

Thought for the week: 'If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it.'
-William Arthur Ward

Purwell Panthers cheerleaders to compete once again in national competition

This year sees the return of National Cheerleading competitions. Once again, our Purwell cheerleaders will be travelling to Bournemouth on Friday, 23rd June, to perform in a prestigious national competition.

Mrs Law has been working very hard in rehearsals with the team, and they are all very excited at the prospect of performing against other squads from around the country. In addition to this event the Panthers will be performing on sports day and at the Glee performance on the last week of term.



Our 2019 squad were runners up winners

Let's Get Reading: Book reviews

We are excited to introduce a new feature of book reviews in our school newsletter. Reading is an essential part of our children's academic growth and personal development. Through this feature, we hope to encourage pupils to read more and share their thoughts and opinions on the books they've read. Today we will feature book reviews written by pupils in Year 5. These reviews will be a great way for pupils to express their thoughts and feelings about the books they've read. They will also serve as a guide for others who are looking for new books to read.

We encourage all pupils to participate in this new feature and share their love for reading with our school community. We look forward to reading your reviews and discovering new books to add to our reading list.

The book reviews will be sent as a separate document with this newsletter. We hope you enjoy them.

Sad farewell to a much beloved and long-serving teacher

It is with great sadness, that it is my duty to inform you about an upcoming retirement of one of our long-serving teachers, Mrs Barhey. After 10 years of dedicated service to our school, Mrs Barhey has decided to leave at the end of this academic year.

Throughout her time at our school, Mrs Barhey has been an integral part of our community and has made a significant impact on the lives of countless children. She has been a role model and inspiration to many, and her dedication to our school and to the education of our students has been truly remarkable. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Mrs Barhey for her unwavering commitment to our school. She will be greatly missed, and we will always remember her contributions to our community.

We wish Mrs Barhey all the best in her well-deserved break, and we are confident that she will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of others in her future endeavours, as she plans to continue with her 'teaching differently' role, doing charity work and has exciting plans to help the lives of those less fortunate, both, at home and abroad.

Glee Club to perform at special summer evening event -Thursday 20th July

We are excited to invite you to our end of term school performance of singing and dancing! Our talented children who perform with Glee Club, are working hard to prepare for this special event, and they cannot wait to showcase their talent.

Join us on Thursday 20th July in the school hall for an evening of entertainment that is sure to leave you impressed. Our performers will be showcasing a range of songs and dance routines that they are working on with Miss Plunkett, Mrs Eaves, Mrs Nichol, Mr Brazier and Mrs Rook, that will delight and entertain the whole family. As an additional treat, Mrs Law's Purwell Panthers will be performing their national competition routine, which is sure to be impressive.

This is an excellent opportunity to support our pupils and witness the incredible progress they have made over the year. We encourage all parents and families to attend and celebrate this fantastic achievement. Tickets will go on sale for this event nearer the time, so look out for those!

Pedestrian skills training

Our 'Pedestrian Skills' training for Year 4 pupils will take place this Friday. We have implemented this programme successfully for many years, with pupils being given the opportunity to walk around the Purwell area in small groups, learning how to cross roads safely and spot hazards faced by pedestrians.

Sun safety

With the glorious weather we have had recently, it seems like a good time to recap our 'safe in the sun' approach.

- There are plenty of shaded areas under the trees and by the gazebo and children are encouraged to **play in the shade** on hot sunny days.
- All children should have a **sun hat or cap** to wear when playing out. Purwell School caps can be bought from the school office. Please ensure all are NAMED clearly.
- You may wish to apply **sunscreen** to your child at the start of the day; however, children should not bring bottles of cream into school for reapplication. There are many brands which offer long-lasting/all-day protection and a liberal application in the morning would see them through the school day.
- Children should have a bottle of water with them in school, each day, which should be named. However, these must have a **'sports cap' and not an open bottle neck**, to prevent spillages on children's work. Bottles of water should **not be frozen** (although specially designed water bottles, where the centre can be frozen to keep the water chilled, are permitted).
- Children should have **summer PE kit** for outdoor sports, every day (not long trousers).

Sports update

It's been another busy few weeks for our school teams with a cycling competition, netball, cricket and football fixtures.

Cycling

Last Saturday, our cyclists performed admirably at an event organised by Ashwell Cycling Club. There were strong performances from all of our Purwell Pedallers, with six of them medalling in their events. There were Gold Medals for Luke (Under 12 Boys) and Oscar, won 3 of his 4 races, (U10 Boys), a Silver Medal for Amelie (U10 Girls), Zoe (U8 Girls) and Bronze Medals for Torran (U10 Boys), and Toby (U8 Boys). Special mention for the rest of the squad - Oliver Sprake, Ernie Bloomfield, Alyssa Butler, Josh Haslam, Leo Corbett, Arran McKendrick. The medals will be given out in our Tuesday Showcase Assembly and we are incredibly proud of everyone who represented the school at this event.



