

Thought for the week: "Every day do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow." Doug Firebaugh.

Easter Assembly - Thursday 28th March, at 1.30pm

You are very welcome to join us on Thursday 28th March, at 1:30pm, for our end of term Easter celebration assembly. At the event we will have a special performance from our Glee Club to enjoy and our good friend of the school, the Reverend Melanie from St Faith's, will be visiting us and saying a few seasonal words. The school day will end directly after the assembly at 2.00pm.

Parent Teacher Consultations

These will take place on:

Tuesday 26th March - Parent Consultations (Early)

Wednesday 27th March - Parent Consultations (Late)

Booking forms for consultations will be in the entrance lobby for all pupils, from Nursery to Year 6. In the past, only parents of Nursery pupils in their first term of Nursery were invited to parent teacher consultations. This has been extended to include all Nursery pupils.

New School dinners system

We are excited to announce the launch of our new online school lunch ordering system. The current system we use is very antiquated, and time consuming. This user-friendly platform allows you to conveniently order your child's lunch from the comfort of your home before they come to school. You will be able to select from a variety of nutritious and delicious meal options for your child as provided by Herts Catering and it offers a hassle-free way to order food and will free up valuable teaching time in the classroom.

The new system is an electronic ordering system using the school gateway, where you can order food up to 3 weeks in advance for your children. To be able to pre-order a school meal you will need to have sufficient funds in the child's account.

A letter will be sent out this week outlining what parents have to do to enable the system to be up to date with information before the start date. This new system will start on the 16th April 2024 for the summer term. We believe that this new online ordering system will streamline the lunch process and provide a convenient solution for busy parents.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we implement this exciting new initiative.

Mrs Powers to commence maternity leave

We would like to officially announce the exciting news that Mrs Powers is expecting a baby this summer. She will be starting her maternity leave, for one year, in June. During Mrs Powers' absence, we will endeavour to ensure that Cherry Class is well taken care of by experienced substitute teachers, who will maintain the high standard of education that our pupils deserve.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs Powers and sending wishes of health, joy and plenty of sleep. We look forward to welcoming her back with open arms after her maternity leave.

Miss Plunkett to take on her dream job

With mixed emotions I must announce the Miss Plunkett is leaving us at the end of term to pursue a dream of hers, as she joins an ABBA tribute band set to tour the Greek islands. Miss Plunkett has been with us

for two years and has led Glee Club for us for all of that time. We thank her for the music and wish her the best of luck in becoming singing and dancing queen of the Greek island.

Whole School photo to take place on Tuesday 16th April

I am excited to announce that we will be capturing the spirit and unity of our school community with a whole school photograph, next month! Braiswick photographers will be coming to school on Tuesday 16th April to set up their equipment on the junior playground and take the photo.

It will serve as a timeless keepsake, preserving the memories of our vibrant and diverse community, as it is today. Copies of the photo will be made available for parents to purchase and will make a nice memento of your child's time at Purwell.

On the day, please ensure that your child comes to school on time, wearing the designated school uniform. We want to showcase our school pride and unity in the photograph.

Coffee with the SENCO

Our next SEN coffee morning is scheduled for the morning of the 25th of April. This will be our third SEN coffee morning, and everyone is welcome. If you have concerns about your child or just want to meet other parents of children with special educational needs, please come along. We are hoping to have an SEN officer from Hertfordshire County council joining us at this upcoming meeting. If there is anything you would like to find out about at the coffee mornings, please get in touch. We are keen to be guided by you.

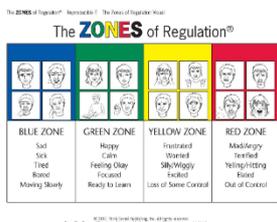
Governors Update

Earlier this week we emailed parents with news that we currently have two vacancies on the Governing Body. Any parents who are considering becoming a school governor can find out more about the role by approaching Mrs. Sharp in the school office. Alternatively, we have a page on our school website that can be accessed by the link below. [Purwell Primary School » Role & Responsibilities](#)

Closing infant pedestrian gates

A reminder to parents that use the infant pedestrian gate that they must ensure that they close it after they go through it. Twice last week it was left open after morning drop-off and at Nursery pick-up time. Thank you for supporting our ongoing commitment to safeguard our children. In addition to this, more generally, please ensure that you close all gates behind you when entering or leaving the school site between the hours of 9am and 3pm.

Children's Mental Health Week



Following our successful Children's Mental Health week, children have been supported by staff to develop a Zones of Regulation board in each classroom. These boards contain a range of tools that the children have identified help them to manage their emotional well-being. When asked about their knowledge and experience of Zones of Regulation, children from Years 1-6 reported confidence in using the Zones of Regulation to understand and manage their emotions. Please have a look at our website under the parent information section where you will find a PowerPoint about the Zones of Regulation.

