Purwell Primary School Newsletter

**Tuesday 23rd July 2025**

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Thought for the week: "Every day is a chance to be better than the day before."– B.B. King

**Supporting Mental Health During Transition**

We understand that this time of year can be a little unsettling for some children. Saying goodbye to a familiar teacher and getting ready to meet a new one can bring mixed emotions. While there is a lot to look forward to with the holidays and the new school year, it’s important to support our children through this change.

If you would like resources or activities to help your child during this transition, the following website is full of excellent, free materials:

Mindler Resource Zone – Breathing Exercises

**Wellbeing Ambassadors Update**

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have been working incredibly hard this term! They have been learning new playground games and teaching them to children in KS1 at lunchtimes. These games help younger children build important skills such as taking turns, communicating kindly, and solving problems together. Meanwhile, the KS2 Ambassadors are developing leadership skills and building confidence through their mentoring roles.

The Ambassadors are also gathering feedback from the classroom wellbeing comment boxes and will soon present their findings to Mr Cano. They are using the Five Ways to Wellbeing framework to guide their ideas for improving wellbeing across the school.

Before the end of term, the Ambassadors will be sharing their progress with the whole school in a special assembly. We are so proud of the work they have done and cannot wait to hear their update!

**End of term assembly, Wednesday 23rd July, at 1:30pm**

We hope parents will join us for our end of term assembly on Friday, starting at 1:30pm. We will have Maple class playing the steel drums for us. We will announce the classes with the best attendance for the term and finish with some words from a good friend of Purwell School, the Rev Melanie Crowley, from
St Faiths Church. The school day will end directly after the assembly.

**Staffing Announced at the Open Day Evening**

Thank you to those parents who were able to join us for the Open Evening. At the event, Mrs Mullan gave a talk about the progress made this year in school in terms of The Purwell Way and improved school systems. Miss Cooper spoke to parents about other useful information.

At the end of the talk, the staffing arrangements for the next academic year were announced. Here is a summary for those parents that were unable to make the meeting.

**EYFS:** Miss Cooper, (plus Ms Kerr, Miss Watson, Miss Trigg)

**Year 1**: Miss Daniels, (plus Mrs Mayhew, Mrs Morgan. Miss Leaho)

**Year 2**: Mrs Cowie, (plus Miss Hill)

**Year 3/4:** Mrs Powers (Mrs East and Mrs Hawkins)

**Year 5:** Mr Brazier, (plus Mrs Rook)

**Year 6:** Mrs Lancaster, (plus Mrs Pike and Mrs Walker)

The following morning, the children had the opportunity to spend some time with their new teachers and teaching assistants, getting to know one another, in preparation for September.

**Steel Pans**

We were excited this week to be able to collect our very own set of Steel Pans. Our wonderful PSA funded the purchase, and we were able to pick them up on Monday. Huge thanks to the PSA for their dedication to the development of our pupils and to Mrs Campbell and Mr McKendrick for collecting the pans from Stevenage. We look forward to decorating them in our Purwell colours to add an extra touch of school pride to our future performances.

**Piano Players tickled the ivories in special assembly**

Last Tuesday, the pupils were treated to a fabulous showcase of musical talent as Mr Day, our Herts Music Service piano teacher, put on a showcase assembly. A group of pianists from Years 4, 5 and 6, wowed the children with the quality of their play and their dedication, whilst also inspiring real interest in learning musical instruments. Congratulations to Logan Lee-Gough, Oliver Sprake, George Drury, Abbie Lau, Freya Campbell, and Toby Bates who all took part. If you're interested in piano lessons for your child please click on the link below.
[Registration - Hertfordshire Music Service](https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/)

**Spanish**

The children have had a fabulous time learning Spanish in KS2, and we look forward to starting the Spanish journey with our current Year 2 class as they move up in September.

One thing we would very much like to do with the children in KS2 is to develop their real-world use of the language. We are looking to develop links with a primary school in Spain but haven't yet been able to find a suitable school. If you have any close connections in Spain (or another Spanish speaking country) and would be prepared to help us, make contact to develop a relationship, please contact Mr Brazier.

**Year 6 Leavers Assembly**

Yesterday there were mixed emotions at the Year 6 Leavers’ assembly. At this special occasion, Oak Class pupils said their goodbyes to the school and parents of pupils from that class joined us for this event. Aswell as seeing and hearing from the pupils about their most treasured memories of their time at Purwell School, we witnessed various displays of their talents and musical instrument playing. The Year 6 Pupil of the Year, as elected by all the staff at school, was announced as Viva Tyler. Her name is now engraved on the prestigious shield which is displayed in the school’s trophy cabinet.

