

Purwell Primary School

1st March 2022

Thought for the day: 'Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge'.

World Book Day, This Thursday

At Purwell School, we strive to promote reading for enjoyment all year round through shared reading and a love of books. Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day and classes will be taking part in Purwell *Mystery Reader*.



Staff have chosen a book to read, and children can go along and listen to a story of their choice. Only when they get to the book will the mystery Reader be revealed! I wonder who will be behind the book!!

Billy and the Minpins, by Roald Dahl

Lost and Found, by Oliver Jeffers

The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog, by Jeremy Strong

Would you rather? by John Birmingham.

The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein

The Hobbit, by JR Tolkein

Edgar and the Sausage Inspector by Jan Fearnley

The Pirates Next Door by Jonny Duddle

Va-t'en Gros Loup Méchant, by Père Castor

Share a book morning returns on Wednesday 16th March, for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

We are delighted to be able to, once again, invite parents into school to share books with their children.

Before the pandemic, every Wednesday morning, our youngest classes opened their doors for a book sharing time at the start of the day. Parents would come into classroom for the first 20 minutes of the day, with their child, and be met with a selection of engaging reading books on each table to enjoy and share. We found this to be an excellent way to foster a love of reading. The weekly event will commence on Wednesday 16th March. We hope that as many parents as possible can join us for that time.

We have received World Book Day vouchers, which can be used to reduce the cost of book purchases, which are being passed on to pupils. Your child should bring their voucher home very soon if they have not already.



Living with Covid

As I am sure you are aware, the Government has set out its plans for the next phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, called *Living with Covid-19*. These plans came into effect last Thursday.

The main implications for schools and families are as follows:

- The Government have removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.

- the Government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts, and those aged under 18, to test daily for 7 days and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated too self-isolate.
- the Government has also ended routine contact tracing.

We will continue to monitor the number of students absent due to Covid-19 and support the personal choice of parents and staff in wearing a face covering, if they wish. We will continue to ensure good levels of hygiene for everyone here at school and will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes. We will also continue to ensure that there is adequate ventilation around the school.

Although I hope that case numbers will continue to fall, please do help us minimise the potential risk of infection in school by ensuring **that if a child is unwell, or displaying possible Covid-19 symptoms, they stay at home** and you inform the school of their absence via the school office, either, by email: admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk, or phone us on 01462432950.

If you have questions regarding these government changes, please contact 119 for advice or use the NHS website.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and patience in what have been challenging times and hope that this is the start of a more normal lifestyle for us all.



Parent Teacher Consultations

These will take place on:

- Wednesday 30th March - Parent Consultations (Early)
 Thursday 31st March - Parent Consultations (Late)

Booking forms for consultations will be in the entrance lobby from 3pm on Friday 18th March 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.

The return of swimming lessons and inter-school matches

I am delighted to announce that, with the reduction of restrictions, we are now able to offer swimming lessons from Years 3 to 5 and take part in interschool competitions once more. Our first fixture is a friendly football match against Our Lady School. The match will be played this Friday and letters have been sent out to the team.

Nursery admissions for September

Nursery Admissions for September 2022 are still open. Application forms for our nursery can be found on the school's website, or from the office and you can apply either by the nursery email (nurseryadmissions@purwell.herts.sch.uk) or contacting the school office. The application deadline is 14th March 2022.

Some parents may be eligible for 30 hours a week nursery. Please check this link to see if your child is eligible, 30 hours free childcare - [30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

A Springtime bird nest watch



As you may know, we have a nest box setup in the school grounds, equipped with a camera, to watch nesting birds. The nest box has been cleared for this year, following last year's disappointment in having no nesting birds at all. Fingers crossed for some better luck this year.

Dates for Spring Term 2022

Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day - Non-uniform day (£1 donation requested).
Wednesday 30 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 31 st March	Parent Consultations
Friday 1 st April	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Dates for Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19 th April	School closed for Inset Day
Wednesday 20 th April	Pupils return to school
Thursday 21 st April	Year 4 swimming commences
Wednesday 27 th April	School photographer in for class photos.
Monday 2 nd May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 9 th May - 13 th May	Year 6 SATs week commences
30 th May-3 rd June	Half-term
Thursday 16 th June	Year 5 swimming commences
Friday 24 th June	Sports Day
Friday 1 st July	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 22 nd July	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Academic Dates for 2022/23

