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**Purwell Primary School
11th November 2014**

Thought for the week, "We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Purwell Panthers to Perform at Wembley

We are delighted to announce the news that the school's Cheerleading Squad, the Purwell Panthers, will be performing at Wembley stadium as part of the half-time entertainment. The girls will be going along to the Rugby event, in March, where Saracens will play Harlequins. At half time, our cheerleaders will join other squads, and pop star Pixie Lott, in entertaining the crowds.

The news comes just two weeks after the squad performed to their biggest crowd to date, a sell out at the Gordon Craig Theatre. Go, Panthers!



The Panthers wow audiences at the Gordon Craig Theatre

Former Pupil Honoured

Last week, a former Purwell pupil, Millie Stearn, was given a Royal award of recognition for her bravery. The ceremony, which took place at The Highfield School, was attended by the Lord Lieutenants of Herts and Beds, Chief Commissioner of Police, County Councillor Ray Shakespeare-Smith and Millie's family and school friends. Millie's courage was recognised after she acted in such a way as to save her mother's life, following a serious car accident last year.



Millie with her certificate, standing with Mr Cano and Mr Morris, the headteacher of The Highfield School.

Outdoor Music Area

There is going to be an outdoor music area created for the pupils in Acorn Class. If you have any old metal pots and pans or wooden or metal spoons you would be willing to donate, please bring them into school.

PSA News

There is a PSA meeting on Wednesday 12th November, at 8pm at the Millstream. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ALL Christmas card orders need to be back in by Thursday 13th November at the very latest.

Christmas Fair, Friday 28th November, 3.30-5.30pm

Come and visit Santa in his grotto. There will be gourmet hotdogs and mulled wine, along with other refreshments. Other entertainment includes Christmas crafts, games, stalls and a raffle. Free entry.

Sweetie Jars for Christmas Fair

Why not get creative, this year, with your child, and decorate something for the PSA Christmas Fair? We are asking children to re-use old jam jars, by turning them into sweet gifts. If you have glass jars at home, please can you help your child to decorate it and fill it with enticing sweeties? The Sweetie Jar stall is just one of many stalls that will be available at the forthcoming PSA Christmas Fair, on Friday 28th November. Look forward to seeing you all there, as it promises to be a magical event.

Christmas Decoration Competitions

This year, Purwell School is entering two Christmas decoration competitions. The first is a competition to create individual decorations from 100% recycled materials. The second is a decorating a tree competition. We thought it would be worth combining both competitions and designing decorations for the first competition that could then be used on the tree for the second competition. What we need are some creative Purwell people to help us!

Firstly we need a tree, it must be second hand and artificial. If you are thinking of getting a new tree this year, and would be willing to let the school have your old one, then please contact the school office.

The second way you can help is by helping to make a decoration with your child. You will need to use clean waste products (e.g. cardboard, newspaper, cans, corks, scrap textiles). We are looking for imaginative designs with an environmental focus which involves reducing, re-using or recycling. Competition entries need to be in school by Monday 1st December, when a judge will be coming into school. For some ideas see the back of this newsletter. The overall winner of the competition will get £30, there's a second prize of £20 and a third prize of £10. In addition, the first prize winner will also receive £50 of garden vouchers for the school.

Remembrance Day

Today, the school had an Armistice Day assembly and observed the remembrance silence.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 10th December. Mrs Arnold needs to order supplies early, and to do this, she needs to have an idea of lunch numbers in advance. Please note that there will be only two options on that day, a Christmas lunch (Red band) and a vegetarian option (Green band). It will be assumed that all pupils will have the Christmas lunch, unless you inform us otherwise. Please advise the school office, as soon as possible, if you would like your child to have the vegetarian option (Quorn fillet) or a home packed lunch.

Smile Shoeboxes

Reverend Henton-Pusey has asked me to pass on his enormous gratitude to those families who were kind enough to put together Smile shoe boxes for the charity. In the next few weeks, your boxes will be making their way, by road, to eastern Europe, where they will make a child's Christmas a little more special.

Governing Body

Last week, Mr Hojeer, dad of Omar and Aidan, announced that he was reluctantly stepping down from the Governing Body, due to work commitments. Mr Hojeer has served on the Governing Body for 4 years and was a former Chair. On behalf of the school, I would like to say a huge thank you for his years of service on the Governing Body.

This leaves a vacancy on the Governing Body for a co-opted governor. These governors can be a parent or member of the community, and should have a commitment and a genuine interest in helping the school be the best it can for all of our children. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please ask them to contact Mrs Barnes in the school office.

Caretaker

Sadly, our Caretaker, Roy Hutchinson, is leaving us at Christmas. Mr Hutchinson has been with us for two years, but is moving away to live by the coast. We wish him and his wife all the best in starting a new chapter in their lives.

Sports News

Last Wednesday, the girls football team took part in the English Schools Football Association Tournament held at Whitehill School. The team represented the school fantastically and performed with great credit. The competition was played in a league format and, by drawing their first two matches 0-0 and winning their last game 2-0, they finished undefeated, with a perfect defensive record and in a highly creditable 2nd position, only narrowly missing out on first place by goal difference. Congratulations must go to all of the girls for their magnificent achievement. This week the team is back in action with a Wix Cup match at home to Our Lady School - good luck girls!

Bags 2 School

With this newsletter, you should receive a blue Bags to School bag. Please use the bag to put in any unwanted clothing for recycling. Please note that bedding, towels and curtains are no longer accepted. If you need more than one bag, there are spares in the school office. Alternatively, you may use any plastic bag which can be tied at the top. Bags will be collected from school at 9am on Thursday 27th November.

Display of the Week



As part of their Religious studies, Maple Class pupils designed their own version of a quiet place to find peace and tranquillity.

Caretaker

We are seeking to appoint a friendly, hardworking, honest, conscientious, self-motivated person to join our team as our School Caretaker/Cleaner. Duties will include premises management, maintenance (good standard of DIY skills essential), security of the buildings and site, some cleaning duties and ensuring the inside and outside environments are well maintained and meet Health & Safety requirements. The successful candidate will line manage a small team of cleaners and have good communication skills for liaising with tradesmen, suppliers and staff.

Hours are by arrangement with the Headteacher but must be between 6.30am and 6pm Monday to Friday. There may be occasional out-of-hours lettings, which you will be remunerated accordingly.

To arrange a visit please contact Stella Barnes, School Business Manager on 01462 432950.

The successful applicant will require an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. Purwell Primary School is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people

Christmas Newsletter

Our special Christmas newsletter will be published on Tuesday 25th November and sent home with the usual newsletter. This newsletter will contain details of our special events.

Important date - school will be closed on Friday 5th December for an Occasional Day.