

Thought for the day: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
- Eleanor Roosevelt

This Weeks in Assembly Topic

This week, our assemblies will focus on the theme "Is everything you hear true?".

Children are growing up in a world full of stories, rumours and online content, and it is important they learn how to pause and check before believing or sharing information. We are teaching them a simple message to help with this:

Stop - Think - Ask

Stop before you believe what you hear.

Think - does it make sense? Could it be a rumour?

Ask a trusted adult if you're unsure.

We will use fun examples, such as the idea of a crocodile in the school toilets, to help pupils understand that not everything we hear or see is true. Our aim is to give them the confidence to question information and to know where to go for help when something doesn't seem right.

Wellbeing Ambassador Update

The Wellbeing Ambassadors have held their first meeting of the term. They shared fantastic ideas about how children can support their own wellbeing in school, linking these to the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.

Their ideas are now displayed on a new wellbeing board in school, designed to inspire other children to look after their own wellbeing.

Celebrating Our School Values

Each Friday, pupils who have demonstrated our school values are recognised with a special certificate during assembly. This is just one of the ways we celebrate success and promote positive behaviour at Purwell School.

These certificates help to raise the profile of our school values, which were chosen by our school community last year. They are honesty, equity, friendship, perseverance, opportunity.

Each week, class teachers and teaching assistants nominate one or two children who have particularly embodied these values in their actions and attitudes. Congratulations to all our recent certificate winners - we are very proud of you!

SEND Update

Our next SEND coffee morning will take place in the community room straight after drop-off on Friday 17th October. We are delighted to be joined by a representative from the local Angels Support Group, who will be available to answer questions, offer advice, and explain more about the support they provide.

Please sign up via the school office if you plan to attend or email Absence-Misc@purwell.herts.sch.uk

You do not need a diagnosis to join. This session is open to all families. For further guidance and resources, you may also find this website helpful:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/resources-for-parents-and-professionals/the-neurodiversity-hub.aspx>

Mental Health Update

We hope all our families have had a positive start to the new term. We know that everyone faces challenges and worries from time to time, and we want you to know that support is available.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to share any concerns.. On our school website, under the Parents tab, you will find a dedicated Mental Health and Wellbeing section with useful information and resources. If you are looking for additional support for your child, you may find this service helpful:

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/service/school-nursing-56/>

Dealing with Bullying – What BOO Means

At Purwell, we are committed to tackling all forms of bullying. As part of this, we continue to use a simple definition to help pupils understand what bullying really means:

Being mean

On purpose

Over and over

That's "BOO" for short – very fitting with Halloween just around the corner! 🎃

Children know that if someone is being repeatedly unkind or hurtful on purpose, it is not acceptable, and we encourage them to speak up. We've already seen many pupils this term confidently telling their peers when something has upset them. In most cases, this has led to sincere apologies and quick resolutions. When issues are reported to adults, our staff act swiftly to address concerns before they escalate.

We are proud of how our pupils are learning to resolve conflicts and show kindness to one another.

Attendance Competitions Are Back!

We are delighted to share that last year our school's attendance rose to 94.6%. This is an improvement of one and a half percentage points compared with the previous year, and all the more impressive given the outbreaks of chickenpox and norovirus that affected many families during the winter months. We would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring children attended school whenever possible.

Following the success of last year's attendance initiatives, we are pleased to announce that attendance competitions will be returning this year – for both classes and individual pupils.

Last year, Charlie Pride was the lucky winner of a £50 Smyths Toys voucher, and his parents received a £100 supermarket voucher. Children with consistently good attendance were entered multiple times into the prize draw, increasing their chances of winning!

In addition to the weekly attendance trophies, awarded in Friday's assemblies, we will be offering; end-of-year prizes for individual pupils with excellent attendance; class prize for the highest overall attendance across the year

Please note: authorised absences such as medical appointments or secondary school visits for Year 6 pupils will not negatively affect your child's attendance score.

We trust that parents will continue to support the school's efforts to improve attendance, as every day in school counts.

Reminder: Pupil attendance should be no lower than 90%. Of this, no more than 10% should be unauthorised. If your child's attendance falls below this threshold by half term, you will receive a letter from the County Attendance Team, along with a detailed breakdown of your child's attendance, requesting improvement.

Exciting Baby News!

