

**Thought for the week:** "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

### World book day - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

At Purwell, we are passionate about fostering a love of reading - one that sparks imagination and curiosity!

This year, to celebrate World Book Day, we invite children to come dressed as a noun or adjective! They could be an object (a knight, princess, scientist), or a colour (red, yellow, green), or even describe themselves—sparkly, brave, energetic! We can't wait to see their creativity in action! Throughout the day, classes will take part in exciting book-related activities, share stories with staff, and each child will receive a World Book Day voucher to choose a new book to enjoy.

We're looking forward to a fantastic celebration of reading!

### Parent Teacher Consultations

These will take place on:

ONLINE MEETINGS - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March until 6.00pm

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March until 7.00pm

Booking for these consultations will be online, via the school link, **from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, <https://purwell.schoolcloud.co.uk/> once you have logged in to Schoolcloud, please ensure the school have the same email address and mobile number that you will use and how you are addressed, Mrs, Miss etc.

### Wellbeing Ambassadors

We were delighted by the overwhelming response from children eager to become Wellbeing Ambassadors! With over 75 applications for just 12 spots, it was truly inspiring to see the effort and enthusiasm each child put into their entry. After much consideration, we are excited to announce our Wellbeing Ambassadors for the rest of this academic year:

Holly Class - Harriet Ford and Malik Squires

Willow Class - Yelyzaveta Bochkarova and Fahad Jan

Beech Class - Leo Corbett and Amy-Rose Wogan

Maple Class - Isaac Timlett-Moran and Scarlet Butler

Aspen Class - Rosie Dowle and Morgan Campbell-Phillips

Oak Class - Ciaran Duffy and Viva Tyler

Badges will be presented during assembly on Friday, and our first meeting will be scheduled soon. We can't wait to hear the brilliant ideas our new ambassadors bring to enhance wellbeing across the school!

### SEN Coffee Morning

A big thank you to all the parents who shared their feedback on our SEN coffee mornings. Your input is invaluable in helping us shape these sessions to better support our families.

In response to your suggestions, the next coffee morning will be held on Friday, 14th March, from 9:00 to 10:00 am in the community room. Mrs Mullan (SENCo) and Mrs Walker (Pastoral Learning Support Assistant) will be there for an informal chat, providing a welcoming space to meet other parents and discuss any concerns or questions.

No diagnosis is required to attend—everyone is welcome! Hot drinks and biscuits will be available, and we look forward to seeing you there.

### **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 our recent Governing Body meeting, the governors discussed key updates on school growth, attendance, staffing, and site improvements.

With 163 pupils now on roll, our school continues to grow. Attendance has improved to 94.3%, exceeding the county threshold, and we aim to build on this progress. New staff members have joined, and a heating system upgrade has been approved for summer installation. Plans are also in place to enhance outdoor play areas.

Thanks to careful budget management, the school is ending the financial year in surplus. Parents are encouraged to participate in Ofsted's latest consultation on how it inspects school, for more information use this link [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOV.UK](#) and news was shared that the PSA has provided £50 per teacher for classroom resources.

### **Attendance update**

As part of our regular feature on attendance, I am pleased to announce that the current attendance for the school stands at 94.3%, which means we are still 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 93.2. So, we are 1.1% better so far 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.

| <b>Pupil prize</b>                            | <b>Class prize</b>  |
|---|---|
| A toy of their choice, up to the value of £50 | A special best class attendance pencil.   |
| AND   | 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. |
| Family shopping vouchers worth £100           | That afternoon, they will have a class party with pizza and ice cream.  |

### **Nursery admissions for September 2025**

Nursery Admissions for September 2025 are still open. Application forms for our nursery can be found on the school's website, or from the office and you can apply either by the nursery email ([nurseryadmissions@purwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nurseryadmissions@purwell.herts.sch.uk)) or contacting the school office. The application deadline is 17th March 2025.

Some parents may be eligible for 30 hours a week nursery. Please check this link to see if your child is eligible - [30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## **Sports Report**

Despite the weather, last half term was a really busy one for our school sports teams. We played football and netball matches against other schools and took part in Sports Hall Athletics and Rapid Fire cricket competitions.

There's a phrase in football that it's 'a game of two halves' and that's certainly been the case for Team Purwell as, in both of our last two A team matches, we found ourselves 2-0 down at half time. The second halves were totally different stories however as we showed great determination and resilience to bounce back to a narrow 2-1 defeat at Highover and a 3-3 draw with Ickleford.

After putting in a creditable performance against a very strong Whitehill team in their last match, our netballers were disappointed to have Wednesday's fixture against Highover called off due to the weather. With the end of season rallies approaching, it has been fantastic to see so many players coming to our netball club and to be able to be given the chance to represent the school.

Rapid Fire cricket is an indoor version of cricket and, towards the end of last half term, we took 2 teams of pupils from Years 3 and 4 to compete in a small schools competition over at Fearnhill School. Both teams performed brilliantly, with one team finishing as runners-up and the other team finishing 6th out of the 8 participating teams. The players were very nervous to start off with but grew in confidence and showed great teamwork and togetherness in the series of short matches that each team played.

