

PURWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

29th June 2021

"Don't tell others how to do things. Tell them what needs to be done and let them surprise you with their results." - George S. Patton

Plans to return to 'normal' in September.

I am sure that you hope, as we do, that the government will go ahead with plans to finally return to normal on July 19th. If this is the case, and there is no further delay, then we will be back to normal running in September.

This will mean an end to staggered times at the start and end of the school day, as we will return to 8:50am to 3:15pm times for **everyone**.

The separation of class bubbles will stop, too, and pupils will be able to mingle for playtimes, lunchtimes and assemblies.

Also, the school canteen will reopen for all pupils and hot food will be served, daily, once again.

School productions, open days and PSA community events will also be making a welcome return.

One thing that has worked very well at school, over the last year, has been with regards to the pupils' footwear. Since we moved to pupils wearing black trainers the school staff have noticed far fewer injuries from tripping and less wasted learning time, without the need to change in and out of shoes, each time they leave the classroom. The trainers are also proving more supportive for the pupil's feet compared to plimsols, or hard leather shoes.

So, that is one idea we are keeping for next year.

Covid update: How to get you child tested

Sadly, case rates are continuing to increase in Hertfordshire, and Hitchin is no different. While hospitalisations are lower than at the peak of the virus, people are still becoming ill with Covid-19 and those yet to be vaccinated, mainly under 18's, are at the greatest risk of infection.

We hope the following information, regarding testing, may be useful to parents.

Early years / Primary, infant and middle schools

Free rapid tests are available for anyone in year 7 and above and, if taken regularly can help reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 to one another and allow us to continue

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to provide childcare. Our staff are taking regular tests and we're encouraging all parents and carers to do the same. You can order online, collect from a pharmacy or visit a mobile testing site, view your options at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest. Please do not test children below year 7, these tests are not recommended or made for use on younger children.

If you test positive using a rapid test you must book a confirmatory PCR test at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. Your whole household, including any children, must begin self-isolating immediately.

These are challenging times for us all, please do not send children in if:

- They have any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, a temperature) - in this instance you must book a PCR test
- If they are generally unwell, especially with colds, sore throats, headache and runny noses - it's better to be safe than sorry
- They have been identified as a close contact and/or asked to self-isolate

PSA update

Thank you to the generosity of our parent body for helping to raise an impressive £102 in our recent Bags2school collection. Also, a big thank you for those who took part in the virtual balloon race which helped raise a further £123.

Upcoming events:

Purwell leisure bags

The PSA will soon be selling Purwell logo bags, for leisure use, for just £2.50. Order forms out soon.

Summer raffle

The PSA are currently looking for any donations from any local businesses that anybody knows.

Cake Sale- Mon 19/Tue 20 July

The PSA also need your help in securing any shop-bought donations, on Monday 19th July.

Circus & non-uniform day- Wed 21 July

The last Wednesday of term will be a non-uniform day. The children can, either choose to dress up in a circus theme or in their own clothes.

School Disco - Friday 17th September

DJ Dan will return for a Back to School disco next term.

Class organisation for September and meet the teacher - Thursday 8th July.

On Thursday 8th July, pupils will get the chance to spend some of the morning with their new teacher for September. The morning will offer the opportunity for children and their next teachers and TAs to get to know one another in preparation for moving up a year group in September.

I am pleased to announce that we will have the same teaching and learning staff next academic year as we have had for the last two years. That consistency and securing of their expertise is important to maintaining our high standards.

We will, also, have an additional teacher joining us next year, Mr Timothy Chan, who we will be welcoming to the Purwell team. This new addition to the staff has been made possible as Mr Hart's role will look slightly different next year, as he will be working with pupils across the year groups. The full class allocations will be as follows.

Early Years - Mrs Prue

Year 1 - Mrs Barhey

Year 2 - Mrs Powers

Year 3 - Mrs Keohane

Year 4 - Mr Chan

Year 5 - Mrs Lancaster

Year 6 - Mrs Cooper

Sun safety

With the glorious weather we have had recently, it seems like a good time to recap our 'safe in the sun' approach.

- There are plenty of shaded areas under the trees and by the gazebo and children are encouraged to play in the shade on hot sunny days.
- All children should have a sun hat or cap to wear when playing out. Purwell School caps can be bought from the school office. Please ensure all are NAMED clearly.
- You may wish to apply sunscreen to your child at the start of the day; however, children should not bring bottles of cream into school for reapplication. There are many brands which offer long-lasting/all-day protection and a liberal application in the morning would see them through the school day.

- Children should have a bottle of water with them in school, each day, which should be named. However, these must have a 'sports cap' and not an open bottle neck, to prevent spillages on children's work. Bottles of water should not be frozen (although specially designed water bottles, where the centre can be frozen to keep the water chilled, are permitted).
- Children should have summer PE kit for outdoor sports, every day (not long trousers).

Cleaner - recruiting for September

The school needs to recruit a Cleaner, to start in September. Working hours are five school days per week, two hours each day. Duties include cleaning classrooms and other areas of the school. The rate of pay is £9.24 per hour. If you are interested, please approach Mrs Sharp, our School Business Manager in the school office, for an application form.

School Diary Dates

Summer Term 2021

Friday 2 nd July	School closed for INSET day.
Friday 9 th July	Sports Day
Friday 16 th July	Annual reports sent to parents.
Wednesday 21 st July	PSA funded Circus Wellbeing Day
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of term.

Term dates for 2021/22

Autumn Term 2021

Wednesday 1st September	School closed for INSET day.
Thursday 2nd September	Children return to school.
25th October - 29th October	Half-term
Friday 3rd December	School closed for Occasional Day's holiday
Tuesday 21st December	Last day of term

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5th January	School closed for INSET day.
Thursday 6th January	Children return to school.
14th February - 18th February	Half-term
Friday 11th March	School closed for INSET day
Friday 1st April	Last day of term

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19th April	School closed for INSET day
Wednesday 20th April	Children return to school
Monday 2nd May	Bank holiday
30th May - 3rd June	Half-term
Friday 1st July	School closed for INSET day
Friday 22nd July	Last day of term