

Purwell Primary School
9th June 2016

'Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted,' Garrison Keillor

New school-parent communication system to be launched

I am delighted to announce a new school to parent communication system will soon be launched. The Schoolcomms system will allow the school to send urgent messages to parents directly to their mobile phones.

This was prompted by some of the feedback that was given to the school, via the recent parent survey, which told us that some parents thought that communication from the school could be improved, particularly with reminders or urgent messages. The newsletters, every two weeks, will continue, as will the Blog and Twitter feeds. With this newsletter, you will receive a letter explaining about how Schoolcomms will work.

Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party

Tomorrow, June 10th, come and join in the celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday at the Purwell Street Party from 4-8pm. There will be a BBQ, licensed bar, tuck-shop, music, games, fancy dress competition, with a prize for the best king and queen, and the first ever Purwell Bake Off!!! Bring your own food or enjoy the BBQ. Helpers are required for this event, so please let Mrs Tart or Mrs Drury know if you are able to help with setting up from 2pm, helping during the event or clearing away.



Purwell Bake Off

Are you a Star Baker? As part of the Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party this year we will be holding the first ever Purwell Bake Off. Bring a cake, cupcakes or biscuits that would impress the Queen and enter the Bake Off to be in with a chance of winning a fantastic Star Baker Prize! Entries can be brought to the street party or delivered on Friday morning.'

Pupils to cheer on England (or Wales)

On Thursday 16th June we will be showing the England v Wales Euro 2016 match in the school hall. The match kicks off at 2:00pm and the children will be able to watch the first half together. It will be a wonderful experience supporting two of the Home Nations in what will be the first European Championship for many of the children. Hopefully, it will be an exciting game too!

Children in KS1 and KS2 would have received a letter this week inviting them to stay after school for the duration of the game. For those the permission slip on the letter must be completed and sent in to school.

Phonics Screening week for Year 1, next week

Just a reminder that next week is Phonics Screening Week. Children will be taken out of class on a 1:1 basis with Miss Young to read the new 2016 booklet of 40 words. It is a relaxed environment that the children are familiar with. It should not cause the children any stress.

Please ensure your children arrive at school on time, as always. Any extra sound practice you can do at home with your children will help to consolidate their knowledge.

Science Week begins, next week

Next week at school is Science week. All children will be taking part in various scientific activities. Last year saw the children's scientific interest grow and so we hope to see it continue this year. On Wednesday, all classes will take part in the 'Superhero Science' and 'Thrilling Forces' science show with our visitor Dr Matt Pritchard from the Inner Circle for Magic. Years 5 and 6 will also be taking part in a KNEX Challenge on Friday 17th June where children will develop their engineering skills. We are looking forward to a spectacular Science week. Please join us if you can in our Science Sharing Assembly, at 2.15pm, on Monday 20th June



Spanish Day - Friday 1st July

On 1st 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.

Fiver Challenge

Children are being given the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills by competing in a competition to set up their own business. With regard to this, classes and the various businesses will be running over the next few weeks and during sports day, so your child may want to bring in money for the various stalls. The children will advertise as to when they will be holding their stalls, and posters will be going up around school.

Sports Day - Friday 24th June

This year, Sports Day will be on Friday 24th June. The organisation of the day will be 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, 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.

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!

Hitchin Athletics Competition - Tuesday 21st June

We are pleased to announce that Purwell has, once again, been invited to attend the Hitchin Athletics Competition. It will be held on Tuesday 21st June for children in Years 2-6. Our Purwell Athletics team will be announced on Monday 13 June 2016. Further details will follow in due course.

Open Day/Evening - Tuesday 12th July

We can confirm further details for the Open Day and Open Evening for parents on Tuesday 12th 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.

A Midsummer Night's Dream for Year 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 400th 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.

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 Hitchin Partnership does. If you would like to support the day, please purchase a duck number from the office for £1. All donations gratefully received.

Time Lord - Year 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, Wednesday 13th July at 2.00pm and also 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.

Safety First

This month, Year 4 will be learning about road hazards as they take part in our annual road safety training. The children will go out in small groups guided by members of staff and identify the hazardous traffic spots locally and safe places to cross.

Calling in all Supermarket Vouchers

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

Display of the Week



*The judges and a contestant in this week's Purwell's Got Talent final.
Very well done to all the children who performed in front of the school and their parents*

Term Dates 2016/17

Autumn Term 2016

Thursday 1st September	Pupils return to school
24 th - 28 th October	Half-term
Friday 2nd December	School closed for Inset Day
Wednesday 21st December	Last day of term

Spring Term 2017

Thursday 5 th January	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 6 th January	Pupils return to school
13 th - 17 th February	Half-term
Friday 17 th March	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 31st March	Last day of term

Summer Term 2017

Tuesday 18 th April	School closed for Inset Day
Wednesday 19 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 1 st May	May Bank Holiday
29 th May - 2 nd June	Half-term
Friday 14 th July	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term
Monday 24 th July	Occasional Day's holiday