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## Purwell Primary School

10<sup>th</sup> September 2013

*Thought for the day: 'Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see'  
-John W. Whitehead*

### ☺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. I have included, in this newsletter, a copy of the uniform policy for you to keep and refer to.

### Contact Details and Curriculum Information

With this newsletter 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 *Bathers at Asnières*, by Georges Seurat will be used to inspire the children and will be studied and explored in lessons.



### Summer Photo Competition

Thank you for all of the entries we have already received to our Take One Photo competition. The standard of these photographs is very high and goes to prove just how creative Purwell pupils are. If you've not handed in your entry yet, there is still time! Please give your photos (named and with an imaginative title) to the office or your child's class teacher by this Friday (13<sup>th</sup> September) so that we can start to create our photo gallery.

### **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 next Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Parent Teacher Consultations**

An early date for your calendar. Parent Teacher Consultations will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Booking sheets for appointments will be available in the entrance lobby from 3.00pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Officer and may lead to a penalty fines. Worst cases may escalate to court action. I am sure you will support us in our attempts to improve our pupils' attendance figures.

### **Spanish Lessons**

As in previous years, Spanish will be taught to children in our Key Stage 2 classes. Mrs Montse Comas, a Spanish Specialist teacher, will be teaching Years 3 to 6 weekly Spanish lessons for the rest of the year.

Younger classes will have the opportunities to sample a little Spanish, but will start dedicated lessons when they reach Year 3.

### **Music Tuition**

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, and they are interested in learning to play a musical instrument, please note the following information from the Hertfordshire Music Service.

Students receiving Free School Meals and/or other benefits while living in attending school in Hertfordshire may be able to receive financial support for instrumental or vocal lessons with Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS). We also support children in the care of Hertfordshire County Council

The local authority's financial support is available for students in Year 3 and above for instrumental or vocal lessons with Hertfordshire Music Service between September 2013 and July 2014. Students will only have financial support for music tuition renewed if the Music Service receives evidence of good attendance and progression in the student's learning

### **Water Bottles**

We now 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.

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.purwell.herts.sch.uk)

### Dates for Autumn Term 2013

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

#### September

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> PSA AGM (8pm in Community Room)  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Governing Body Meeting

#### October

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Braiswick in for individual photos  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Parent Consultations (early)  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations (late)

*28<sup>th</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> November* *Half term*

#### November

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Years 5 and 6 residential journey to Kingswood

#### December

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Occasional Day  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Class Party Day  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 1.20pm Christmas and certificate assembly. Term ends at 2.00pm.

### Spring Term 2014

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January School closed for Inset Day  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January Pupils return to school  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February School Closed for Inset Day  
17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February Half-term  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March School closed for Inset Day  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April Last day of term

### Summer Term 2014

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April Pupils return to school  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May May Bank Holiday  
26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May Half-term  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June School closed for Inset Day  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July Last day of term

## School Uniform

The school uniform should be worn by all children from Reception to Year 6, as it fosters a sense of belonging. Children should arrive for school clean and presentable.

Items of school uniform are sold at very reasonable prices and can be purchased through the school office. These include: sweatshirts, fleeces, cardigans, coats, dresses, PE kits, navy PE sweatshirts and jogging bottoms, caps and book bags.

The uniform is as follows:

### BOY'S UNIFORM

Long or short grey school trousers  
White shirt or polo shirt (must be worn tucked in)  
Purwell school sweatshirt  
Black or grey socks  
Optional, blue school fleece

Flat, black school shoes for outside  
Soft soled black plimsolls for inside

### Summer

Blue caps

Footwear, as above

### Physical Education

Navy shorts and Purwell school white T-shirt. Trainers (these are to remain in school at all times).

### Physical Education (winter, juniors)

Navy track suit or jogging pants.

### GIRL'S UNIFORM

Grey skirt or pinafore or grey school trousers  
White blouse or polo shirt (must be worn tucked in)  
Purwell school cardigan or sweatshirt  
Grey tights or white socks  
Optional, blue school fleece

Flat, black school shoes for outside  
Soft soled black plimsolls for inside

### Summer

Blue/white dress

Blue caps

Footwear, as above

### Physical Education

Navy shorts and Purwell school white T-shirt. Trainers (these are to remain in school at all times).

### Physical Education (winter, juniors)

Navy track suit or jogging pants.

- **Jewellery**, one pair of stud earrings may be worn to school. For safety reasons, earrings will have to be removed or covered with surgical tape during physical education lessons. Watches are permitted and advisable.
- **Makeup** and nail varnish must be removed before school and no visible body art.
- **Hair** must be tied back and off the face. Hairstyles must be appropriate - shaved designs are not allowed.
- **Swimming**: When your child goes swimming, they need to remember their kit each week: towel, girls - one piece swimsuit and boys - trunks (which do not go below the knee) and goggles if possible. For health and safety reasons earrings need removing.
- **Please name all your child's possessions, as this saves a great deal of teaching time if items are mislaid.**