

Purwell Primary School

11th January 2024

☺ Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of
an exciting new term at Purwell School ☺

Curriculum information and homework expectations

Next week, parents/carers will receive via schoolcomms the details of the curriculum for their child's class for the Spring Term. With this information, will be the expectations that the teachers have with regards to homework. The extra learning children do at home is a valuable supplement to a child's development. There will be deadlines set that children must meet. Please help your children to meet these, regularly.

Cognitive learning and retrieval practice

In our assemblies this term, Mr Cano will be exploring ideas of cognitive learning with our pupils and the difference between 'Growth' and 'Closed' mindsets. Cognitive learning is a type of learning that is active, constructive, and long-lasting. It also engages pupils in the learning processes, teaching them to use their brains more effectively to make connections while learning. This links closely to a highly informative staff Inset session last term on retrieval practice, that was led by Dr Gareth Bates, our Chair of Governors, and an expert in cognitive theory. During each assembly, we will add new information about how our brains work and how we can help them to remember what we have learned. Why not speak with your children about learning and why it is important to adopt an 'I can do it' attitude?

Feel Good Week (5th- 9th February 2023)

Feeling Good Week is 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.

During this week, we want to help make our children feel good by running our own special activities in school to boost their emotional and mental wellbeing. Any ideas or offers of free workshops will be considered towards planning for that week. Please contact Mrs Mullan if you have any suggestions.

A message from the SENCO on fidget-tools in school

As you may be aware, all staff are committed to recognising the individual needs of all our pupils. We know that some children have sensory needs which may require them to have fidget tools within the classroom. These should only be provided after conversations between parents/ carers and school staff have taken place. We have noticed that many children are bringing fidgets into the classrooms without these discussions taking place. In this instance, they can quickly become a distraction and a source of disagreements between children. Moving forward, we would ask that if you believe your child needs a fidget tool, you discuss this with your child's class teacher. If an agreement is reached that your child may benefit from a fidget tool to aid their learning, school will provide a fidget to be used and kept within school. We would ask for your support in streamlining the number of fidgets in school as well as the style of fidgets in use.

Warm welcomes to the staff team

This term, we welcome back a familiar face, as well as two entirely new members of the staff team. Mrs Barhey has returned to Year 3, whilst Mrs Nicol (a new mother of baby Flora) is away on maternity leave. We also welcome Miss Radford to the EYFS team, who will be replacing Miss Cunningham who left last term. Finally, we welcome Mrs Pike, who will be working as an additional Learning Support Assistant for some of our children with additional needs.

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Clubs for the Spring Term

In addition to our lunchtime football, gymnastics and Hama beads clubs, the afterschool clubs running for the first half of the Spring term are cheerleading (Mondays), netball (Wednesdays) and Glee (Thursdays). Yoga continues to be offered on Wednesday mornings (8am to 8:45) and we will also be starting a lunchtime table tennis club (Thursdays). Parents have been sent a message informing them of when the clubs will start.

Cycling Club

Although our after-school cycle club hasn't yet recommenced due to the light, our Pedalers are invited to two race days this half term. On Saturday 27th January Ashwell are hosting at their track, Small Gains Lane, Off Station Road, Ashwell, SG7 5LT with sign on from 12.30pm and racing due to finish around 3.00pm. and on Saturday 3rd February riding returns to Butts Close, Hitchin, on the green next to the swimming pool, SG5 2TP with sign on from 9.00am and racing due to finish around 11.30am. If you have any queries about the races please don't hesitate to speak to Mr. Brazier.

Taking holidays during term time

Another reminder to parents that you should not take your child on holiday in term time, as it is disruptive both to your child's education and to school. The next academic year's dates are detailed below, so any parents making holiday plans can check that they fit around the school dates first before booking anything.

School closures - Winter 2024

As part of the school's planning for emergencies, parents are reminded that incidents that necessitate school closure include such things as extreme weather and loss of essential electrical, water or heating services. Details of school closures will be texted to parents via Schoolcomms. They will also be displayed on the front page of the school website and on Twitter. On days when the weather conditions are poor, but the school is open, parents are advised to walk to school, if possible, and, for those driving, it is advisable to park on Purwell Lane or Kingswood Avenue and walk the remainder. We hope you appreciate that the decision to close is never made lightly, as the safety and welfare of our children, school staff and parents/carers is of paramount importance, and no one would like to see this compromised.

PSA News

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Shop, Raffle and bought a mulled wine or giant mince pie - we raised a brilliant £590!

Upcoming events -

- February - Doughnut sale
- March - Spring disco
- April - Family Bingo
- May - Plant & Cake sale
- July - Summer fair

Exact dates will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Purwell Party Pack - Don't forget if you have a party coming up soon please think about hiring the pack - it helps raise money for the school and is a planet friendly option. £5 per hire + £1 damage deposit. Email the PSA to book!

PSA communications - to keep up to date with all things PSA please join the Facebook Group and make sure you are on your class WhatsApp group. If you're new to the school and not sure who your Class Rep is please email Purwell.school.association@gmail.com and we'll help!

Next PSA meeting - Wednesday 6th March, 8pm The Anchor Inn

Dates for 2023

Dates for Spring Term 2024

19 th - 23 rd February	Half-term
Monday 26 th February	School Closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 26 th March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 27 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 28 th March	1:30pm End of term assembly with Easter singing Last day of term (2pm finish)

Dates for Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 th April	School closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 16 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 6 th May	May Bank Holiday
27 th May-31 st May	Half-term
Thursday 27 th June	Sports Day
Friday 28 th June	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 19 th July	Last day of term (2pm finish)

Academic Year 2024/25

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2 nd September	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 3 rd September	Children return to school
28 th Oct- 1 st November	Half-term
Friday 6 th December	School closed for occasional day
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 th January	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 7 th January	Children return to school
17 th - 21 st February	Half-term
Friday 14 th March	School closed for INSET day
Friday 4 th April	Last day of term

Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22 nd April	School closed for INSET day
Wednesday 23 th April	Children return to school
Monday 5 th May	Bank holiday
26 th - 30 th May	Half-term
Friday 27 th June	School closed for INSET day
Wednesday 23 rd July	Last day of term