

*Thought for the day: "Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."
— Janice Maeditere*

Celebrating Our Purwell Heroes

At last Friday's special assembly, we had the pleasure of awarding two Purwell Hero medals, recognising remarkable acts of courage and dedication within our school community.

The first medal was awarded to Alfie Lewis, who demonstrated incredible bravery in overcoming his anxieties to attend the Kingswood residential trip. His determination and resilience was truly inspiring. The second medal was presented to Mr. Brazier, whose unwavering support and encouragement helped Alfie succeed throughout the five-day residential experience. His dedication exemplifies the caring ethos of our school.

It was a proud and heartwarming moment for everyone at Purwell, showcasing the strength of our school community and the importance of supporting one another.



Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 11th December

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 11th December, and the children can wear their Christmas jumpers. A flyer with the menu will be sent out via schoolcomms with a message about how to order for your child.

Children get ready for Christmas productions

The rehearsals for the Christmas productions are in full swing. The Early Years and infant classes will have separate performances from the juniors. There will be a small charge for attendance at these performances - £2 for children of primary school age and £4.00 for everyone else. All the money raised will go towards school improvements. Tickets will be on sale via the school gateway from Monday 9th December for those who wish to attend and tickets will then be sent out.

Wednesday 18th December, 2:15pm and 6.30pm, Nursery to Year 2

Thursday 19th December, 2:15pm and 6.30pm, Years 3 to 6

Sports update

Cycling

On Sunday 24th November the Purwell Pedallers braved the 50mph winds to take part in CC Ashwell's Muddy Monsters race afternoon.

Over a technical, wet and physically demanding course the riders were put to the test in both sprint and endurance races. The wind was so strong it presented more of a challenge than any of the specially designed course features, riding into it slowed even the oldest and most experienced riders in attendance.

On the day Alyssa and Scarlett Butler, both managed gold medals in their respective racing classes, while racing debutant, Arthur Biggs, took a wonderful silver medal in the U10 boys. Alice Haslam took gold in the U8 girls, giving us a clean sweep across the U8, U10 and U12 girl's categories. Our U12 boys, Alfie Lewis, Josh Haslam and Raffi Caneppele-Masters did a sterling job in the packed U12 boys field, coming home 4th, 5th and 6th respectively.

It's a testament to the positive attitude of our Pedallers that many of them now race in club colours for CC Ashwell, having taken the leap up from the school field to the local competitive team.

The next race day for the Purwell Pedallers takes place on Saturday 1st February at 1pm at Ashwell's track, SG7 5LT.

Cricket

Whilst the season is very much over, planning for next year is already taking place and we're pleased to be able to confirm our Purwell CC family outing will be taking place on Sunday 1st June 2025 as Middlesex take on Glamorgan in a T20 double header.

In other exciting cricket news we're also going to be running a school cricket team trip to Lord's, the home of cricket, on Thursday 19th June to watch Middlesex v Essex in the T20 Blast. This will offer an amazing opportunity for our cricket players to experience top level cricket in one of the world's most famous sporting venues among a crowd of 20,000 to 30,000 people.

Football

Saturday 22nd February, Hitchin Town FC have invited representatives from Purwell as Mascots for Hitchin. A group of 12 of our dedicated Purwell football team players will be invited in due course ready for the 3pm kick off that afternoon.

Musical opportunity for steel pan players

A special opportunity has arisen for our Year 4 children to take part in a Steel Pan performance with a twist. We've secured a slot to perform at the Middlesex v Essex T20 cricket fixture v Glamorgan at Merchant Taylors School, Northwood, HA6 2HT on Sunday 1st June. We will be playing a number of sets throughout the day and are incorporating this into our Purwell Cricket Club family day. Further details to follow, save the date!

Medicines at school

We have had two incidences in the past couple of weeks of children bringing medicine into school in their bags and having it there throughout the day. Please could we remind parents that any medication coming in to school needs to be given to the office and signed in and out to safeguard our children. Thank you.

PE kit

As the weather is now turning a bit chillier, it is important that pupils have the proper outdoor PE kit in addition to their indoor kit, for outdoor lessons. This is a navy, Purwell PE sweatshirt (available from Beats, in Hitchin) and navy jogging bottoms.

