

Thought for the day: 'For most of us, the problem is not that we aim too high and fail. It is that we aim too low and succeed'. ~ Sir Ken Robinson

Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 13th December

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 13th December, and the children can wear their Christmas jumpers. The kitchen need to order supplies early and, to do this, they need to have an idea of lunch numbers in advance. There will be only two options on that day, a Christmas lunch (Red band) and a vegetarian option (Green band). It will be assumed that all pupils will have the Christmas lunch, unless you inform us otherwise. Please advise the school office, as soon as possible, if you would like your child to have the vegetarian option or a home packed lunch.

If your child does not normally eat school lunches, but you would like them to have Christmas lunch please let us know by 29th November. However, if they have an allergy or intolerance to any foods, please complete an online form, giving details of the allergy or intolerance, to ascertain whether a modified meal can be provided for them. This will need to be completed by Wednesday 29th November. The link to the form is <https://hertscatering.co.uk/allergy-menu-application/>

Children get ready for Christmas productions

After half term rehearsals for the Christmas productions will soon commence. The Early Years and infant classes will have separate performances from the juniors. There will be a small charge for attendance at these performances - £2 for children of primary school age and £4.00 for everyone else. All the money raised will go towards school improvements. Tickets will be on sale at the school office from Monday 11th December for those who wish to attend. A raffle will be drawn for a Christmas hamper at the final evening performance. Tickets for this hamper raffle, which cost £1.00 per strip, will be available at all performances and will also be on sale in the school office from Monday 11th December.

Monday 18th December, 2:15pm and 6.30pm, Nursery to Year 2

Tuesday 19th December, 2:15pm and 6.30pm, Years 3 to 6

Party Day - Friday 15th December (pm)

On Friday 15th December, each class will be having a class party afternoon, to celebrate Christmas and the end of term. Teachers will be sending further information out to parents, nearer the time, for what parents can help to provide. Please note: This will also be a non-uniform, day. **Nursery parents**, please note that Nursery pupils should attend in the afternoon of party day and not the morning, i.e., 1pm - 3.15pm.

Dealing with bullying update

At Purwell, we respond immediately if bullying is suspected. We work with children, their parents and staff, to resolve ongoing incidents of regular unkindness. Occasionally, the graduated approach to consequences, as detailed in our behaviour policy, [Purwell Primary School » Policies](#) is not enough to stop the unkind behaviour from being repeated and more serious consequences are required. This week, we were compelled to issue a fixed term exclusion for a pupil in the upper juniors, for their ongoing unkindness toward another child in their class. The situation met all three criteria for bullying, Being unkind, On purpose, Over and over -BOO for short. The parents of the children involved have been informed and are kept updated.

PE kit

As the weather is now turning a bit chillier, it is important that pupils have the proper outdoor PE kit in addition to their indoor kit, for outdoor lessons. This is a navy, Purwell PE sweatshirt (available from Beats, in Hitchin) and navy jogging bottoms.

Lost Property full of unnamed uniform items

The lost property box is starting to fill with items that are not named and are unclaimed. Please remember to write children's names in all items that have the potential to be lost. If you know your child has lost some uniform, please come in and have a look.

A good read: book recommendations from the children to you.

I would recommend *Once upon a legend* by Ben Miller because I found the slight sarcasm funny. The protagonist is called Marcus and the main plot is where he gets sent to boarding school and realises that giants are going to invade London to kill the president and then he goes on a daring mission to restore peace. I would recommend this book to ages 9-11 but younger years may still enjoy it. I particularly liked the part where multiple plain pilots were arguing over whether a Jaffa Cake was a biscuit or not whilst circling angry giant's heads. It is an exciting story and I absolutely loved it 😊😊.

Hunter Lennon, Aspen Class.

Reading at home

Please ensure that you hear your child read regularly at home and that this is recorded in their reading record books. The record books are the only indication that your child is having regular opportunities to read to an adult. Comments in the books that relate to the child's phonological progress and comprehension are the most useful for teachers to read.

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. 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 to apply or contact Mrs Sharp in the office to apply on your behalf.

School Hall Hire

The school hall is available for private hire for birthdays and events outside the school day. Please contact the school office for further details.

Parental support, workshops and events

With this newsletter you will also receive a document which details the local support agencies for parents and carer. These include workshop and events.

PSA EVENTS & NEWS

Halloween Parties - Friday 20th October

3:30-5pm EYFS - Y3 (children must have parental supervision)

5:30-7pm Y4 - Y6

Come and have a spooktacular time at the PSA Halloween Parties!

*Purwell Pumpkin Pageant - prizes for the Best Decorated and Best Carved pumpkins

*Fancy Dress Competition

Creepy Crafts, Spooky Games, Tuck shop, Disco, Face painting, Tattoos & Glow sticks available to purchase on the night.

Primary age children £3.50. Younger siblings can join in for free!

Ghostly Goodies Halloween Cake Sale - Tuesday 31st October, Breaktime

No Tricks, Just Treats!, 50p per cake (pay online or in cash)

Any donations (homemade or shop bought!) would be greatly appreciated and brought in on the day.

Please ensure any donations are nut free. Thank you!

Pumpkin Trail - Tuesday 31st October, 5pm - 6:30pm

The hunt begins at Purwell Corner, Benchley Hill! Are you up to the challenge to spot all the Purwell Pumpkins dotted around the estate? A map of the trail can be purchased for £1. Pulled pork baps and other refreshments will be available.

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

We will be discussing plans for next year so please come along if you have any ideas or just want to be more involved. We would love to see your faces!

UP & COMING EVENTS

Friday 20 th	Halloween Party
23rd -27th Oct	Half term
Tuesday 31 st	PSA Halloween Cake Sale
Tuesday 31 st	PSA Pumpkin Trail, 5-6:30pm

November

Wednesday 8 th	PSA meeting, at 8pm, at The Anchor Inn
Saturday 25 th	Glee Club to perform at the Stevenage Christmas lights switch-on

December

Saturday 9 th	Glee Club to perform again in Stevenage
Wednesday 13 th	Christmas School Lunch - Christmas Jumpers
Friday 15 th	Christmas Party Day - Non School Uniform
Monday 18 th	EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Tuesday 19 th	KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Wednesday 20 th	1:30pm Christmas assembly, with carol singing
	Term ends at 2pm

Dates for Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4 th January	Pupils return to school
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 June	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)