Netball

After the original dates were postponed at the end of the Spring Term, our two netball teams put in impressive performances at the A and B Team rallies. At Whitehill, our A Team finished in a creditable 5th place out of 8 teams whilst, at Highover, our B Team finished in 3rd place and were the only team to record a victory over St. Andrews who won both competitions. This was a terrific achievement made all the more impressive due to the difficult playing conditions brought about by heavy rain that fell during the competition. Well done everyone!



Football

Last Friday, after a remarkable season- going unbeaten throughout the league and topping the Eastern-Hitchin Division- our A Team footballers travelled to Samuel Lucas for the Championship play-offs. It was the first time Purwell have competed in the play-off final and the opposition was incredibly strong, with William Ransom having won the County Wix Cup the previous week and Samuel Lucas winning every league

fixture this season! Despite this, our team performed admirably, defending resolutely, attacking with pace and flair and were the only team to score a goal against a steadfast Samuel Lucas, who were crowned League Champions. What a fantastic achievement!

Some other exciting football news is that Mr Hart, who is a fully qualified FA referee, has been successful in gaining promotion to the next level of refereeing. Now one of the highest ranked referees in Hertfordshire, he is just one successful promotion away from being able to officiate on National Leagues North and South.

Cricket

In preparation for our first season in the Hitchin Schools' cricket league, our cricketers have been training hard to apply their skills of batting, bowling and fielding to match-play situations. The team have really enjoyed their opening two matches, first at Wymondley and then against St. Andrews - which was held at Hitchin Cricket Club! It has been great to see such passion and enthusiasm and, during half term, many of our cricketers will be going to watch a T20 cricket match, Middlesex v Gloucestershire. T20 is a shortened form of cricket, where matches last for around 3 hours.



PSA News & Events

PSA Non Uniform Day - Friday 19th May

On Friday, we are having a non-uniform day, where pupils will be able to come to school dressed in their home clothes. In return, we are asking pupils to bring with them donations of a decorated jar, full of sweets.

PSA to run sweet tombola at the Walsworth Festival

On behalf of the school, the PSA will be running a sweet jar stall at the Walsworth Festival, on Sunday, 21st May, so we need as many sweet jar donations from parents as possible for the event. As usual, there will be lots of exciting things to see and do on the main field and at St Faith's Church.



PSA Events update

Welcome back to the Summer Term and an awesome 🥳 line-up of Purwell PTA events!

- Sweet Jars 🍬 donated on the non-uniform day on 19th May will raise money at the tombola at Walsworth festival on the 21st of May!
- Mr Brazier's Family Quiz Night - Friday 16th June, a chance to win a prize 🏆 and have family fun!
- June 24th Lego Challenge day - maximum of 4 in a team.
- And to finish the term in style don't forget to save the date for our amazing summer event, Purwell Rocks 🎸 🎵 🎤 with live music, barbecue, bar and more 15th July 2-8pm!

Support Workshops for Parents

With this newsletter you will be sent a list of local support agencies and workshops that are available to support parents and carers.

What's on during May half-term?

With this newsletter you will also be sent a list of local holiday club providers and events happening in and around Hitchin.

Dates for Summer Term

Friday 19 th May	Non-uniform day, bring a jar of sweetie in for Walsworth Festival NEW
Sunday 21 st May	Walsworth Festival NEW
29 th May-2 nd June	Half-term
Friday 16 th June	Family Quiz Night NEW
Friday 23 rd June	Purwell Panthers perform at National Comp in Bournemouth. NEW
Saturday 24 th June	Lego Challenge Day NEW
Wednesday 28 th June	Sports Day
Friday 30 th June	School closed for Inset Day
Monday 3 rd July	Cycle training for Year 6
Saturday 15 th July	Purwell Rocks NEW
Thursday 20 th July	Glee Club Performance Evening, featuring the Purwell Panthers. NEW
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term (2pm finish)

2023 / 2024

Autumn Term 2023

Friday 1st September	School closed for INSET day
Monday 4 th September	Children return to school
23 rd - 27 th October	Half-term
Wednesday 20 th December	Last day of term

Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4th January	Children return to school
19 th - 23 rd February	Half-term
Monday 26 th February	School closed for INSET day
Thursday 28th March	Last day of term

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 th April	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 16 th April	Children return to school
Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday
27 th - 31 st May	Half-term
Friday 28 th June	School closed for INSET day
Friday 19th July	LAST DAY OF TERM
Monday 22 nd July	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 23 rd July	School closed for Occasional Day's holiday