

'Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.' - Benjamin Franklin

### Feeling Good Week

This week is our 'Feeling Good Week' at Purwell. This is part of a Hertfordshire-wide event that encourages schools and the wider community to promote children and young people's emotional wellbeing, by raising awareness of mental health and showing where support can be accessed within the community.

In their classes, pupils will enjoy a diverse programme of planned activities that promote 'feeling good'. In yesterday's assembly, pupils explored the difference between 'mind full' and 'mindful'. Guided by Mr Cano, the whole school had an opportunity to explore some useful mindfulness techniques, including some breathing techniques that are already being used, beneficially, by some pupils in the school.

### Greatest Learning Powers

In addition to our mindfulness programme, we also teach the children about how they learn best. In doing so, we seek to equip them with the skills and knowledge which will help them become independent learners for life.

At the end of this newsletter is a quick outline of Building Learning Power, which the children also recognise as Greatest Learning Powers. Why not ask the children about them and perhaps you can refer to them at home, too?

### PSA Spring Disco, this Friday, tickets on sale

Don't forget to get your tickets for the School Disco this Friday!

The EYFS & Key Stage 1 Disco is from 3.15-5.00pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult, preschool aged children welcome, free of charge. The Key Stage 2 Disco is from 5.30-7.00pm

Tickets are on sale in the school office now. Alternatively, you can pay for them by bank transfer, please ask either Mrs Tart or Mrs Campbell-Phillips for details.

The ever-popular Teddy Tombola will be held again at the Key Stage 1 disco, so if you would like to donate teddies or soft toys, please bring them in to school on Friday morning.

As always, to make the event a success, lots of helpers are needed, so please sign up on the doodle poll here: <https://doodle.com/poll/qcva6uxvdv7iasaw>

### Maths competition success

Huge congratulations to our Year 5 Maths team which took part in the Hertfordshire Maths Challenge held at Hartsfield School in Baldock on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Living up to its name, it certainly was a challenge and tested each team's Maths skills in various contexts - even the adults struggled with some of the questions! When the final scores were calculated, Purwell was placed in a highly creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> position, just a single point behind 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Purwell also tasted success in a '12 Days of Christmaths' competition that was open to all KS1 pupils from across Hertfordshire. Annabel, in Holly Class, amazed the judges with her solution to a positional language problem called 'Where is the present?' to win the whole competition. Fantastic work everyone!

### Payments to the office

We would be grateful, when trips letters go home, if parents could give us a prompt reply, with permission slips and payments. This helps the school make decisions on the financial viability of running the trip. It would also be helpful if, where possible, the correct change is provided for cash payments.

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### **School uniform**

You may remember that we have been having some issues with our uniform supplier. A change of supplier has been agreed. You will be able to order online or through the local shop. A leaflet, giving full details, will be sent home soon.

### **School lunches**

There are some lunch accounts which have small, but long-standing, amounts on them. In these cases, statements will be sent home this week. It would be appreciated if these can be settled at the earliest possible opportunity.

### **Sports update**

Despite the recent poor weather, it's still been a busy half term of sport for Team Purwell.

Football matches have resumed, after the winter break, with our A-Team footballers recording a terrific win in a league game against St. Andrews, whilst our Girls' Team was narrowly defeated in a keenly contested Wix Cup Quarter Final match with Ickleford. Continuing with football, three of our A-Team players have been selected to play for the Hitchin District Schools' Representative team this season. Congratulations to Oscar, Isaac and Blaine for their achievements.

Our netballers resumed their fixtures yesterday, travelling to Samuel Lucas for their first fixture of the Spring Term. A brilliant team performance saw Purwell claim a 6-3 win against a very talented Samuel Lucas team. The improvement in the speed of passing and the quality of footwork was noticeable, and the encouragement shown throughout was commendable.

