

Thought for the week: 'While we try to teach our children all about life, Our children teach us what life is all about' ~Angela Schwindt

Curriculum information and homework expectations

This week, each family will have received details of the curriculum for the Spring Term. The homework teachers set is extra learning for children to do at home and it is a valuable supplement to a child's development. There will be deadlines set that children must meet. Please help your children to meet these, regularly.

Children's Mental Health Week (5th- 9th February 2024)

On the 5th -9th February, we will be supporting children with a range of activities designed to help develop an understanding of mental wellbeing and develop helpful coping strategies. Staff are busy planning activities which will be personalised to the children in each class. As well as class based activities, we are fortunate to have a yoga teacher coming into school to work with the children and Phase will be delivering an assembly to KS2. We recognise that talking about mental health may be a sensitive topic for some children so if you feel there is something staff ought to know so that they can support your child, please speak to your child's teacher or Mrs Mullan via the school office. If there is any way you feel you can help us to make this week a great success, please get in touch..

Coffee with the SENCO

Our next SEN coffee morning is scheduled for the morning of the 25th of April. This will be our third SEN coffee morning and everyone is welcome. If you have concerns about your child or just want to meet other parents of children with special educational needs, please come along. We are hoping to have an SEN officer from Hertfordshire county council joining us at this upcoming meeting. If there is anything in particular you would like to find out about at the coffee mornings, please get in touch. We are keen to be guided by you.

Taking holidays during term time

Another reminder to parents 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 detailed below, so any parents making holiday plans can check that they fit around the school dates first before booking anything.

School closures - Winter 2024

As part of the school's planning for emergencies, parents are reminded that incidents that necessitate school closure include such things as extreme weather and loss of essential electrical, water or heating services. Details of school closures will be texted to parents via Schoolcomms. They will also be displayed on the front page of the school website and on Twitter. On days when the weather conditions are poor, but the school is open, parents are advised to walk to school, if possible, and, for those driving, it is advisable to park on Purwell Lane or Kingswood Avenue and walk the remainder. We hope you appreciate that the decision to close is never made lightly, as the safety and welfare of our children, school staff and parents/carers is of paramount importance, and no one would like to see this compromised.

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 News

Dates for your diary!

- Wednesday 14th February - Doughnut sale (after school)
- Friday 22nd March - Spring disco
- Monday 22nd April - Bag2School clothing donations
- Friday 26th April - Family Bingo
- Friday 17th May - Non-uniform day
- Wednesday 22nd May - Plant & Cake sale
- Saturday 6th July - Summer fair

Purwell Party Pack - Don't forget if you have a party coming up soon we have a brilliant party pack available to hire. It contains plates, bowls, cups, cutlery, jugs, serving plates and bunting! £5 per hire + £1 damage deposit. Email the PSA to book!

PSA communications - to keep up to date with all things PSA please join the Facebook Group and make sure you are on your class WhatsApp group. 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!

Next PSA meeting - Wednesday 6th March, 8pm The Anchor Inn

Dates for 2024/25

Dates for Spring Term 2024

5 th -9 th February	Mental Health Week
Wednesday 14th February	PSA Doughnut sale (after school)
19 th - 23 rd February	Half-term
Monday 26 th February	School Closed for Inset Day
Friday 22nd March	PSA Spring disco
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 22nd April	Bag2School clothing donations
Friday 26th April	PSA Family Bingo
Monday 6 th May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 17th May	Non-uniform day
Wednesday 22nd May	PSA Plant & Cake sale
27 th May-31 st May	Half-term
Thursday 27th June	Sports Day
Friday 28 th June	School closed for Inset Day
Saturday 6th July	PSA Summer fair
Friday 19 th July	Last day of term (2pm finish)

Academic Year 2024/25

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2 nd September	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 3 rd September	Children return to school
28 th Oct- 1 st November	Half-term
Friday 6 th December	School closed for occasional day
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 th January	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 7 th January	Children return to school
17 th - 21 st February	Half-term
Friday 14 th March	School closed for INSET day
Friday 4 th April	Last day of term

Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22 nd April	School closed for INSET day
Wednesday 23 th April	Children return to school
Monday 5 th May	Bank holiday
26 th - 30 th May	Half-term
Friday 27 th June	School closed for INSET day
Thursday 10 th July	Meet the teacher day (Secondary transition day)
Wednesday 23 rd July	Last day of term