

PURWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
23rd October 2024

Thought for the day: 'When black cats prowl and pumpkins gleam, may luck be yours on Halloween.' - A traditional saying.

Invitation to OFSTED Report Information Evening – Thursday 7th November at 6:45pm

We are delighted to invite all parents to an information evening with our Chair of Governors, Dr Gareth Bates, on Thursday 7th November at 6pm, in the school hall. This is a celebratory occasion, as we share the highlights of our recent 'GOOD in all areas' Ofsted inspection report and discuss the fantastic progress we've made as a school. Join us for an insightful talk, followed by a chance to mingle over cheese and wine. We look forward to celebrating with you and sharing how we plan to build on this success!

SEN update

We have recently been made aware of a new handbook which has been designed to support parents of neurodiverse children. Written by parents, for parents, the handbook contains resources and information of local support groups that may be useful. Please follow the link to view it;
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/media-library/documents/resource-area-documents/supporting-your-neurodiverse-child-handbook-pdf-6.6mb.pdf>.

Long wait times for Education Health and Care Plan (EHCPs)

To all the families who are experiencing long wait times for EHCPs, we recognise and share your frustrations. In many cases, families are having to wait much longer than is expected. Please be assured that Mrs Mullan (SENCo) is regularly chasing the outcome of EHCP assessments for families who are waiting. Unfortunately, there is little more that school can do to speed this process up. This is due to EHC assessments and plans being the responsibility of county rather than school.

Mental Health and Wellbeing update

In an assembly last week, the children were shown a video designed to develop their understanding of emotional well-being. The video introduced the concept of flipping your lid and explained the processes which take place in our brains when we become overwhelmed and momentarily lose control of our responses to a situation. The concept was first developed by Dan Siegel. The video is just one of many which are shown throughout the year to support children to better understand their own behaviour as well as the behaviour of others.

Bullying update

Since our last update, I am pleased to say that we have had no incidents of bullying behaviour reported in school.

Governors in action

At the Governing Board meeting this week, the school governors heard a report from the Headteacher on school progress before the Chair of Governors gave his update. A discussion was had about value for money, in terms of our Herts for Learning curriculum support.

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Also, at this week's meeting the governors received updates from Mr Cano about the site development plans, including our plans to upgrade the gas system in the kitchen. There also plans to refurbish the Year 6 toilets and fit electric hand dryers in all of the school toilets. Governors also heard about the longer-term plan of bringing STEM opportunities into lunchtimes.

Later, governors heard from Mrs Sharp, (our School Business Manager) about finances and budget monitoring and then, policies were ratified including child protection, equality and social media. The governors also confirmed that they had read and understood the guidelines in the Keeping Children Safe in Education Document, published by the Department for Education.

Becoming a school governor

Being a school governor is an incredibly rewarding role to take on and it means that you can have a direct input in creating the future success of the school. 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](#)

Attendance update

As part of our regular feature on attendance, I am pleased to announce that the current attendance for the school stands at 94.9%, which means we are well on track to achieve our 94% target this year. This looks even better in comparison to where we were at this time last year, when attendance stood at 92.5. So, we are 2.4% better this year than last year. Well done everyone! Let's keep coming to school every day.

Don't forget there are prizes to be won in the summer term for best attendance.

Pupil prize	Class prize
<p>A toy of their choice, up to the value of £50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Family shopping vouchers worth £100</p>	<p>A special best class attendance pencil.</p> <p>A special day where they can come to school in home clothes. On that day they will have an extra-long play time, and can play football, if they wish.</p> <p>That afternoon, they will have a class party with pizza and ice cream.</p>

We would like to thank parents for their support with this initiative to help boost school attendance.

Parking in the staff carpark

A reminder to parents that they are not to park in the staff car park at drop-off or collection times. There is one exception to this rule for the parent of a child in Year 3, who drives a white car. She has permission to park there as her child presents a genuine flight-risk at either end of the school day.

PE kit

As the weather is now turning a bit chillier, it is important that pupils in KS2 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.

Communicating with teachers

If you wish to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please do so via the school office at admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk or by phoning 01462 432950. Alternatively, if you are able to, you can speak directly with the teacher at the start and the end of each day, before they enter the classroom to start the day, bearing in mind the limited time they have, but it might be long enough to deliver a message, or to arrange a meeting, if necessary. We can now also arrange video meetings on line for parents.

Sports Report

It's been a busy fortnight for our various Purwell sports teams and clubs, with fixtures both home and away along with our a Letchworth Greenway adventure for our Year 6 Purwell Pedaler Cycle Club Mentors.

Football -

Our footballers bounced back well following early season defeat at the hands of Samuel Lucas. The boys team put on a fabulous showing against William Ransom in the Wix Cup, Ernie Bloomfield opened the scoring with a cracking strike and Alfie Lewis added our second of the afternoon. The second half saw us tire, playing up the hill, and our newly structured defense was unable to hold the visitors at bay and it wasn't to be for us in our search for a place in the next round. We then made the journey to Whitehill for a double header.

