



**Newsletter**  
**26th September 2017**

*Thought for the day: 'The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn. ~ John Lubbock*

**Take One Author**

We have had a great two weeks, producing work around the books of best-selling, children's author, James Mayhew. Some of the children's work will be on display in the classrooms, so why not drop in and take a look?

**Contact details and curriculum information**

You should have received a copy of the contact details form we hold for your child. If you have not done so already, please check this form, amend as appropriate, sign and return to school as soon as possible.

**Harvest assembly - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

The harvest assembly will take place on **Thursday 12th October at 2pm** in the school hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend this service. Donations of produce should be brought into school either the day before, or on the morning of, the assembly. These items will be distributed amongst the senior citizens living in our community on the Friday. The school holds a list of senior citizens in the area. Please let us know of any new senior citizens who have moved into the area, or of any who have not received harvest gifts from us before, but would like to do so now. Pupils are invited to decorate a shoebox and bring it to school to be used to distribute our harvest gifts.

**Annual Photographs**

Next Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the school photographer will be visiting to take photos of the children. Samples of these photos will follow and be made available parents who may wish to purchase them. As well as individual photos, where there are siblings in school, a photo will be taken of the family group. If you have children of pre-school age whom you wish to have photographed with your school-age children, please bring all the children to the school hall, from 8.30am that day.

**Parent Teacher Consultations**

These will take place on:

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October until 7.00pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October until 6.00pm

Booking forms for these consultations will be in the entrance lobby from 3.00pm this Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, for all pupils, from Nursery to Year 6. In the past, only parents of Nursery pupils in their first term of Nursery were invited to parent teacher consultations. This has been extended to include all Nursery pupils.

**Book Fair**

The Travelling Book Company 'book fair' is in school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, to coincide with Parent Consultation evenings. It will be open from 3.20pm until 4pm on these days for you and your child to come and visit. Please support us, as the commission goes towards new books for school.

### **PSA fund safety equipment for school**

A big thank you to the PSA which has funded a new set of walkie talkies for the school. These valuable communication devices help the staff stay in contact with the lunchtime duty staff on the playgrounds. They are also used by staff in times of emergency.

### **Morning Reading and Maths for Acorn, Holly and Willow Classes**

Parents are warmly invited to come in and share learning with their children, each Wednesday, from 8.50 to 9.15am. These sessions have already begun and it will be nice to see as many parents there as possible.

### **School Meals**

A reminder that school meals should be paid for in advance. The cost for those in Years 3 - 6 is £2.40 per day (£12 per week). You can pay for meals online, on the School Gateway, or via the school office. Cheques should be made payable to *Hertfordshire Catering Ltd.*

### **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](http://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 as soon as possible, if you have not done so already, so as to ensure that you do not miss out on any benefits, and the school can fund further opportunities for relevant pupils. **At the end of this week, funding will be allocated to the school based on the information on the website.**

### **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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) to apply.

### **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)**

A reminder that parents of children in Nursery should have, by now, completed the EYPP form. If you have not yet done so, please return it this week. You should also bring your child's birth certificate or passport to the school office as proof of eligibility for Nursery education.

### **Flu immunisation consent form - Reception and Years 1, 2, 3 and 4**

The School Nurse will be coming to school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to administer flu immunisations to children in the above classes. Consent forms for the flu immunisation will be collected during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> October. If parents of children in Reception or Years 1, 2, 3 or 4 want their child to be immunised, the consent form must be here by the end of school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, to ensure that it is available for collection the following week. Please note that the nursing team will not accept consent forms on the day.

### **Macmillan Cake Sale**

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

### **Parking**

We have received a couple of complaints from local residents, who have had their driveways blocked by parents dropping their children at school, or collecting them at the end of the school day. I would urge you to please be considerate of our neighbours when parking your car.