We're looking forward to participating in the Hitchin School's cricket league this summer with our Y5/6 team and are hoping to organise some friendlies to bring along our Y4 children.

Despite being a small school, our athletes performed tremendously in their Sports Hall Athletics heat. Taking part in a mixture of field and track events, our team won the very first race (the Boys' Obstacle Race) and also the very last race (the Girls' 4x 1 lap Relay) to 'bookend' the competition wonderfully. Although results from individual events weren't published, there were many notable achievements in the field events too, with our pupils scoring highly across the jumping and throwing events.

Well done to all who took part in these events and a massive thank you to all the parents who have come along to support and helped with transportation.

We're now just waiting for the field to dry out enough for lunchtime cricket clubs to resume so that our players can get themselves ready for the coming season. With a trip to Lord's in the diary, our family day at Merchant Taylor's and our league fixtures to fulfil, it will be a fabulous summer.

## **Upcoming fixtures**

Thursday 27th February - Girls Football (home v Ickleford)

Thursday 6th March - Netball (home v Ickleford)

Wednesday 12th March - Netball (home v Our Lady)

Thursday 13th March - A Team Football (away v Pirton)

Monday 24th March - A Team Netball Rally (at Whitehill)

## **Cycling Club**

The Cycling Club starts back up on Tuesday 25th February and we look forward to seeing our riders back out on the field. A selection of our strongest Year 6 riders from the cycling club, have been invited to

complete a full ride of the Greenway on Tuesday 25th March, a big step up in their development as they move on from the shorter Greenway loops they've been riding in the past. We look forward to seeing the Year 4 and 5 riders making their Greenway debuts on the shorter loop in the summer.

### Taking holidays during term time

We kindly remind parents to avoid taking their children on holiday during term time. Such absences disrupt your child's learning and can impact the overall school environment. The government has recently introduced a new national framework for penalty notices regarding unauthorised term-time holidays. These measures are now in effect.

To assist with your planning, the term dates for the next academic year are listed below. We encourage all families to check these dates before booking any holidays. Thank you for your support in prioritizing your child's education.

### Local Support and workshops for parents

<https://tinyurl.com/dspl1news> - EASY LINK FOR SHARING WITH PARENTS

Information Event for parents - booking is now live

Brad Riches Neurodivergent journey

### PSA News

A HUGE thank you to everyone who made yesterday's doughnut sale a success! Your support was amazing, and we were so thrilled with how popular the doughnuts were (we actually ran out!). Don't worry, we'll be sure to have even more next year!

Also a big thanks to everyone who downloaded the ASDA cash pot last Autumn - we raised £112.40!

Upcoming events -

- 4th April - Non-uniform day
- 23rd April - PSA meeting, 8pm
- 25th April - Spring Disco
- 16th May - Non-uniform day (in return for sweetie jar donations)
- 18th May - Walsworth Festival
- 21st June - Summer picnic event
- Fridays in July - "Frozen Fridays" (after school ice lolly sales!)

**Purwell Party Pack** - Don't forget if you have a party coming up soon please think about hiring the pack - it helps raise money for the school and is a planet friendly option. £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 ("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](mailto:purwell.school.association@gmail.com) and we'll help!

*Next PSA meeting - Wednesday 23rd April, 8pm, Purwell Community Room*

## Dates for Spring Term 2025

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March    | Bookings for Parents consultations open at 3pm  |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March | Parent Consultations - ONLINE                   |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March  | Parent Consultations - FACE TO FACE             |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April     | Non-Uniform Day                                 |
|                                  | 1:30pm End of term assembly with Easter singing |
|                                  | Last day of term (2pm finish)                   |

## Dates for Summer Term 2025

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April             | School closed for Inset Day                           |
| Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April           | Pupils return to school                               |
|  | PSA meeting, at 8pm, in the Community Room            |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April              | Spring Disco  |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May                 | May Bank Holiday                                      |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May                | Non-uniform day (in return for sweetie jar donations) |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May                | Walsworth Festival                                    |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> May- 30 <sup>th</sup> May | Half-term   |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> June             | Summer picnic event                                   |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June             | Sports Day  |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June               | School closed for Inset Day                           |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July             | Meet the teacher and Secondary transfer day for Y6    |
| Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July            | Last day of term (2pm finish)                         |

## Academic Year 2025/26

### Autumn Term 2025

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September            | School closed for INSET day      |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September             | Children return to school        |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct- 31 <sup>st</sup> October | Half-term                        |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November                | School closed for INSET day      |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December                | School closed for Occasional day |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December               | Last day of term                 |

### Spring Term 2026

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

### Summer Term 2026

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April            | Children return to school   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> May | Half-term                   |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June              | School closed for INSET day |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July              | School closed for INSET day |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July           | Last day of term            |