

*Thought for the day: "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain."  
Dolly Parton*

### Our Visitors from Ofsted

This week we were taken a little by surprise by a, very early in the year, visit from Ofsted inspectors. The two inspectors spent time looking at the quality of education across the school and spoke with staff and pupils. They met with parents in the playground and took parent views, via their online survey. I would like to thank the parents who took part for their engagement with this process. We had 72 response -which is terrific. I would also like thank the governors, staff for their continued hard work, diligence and dedication to the children at the school.

The report itself is not expected to be released by Ofsted until half term and until then the provisional grades will remain confidential. All we can say at the moment is that the staff and governors are very pleased with the fact that the inspectors recognised the huge improvements that have been made at the school since the last inspection. They certainly saw Purwell for the fantastic school that it is and the supportive school community it has. We expect to see that reflected in the report when it is released.

### Certificates for demonstrating school values

Each Friday, pupils who demonstrate the school values may receive a special certificate in assembly. This is one of the ways that we celebrate success publicly at Purwell School. These certificates also serve to raise the profile of our school values, as chosen last year by the school community.

The certificates reward pupils that uphold, demonstrate and adhere to the school values of:

- Honesty
- Equity
- Friendship
- Perseverance
- Opportunity

The class teachers and teaching assistants select one or two of their pupils each week, who they believe have best demonstrated the values that week.

### Bullying update

We were joined this term by two children who had experienced severe bullying at their previous school, to the degree that police intervention was required. They are settling well into life at Purwell. On speaking recently with the children, despite noting that the staff here were 'stricter' than at their previous school, they also commented that they have been made to feel very welcome here and feel safe around building and on the playground.

Inspectors reported that in their discussions with pupils, the children told them that there was no bullying at Purwell school and one child told them that he had experienced bullying two years earlier but staff dealt with it at the time.

All the staff and Governing Body at Purwell remain resolute in ensuring that whenever bullying occurs at school it is dealt with swiftly and in-line with the school's policy.

### Dealing with bullying

In our continued endeavour at Purwell to eradicate all types of bullying, we found it useful last year to share with parents the school's definition of bullying, which the children know well. We know that bullying is taking place when all these criteria are met.

- Being mean
- On purpose
- Over and over

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The children remember this as **BOO** for short (very apt with Halloween just around the corner.)

At the start of this term, we are seeing children who feel confident in telling their peers if they have been upset by them. In most instances this has resulted in apologies being offered and received. In some cases, pupils have reported to adults, instances of unkindness and staff have responded quickly to nip matters in-the-bud, before they happen again.

### **Attendance competitions this year**

This year we will, once again, be launching class competitions linked to pupil's attendance. This is an attempt to boost pupil attendance which has dropped from pre-Covid years totals, where we saw attendance of 96% on three consecutive years, to more recent years where it has dropped to a disappointing 93%. Even in terms of National Statistics the schools' attendance is below average and as a result is something school leaders including the Governing Board are very keen to address.

In addition to the weekly trophies that classes receive for best attendance in Friday's assembly, there will also be prizes this year for pupils with the best attendance, and an overall reward for the class with the best attendance, at the end of the year.

We will ensure that reasons for not being at school such as medical appointments, at the doctors, or the dentist, will not affect pupil's scores detrimentally, nor will visits to secondary schools for Open Days for Year 6 pupils.

We trust parents will support the school in its endeavour to get children to school more regularly.

Parents are reminded that pupil attendance should be no less than 90% and of that 10%, should not be unauthorised. If your child's attendance is less than this at half term, you will receive a breakdown of your child's attendance along with a letter from the Attendance Team, at County asking parents for improvements to their Childs attendance.

### **Legislation change for parents taking holidays during the school term**

From 2025, parents who take their children on holiday during the term will be fined up to £80 per child. After which, should they remove their children for a holiday on a second occasion, the fine will be increased to £160, per child. Legislation now supports on the third transgression parents would receive a summons to appear at judicial court. This is part of a government initiative to ensure that all children come to school every day, if they are able. Please find attached a flyer that explains the process.

### **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.

### **Secondary Transfer for Year 6 pupils**

All the information you need is available on the website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://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](http://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 Tuesday 31st October 2024***

### **Communicating with teachers**

If you wish to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please do so via the school office at [admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk) or by phoning 01462 432950. Alternatively, if you are able to, you can speak

directly with the teacher at the start and the end of each day, before they enter the classroom to start the day, 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.

### **Newsletter sports dates**

Tues 01/10/24	Pirton (A Team) Football	Home match
Thu 03/10/24	Tag Rugby Festival (Year 5/6)	At Letchworth Rugby Club
Tue 08/10/24	Tag Rugby Festival (Year 3/4)	At Letchworth Rugby Club
Mon 07/10/24	Samuel Lucas (A Team) Netball	Home match
Wed 09/10/24	St.Andrews (A Team Wix) Football	Home match

A group of children from the class will be attending the festival days of Tag Rugby, organised by the North Herts School Sports Partnership, and supported by Saracens RUFC. Further details and letters to relevant parents / carers to follow later in the month.

### **Join our PRIVATE school Twitter group to get the latest news**

You can keep up to date with what is going on in school via our **private Twitter page**. No pictures or information about the children can be seen by anyone on Twitter who is not part of the private group, you must join the group and only parents of children at Purwell can join. You will need to apply to become a member on the school's Twitter page and then contact the school office, giving them your Twitter username, to have permission to be accepted into the group.

### **PSA NEWS**

At the recent AGM the following members were voted on to the Committee:

Chair: Kate Neate

Vice Chair: Annabelle Martin

Secretary: Louise Biggs

Treasurer: Natalie McKenzie

Vice-treasurer: Heather Haslam

Marketing Officer: Lindsay Campbell

Licensing Officer: Melda Squires

Grants Officer: Julie Thiberg

Community Liaison Officer: Lisa Warren

Class reps: Nursery - tbc; Reception - Lisa; Year 1 - Charlotte; Year 2 - Lisa; Year 3 - Louise; Year 4 - Chelsea; Year 5 - Lindsay; Year 6 - Heather.

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!

PSA upcoming events:

PSA Meeting - Wednesday 16th October, 8pm, Purwell Community Room. All welcome!

Halloween Disco - Friday 25th October. Timings tbc.

### **Dates for Autumn Term 2024**

#### **October**

Tuesday 1st	Football match at home v Pirton
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Festival
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3&4 Tag Rugby Festival
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Braiswick photographer taking individual and family portraits
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	PSA meeting, 8pm in Community Room.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Consultations
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Disco
<b>28<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Half term</b>

#### **November**

Mondy 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed for Inset day.
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 and 6 to Kingswood residential trip

#### **December**

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed for Occasional Day
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas School Lunch
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing
	<b>Term ends at 2pm</b>