### **PSA Committee and Class Reps**

Thank you to all those who attended the AGM, especially to those who had not attended in previous years. If you would like to see a copy of the minutes, the Chair's Report or the Treasurer's Report, they are on the Facebook page, or speak to Mrs Drury and she will get a copy to you! The new elected committee members are:

Chair - Rachel Drury  
Vice-Chair - Kathryn Harper  
Secretary - Emma Rook  
Treasurer - Mark Drury  
Vice-treasurer - Amanda Campbell-Phillips  
Marketing Officer - Eddy Selby  
Licensing Officer - Michelle Watson

This year's class reps:

Nursery - Kirsten Barnett  
Reception - Heather Haslam  
Holly - Dawn Wood  
Willow - Sonja Edes  
Beech - Jo Graham  
Maple -  
Aspen - Natasha/Kevin Regan  
Oak - Jo Atkinson

Thank you to all those who volunteered. If you are a Maple Class parent and would be prepared to be the class rep for the year, or would like to find out more about what it involves, please let Mrs Drury know.

### **PSA Dates for your diary**

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	PSA Meeting at the Millstream, at 8pm.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Disco: Key Stage 1/Foundation Stage: 3.30pm-5pm, Key Stage 2: 5.30pm-7pm.
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Family Bingo Night: 5pm-8pm.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair 12pm-2pm.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring Disco: Key Stage 1/Foundation Stage: 3.30pm-5pm, Key Stage 2: 5.30pm-7pm.

### **Olympic Legacy Event**

Last Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup> September), Team Purwell came home with an impressive haul of medals. A group of 30 pupils from Years 5 and 6 were taken to an Olympic Legacy event at Knights Templar School in Baldock. After taking part in a torch-relay, as part of the Opening Ceremony, our team competed against schools from across North Herts. The

variety of events included, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, netball, table-tennis, boccia and handball. Our sporting teams performed admirably, winning gold medals for netball, boccia and table tennis and taking silver in handball. Other pupils took on the roles of journalists, reporting on events, whilst others worked in creative teams, promoting the events, and another group of pupils choreographed and performed a dance routine for the closing ceremony! Well done all!

### **Early Season Football**

The football season has kicked-off in style and our Boys' and Girls' teams have already put in some impressive performances. Having received a special invitation to represent Hitchin, Purwell took part in the Pix Cup tournament, held last Friday (22<sup>nd</sup> September) at Pixmore School in Letchworth. Our team put in some super performances against the highest quality of opposition from Letchworth, Baldock and Stevenage, again finishing as medal-winners.

Participation in girls' football remains incredibly high at Purwell and, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, we took two teams of girls to play friendlies at Wilshere-Dacre School. It is a remarkable achievement that a one-form entry school, such as ours, continues to be able to field two separate teams, and our girls, many of whom were playing their first ever school match, played brilliantly. Although Wilshere-Dacre narrowly edged both matches, we were very proud of all of the players. This Saturday (30<sup>th</sup> September), our girls will be playing other Hitchin Schools at an Early Season Rally. They are very excited about this and we will let you know how they get on in our next newsletter. Good luck, girls!

### **Naming uniform**

We are delighted at the standard of school uniform at the start of this year, and would like to thank parents for their efforts. However, the lost property box is starting to fill with items that are not named and are unclaimed. Please remember to write children's names in all items that have the potential to be lost.

### **Signposting parent workshops and useful SEN websites**

#### **Autism Parent Advice Line (Communications and Autism Team (CAT))**

If you would like to discuss an issue about a child or young person with Autism or social communication difficulties, please call 01707 320697. The advice line will run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 1.30pm and 4pm during term-time.

Monthly newsletters from HAND can also be found at:  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews)

#### **Educational Psychology Service (EPS)**

Contactline, (01992 588574) is a quick queries service that runs two days a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) during term-time and Wednesdays during holiday times, from 2pm-4.30pm.

#### **Hitchin Partnership - Delivering Specialist Provision Locally (DSPL)**

<http://nhdspl.org.uk/>

Please look at this website in order to access information locally. The DSPL often runs courses for parents of children with special educational needs.