Autumn Term 2022

Thu 1 st September	Children return to school
Fri 23rd September	School closed for Inset Day
Mon 24 th Oct-Fri 28 th Oct	Half term
Mon 31st October	School closed for Inset Day
Fri 2nd December	School closed for Occasional Day
Wed 21 st December	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Spring Term 2023

Thu 5 th January	Children return to school
Mon 13 th Feb-Fri 17 th Feb	Half term
Fri 10th March	School closed for Inset Day
Fri 31 st March	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Summer Term 2023

Mon 17th April	School closed for Inset Day
Tues 18 th April	Children return to school
Mon 1 st May	Bank holiday
Tue 30 th May - Fri 2 nd Jun	Half term
Fri 30th June	School closed for Inset Day
Fri 21 st July	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Parent and Carers Workshops, Advice, and Support

NEW Signalong Foundation Course. Suitable for parents and professionals. Cost £130 per person, including certificate provided by Signalong on completion of the course and a Phase 1 Signalong book. Max 12 spaces available, Woolgrove School, 7 sessions 1pm to 2:30pm Thursdays, from 10 Feb to 31 March excl. half term. vickylitchfield@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk

REMINDER Transition Survey for parent/carers of SEND children currently in Year 6. Please complete this short survey regarding your experience of secondary school open days. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SecondaryTransition2021>

NEW - Supporting adolescents who have Anxiety and/or Low Mood - Parent Workshop - Tuesday, 8 February 2022 1:15pm to 2:30pm -Booking: [Bookings - NESSie IN ED, CIC](#)

NEW Family Lives Spring term parenting groups - See flyers and referral forms

- [Time to Talk about Pre-Teens and Teens \(6 weeks\)](#)

Wednesdays, 9.30-11.30 and 7.00pm-9.00pm from 23rd February to 30th March 2022

The Time to Talk group is particularly suited for parents and carers of pre-teen/teenagers who are feeling anxious or isolated in the wake of Covid-19, have concerns about their pre-teens' / teens' mental health and feel they might be at risk or involved in risky behaviour. It is also suitable for parents/carers where there is a FFA/CIN/CP. Our free online group gives an insight into their challenging behaviour and ideas on how to negotiate and resolve conflict, to offer support around mental health issues and to improve communication. We accept referrals from professionals as well as self-referrals. Referrals can be made by clicking our online [Referral form](#) or by emailing a completed referral form. Following our data protection protocols, please note emailed referral forms must be password-protected before sending to services@familylives.org.uk with the password sent in a separate email. Call 0204 522 8700 or 8701 for more information.

NEW CAMHS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

FREE Online Education Programme for Parents/Carers of secondary school aged young people who are using a **CAMHS Clinic, Step2 or Counselling Service**. Tuesday's 22 February, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March from 7pm-9pm-state in comments which service your child is using, the course content is NOT helpful for parent/carers of young people with autistic spectrum condition.

NEW Supporting Links - Talking ASD & ADHD Workshops

Anxiety & Stress 16 March 2022 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Responding to Anger 7 March 2022 7:30pm to 9:30pm or 28 March 12:30pm to 2:20pm

NEW Supporting Children with Additional Needs:

Funded by HCC, provided by NESSie and Angels Support Group. See flyer for further workshops. **Girls & Women** - 23 February 12pm to 1:30pm [Bookings - NESSie IN ED, CIC](#)

Families in Focus - Various training - see website ([Families in Focus - Looking forward together](#)) or email [Autism, ADHD & neurodevelopmental conditions/needs courses Spring 2022 / Parent Networks / Handling anger in child with Autism/ADHD]

Family Lives Training - Getting on with your pre-teen or teenager (targeted at FFA, CIN, COP or Youth Justice Plan) 26 Jan to 9 Mar - see DSPL 1 website for details. Bringing up confident children for parents of children with ADHD/ASD (online group) 27 Jan to 10 March.

ADD-vance have many funded training workshops for parents and carers of children and young people with ADHD/ASC - [ADD-vance](#)

Supporting Links Spring Training open for booking [Workshops \(supportinglinks.co.uk\)](#)

(Includes: Talking Teens, Talking ADHD/ASC). More details: [All Training, Workshops & Events \(nhdspl.org.uk\)](#)

Family Centre SEND Drop-In

First Thursday of each month, **ISL Advice Line, Young People**