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that Mrs Cowie is expecting a baby this Christmas! 🎄 We're sure you will join us in sending warm congratulations and best wishes to her and her partner.

Plans for teaching arrangements in Holly Class for the Spring and Summer Terms will be shared with parents later this term.

Secondary Transfer for Year 6 pupils

All the information you need is available on the website 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. 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 **Friday 31st October 2025**.

Reception Admissions 2026 2027

Information for admissions into the Reception class are available on the Hertfordshire website, www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions The online system opens on **3rd November 2025** and the deadline for applications is the **15th January 2026**.

Communicating with teachers

If you wish to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please do so via the school office on the Absence-Misc@purwell.herts.sch.uk email or by phoning 01462 432950. Alternatively, if you are able to, you can speak directly with the teacher at the start and end of each day, before they enter the classroom 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.

Free School Meals

To apply for FSM you will need to apply for pupils in Years 3 - 6 on the appropriate form on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or contact Mrs Sharp in the office to apply on your behalf.

Sport Fixture dates

Wednesday 24th September - Y5&6 Tag Rugby v Whitehill (2 teams @Purwell, after school)
Thursday 2nd October - Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Festival (11:45 - 3:15 @ Letchworth Rugby Club)
Tuesday 7th October - Year 3&4 Tag Rugby Festival (11:45 - 3:15 @ Letchworth Rugby Club)

🚴 Alice Races to Success!

A huge well done to Alice in Sycamore Class, who travelled to Manchester this weekend to take part in the North West Cyclocross League race at Wythenshawe Park. Racing against local riders, Alice showed incredible determination and skill, finishing 2nd in her age group! What an outstanding achievement, Alice, we are all very proud of you! 🌞👏



Spanish Celebration Week - Special Themed Lunch!

As part of our Spanish Celebration Week, pupils will be able to order a Spanish-themed school lunch on Monday 13th October! This event links with our KS2 modern foreign languages curriculum, as pupils in Years 3 to 6 are learning Spanish in class.

Main course:

🐔 Chicken Paella

🍲 Spanish Plant Meatball & Bean Casserole (Ve)

Sides:

🥔 Patatas Bravas

🥕 Green Beans, Sweetcorn, and Carrots

Desserts:

- 🍑 Peach Tart with Vanilla Ice Cream
- 🍊 Orange Shortbread

PSA News

PSA Annual General Meeting - Get Involved!

The PSA AGM is happening on Wednesday 24th September at 8pm in the Purwell Community Room. All committee roles will be up for re-election as normal, so it's a great time to get involved and help shape the year ahead. Details about each role will be shared via school communications next week - keep an eye out!

Easyfundraising

Thank you to everyone raising donations with easyfundraising!

Not joined yet? It's easy and free!

Sign up to easyfundraising and every time you shop online with your favourite brands, they'll donate to us - at no extra cost to you.

With over 8,000 retailers involved - including big names like John Lewis & Partners, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch, and many more - your everyday shopping can help fund exciting opportunities for our children.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/purwellprimaryschoolhitchin/>

Stay Connected with the PSA

Want to stay in the loop with school events, updates, and everyday chatter?

- Join our Facebook Group: Purwell School Association
- Make sure you're in your Class WhatsApp Group - perfect for quick questions, lost jumpers, party invites, and homework reminders! Please note the Nursey group is a little thin on ground at the moment so please do get in touch if you are a nursery parent!

New to Purwell and not sure who your Class Rep is? Just drop us a line at purwell.school.association@gmail.com and we'll point you in the right direction.

Coming Up This Half Term...

- Cake Sale - sweet treats for a good cause
- Halloween Disco - spooky fun for all ages

More details coming soon!

Dates and events for Academic Year 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 13 th October	Spanish Celebration with themed lunch
Friday 17 th October	SEN Coffee morning
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parent consultations (online appointments)
Thursday 23 rd October	Parent consultation (face-to-face appointments)
27 th Oct- 31 st October	Half-term
Monday 3 rd November	School closed for INSET day
Friday 5 th December	School closed for Occasional day
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Lunch and Xmas jumper day new
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Productions (EY and KS1)
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Productions (KS2)
Friday 19 th December	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing. Term ends at 2pm

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 th January	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school
16 th - 20 th February	Half-term
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term