

PURWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2026

*Thought for the day: "children are not things to be moulded but are people to be unfolded."  
Jess Lair*

**Attendance Competitions are back!**

We are delighted to share that our whole school attendance rose for the third consecutive year. This was particularly encouraging given the outbreaks of sickness that affected many families during the winter months. Thank you to our parents and carers for supporting good attendance and ensuring children were in school whenever they were well enough to attend.

Following the success of last year's attendance initiatives, our attendance competitions are back, with prizes for both classes and individual pupils.

Last term, Scarlett Butler was the lucky winner of a £50 Smyths Toys voucher, while her family received a £100 supermarket voucher. Children with consistently good attendance received additional entries into the prize draw, increasing their chances of winning.

Throughout this year, we will have:

- Weekly class attendance trophies, presented in Friday's assembly
- End of year prizes for pupils with excellent attendance
- A class prize for the class achieving the highest overall attendance across the year
- Our end of year attendance prize draw, with more chances to win for consistently good attendance

We recognise that there are occasions when absence is unavoidable. Authorised absences, including medical appointments and secondary school visits for Year 6 pupils, will be considered when considering eligibility for our attendance rewards.

**Everyday Counts**

Regular attendance makes a significant difference to children's learning, friendships and sense of belonging at school. Our aim is for every child to maintain attendance of at least 90%, although we encourage attendance to be considerably higher wherever possible.

Where a child's attendance falls below 90% by half term, parents may receive correspondence from the County Attendance Team, including a breakdown of attendance and a request for improvement.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to give every child the best possible opportunity to attend school regularly and make the most of every school day.

**Dealing with bullying**

In our continued endeavour at Purwell to eradicate all types of bullying, we found it useful last year to share with parents the school's definition of bullying, which the children know well. We know that bullying is taking place when all these criteria are met.

- Being mean
- On purpose
- Over and over

The children remember this as **BOO** for short (very apt with Halloween just around the corner.)

At the start of this term, we are seeing children who feel confident in telling their peers if they have been upset by them. In most instances this has resulted in apologies being offered and received. In some cases, pupils have reported to adults, instances of unkindness and staff have responded quickly to nip matters in-the-bud, before they happen again.

### **Healthy Snacks at Break Time**

As part of Purwell's healthy eating ethos, we would like to remind families about the snacks children bring into school. Remember parents can sign up their child for receiving a daily portion fruit and veg provided by the school. We also offer milk cartons for those who would like it. Speak to the school office for more information on these.

For morning break at 10:30am, if children need a snack, it should be a healthy snack, such as fresh fruit or vegetables. Please do not send children to school with chocolate, sweets or crisps for break time.

We appreciate that lunchboxes will contain a variety of foods and there is certainly room for the occasional treat. However, we encourage families to make sure that most of the lunch is nutritious and balanced, rather than being high in sugar or dominated by highly processed snack foods.

Developing healthy eating habits is an important part of looking after children's wellbeing, concentration and energy throughout the school day. Thank you for helping us to reinforce these habits at school. 🥕

### **Sports Fixtures**

Mr. Brazier and Mr. Hart have already started the process of contacting other schools to arrange sports fixtures, and we will share details of these as soon as they have been confirmed. Whilst, unavoidably, there will be some clashes between club fixtures; we always do our best to limit this as much as possible.

Already confirmed, are two Tag Rugby festivals at Letchworth Rugby Club organised by the North Herts School Sports Partnership and supported by Saracens RUFC.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September (4-5.30pm) Football rally

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October (10am - 2pm)- Year 3&4 Tag Rugby Festival

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October (10am - 2pm) - Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Festival

On these two dates, groups of children from our Key Stage 2 classes will be attending, and further details and letters to relevant parents / carers will follow later in the month. We have already started our preparations for these events in our PE lessons!

### **Free School Meals (FSM)**

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) will be changing. From the start of the new school year, all parents/carers who are in receipt of Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of the amount received.

Applying takes around 5 minutes, and you will need your National Insurance number. Applications can be made using the following link: [Free school meals and other benefits | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

### **Secondary Transfer for Year 6 pupils**

All the information you need is available on the website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). The website has full details about the application process and a school directory providing information about secondary and upper schools in Hertfordshire.

Apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). You should visit the website to view admissions

information and apply online because: • it is quick, easy to use and secure • you will receive immediate confirmation that your application has been received, and you can view it at any time. If you do not have internet access at home, you can apply online from any Hertfordshire library. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2026.

## PSA NEWS

### ♥ PSA AGM - Come and join us!

Our PSA AGM is on Tuesday 29th September at 8pm in the Purwell Community Room (the building in the school car park).

We'd love to see some new faces! Whether you're already involved with the PSA or have never been along before, everyone is welcome. We'll be voting in the 2026/27 committee, with all roles up for re-election as usual. Fancy getting involved? Look at the attached flyer for more details about each role. No pressure - just come along, have a cuppa and find out more! ☕

### 🔔 Class Rep needed!

We're looking for a class rep for the Nursery and Reception Acorn Class.

Class reps are a really simple way to help keep your class in the loop. They share information from the central class rep WhatsApp group and are a friendly point of contact for parents with questions about PSA events. If you'd be happy to help, please get in touch with the PSA!

### 👋 New to Purwell?

Don't forget to join our Purwell School Association Facebook page and your class WhatsApp group.

### 🔍 Search Purwell School Association on Facebook.

💬 To join your class WhatsApp group, just email the PSA and we'll add you in (purwell.school.association@gmail.com)

The class groups are great for keeping up with PSA events, but they're also handy for the everyday stuff - homework questions, lost jumpers and party invitations!

## Dates for Autumn Term 2026

### September

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>   | Tag Rugby match V Whitehill |
| Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> | Football Rally              |

### October

|                                         |                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>                | Photographer in taking individual and family portraits |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>              | Parent Consultations Online                            |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>               | Parent Consultations Face to Face                      |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct | <b>Half term</b>                                       |

### November

|                                            |                                      |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> | Year 5 and 6 to PGL residential trip |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

### December

|                            |                                                           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>     | School Closed for Occasional Day                          |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>   | Whole School Christmas production (afternoon and evening) |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas School Lunch                                    |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>  | Whole School Christmas Party afternoon in the hall.       |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>    | 1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing              |
|                            | <b>Term ends at 2pm</b>                                   |