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**Purwell Primary School
12th November 2013**

Thought for the week - 'Children are one third of our population and all of our future.' The Promotion of Child Health.

Willow Structures Competition

The PSA has given its backing and support to having two living willow structures created, one for each side of the school. These structures will grow, over time, and become a special feature of the school, offering children a fun and magical place to take part in imaginative play, and a cool, shady area to shelter from the sun's hot glare in the summer.

The children have been invited, if they wish, to take part in designing what the structure should look like. Children have been shown examples of some ideas which show, tunnels, domes, walls and arches. The design ideas should be presented on A4 or A3 paper and should arrive in school before Monday 18th November.

So get creating! Your ideas may end up as a living and breathing monument for children to enjoy in years to come.

Christmas Market Fair, Friday 29th November, 3.30-5.30pm

It's nearly Christmas, "Hooray!". To celebrate, Purwell School Association is holding a Christmas Market Fair on Friday 29th November, from 3.30pm - 5.30pm.

Sweetie Jars for Christmas Market Fair

Why not get creative, this year, with your child and decorate something for the PSA Christmas Market? 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 Market, on Friday 29th November. Look forward to seeing you all there, as it promises to be a magical event.

Maths in a Suitcase

On Wednesday 6th November, Selwyn van Zeller brought his interactive 'Maths in a Suitcase' activities into Purwell School. It really was a case of 'maths mania' in school! During the day, classes had fun sessions exploring the activities, solving problems and developing thinking skills. Many parents came in to share in the activities with their children after school; taking home lots of ideas for how they could make maths at home fun. We received incredibly positive feedback about the day from parents and children and it was wonderful to see such fantastic collaboration and mathematical discussion going on between children and parents! Maths really can be magic.

Governing Body

There are two vacancies on the Governing Body for community governors. These governors cannot be parents, but should have a commitment and a genuine interest in helping the school be the best it can for all of our children. If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact Mrs Barnes in the school office.

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.

Netball Club

A reminder to parents of pupils who attend netball club that it finishes at 4.15pm, as there seems to be some confusion about this.

School Lunches

Later this week, you should receive a balance statement for any of your children who have school meals. If the balance shown in the bottom right corner has a minus sign in front of it, this is money which is owed to the school, and payment should be made as soon as possible. If there is not a minus sign, this is money which is still available to spend on school meals.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 11th 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 if you would like your child to have the vegetarian option (ratatouille slice) or a home packed lunch.

Book Fair

The recent Book Fair raised £353. Thank you to everyone who bought books. The money earned in commission to the school will be put towards buying new books for the children.

A change to the Summer INSET date

A change to your summer calendars. The INSET day that was planned for Monday 16th June has been moved to Monday 14th July. This day will be used by teachers as an information sharing day, in preparation for the children moving into their next class in September.

Scooters on the playground

If your children wish to ride scooters to school in the morning, please can you ensure that they don't ride them around on the playground, as they pose an increasing risk to other children, once the playground becomes crowded.

Display of the Week



Beech Class has created a fantastic Australia display, complete with boomerang and cork hat.

Christmas Newsletter

Our special Christmas newsletter will be published on Tuesday 26th November and sent home with the usual newsletter. This newsletter will contain details of our special events.

Important date - school will be closed on Monday 2nd December for an Occasional Day.