

Purwell Primary School  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
☺ Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of  
an exciting new term at Purwell School ☺

**Curriculum information and homework expectations**

Next week, each family will receive a booklet with details of the curriculum 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**

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 at the end of last term that was led by Dr Gareth Bates, our Chair of Governors, and an expert in cognitive theory. During each assembly, we will add a 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?

**Post-Ofsted information evening with the Chair of Governors.**

The post-Ofsted information evening for parents will take place on Monday 16th January, at 7pm, and will take place in the Year 6 classroom. We envision it lasting for approximately 45 minutes and there will be an opportunity for any questions about the report at the end. Alternatively, questions can be submitted prior to the meeting, either, at the school office (the box in the lobby), or, via the Google-Poll sent out to parents on Wednesday.

**Feel Good Week (6th- 10th 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 Barhey if you have any suggestions.

**STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths**

As you may have seen on Twitter this week, we are encouraging the children across the school to be STEM Explorers as a cross curricular approach to science this half term. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Through this unit the children will be presented with a series of challenges which they must work together on to design, produce, and then test within a time frame. Collaborative learning is an essential part of the unit to share and develop the skills they have within their teams.

For the unit to be successful, we need your help. Please can you collect these items from home over the next 4 weeks, so the children have a wide range of resources to use within the challenges?

Items needed are listed below (with a suggested week for bringing them in). If there are other items you think would be practical to build with that are not listed below, please ask your child's class teacher.

**Week beginning Monday 16th January** • ribbon • plastic lids • bottle caps • rubber bands • twist ties • straws • small containers (such as yogurt or butter) • corks • bubble wrap • plastic wrap • foil • cardboard tubes (paper towel or toilet paper) • buttons • plastic bottles • magnets • any type of tape • beads • tissue paper • foam • packing "popcorn" • toothpicks • pipe cleaners • any type of wheel • foil • waxed paper • newspaper • cotton balls • tape.

**Week beginning Monday 23rd January** • rubber bands • plastic spoons • paper towel tubes • popsicle (craft) sticks • cardboard • string or yarn • tape.

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**Week beginning Monday 30th January** • masking tape • string• packing popcorn.

**Week beginning Monday 6th February** • string or yarn • napkins • any type of paper (newspaper, tissue paper, copy paper, wax paper etc.) • plastic grocery bags • tape.

Keep an eye out for more updates on Twitter, to see what challenges the children have been up to each week.

Thank you for your support.

### **Staffing news**

Today we are announcing the sad news that Miss Saville will be leaving us at the end of next week. Miss Saville has been the Sports Coach at Purwell School for the last 6 years. Now her children are older, she is able to return to her previous career, that of a data analyst, which I'm sure is more interesting than it sounds! We will all miss her very much and wish her well.

We expect to be able to announce who the replacement Sports Coach will be in the next newsletter.

### **Clubs for the Spring Term**

The clubs running for the Spring term are, Chess, Textile, Netball, Cooking and Cheerleading. Parents have been sent a message informing them when the clubs will start. These are the only after-school clubs running this term.

### **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 attached, so any parents making holiday plans can check that they fit around the school dates first before booking anything.

### **School closures - Winter 2022/23**

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.

### **Dates for 2023**

#### **Dates for Spring Term 2023**

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return to school
13 <sup>rd</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half-term
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	School Closed for Inset Day
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term (2pm finish)

#### **Dates for Summer Term 2023**

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	School closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return to school
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Coronation Bank Holiday
29 <sup>th</sup> May-2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half-term
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of term (2pm finish)