

**Thought for the day:** "When we are children, we seldom think of the future. This innocence leaves us free to enjoy ourselves as few adults can. The day we fret about the future is the day we leave our childhood behind". -Patrick Rothfuss

☺ **Welcome back to a new school year** ☺

We hope you all have had a lovely break with your children and are looking forward to what promises to be an exciting year at school.

I am delighted with how positively the children have returned to school displaying 'can-do' attitudes and I would like to thank all of our parents for preparing their children so well for the new term.

The children deserve nothing less than to have the experienced team of teachers and support staff here at Purwell School, to support them through the year to come. With the excellent provision that we have, we can allow ourselves to have the highest of expectations for the forthcoming year.

**Curriculum information and home/school agreement**

In the next few days, you will receive details of the Autumn Term curriculum. Also, you will receive a parental permission form, which needs to be completed and signed and returned to the office.

**Homework expectations**

Here are the expectations that we have about pupils completing homework this year. Homework will be set on a Friday and is due in on the following Thursday. Weekly homework will consist of:

1. Daily reading-

Please spend at least 10 minutes a day reading and discussing the book with your child. Please comment/sign your child's reading record each time you read. At least 3 times per week as a minimum!

2. Maths-

KS1 and KS2- Children will be given a CGP Maths Homework book. Teachers will assign work from the book, which supports the learning in class. The children will complete the work in the book and return each Thursday.

3. Times tables practice.

For Year 3 and Year 4, this will be via Timetables Rockstars.

4. Spellings-

Spellings will be set weekly for all children in Years 1 to 6. This will consist of a spelling list to learn, linked to the week's spelling rule or pattern, plus key statutory words the children need to learn.

5. Optional, extra topic work-

Pupils in KS2 can complete activities on Purple Mash, linked to their current learning.

Don't forget, homework club is available to all pupils and runs every Thursday lunchtime, 12:30 to 1pm, in the library.

Parental support with homework is a crucial part of academic progress. We recognise the importance of it and so welcome all parental engagement with these key areas. Further details about homework appear at the end of this newsletter.

**The Purwell Way**

This year the school is going through something of a rebrand. With the launch of our new refined curriculum, we are creating an innovative shared way of working that matches the distinct character of Purwell School and its wider community. We are calling this *The Purwell Way*.

In the newsletter this term, parents can expect to learn more about this approach, including our new behaviour curriculum, which sets out the rules and routines that we will explicitly teach pupils in school. We believe this will help to build pupils' character by supporting them to develop the habits and attitudes that will enable them to succeed in later life. Find out more now via this link to our page on the school website. [Purwell Primary School » Behaviour Curriculum](#)



### **Secondary Transfer for Year 6 pupils**

All the information you need is available on the website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). The website has full details about the application process and a school directory providing information about secondary and upper schools in Hertfordshire. Apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). You should visit the website to view admissions information and apply online because: • it is quick, easy to use and secure • you will receive immediate confirmation that your application has been received and you can view it at any time. If you do not have internet access at home, you can apply online from any Hertfordshire library. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31st October 2024.

### **Communicating with teachers**

If you wish to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please do so via the school office at [admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk) or by phoning 01462 432950. Alternatively, if you are able to, you can speak directly with the teacher at the start and the end of each day, before they enter the classroom to start the day, bearing in mind the limited time they have, but it might be long enough to deliver a message, or to arrange a meeting, if necessary.

### **Parking**

We remind parents, from time to time, that parking on the roads close to the school should be considerate to our neighbours.

We advise that, if you are driving, you should park in Wilshere Crescent, or Kingswood Avenue, rather than Fairfield Way, which can become very congested and walk to the school from there. If it cannot be avoided, then parking should always be legal and considerate, as should the speed at which you drive in the vicinity of the school. We thank parents for your support in this matter,

### **Free School Meals (FSM)**

If you are in receipt of 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) or contact Mrs Sharp in the office to apply on your behalf.

