

Purwell Primary School
9th September 2014

*Thought for the day: 'Motivation is what gets you started.
Habit is what keeps you going'-John Rohn*

© **Welcome back to a new school year** ©

Hope you all had a lovely break and are raring to go this term. May I, first of all, thank you for such a beautifully turned out group of children, pristine in their uniform. They really look the part and, I am pleased to say, they all settled very well into their new classes. Some parents of the many new pupils to Purwell School, have commented on how welcoming the other children have been to them, which is lovely to hear.

Contact Details and Curriculum Information

Next week, you will receive an envelope with details of the autumn term curriculum. You should also receive a copy of the contact details form we hold for your child. Please check this form, amend as appropriate, sign and return to school as soon as possible.

Take One Picture

For the first two weeks of the term, all classes will be taking part in a nationwide programme called **Take One Picture**, run by the National Gallery in London. The painting, called *Saint George and the Dragon*, by Paolo Uccello will be used to inspire the children and will be studied and explored in lessons.



Phonics into Reading Evening - for Reception and Year 1 parents

Parents of children in Acorn (Reception) and Holly (Year 1) classes are invited to attend a phonics into reading evening, on Wednesday 17th September, at 6pm. Those who attend will have the opportunity to explore the use of phonics to support the teaching of reading within the school. We will provide useful ideas and phonics knowledge to help you support the progress of your child's reading.

Summer Photo Competition

Thank you for all of the entries we have already received for our Take One Photo competition. The standard of these photographs is incredibly high, and goes to prove just how creative Purwell pupils are. Don't worry if you've not handed in your entry yet, there is still time! Simply hand your photos (named and with an imaginative title) to the office or your child's class teacher by this Friday, 12th September, so that we can start to create our

P
U
R
W
E
L
L
P
R
I
M
A
R
Y
S
C
H
O
O
L

photo gallery. If you prefer, you can even email your entry to homework@purwell.herts.sch.uk . All original photos will be returned.

Morning Reading and Maths for Acorn, Holly and Willow Classes

Parents are again invited to come in and share learning with their children, each Wednesday from 8.50 to 9.15am. These sessions will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, 10th September.

After School Clubs

All clubs will start next week. Please watch out for letters your child may bring home this week about clubs, particularly after school clubs, as many places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. A full list of all clubs available will be distributed next week.

Lost Property

Our lost property box is full to bursting! This Friday, from 3pm, all the contents will be put on display in the hall, so please come along and have a look. Parents will be able to take any unnamed items of school uniform, for a small donation to the school fund, if the items have been there since before this term. Afterwards, we shall take the remaining items to a charity shop, but will hang onto those bits that have recently been added, in the hope of finding their owners.

Lunchtime Recorder Club

We will be offering a free recorder club to Years 3 and 4, starting on Tuesday 16th September. This will be limited to 10 children, initially, with the rest added to a waiting list. Once your child's place is confirmed, they will be required to bring their own recorder to school. Please advise the school office, in writing, if your child wishes to join the club.

PSA news

All are welcome to come along to the first meeting of the year for the Parents Association. Remember, if you are a parent, then you are automatically a member. Why not come along to the PSA AGM on Thursday 18th September, at 8pm, in the Community Room?

Parent Teacher Consultations

An early date for your calendar. Parent Teacher Consultations will take place on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th November. Booking sheets for appointments will be available in the entrance lobby from 3.00pm on Friday 17th October.

Improving Attendance

You will remember that, last September, in a drive to improve school attendance figures, a number of changes to pupil absence came into effect. The most crucial was concerned with parents who choose to take their children out of school in term time for holidays. As last year, any holiday time will not be authorised. Furthermore, should the overall attendance of the child, including sickness, be less than satisfactory i.e. 95%, then it will be brought to the attention of the School's Attendance Improvement Officer and may lead to a penalty fine. Worst cases may escalate to court action. I am sure you will support us in our attempts to improve our pupils' attendance figures.

Lunchtime football - KS2

The older children are very enthusiastic about playing football at lunchtime. As numbers are so high, we have allocated the classes one lunchtime for the use of the football

pitch. Years 5 and 6 will use it on Tuesday lunchtimes and Years 3 and 4 on a Thursday. However, children who play at these times must bring a change of clothing to school i.e. home clothes to change into. This keeps their PE kit and school uniform grass and mud free! They must also have trainers to play in.

Water Bottles

We have a stock of water bottles with the school logo on. These bottles, which have sports caps, are available from the school office, at a cost of £1.00 each.

School Meals

School meals now cost £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. Cheques should be made payable to *Hertfordshire Catering Ltd.*

Don't miss out on the latest. Get e-connected

Copies of the newsletter can be sent by email. If you would like to be added to the list, please send an email to admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk. By doing so, you will be automatically added to our 'snow closure' list. Also, you can keep up to date with what's going on via the Blog on the school website. Why not add the school website to your favourites? www.purwell.herts.sch.uk

St Faith's Church

There will be an All Age Service at St Faith's Church at 9.30am on Sunday 14th September, with a theme of 'Forgiveness'. For further information, please phone 01462 456842.

Dates for Autumn Term 2014

Time to get those calendars and diaries out and make a note of the important dates.

September

Thursday 18th

PSA AGM (8pm in Community Room)

October

Monday 6th

Braiswick in for individual photos

Wednesday 15th

Harvest Service (9:30am)

27th - 31st October

Half term

November

Wednesday 5th

Parent Consultations (early)

Thursday 6th

Parent Consultations (late)

December

Friday 5th

Occasional Day

Monday 15th

1:30pm EYFS/KS1 production

Christmas (family)

6:30pm EYFS/KS1 production

Tuesday 16th

1:30pm KS2 production Christmas (family)

6:30pm KS2 production

Thursday 18th

Class Party day

Friday 19th

1:20pm Christmas assembly and certificates

Term ends at 2pm

Term Dates 2014/15

Monday 1st September
Tuesday 2nd September
27th - 31st October
Friday 5th December
Friday 19th December

Autumn Term 2014
School closed for Inset Day
Pupils return to school
Half-term
Occasional Day's holiday
Last day of term

Monday 5th January
Tuesday 6th January
16th – 20th February
Friday 13th March
Thursday 2nd April

Spring Term 2015
School closed for Inset Day
Pupils return to school
Half-term
School closed for Inset Day
Last day of term

Monday 20th April
Tuesday 21st April
Monday 4th May
25th – 29th May
Friday 10th July
Wednesday 22nd July

Summer Term 2015
School closed for Inset Day
Pupils return to school
May Bank Holiday
Half-term
School closed for Inset Day
Last day of term