.

Pupil Voice Initiative

As a new initiative at Purwell, we are going to start pupil voice sessions. This is a chance where every adult in the school and every pupil from year 1 to year 6 will have the opportunity to meet to discuss a whole school matter. Children will be in mixed age groups of about ten. If you have chance it would be great if you could ask your child what they were discussing and maybe see if they would like to contribute anything to the next session. The first session is this Friday afternoon and we will see how it goes as to when we hold another.

Sports Day

This year, Sports Day will be on Friday 27th June. The organisation of the day is similar to last year, with children 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, 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.

Teachers will be making sure that children have the opportunity to practise each of the events as part of their PE lessons this term. 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!

Amplifier Required

At Sports Day, the school will need to play music and make announcements that can be heard. If any parent owns a large sound amplifier and would be willing to lend it to the school for Sports Day and the Summer Fair (the following day), we would be extremely grateful.

PSA News Update

The PSA would like to thank parents and staff for using Easy Fundraising in the internet. So far we have raised £75.19 for the school by using the search engine. Details on how to use Easy Fundraising will be on the next PSA newsletter, which will be out soon.

PSA Summer Fair on Saturday 28th June 11am to 3pm

The next PSA Planning Meeting for the Summer Fair is this Thursday 5th June, at 8pm, at the Millstream. New faces are more than welcome to come along.

World Cup Non-Uniform Day Friday 20th June

Friday 20th June is a non-uniform day, and pupils may come to school in casual clothes, in return for a donation to the summer fair. As the World Cup approaches, the school is getting ready to celebrate the event. Each class has been allocated a World Cup country that they will be studying and supporting (in addition to England) throughout the tournament. For non-uniform day, we thought it would be nice if each class came to school in the colours of their World Cup country (but please do not buy something especially for this).

Acorn - Brazil (yellow, white, blue and/or green)

Holly - USA (red, white and/or blue)

Willow - Portugal (red and/or green)

Beech - Greece (blue and/or white)

Maple - Cameroon (green, red and/or yellow)

Aspen - Germany (white, black and/or green)
Oak - Spain (red, blue and/or yellow)

In return for dressing up, a donation to the summer fair will be made. This year, the PSA would like donations to the Chocolate Tombola from Acorn, Holly and Willow Classes. KS2 classes, i.e. Y3 to Y6, will need to bring a donation on a summer or holiday theme - balls, bats, outdoor games sets, beach toys, frisbees, sunglasses, inflatables, barbecue or picnic equipment etc.

Raffle Prizes Needed

A request is going out to all families for donations for the raffle prizes. The PSA would like to give people more chance of winning with several big hampers for the Summer Fair. This also offers a chance to get rid of any unwanted, new and in good condition presents. Gift donation ideas could be:-

LADIES TOILETRIES Hamper - perfume, body lotion, hand cream, hair bands, brushes, flannels, make up, nail varnish.

MEN'S TOILETRIES Hamper - aftershave, cream, hair gel, hand cream, brushes, nail brushes, shampoo etc.

CHOCOLATE Hamper - edible items ie boxes of chocolates or biscuits etc

BOTTLE Hamper- alcohol preferably.

GARDENING Hamper - hand tools, pots, seeds gardening gloves etc

Any parents with a business willing to donate a small token gift, ie vouchers for haircut, facial, manicure, meals out, cakes, etc.

Pupils Sow Seeds of Remembrance

In recognition of the 100 year anniversary of the start of World War 1, pupils have been helping to create a fitting tribute. Before half term, all the children contributed, by sowing seeds which will grow into a large circle of poppies. It is hoped that the commemorative poppy circle will bloom in September, for the start of the new academic year, and again in successive years.

KS1 and KS2 Tennis Club - Final Term.

The lunchtime tennis club has been hugely popular this year, providing lots of opportunities for our children to get involved in tennis at an early age. This term will see our final sessions being delivered by the coach from Letchworth Tennis Club. All of the responses that were received at the beginning of the year have been put into a draw, and 10 children from each Key Stage have been selected; if your child has been successful in getting a place they will receive a letter home this week.

Calling in all Supermarket Vouchers

Please send in any remaining Tesco or Sainsbury vouchers as soon as possible. The closing date is fast approaching.

Bags 2 School

Today, with this newsletter, you should receive a Bags 2 School bag. If you have any unwanted clothing, paired shoes, handbags, ties, belts, hats soft toys or jewellery, please put them in the bag. It will be collected on Tuesday 10th June at 9.00am, so please bring it in **before** school that day. Please note that the items listed are the only items now to be included. In a change from previous years, no other items should be included. On collection, the bags are weighed, and the PSA will receive payment based on the total weight of all the bags.

Pictures of the Week



Pupils sow poppy seeds to mark the 100th anniversary of start of the First World War.



Members of the Purwell Panthers cheerleading team train hard for their first public performances at Sports Day and the Summer Fair

Baptist Church Art Competition

Walsworth Road Baptist Church is arranging an exhibition this summer called "*Peace Channel*". Rev Henton Pusey, minister of the church, talked to pupils about this in an assembly before half term. It will be an exhibition of artwork expressing the personal views of local children about issues of peace and peace-making.

A panel of local artists have agreed to be judges of the pictures, and they will award prizes to the best artwork created by children in each of Key Stage 1 and 2. This exhibition is also one of the events within the Hitchin Festival programme this year, for whose support we are grateful.

You can use any form of picture-making, except that entries must be on *a sheet of A4 paper* (design can be Portrait or Landscape).

Please ensure your name, school and class is *on the back of your artwork*, so that we can contact you if you are a winner!

Hand in the artwork to your school *by Friday 20 June* - display in the exhibition cannot be guaranteed to late entries.

Come along to the Exhibition during the weekend 5-6 July to see all the artwork! And please note too, we are unable to return the artwork after the exhibition.