Easter Egg Dash - Thursday 28th March

To celebrate Easter, on the last week of term, staff have organised a special Easter Dash for the children. The children will be able to take part in the event with their classes. They will enjoy some egg-related fun-running and problem-solving with their friends! I will refrain myself from adding any Easter related puns, humour, or cheap yolks!

Sports update

It has been a busy term for our school teams, with netball, football and cricket fixtures against other schools and an athletics competition held at Fearnhill.

Our team of 30 athletes performed admirably at the Sports Hall competition, a mixture of indoor running, throwing, and jumping events. Finishing in 3rd place was a tremendous achievement although, with only the top 2 schools qualifying, we narrowly missed out on progressing to the next round.

After some heavy defeats earlier in the season, this half term has seen our netball teams put in some very impressive performances, attacking with great speed of handling and movement. Due to the prolonged period of heavy rain having caused postponements to fixtures, we recently played three matches on consecutive days and although our A and B teams lost to Whitehill on the Wednesday, we were delighted to record victories over Weston and William Ransom in our Monday and Tuesday matches. During matches, players rotate their positions between each of the 4 quarters and it has been wonderful to see everyone becoming more comfortable and confident when playing in each of the 7 positions. Well done to everyone who has represented the school so far and we are looking forward to the A Team, B Team and Boys' rallies at the start of the Summer Term.

Our footballers have been in a rich vein of form and concluded their League fixtures with a win over Oughton. The team have gone unbeaten since this term and have been showing great skill, passion and determination in their matches. In their first matches for the school, a team from Years 3 and 4 played very well in fixtures against Ickleford and St.Andrews. Mr Sears was especially pleased with how well they put into action all the skills that they have been practising in their lunchtime club. The school football season concludes this week with a B Team rally on Thursday afternoon and an A Team rally at Wilshire-Dacre on Saturday. Good luck to all involved.

In readiness for the cricket season that gets underway in the Summer Term, we also have a cricket friendly match against Whitehill this Thursday. During lunchtime sessions, the players have been practising their bowling, fielding and batting and the progress has been impressive- particularly in developing fluid bowling actions. We're really looking forward to seeing our cricket team in action for the first time.

Congratulations to everybody who has represented the school this term and we look forward to a full programme of Summer Term sport after Easter - watch this space!

Neurodiversity week 18th-24th March 2024

To celebrate neurodiversity week, all teachers will be sharing a PowerPoint presentation with the children which celebrates our unique strengths and differences. The PowerPoint includes information about the different ways some of us think and learn as well as sharing information about celebrities who are neurodiverse. We hope the children will enjoy learning about this topic and that they will develop a greater appreciation for what makes us all unique.

Springtime birds nest watch update

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have a new nest box setup in the school grounds, equipped with a high definition camera, to watch nesting birds. Children enjoy watching the birds on the screen in the canteen at lunchtime. In the old nest, last year, we had a pair of nesting blue tits. Fingers crossed we will have some exciting pictures after Easter.



to share for the next newsletter,

PSA News

Thanks to everyone who supported the doughnut sale last week- it was a whirlwind 15 minutes and we raised £150!

Easter Party - it's nearly disco time!! Virtual tickets are on sale (£3.50) - you can buy online or via the school office. Check out the Facebook posts or contact your Class rep for more info. Please note there is a deadline of 6pm on Thursday for tickets - after that it will be on the door only.

3:30-5pm: Nursery - Yr3 (must be supervised by a parent/grandparent)

5:30-7pm: Yr4-Yr6 (please provide an emergency contact number)

Bag2School - We have organised a clothes and shoe collection with Bag2School again this year. So if you're planning on having a wardrobe/soft toy/bed linen clear out over the Easter holidays please think about donating! The children will come home with a bag and a leaflet with more information sometime this week.

Dates for your diary:

- Friday 22nd March - Easter Party
- Monday 22nd April - Bag2School clothing collection
- Friday 26th April - Family Bingo
- Friday 17th May - Non-uniform day (sweetie jar donation)
- Sunday 19th May - Walsworth Festival
- Wednesday 22nd May - Plant & Cake sale
- Saturday 6th July - Summer fair

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!

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 24th March, 8pm (location tbc)

Dates for Spring Term

Friday 22 nd March	Easter Party (PSA)
Tuesday 26 th March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 27 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 28 th March	1:30pm, Spring and Easter Assembly
Last day of term (2pm finish)	

Dates for Summer Term

Monday 15 th April	School closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 16 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 6 th May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 17 th May	Non Uniform day
27 th May- 31 st May	Half-term
Thursday 27 th June	Sports Day
Friday 28 th June	School closed for Inset Day
Monday 3 rd July	Cycle training for Year 6
Friday 19 th July	Last day of term (2pm finish)