



Purwell Primary School

1st March 2016

Thought of the week: 'An act of good carried out in the wrong name remains a good act.'

- Dr R. Coachain

World Book Day

This Thursday is World Book Day. To celebrate this event, a day dedicated to books, reading and literature has been planned. Don't forget the 'make a hat' competition. Entries need to be in school by Thursday.

Sign up to Twitter

Parents are now able to receive 'live' tweets of what is going on at school, through the school's Twitter page. If you would like to be part of this new online community you will need to request to follow us at '@purwellprimary'. Only those who are approved users will be able to access the account.

Disco Fever at PSA School Disco

Last Friday, children danced themselves dizzy at the school disco. There were activities, food, games and prizes to be had and the children had a great time. A big thank you to Mrs Tart and the rest of the PSA team for organising such a hugely enjoyable event for our children.

PSA Quiz Night: 12th March 2016 7.00 to 11.00 PM

It's time again for the eagerly anticipated annual PSA Quiz Night! Tickets are available now and can be purchased by returning the slip from the Quiz Night flyer either to the school office or via your child's book bag. Tickets include a choice of either fish, saveloy, sausage, pie or vegetarian spring roll and chips.

Alongside the quiz, expertly hosted by Mr and Mrs Barnes, there will be a licensed bar, snacks, the famous mocktail/cocktail game and a fabulous case of wine to the winning team!

Form a team of up to 8, or come along and join a table and have a fantastic night raising funds for the school. *Are you up to the challenge?!*

Shoebboxes and containers request

At the end of term, Year 3 pupils will be making Egyptian dioramas and canopic jars. They need shoe boxes and hour glass shaped plastic hot chocolate containers. Please could you save any you have used at home and bring them in to school?

Litter Picking Event - Friday

Later this week, lots of schools and businesses will be taking part in the national Clean for the Queen weekend. This event offers our children an opportunity to be actively engaged in caring for our environment and to develop a better understanding of the impact of litter on wildlife. Parents who indicate on their reply slips, that they do not wish for their children to take part for political, or other, reasons, will be respected.

School Uniform

There have been some price increases to school uniform, with effect from 1st March 2016. This has mainly affected items of PE kit, This is a result of increased prices from our supplier.

O2 Choir Concert

A big thank you to all the children who sang their hearts out at the O2 arena, with the other seven and half thousand children. It was a magnificent event. Also, a big thank you to all the parents who were able to come and support us. A great evening was had by all, despite the late arrival back at school. DVDs can now be purchased through the Young Voices website: <http://www.youngvoices.co.uk>. A school copy has been ordered, if you would like to borrow it. Pupils in the choir will be advised when it arrives.

Please look out for further choir events in the summer term. We will be singing at the Fair in the Square on Saturday 7th May (times tbc).

Sign up to new electronic payment system

If you have not already done so, please sign up to the school's new electronic payment system. All children have the facility for a parent to pay online for relevant school related items, such as school dinners and trips.

DSPL and Hitchin Partnership (www.hitchinpartnership.org/)

The support in Hitchin, through all the local schools and the Hitchin Partnership, means that there are many training courses, events and signposts for holiday activities available to parents. There is also a hardship fund that can be applied for. Please look at its website to see if there is anything of interest and then ring to book through Debbie Rollins or speak to Ms Wells or Mrs Day-Lewis.

Reading

Having had our new library in place this year, buddy reading in Key Stage 2 and the bookmark scheme (Years 2-6), we are really trying to push the love of reading. The new curriculum pushes for good, fluent reading by the end of Key Stage 1, focusing on the interpretation and inference of what is being read in Key Stage 2. With this in mind, we need as much help as possible to follow the school's homework requests of hearing your child read at least three times a week and noting it in their reading record.

Our county advisor visited this month and, from the random sample of children she spoke with, not one had regular comments written in their reading record from home. A big thank you to all those of you who do read regularly with your child, however, we would like to see this more consistently across the school. If you would like any further help with reading at home, please speak with your class teacher. There should also be some top tips inside your child's reading record.

Sports Update

It has been a busy few weeks for sport at Purwell, which has seen our football and netball teams in inter-schools action. Our A and B Team netballers had matches against St. Andrews, and put in wonderful performances to draw 6-6 in the A Team match and 2-2 in the B Team fixture.

Our girls' football team went to Highover for a friendly, last Thursday, dusting off the winter cobwebs in preparation for their up-coming Wix Cup semi-final fixture. The girls put in a creditable and spirited display, eventually being edged out 2-1 in a tight and very sporting contest. The boys' team also played a fixture at Highover on the same date, claiming an impressive 1-0 victory, thanks to a wonder goal from Riley.

On Monday, Purwell took A and B football teams to Letchworth to play friendlies at St. Christopher's School. Once again, there was very little between the teams, Purwell's A Team winning its game 2-0, with the B Team being narrowly defeated 1-0. Many thanks to all parents who have helped transport the team, and to everybody who has gone along to support the teams. Your help and support really is appreciated and exemplifies the wonderfully close sense of community that exists in our school.

Chess

Purwell's chess team has also been in action, playing a league match against a very strong team - and the reigning league champions, from Our Lady School, in the week before half-term. Despite being defeated, it was a remarkable performance from a young and inexperienced Purwell team who became the first school to include a Key Stage 1 pupil in their team in the league's history. This is true testament to the quality and depth of chess players we have here at Purwell. Indeed, our chess club currently has an active membership of over 30 pupils, which is, by some margin, the largest chess club in any of the schools who compete in the Hitchin league. Congratulations to Harry for his superb achievement on being selected for the school at such a young age and also to Isobella in Year 3 for winning in her first ever match for the school - against a Year 6 opponent too! Many thanks also to Mr Fletcher for volunteering his time to help with our chess club, supporting Mr Hart in further enhancing the culture of chess that exists here at Purwell. Well done to everyone involved as Team Purwell goes from strength to strength!