

*Thought for the day: 'What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace. - Agnes M. Pharo*

### **Sad staff departures**

Last week we announced to parents that after 20 years of service to Purwell Primary School, Stella Barnes will be leaving us at Easter to take early retirement. On behalf of all of us, I want to wish her a long and happy retirement with her husband Pete and their family.

At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Tulloch, our SENCO. Next term, we will welcome Mrs Mullan as her replacement.

### **Christmas Party Day**

This Thursday, each class will be having a class party afternoon, to celebrate Christmas and the end of term. Teachers will be sending further information out to parents, nearer the time, for what parents can help to provide. All parties will be held within the class bubbles and will be Covid-safe. Please note: This will also be a wear a Christmas jumper, or non-uniform, day. **Nursery parents**, please note that Nursery pupils should attend in the afternoon of party day and not the morning, ie, 1.00 - 3.25pm.

### **Sharing Christmas cards**

This year, we are allowing Christmas cards to be shared, but ask that they are limited to class bubbles only, i.e. pupils can give cards to the children and staff within their class bubble.

### **Christmas productions**

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our usual Christmas productions this year. Like Harvest, however, each class is making its own Christmas video which will be emailed to parents.

### **School lunch menu**

With this newsletter, you will receive a copy of the menu for the Spring term. Unfortunately, we are still not able to offer our normal range of hot meals, as children will still be eating in the classroom, in their class bubbles. The menu itself is the same as this term, but the dates have been updated.

### **PSA news**

This year, we will be asking for **Christmas jumper** donations, that your children have grown out of, to be put up on the PSA Facebook page, so that someone else in the school could benefit from it. This may be by receiving it for free or through an optional donation to the PSA. Then, in turn, if a jumper comes up that you require, you simply comment beneath the jumper picture on the website and arrange for collection. This will be in preparation for a **non-uniform day on 17th December**.

Christmas **non-uniform day**, or wear a Christmas jumper, this Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December. Opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper /attire/own clothes for £1 donation.

All the PSA event donations can be paid online as an option:

Purwell School Association

Sc 090129 ac 37165077

Thanks to the parents' generosity, the PSA has made the following monies on recent events:

Christmas Shop £66

Smarties £118.15

Raffle £219

£199.50 from the Christmas cards

£96.80 from yesterday's cake sale!

Thank you to all the parents with small businesses that donated prizes to our 12 days of Christmas raffle

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Also, a reminder that the virtual Christmas jumper swap is still going on until Thursday night on the Facebook page.

A very Happy Christmas from the PSA!

### **Covid-19 Procedures over Christmas**

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate.

During the holidays, you should email [admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk) and your child's teacher. These will only be monitored until Christmas Eve as, after this point, your child(ren) should not be a close contact of anyone at the school. Please do not call the school phone line as this will not be covered during Christmas break.

**Remember, as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test, regardless of it being Christmas.**

### **Main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

### **Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:**

- They have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- They, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19.
- They have not completed the full 10-day isolation period requested.

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide)

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### **Online Safety**

A reminder to parents about safeguarding children and keeping children safe on social media. Please ask the permission from a child's parents before any information about their child is put on Facebook or any other social media platform.

### **Request from the caretaker**

Mr McCalman, the school's caretaker, is looking for a 44-gallon drum to use in the quiet garden. If you have one and would be willing to donate it to the school, please get in touch with the school office.

### **A message from Vaccination UK**

If your child has still not received their Fluenz Vaccine nasal spray, it is not too late to have it. It is important to keep your children, family members and the wider community protected this Winter from the Flu virus.

Please can you call 01462 34117 to book your child an appointment to have their Flu Vaccine.

### **Dates for the Autumn term**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

PSA Wear a Christmas jumper/ Non uniform day

Class party afternoon

***Term ends at the current, staggered collection time for your child's class.***

### **Spring Term 2021**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

School closed for Inset Day

Pupils return to school

Half-term

Parent consultations evening

Parent consultations evening

Last day of term

### **Summer Term 2021**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

31<sup>st</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> June

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

School closed for Inset Day

Pupils return to school

May Bank Holiday

Half-term

School closed for Inset Day

School closed for Inset Day

Last day of term

***Merry Christmas to you all***



**Spring Term begins on Tuesday 5th January 2021**

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