Rugby -

We were victorious in all senses of the word, we welcomed two teams from Whitehill to the school.



Cycling -

After a positive start to the academic year as mentors our Year 6 Purwell Pedalers were rewarded with a trip out on the Greenway this Tuesday, 22nd October. The riders demonstrated just how far they've come since starting the club as they undertook the 15km ride at pace. Their road sense as well as their bike handling skills are a credit to them and we look forward to seeing them take on the full Greenway circuit next spring. The riders also did a fabulous job showing the Year 4 and 5 club members the ropes across a medley of races at their last training session. Hopefully their skills and experiences will support the younger riders when they make their racing debuts at Ashwell on 24th November! We would like to thank Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Haslam, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Drury for joining us on the Greenway, without them such outings wouldn't be possible.



Netball -

Our netball team continue to travel on an upward trajectory, last Monday they came up against a strong St. Andrews side here at Purwell. Whilst we couldn't get the win we hoped for, we continue to show a developing understanding of the tactics required along with a faultless team spirit. Goals from Morgan Campbell-Phillips and William Harper were high points in terms of match statistics, but it was the encouragement the players gave each other which provided the real win on the night.

Upcoming fixtures

Thurs 24/10/24	Year 5/6 Basketball Competition @ Fearnhill (during school hours)
Sun 24/11/24	Purwell Pedallers Race Day @ Ashwell

PSA news

Halloween Disco - this Friday!! Virtual tickets are on sale now!!

3:30-5pm: EYFS - Yr 3 (parent/carer supervision required)

5:30-7pm: Yr4 - Yr6

Lots of fun to be had - DJ, Games, Refreshments (no bar), tuck shop, free craft table, Fancy Dress Competition and Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Competition!

- Tickets are £3.50. Siblings under 3 and grown-ups go free
- You can pay online to:

Purwell School Association(Business account)

Sc 090129

Ac 37165077

- Please email the PSA (purwell.school.association@gmail.com) confirming:
 - o child's name and class
 - o that you have paid online
 - o and a parent contact number for any unaccompanied Yr4-6 children
- Or in an envelope clearly marked with the above details to the office
- Deadline of 8pm on Thursday (24th) for online payments

AND if you can spare half an hour to help out (beforehand, during or after!) we would be super grateful- please email or get in touch via your Class Rep.

Halloween Trail - Thursday 31st October - 5-7pm

We will be holding our family friendly Halloween Trail around Purwell again this year. If you would like your house to appear on the map please message the PSA on Facebook or via email with your address. The more houses the merrier!

We will provide you with a spooky sign for your window/door so that the children know you are a safe house to visit on Halloween. And remember you don't need to be at home the whole time- you can just leave a bowl of sweeties on the doorstep!

The trail will start from 33 Thatchers End where trail maps will be available for £1 and some seasonal refreshments will be on offer too! Maps available until 6:30pm.

PSA communications - to keep up to date with all things PSA please join the Facebook Group ("Purwell School Association") and make sure you are on your class WhatsApp group. The WhatsApp groups are also handy for general class stuff (missing jumpers / birthday parties / what page is this week's homework? Etc!). 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!

ASDA Cashpot & Easy Fundraising- don't forget to check out our recent Facebook posts about these. Two brilliant ways to help fundraise some extra cash for the PSA without costing you a penny!

PSA upcoming events:

Friday 25th October - Halloween Disco

Thursday 31st October - Halloween Trail

Thursday 28th November - Next Page Books Book Fair, 3:15-4:15pm in the school hall

Thursday 5th December - Food Drive for Feed Up Warm Up / Non-uniform day

Dates for Autumn Term 2024

October

Wednesday 23rd	Parent Consultations via Video link
Thursday 24th	Parent Consultations via Face to Face in school
Friday 25th	PSA Halloween Disco
28th - 1st November	Half term
Thursday 31st	Halloween Trail

November

Monday 4 th	School Closed for Inset day.
Thursday 7th	Ofsted report information evening with wine and cheese
Sun 10 th - Fri 15 th	Year 5 and 6 to Kingswood residential trip
Thursday 28th	Next Page Books Book Fair, 3:15-4:15pm in the school hall

December

Thursday 5th	Food Drive for Feed Up Warm Up/Non-uniform day
Friday 6th	School closed for Occasional Day
Wednesday 11 th	Christmas School Lunch
Wednesday 18 th	EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Thursday 19 th	KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Friday 20 th	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing
	Term ends at 2pm

Join our PRIVATE school Twitter group to get the latest news

You can keep up to date with what is going on in school via our **private Twitter page**. No pictures or information about the children can be seen by anyone on Twitter who is not part of the private group, you must join the group and only parents of children at Purwell can join. You will need to apply to become a member on the school's Twitter page and then contact the school office, giving them your Twitter username, to have permission to be accepted into the group.