### **Clubs update for the Autumn Term**

The Autumn Term is always a busy term for clubs and fixtures, and you will soon receive information to let you know what we will be offering on each day. Please fill in the reply slip and return it to the school office by Friday 13th September so that we can start to put together registers. Unless otherwise stated in the information letter, clubs will start next week (the week beginning Monday 16th September).

Whilst we are hopeful that we can accommodate all choices, we can only offer a certain number of places for each club, and these will be allocated on a 'first-come' basis. We want as many children to be able to benefit from attending our clubs as possible and, as our clubs are so popular, those on the waiting list will be invited to take the places of any children who do not show regular attendance. If your child is given a place but no longer wishes to attend, please let the office know so that this place can be made available.

Mr. Hart, Miss Taylor and Miss Radford have already started contacting other schools to arrange fixtures for football and netball, and we will share details as soon as they are confirmed. Whilst, unavoidably, there will be some clashes between clubs and fixtures we always do our best to limit this as much as possible.

As always, the first event of the term will be the A Team football rally at Wilshere-Dacre this Saturday morning. There is a girls' football rally on Saturday 21st September, also at Wilshere-Dacre, which we hope to take part in and our first A Team football fixture here at Purwell is scheduled to take place after school on Wednesday 25th September (against Samuel Lucas).

Team Purwell can't wait to get started!

### **Newsletter sports dates**

Thursday 3rd October - Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Festival

Tuesday 8th October - Year 3&4 Tag Rugby Festival

A group of children from the class will be attending the festival days of Tag Rugby, organised by the North Herts School Sports Partnership, and supported by Saracens RUFC. Further details and letters to relevant parents / carers to follow later in the month.

### **Join our PRIVATE school Twitter group to get the latest news**

You can keep up to date with what is going on in school via our **private Twitter page**. No pictures or information about the children can be seen by anyone on Twitter who is not part of the private group, you must join the group and only parents of children at Purwell can join. You will need to apply to become a member on the school's Twitter page and then contact the school office, giving them your Twitter username, to have permission to be accepted into the group.

### **PSA News**

The PSA AGM will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm in the Purwell Community Room. All roles will be up for re-election as usual, and we are desperately seeking a new Secretary and Licensing Officer. More information about the Committee roles will come out via school comms in the next week. We need your help to keep the PSA alive!

**ASDA Cashpot for Schools** - Parentkind (the charity that supports school PTAs) have teamed up with Asda, who are making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative - all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot.

So, if you shop at Asda please please opt in- it is separate from your own Cashpot, so you won't lose out on anything!

### **Dates for your diary:**

- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Halloween Disco - tbc

**PSA communications** - to keep up to date with all things PSA please join the **Facebook Group** ("Purwell School Association") and make sure you are on your class **WhatsApp group**. If you are new to the school and not sure who your Class Rep is, please email [purwell.school.association@gmail.com](mailto:purwell.school.association@gmail.com) and we will help!

**Purwell Party Pack** - Don't forget if you have a party coming up soon, we our awesome party pack available to hire. It contains plates, bowls, cups, cutlery, jugs, serving plates and bunting! £5 per hire + £1 damage deposit. Email the PSA to book!

**Next PSA meeting (AGM) - Wednesday 25th September, 8pm, Purwell Community Room**

## Dates for Autumn Term 2024

### September

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Boys football rally at Wilshere Dacre  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Girls football rally at Wilshere Dacre  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Football match V Samuel Lucas

### October

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Festival  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Year 3&4 Tag Rugby Festival  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Braiswick photographer taking individual and family portraits  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Parent Consultations  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations  
**28<sup>th</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> Oct** **Half term**

### November

Mondy 4<sup>th</sup> School Closed for Inset day.  
Sun 10<sup>th</sup> - Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Year 5 and 6 to Kingswood residential trip

### December

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> School Closed for Occasional Day  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas School Lunch  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing  
**Term ends at 2pm**