

Thought for the day: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

☺ **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.

Telegraph Newspaper Says Purwell is Joint Second Best School in Hitchin!

We are proud to share some wonderful news! The Daily Telegraph has published its national scoring of primary schools, and Purwell has been ranked joint second for primary schools in Hitchin. The rankings are based on nine measures of school success, including Key Stage 2 results in reading, writing and maths, the progress of disadvantaged pupils, class sizes and attendance.

This recognition is a real celebration of our pupils' hard work, the dedication of our staff, and the strong support we receive from families and our wider community. Together, we are making Purwell a place where children can thrive. Here's the link: [Find the best primary schools near you](#)

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.

1. Daily reading-

Please encourage your child to read for at least 10 minutes a day, discussing the book and writing in their reading record where possible.

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.

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 – One Year On

It has now been a full year since we launched *The Purwell Way*, our shared approach that brings together our curriculum, routines and expectations into a clear framework for pupils and staff.

Over the past year, we have seen huge improvements in pupils' behaviour and attitudes. Children are showing greater responsibility, resilience and respect, and these changes have been noticed not just within school but also by visitors. Both Ofsted inspectors (during their inspection last year) and advisers from Herts for Learning have highlighted the positive impact *The Purwell Way* is having across the school.

We are proud of how pupils have embraced this approach and how it is shaping a calm, purposeful learning environment. *The Purwell Way* is becoming part of who we are as a school and we look forward to building on its success in the year ahead. Find out more about *The Purwell Way* on our website [Purwell Primary School » Behaviour Curriculum](#)

SEN Coffee Morning-New Date

The Autumn Term SEN Coffee Morning will now take place on: Friday 17th October straight after drop off. Please come to the Community Room (mobile classroom by the staff car park). Everyone is welcome. Your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend. It's a great opportunity to come along and meet other parents. This time, we're delighted to have a representative from Angels Support Group joining us. They will share information about the support they offer and answer any questions you may have. Please book in at the office in advance so we know how many parents/carers to expect.

Secondary Transfer for Year 6 pupils

All the information you need is available on the website 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. 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 **Friday 31st October 2025**.

Reception Admissions 2026.2027

Information for admissions into the Reception class are available on the Hertfordshire website (as above). The online system opens on **3rd November 2025** and the deadline for applications is the **15th January 2026**.

Communicating with teachers

If you wish to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please do so via the school office on the Absence-Misc@purwell.herts.sch.uk email or by phoning 01462 432950. Alternatively, if you are able to, you can speak directly with the teacher at the start and end of each day, before they enter the classroom 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 Wilshire 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 you 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. Please log on to the web address below.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx.

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 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 should already have received 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 12th 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 15th 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 as possible to be able to benefit from attending our clubs. 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. Brazier, Mr. Hart and Miss Taylor have already started contacting other schools to arrange fixtures for tag rugby, football and netball and we will share details as soon as dates 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.

After so many successes last year, we can't wait to get started and see what Team Purwell can achieve this year!

Sport Fixture dates

Wednesday 24th September - Y5&6 Tag Rugby v Whitehill (2 teams @Purwell, after school)

Thursday 2nd October - Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Festival (11:45 - 3:15 @ Letchworth Rugby Club)

Tuesday 7th October - Year 3&4 Tag Rugby Festival (11:45 - 3:15 @ Letchworth Rugby Club)

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

PSA Annual General Meeting - Get Involved!

The PSA AGM is happening on Wednesday 24th September at 8pm in the Purwell Community Room. All committee roles will be up for re-election as normal, so it's a great time to get involved and help shape the year ahead. Details about each role will be shared via school communications next week - keep an eye out!

Purwell Party Pack - Eco-Friendly Fun for Just £5!

Planning a birthday bash or class get-together? Make it easy, affordable, and planet-friendly with the Purwell Party Pack! For just £5 per hire (+£1 refundable damage deposit), you'll receive:

30 cups, plates, bowls, and cutlery sets

Serving dishes, jugs and bunting

All dishwasher-safe and reusable

Every hire supports school fundraising, so it's a win-win!

To book, email the PSA at purwell.school.association@gmail.com

Stay Connected with the PSA

Want to stay in the loop with school events, updates, and everyday chatter?

Join our Facebook Group: Purwell School Association

Make sure you're in your Class WhatsApp Group - perfect for quick questions, lost jumpers, party invites, and homework reminders!

New to Purwell and not sure who your Class Rep is? Just drop us a line at purwell.school.association@gmail.com and we'll point you in the right direction.

Coming Up This Half Term...

Cake Sale - sweet treats for a good cause

Halloween Disco - spooky fun for all ages

More details coming soon!

Dates and events for Academic Year 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

Friday 17 th October	SEN Coffee morning
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parent consultations (online appointments)
Thursday 23 rd October	Parent consultation (face-to-face appointments)
27 th Oct- 31 st October	Half-term
Monday 3 rd November	School closed for INSET day
Friday 5 th December	School closed for Occasional day
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Productions (EY and KS1)
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Productions (KS2)
Friday 19 th December	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing. Term ends at 2pm

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 th January	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school
16 th - 20 th February	Half-term
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 th April	Children return to school
25 th to 29 th May	Half-term
Monday 1 st June	School closed for INSET day
Friday 26 th June	Sports Day
Thursday 9 th July	Secondary School transition day and meet the new teacher morning.
Friday 10 th July	School closed for INSET day
Thursday 23 rd July	Last day of term