We wish all the pupils from Oak class the absolute best of fortune as they move on to their chosen secondary schools.

**Sad Farewells and warm welcomes**

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to two valued members of our support staff team. Mrs Burden is relocating to Devon over August to start a new life in the southwest of the country. Also leaving us is Mrs Davis, who has been supporting children with SEND in Year 4 for the past two years, will be moving on to Woolgrove School, a specialist provision for children with autism, where she will continue her excellent work supporting pupils with additional needs. Mr Sears, who has worked with our infant classes for the last three years, is relocating to a school closer to home and where his youngest daughter attends.

We are pleased to welcome two experienced teaching assistants to the Purwell team in September.
Miss Trigg will join our Early Years team, bringing with her three years of SEND experience and a great deal of enthusiasm. Her skills and training will be an asset to both pupils and staff.

Miss Hawkins will be supporting Sycamore Class (Years 3 and 4) alongside Mrs Powers and Mrs East.
Mrs Hawkins brings a calm, nurturing presence that we are confident will complement the team and support pupils effectively.

**Sports Report**

We have had a busy end to the summer term sports wise. Mr Hart and Miss Taylor did a fabulous job organising Monday's sports day and it was a pleasure to see so many families come along to support their children.

Our Year 6 Purwell Pedallers enjoyed their last Full Greenway ride on Tuesday 15th July, showing just how far they have come as they cycled the full 21.5km route, taking in a mix of on and off-road segments. A couple of Year 5 children joined the ride, showing how bright the future of cycling at Purwell is.

Mr Hart and Mrs Morgan have recently qualified to deliver balance bike training in EYFS and KS1, which will start in the Autumn term. This week our Year 1 children enjoyed taking part in their first session. We have had a fabulous uptake for September's 5 week taster course, for the current Year 1/2 children.

**Autumn Term 2025 Fixtures and Schedules:**

Wednesday 24th September - Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Friendly v Whitehill @ Purwell

Thursday 2nd October - Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Festival @ Letchworth Rugby Club

Tuesday 7th October - Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Festival @ Letchworth Rugby Club

Tuesday 14th October - Year 5/6 Purwell Pedaller Greenway Ride

Football, netball and other sports fixtures will be arranged and released early September.

We would like to pass on our thanks to all the parents for their support this year. Fixtures rely upon the dedication of all those who help transporting the children, without you they would not have been able to enjoy the wonderful experiences they have.

**Returning books**

Please can you ensure that, before the end of the week, all school reading and library books are returned. Thank you.

**Taking holidays during term time**

Another reminder to parents is 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 to this newsletter, and are on the website, so any parents making holiday plans can check that they fit around the school dates first before booking anything.

**School uniform**

Next term, we will be having a big push on pupils wearing the correct uniform to school.



The most common issues we encounter are hair bands that are too brightly coloured and the regulation all-black trainers, which should not have any bright colourful logos on. Please ensure that you purchase the correct style for your child in September. PE clothing should be a **white T-Shirt**, school logo optional and **navy-blue shorts** as they appear in this photo below. Further details of school’s uniform policy can be found here.

[Purwell Primary School » Uniform](https://purwell.herts.sch.uk/parents/uniform/)

 **Local Support and workshops for parents**

With this newsletter there is an additional document attached with information about local events and workshops for parents.

**Dates for Summer Term** **2025**

Wednesday 23rd July Last day of term at 1:30pm (2pm finish)

**Early Dates for** **2025 and 2026**

Wednesday 22nd October Parent consultations (online appointments)

Thursday 23rd October Parent consultation (face-to-face appointments)

Wednesday 17th December Christmas Productions (EY and KS1)

Thursday 18th December Christmas Productions (KS2)

Friday 26th June Sports Day

Thursday 9th July Secondary School transition day and meet the new teacher morning.

**Academic Year 2025/26**

**Autumn Term 2025**

Wednesday 3rd September School closed for INSET day

Thursday 4th September Children return to school

27th Oct– 31st October Half-term

Monday 3rd November School closed for INSET day

Friday 5th December School closed for Occasional day

Friday 19th December Last day of term

**Spring Term 2026**

Monday 5th January School closed for INSET day

Tuesday 6th January Children return to school

16th – 20th February Half-term

Friday 27th March Last day of term

**Summer Term 2026**

Monday 13th April Children return to school

25th to 29th May Half-term

Monday 1st June School closed for INSET day

Friday 10th July School closed for INSET day **NEW DATE**

Thursday 23rd July Last day of term