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**Purwell Primary School**

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

*Thought for the day: 'While we try to teach our children all about life,  
Our children teach us what life is all about' ~ Angela Schwindt*

**Christmas Musical Extravaganza**

This year, the children of Purwell School will be raising the rafters with a musical Christmas cracker. The children will be performing both traditional and modern festive songs to put everyone in seasonal spirit. To ensure that no one misses out on seeing the production this year, there will be four performances, spread over two days. Tickets for the school Christmas Musical will go on sale from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Family performances** (babies and toddlers are welcome).

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, at 1.20pm.

**Evening performances** (babies and toddlers may not be brought)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm.

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

A reminder that the PSA Christmas Market will be this Friday, 29th November, from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. Come prepared to collect your child and stay for an event that will put you in the Christmas spirit.

In addition to Santa's Grotto, there will be a raffle and stalls run by the staff, selling decorations created by the children.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> November. Look forward to seeing you all there, as it promises to be a magical event.

**Sporting Success for Our Teams in Action**

Our Girls' football team braved the mud and freezing conditions to put in a brilliant performance in their Wix Cup match at Breachwood Green last Wednesday. It was always going to be a difficult match, especially with a place in the quarter finals at stake, but despite playing against the team that knocked us out of the same competition last year, the team was in fine form and eventually won the match 6-0. Our netball teams were, also, flying high last week following two fantastic games against Highover School. Our A and B teams both played, and won 6-1 and 5-2 respectively. It was a pleasure to see both teams supporting each other and working fantastically to achieve two great results.

Our Years 3 and 5 mixed Boccia team had the opportunity to attend a Boccia festival held at The Priory School last week. There were several schools in attendance and our pupils managed to play their way to achieve 2nd place! Well done to the children who took part. Well done Team Purwell!

**Bilingual Parents Needed**

The Hitchin Partnership of local schools is looking for parent volunteers with a good grasp of English and one, or more, other languages. We need parents who are willing to act as translators in local schools for other parents who do not speak English.

This is a voluntary role and, as such, no remuneration can be offered. However, transport can be arranged to all meetings, if required. At other times, you may be called upon to translate over the phone for those who may need your help.

If you are interested in registering yourself as a translator, or you want to know more, please leave your details at the school office. Thank you.

**Remember - School will be closed on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December as it is an Occasional Day.**

### **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 or bedding for recycling. 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 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

### **School Closures - Winter 2013/14**

As part of the school's planning for emergencies, parents are reminded that incidents that necessitate school closure include such things as extreme weather and loss of essential electrical, water or heating services. Details of school closures are displayed on the front page of the school website, via the Blog, plus [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) and local radio stations.

In making a decision to close a school, the headteacher is required to take the following elements into consideration:

- Hazardous conditions, including roads and footpaths inside and outside the school.
- Whether enough staff can get in to supervise pupils.
- Whether a reasonable working temperature can be maintained in the school building.
- Whether water is available.

**Highly recommended: Parents are invited to leave an e-mail address where the school can contact them immediately with details of school closure.**

The school will e-mail parents with closure details. If you have not yet left an e-mail address but would like to be on the school's e-mail list please send an e-mail to [admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk) requesting that you are added to the existing list. It would be very helpful for parents who receive notice of school closure to let other parents know.

We understand that emergency closures of the school can cause disruption to some parents, particularly those who work and, therefore, must arrange for last minute child care or have time off work. With this in mind, on severe weather days, when the weather forecasts suggests an improving picture through the day, a decision may be taken to open the school later. This might allow time to make the grounds safe, give roads time to improve and staff the time to arrive at school. On these days, parents are advised to walk to school, if possible, and for those driving it is advisable to park on Purwell Lane or Kingswood Avenue and walk the remainder.

We hope you appreciate that the decision to close is never made lightly, as the safety and welfare of our children, school staff and parents/carers is of paramount importance, and no one would like to see this compromised.

### **Display of the week**



*'I am a great writer!' was the chant from the children at the end of a special sharing assembly that brought writing week to a close. All the classes started the week with an object or artefact, which inspired the children to write some amazing pieces of work.*