At the recent Sports Hall Athletics Competition, held at Highfield School, Letchworth our team of Year 5 and 6 pupils performed admirably across a range of running, jumping and throwing events. Team Purwell put in a spirited performance, with the Boys' Team finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and our Girls' Team in 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 6 schools that entered. As a result of its 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish, the Boys' Team has been invited to attend the Sports Hall Finals on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Well done to all of those who took part in this event and a massive 'thank-you' to all of the parents who came along to cheer our team on.

Our Year 4 Cup Stackers are practising hard for their competition this week and our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 gymnasts are busy rehearsing routines for a forthcoming gymnastics competition. Miss Saville and Mr Hart have been very impressed with the commitment shown and we look forward to seeing how they get on.

Next half term promises to be even busier. As well as the aforementioned Gymnastics competition, there are also several football rallies and a quick sticks hockey tournament taking place. Other events are sure to be added, too. We will keep you updated!

### **Key Stage 2 Grassed Areas**

The grassed areas outside the Key Stage 2 classrooms remain cordoned off, to give the grass a chance to grow and to avoid too much mud being brought into the building. Please encourage your child to use the steps and paths.

### **Healthy Snacks**

Please make sure that any snacks that the children bring in as part of their packed lunches are healthy. Also, please remember that anything containing nuts is not allowed.

## Dates for Spring Term 2019

Please ensure that these dates are in your diaries.

Half term - 18th to 22nd February

Wednesday 27th Feb	Year 3 swimming begins
Tuesday 5th March	Gymnastics Competition NHC Theatre Group (pm)
Wednesday 13th March	Mathlon at Fearnhill School, Year 5 Football Rally, at Whitehill School, Year 4
Friday 15th March	School closed for INSET Day
Tuesday 26th March	Quick-sticks Hockey at Hitchin Boys' School
Wednesday 27th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 28th March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 3rd April	Football Rally, at Highover, Year 4
Friday 5th April	Easter Certificate Assembly (1.20pm) End of term (2.00pm)

## Building Learning Power (Greatest Learning Powers)

### What is Building Learning Power?

Lifelong learning is our birth right. We can continually develop our capacity to learn in new and challenging circumstances throughout our life. In the developing field of learning to learn, research suggests that there are several broad dispositions that we need to develop in order to become successful lifelong learners.

They are not fixed at birth, or when we leave school. They can be developed in everyone, regardless of current ability or age. There are no limits to extending our learning power. We have introduced these dispositions to the children at school. Just as we can build our physical muscles by the right kind of exercise, we can also exercise our learning muscles to develop strength and stamina. There are a number of learning behaviours, which we call learning capacities. These are summarised below. Because learning capacities are specific in nature, they can be individually trained, nurtured and exercised.

- Managing Distractions - recognising and reducing interruptions.
- Noticing - concentrating hard and really sensing what is out there in learning.
- Perseverance - not giving up when learning is hard; understanding the feelings of learning when things are a challenge.
- Resourcefulness - Being ready, willing and ready to learn in different ways - using both internal and external resources effectively; calling on different ways of learning, as appropriate.
- Questioning - asking questions of yourself and others. Being curious, playing with situations and delving beneath the surface of things.
- Making Links - making connections between consolidated and new learning - building patterns and weaving a web of understanding.
- Reasoning - calling up your logical and rational skills to work things out methodically and rigorously. Constructing good arguments.
- Capitalising - Making good use of, and drawing on a full range of, resources from school and the wider world.
- Reflecting - Being ready and willing to become more strategic about learning - taking a longer-term view by planning, taking stock and drawing out your experiences as a learner, to get the best out of yourself. Your reflectiveness is made up of:
  - Planning - working out learning in advance. Planning learning.
  - Editing - monitoring and adapting along the way. Being flexible, changing your plans, monitoring and reviewing your learning
- Meta learning - knowing yourself as a learner - how you learn best. How to talk about the learning process.
- Collaboration - the skills of learning with others. Respecting and recognising other points of view. Adding to and drawing from the strength of teams.

Questions you could ask:

Why not ask your children 'how have you learned at school today' or you might ask, 'which of the learning powers have you used today?' or 'what good questions did you ask in your learning today?'

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