Reading at home

Please ensure that you hear your child read regularly at home and that this is recorded in their reading record books. The record books are the only indication that your child is having regular opportunities to read to an adult. Comments in the books that relate to the child's phonological progress and comprehension are the most useful for teachers to read.

Free School Meals (FSM)

If you are in receipt of benefits, your children may be eligible for FSM. Registering for UIFSM will identify pupils in Reception and Years 1 and 2. However, you will need to apply separately for pupils in Years 3 - 6. You should complete the appropriate form on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to apply or contact Mrs Sharp in the office to apply on your behalf.

School Hall Hire

The school hall is available for private hire for birthdays and events outside the school day. Please contact the school office for further details.

PSA EVENTS & NEWS UPDATE

PSA NEWS

Book Fair

Thursday 28th November, 3:15-4:15pm in the School hall

Next Page Books (the independent children's bookshop in town) will be bringing a huge range of books with them on Thursday - of all reading levels, topics and prices. They will donate 10% of sales from the book fair to the school to spend on books, so please come along and grab some Christmas pressies! Cash and card accepted.

Non-uniform Day / Food drive

Thursday 5th December

We will be holding a non-uniform day in support of Feed Up Warm Up's 6th birthday. In exchange for wearing home clothes for the day we would be grateful if the children could bring in a donation of one (or more!) of the following:

- Tinned meals
- Beans
- Custard
- Rice Pudding
- Soups
- Xmas selection boxes
- Tuna
- Tinned veg
- Biscuits
- Crisps
- Toiletries
- Xmas treats / chocolates

Feed Up Warm Up is a local a homeless charity. They offer food, friendship and support to homeless people, and those at risk of homelessness in Hertfordshire.

Christmas Shop

An opportunity for the children to buy a gift for a grown up in their family. They can then wrap it up and write the tag at school so it will be a surprise for the lucky recipient!

£2 per gift. Limit of 2 gifts per child. The children can pay on the day or you can pay in advance online to the usual PSA bank account:

Purwell School Association(Business account)
Sc 090129
Ac 37165077

If paying online please let your Class Rep know when you have done so as they will be providing a list to the Christmas Shop Elves

General Christmas bits...

- Production refreshments - Mince pies and mulled wine will be available to purchase before the Christmas Productions on the 18th and 19th December.
- Raffle - We will also be holding a pre-Christmas Raffle with some great prizes. More details to follow!
- **PSA upcoming events:**
- Thursday 28th November - Next Page Books Book Fair, 3:15-4:15pm in the school hall
- Thursday 5th December - Food Drive for Feed Up Warm Up / Non-uniform day
- Thursday 12th & Friday 13th December - Christmas Shop
- **Next PSA meeting** - Wednesday 15th January 2025, 8pm, Purwell Community Room

Parental support, workshops and events

With this newsletter you will also receive a document which details the local support agencies for parents and carer's. These include workshop and events.

Dates for Autumn Term 2024

November

Thursday 28th Next Page Books Book Fair, 3:15-4:15pm in the school hall

December

Thursday 5th Food Drive for Feed Up Warm Up/Non-uniform day

Friday 6th **School closed for Occasional Day**

Wednesday 11th Christmas School Lunch

Thursday 12th PSA Christmas Shop

Friday 13th PSA Christmas Shop

Wednesday 18th EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)

Thursday 19th KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)

Friday 20th 1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing

Term ends at 2pm

Dates for Spring Term 2025

Monday 6th January School closed for Inset Day

Tuesday 7th January Pupils return to school

17th - 21st February Half-term

Tuesday 26th March Parent Consultations

Wednesday 27th March Parent Consultations

Friday 4th April 1:30pm End of term assembly with Easter singing

Last day of term (2pm finish)

Dates for Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April School closed for Inset Day

Wednesday 23rd April Pupils return to school

Monday 5th May May Bank Holiday

26th May-30th May Half-term

Thursday 26th June Sports Day

Friday 27th June School closed for Inset Day

Thursday 10th July Meet the teacher and Secondary transfer day for Y6

Wednesday 23rd July Last day of term (2pm finish)