



Purwell Primary School

12th September 2017

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** ☺

We hope you all had a lovely break, during a hotter than expected summer, and are ready 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, curriculum information and home/school agreement

This 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. Also included, will be an updated copy of the home/school expectations document, which is to be read and kept for reference.

Take One Author

As a change to the usual whole school picture topic, which we traditionally begin the year with, all classes have been taking part in **Take One Author**. Classes have been studying the work of best-selling, children's author, James Mayhew. As an extra treat, Mr Mayhew will be visiting the school next Monday, 18th September, to see what work the children have produced.

New faces for 2017-18

At the start of this new academic year, we welcome our new members of staff to Purwell.

You will be aware of some of the new staff, already. We have a new teacher, Miss Thomson with Holly Class. Mrs Nicholls is our new Teaching Assistant in Acorn Class. Miss Lilley has begun work this term, as our new PE Apprentice, and Mr Chalkley is our new IT Apprentice.

Zoolab and Zooper Learning Powers

This term, Monday assemblies will make reference to something called Zooper Learning Power. We will be discovering how we learn best, and link some of the learning to the characters in the Disney film, *Zootropolis*. We have begun by looking at the learning power of resourcefulness.

This has coincided, neatly, with a visit from our friends at Zoolab, who brought us a selection of minibeasts and reptiles for us to see. All the children had the opportunity to have a workshop with Zoolab and to experience these amazing creatures close-up.

Register for Universal Infant Free School Meals

ALL families with children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 need to register for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) online

at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals as soon as possible after the start of the new term. It is a quick and easy process. If you are in receipt of any benefits, your child may also be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), which is based on family income, and should not be confused with UIFSM. Eligibility for FSM opens up to you a further range of benefits, including free school milk and FSM for any older children you may have. In addition, the school attracts a sum of money, called Pupil Premium Grant, for each child eligible for FSM. This funding is used to offer extra tuition, activities and enrichment opportunities for children in receipt of FSM.

Please register your child for UIFSM at your earliest convenience, but definitely by Friday 22nd September, so as to ensure that you do not miss out on any benefits, and the school can fund further opportunities for relevant pupils.

Free School Meals (FSM)

If you are on any benefits, your children may be eligible for FSM. Registering for UIFSM will identify pupils in Reception and Years 1 and 2. However, you will need to apply separately for pupils in Years 3 - 6. You should complete the appropriate form on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to apply.

PSA AGM, Thursday 14th September, 8pm

You are all invited to the PSA AGM, this Thursday at 8pm in Purwell Community Room. Come along to hear about the events of the last year and share your ideas for the future. We will also be electing the new committee members.

Entering the school grounds safely

On entering and leaving the school premises, we ask that parents use either of the pedestrian gates, at both ends of the school. Parents and pupils should not use the main gate into the car park, as it is a vehicle only access point and is dangerous to all pedestrians.

School meals

School meals now cost £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week. Cheques should be made payable to *Hertfordshire Catering Ltd*, or payment can be made on School Gateway.

Local trips

In addition to saving paper with our move to electronic newsletters, we also intend to cut back on the paper we use for sending letters home.

Next week, we will send a generic letter seeking permission, for the year, for all local trips out of school the classes may make. These will be for trips locally and where the trip takes place within the school day i.e. between 8:50am and 3:15pm. You will, of course, be notified, in advance, of when each visit is to be made. This money-saving idea has been offered by a parent and we are keen to give it a go.

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

You can keep up to date with what's going on via Twitter. As it is a closed group, you will need to contact the school, with your Twitter user name, in order to be accepted. Also, the new, and improved, website will be launched within the next few weeks.

Get Caught Reading

Our Get Caught Reading challenge will be ending this Friday, 15th September. Please send any photos in to the school office for the attention of Mrs Ison or email them to tison@purwell.herts.sch.uk. We look forward to receiving your pictures. Thank you.

Macmillan Cake Sale

We will be supporting MacMillan again this year by hosting a cake sale on Thursday 28th September. We would really appreciate it if you could bake or buy cakes for the children to buy at play time. Please can all donations be sent into school, with your child, on the morning of the sale. All cakes will be sold at 50p.

Parent workshop - Relax Kids Classes

Every Wednesday, 13th September to 18th October and 1st November to 6th December, at Hampson Park Community Centre, Webb Rise, Stevenage, SG1 5QU

Classes for ages 5 - 11years: 4.30 - 5.15pm

Help your child to: Relax and be calm, feel confident, focus and concentrate, be imaginative, develop creativity and sleep better.

Classes include: Movement and Dance, Drama games, stretching exercises, Self/peer - massage, Breathing exercises, Positive affirmations and mindfulness and relaxation

£30 for 6 sessions For bookings contact: Jane 07962 238880 or Anne 07776 201875

or email: relaxkidshertfordshire@gmail.com

Helping parents to safeguard their children.

Conference and workshops run by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, Saturday 14th October 10am - 2pm Stevenage - Hertfordshire Development Centre.

Dates for Autumn Term 2017 - please transfer dates to diaries and calendars at home.

Monday 2 nd October	Braiswick in for individual photos
Thursday 28 th September	Macmillan Cake Sale (10:30am)
Thursday 12 th October	Harvest assembly (2pm)
Wednesday 18 th October	Parent Consultations (late)
Thursday 19 th October	Parent Consultations (early)
23rd - 27th October	Half term
Sunday 5 th November	Kingswood party departs
Friday 10 th November	Kingswood Party returns
Friday 1 st December	School Closed for INSET Day
Monday 11 th December	EYFS/Key Stage 1 production Christmas (family) - Afternoon
	EYFS/Key Stage 1 production - Evening
Tuesday 12 th December	Key Stage 2 production Christmas (family) - Afternoon
	Key Stage 2 production - Evening
Friday 15 th December	1:20pm Christmas assembly and certificates
	Last day of term. Term ends at 2:00pm

Rest of academic year - 2018

Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 3rd January

School Closed for INSET Day

Thursday 4th January

Pupils return to school for start of Spring Term

12th - 16th February

Half term

Thursday 29th March

Last day of term. **Term ends at 2:00pm**

Summer Term 2018

Tuesday 16th April

School Closed for INSET Day

Tuesday 17th April

Pupils return to school for start of Summer Term

28th May - 1st June

Half term

Friday 13th July

School closed for INSET Day

Thursday 26th July

Last day of term. **Term ends at 2:00pm**

Friday 27th July

School closed for Occasional Day