

Purwell Primary School
10th September 2020

*Thought for the day: 'Resilience. Don't leave home without it.
You were born with a bounce-back ability'. Ty Howard*

Welcome back

We are back to school! It feels wonderful to write that after the difficult months we have endured over lockdown.

It has been wonderful to see the children back again, breathing life into the school building once more. It has also been delightful to see the parents skipping freely out of the school gates every morning - I'm sure you appreciate having the extra time back again, to get on with what you need to do.

The school operates differently now, as you know, but the children and staff are settling into the new routines. My access to class bubbles is limited now, but I have seen the children in work and play and they seem much happier this week: worries and anxieties ebbing away. All good signs.

Staggered start and end times

The staggered start and end times of the day seem to be working very well. However, parents can help us further by ensuring that they do not hang around the playground after dropping their children off. Equally, at the end of the day please leave the premises promptly so as not to overlap with another class's collection 'window'. Obviously, this does not apply to parents of children in several classes, as you will need to remain on the playgrounds.

Contact details, curriculum information and home/school agreement

Soon, you will receive 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.

New faces on the staff for 2020-21

At the start of this new academic year, we welcome our new members of staff to Purwell. We have two new apprentices in school, Mr Morris and Miss Makarzicka. We wish them well.

Sadly, over the break we said goodbye to Mrs Snaith, Mrs Yates and, from the kitchen, Mrs Arnold. We look forward to welcoming them back for a proper goodbye, from the school, when restrictions are eased, and guidance allows.

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 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 Monday 21st September, so as to ensure that you do not miss out on any benefits, and the school can fund further opportunities for relevant pupils.

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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.

School meals

School meals now cost £2.65 per day, £13.25 per week. Cheques should be made payable to *Hertfordshire Catering Ltd*, or payment can be made on *School Gateway*.

Menu change

There is a change from the advertised menu. Next week, in Week 3 of the menu, the beef option on Wednesday 16th September will be a beef burger.

PSA news

The AGM will be held on Thursday 24th September, at 8pm. It will be broadcast via Zoom and, if you wish to join in the meeting, please inform your class rep. If you do not know who that might be, then please email the following address for more information - purwell.school.association@gmail.com

The PSA has also set up an Amazon smile account for the Purwell School Association and has broadcast this link on its Facebook page. Using this system, any time anybody purchases from Amazon, a small percentage goes to our charity.

Here is the link if you want to help:

https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/dashboard?ref=_nav_yas_m_gw_ft

Sports Day

With the Sports Day having to be cancelled in the summer, we face the prospect of not holding the annual event for the first time. Sports Day is always a popular and celebratory occasion, so Miss Saville, along with Mr Hart, is keen to do something before the autumnal weather arrives. Plans are being created to hold a sports day for Years 1 to 6, with the 6 classes moving around the field on a carousel of 6 activities, within their class bubbles. Unfortunately, restrictions would mean that parents would not be able to join us, however, staff and children coming together in a whole school celebration would do everyone the world of good. It would also re-establish the community identity of the school that we value so much and create a feeling of togetherness. No date has yet been set for the event, but parents will be informed as soon as we have one. On the day, pupils will be able to come to school dressed in their PE kits and wear them throughout the day.

Winter sports wear

As the autumn term progresses, days will become chillier. With that in mind, please can you ensure that your child has a winter PE kit with them in school. This will consist of navy tracksuit top and bottoms. These can be purchased through either Beats Uniform Shop (with school logo) or, at selected supermarkets (without the school logo).



E-Safety warning.

A reminder to parents that the age rating for the platform TikTok is 16 years plus. TikTok has been in the news recently, as inappropriate material has been published. Please ensure that your children do not use this app.

Symptoms of Covid information sheet for parents

With this newsletter email you will have received a document which clearly outlines what you should do if your, or anyone in your household, starts to display Covid symptoms. We recommend that this document is printed off and kept as a handy reference.

Please close the gates

A couple of times the pedestrian gates have been found open after drop-off. Please could you ensure the gates are closed after you leave.

Water bottles

To save on plastic cups at school, please can you ensure that children have their own water bottle in school with them.

Healthy eating

We have noticed some lunch boxes have an excess of chocolate, biscuits and crisps in them. Please can you ensure that your child brings with them a healthy and nutritious lunch, each day.

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

You can keep up to date with what is going on via Twitter. As it is a closed group, you will need to contact the school, with your Twitter username, in order to be accepted.

Dates for the Autumn term

Please note that many dates are provisional (P)

Thursday 8th October

Harvest assembly (P)

Wednesday 21st October

Parent Consultations (early) (P)

Thursday 22nd October

Parent Consultations (late) (P)

26th-30th October - Half term

Friday 4th December

School closed for Occasional Day

Tuesday 15th December

Afternoon - EYFS/Key Stage 1 Christmas production (family) (P)

Evening - EYFS/Key Stage 1 production (P)

Wednesday 16th December

Afternoon - Key Stage 2 Christmas production (family) (P)

Evening - Key Stage 2 production (P)

Friday 18th December

1:20pm Christmas assembly (P)

Term ends at 2:00pm

Free Parenting Workshops

Family Lives are delivering 3 different online programmes this term funded by HCC and delivered through MS Teams:

1. Bringing Up Confident Children for Parents of Children aged 5 to 13 with ADHD (1 x 6-week group)
2. Bringing Up Confident Children for Parents of Children aged 5 to 15 with SEN (1 x 8-week group)
3. Getting on with your Pre-teen/Teen for parents of children aged 10 to 16 (3 x 6-week groups on different days/times)

Attached to the email you received is an outline of each of the programmes and a self-referral form for parents.

Programme	Times	Day	Dates
Bringing Up Confident Children for Parents of Children aged 5 to 13 with SEN	12.30 - 2.30pm	Thursday	1, 8, 15 & 22 Oct & 5, 12, 19 & 26 November 2020
Bringing Up Confident Children for Parents of Children aged 5 to 13 with ADHD	12.30 - 2.30pm	Monday	9, 16, 23, 30 Nov & 7, 14 December 2020
Getting on with your Pre-teen/Teen for parents of children aged 10 to 16	7.00 - 9.00pm	Wednesday	7, 14, 21 Oct & 4,11,18 November 2020
Getting on with your Pre-teen/Teen for parents of children aged 10 to 16	7.00 – 9.00pm	Thursday	12,19,26 November and 3,10,17 December 2020
Getting on with your Pre-teen/Teen for parents of children aged 10 to 16	9.30 - 11.30am	Friday	13, 20 & 27 November & 4, 11 & 18 December 2020