

Purwell Primary School

28th June 2022

Quote of the week. "Children are not things to be moulded but are people to be unfolded." - Jess Lair

Open Day/Evening - Wednesday 13th July

The Open Day and Open Evening for parents will be on Wednesday 13th July. Parents are invited to come into their child's class, from 2.15pm until 3.15pm, where they will be invited to join the children in fun learning activities which reflect our diverse and creative curriculum.

To accommodate the later-working parents, the school will open again at 6.00pm with refreshments in the hall, where Mr Cano will be saying a few words before introducing the parents to the teachers for September and announcing class allocations. After this, parents will be free to tour the school. There will be displays of children's work, subject information, and interactive computer demonstrations, with staff and pupils available to guide and answer any questions.

You said, we did

Following the recent parent survey, school leaders have been meeting to agree how best we can respond to the suggestions parents have made for school improvement. The '*you said, we did*' section is a regular feature of the newsletters this term. *You said, we did* is also the title of a new display board which has been created in the entrance lobby of the school. Why not check it out next time you are passing? It details what the school is putting in place to improve what we currently provide for pupils and parents and the return to some post-Covid ways of working.

You said: A parent asked, can children wear home clothes as an additional treat when it is their birthday? It would help them to feel more special and other children would be more likely to wish them a happy birthday.

We did: This was posed to the children in an assembly as an idea they might like to consider. Suffice to say that the suggestion was extremely popular. So, from September, we will allow pupils who wish to, to wear home clothes on their birthdays.

You said: Clarity on use of sanctions in school.

We did: In this newsletter we will be telling parents all about our therapeutic approaches to behaviour management. The policy the school follows is based on the Herts Steps approach to supporting behaviour with children in schools and has proved extremely successful since its introduction in 2018.

Therapeutic Approaches Behaviour in School

I have had the privilege to be the Headteacher at the school for over two decades. In that time, I have seen a number of changes that have taken place. Some of these changes have been enforced by changes to Government and policy changes from the Department of Education. Other changes have come from within school, as we have endeavoured to improve various elements. So many changes, some of which were more impactful than others - it has to be said! However, I can say that there is one change that has brought about the biggest leap forward in how we work since it was introduced and that was the introduction of therapeutic approaches to behaviour management.

In 2018, the school adopted the *Herts Steps* approach to behaviour management. Despite having some initial reservations, the staff took it on-board and together we have been nurturing pupils through positive approaches ever since.

The success of *Herts Steps* has led to the removal of detentions in school, as they proved ineffectual, a drop in the number of fixed term exclusions and a reduction in persistent absenteeism. The school's current persistent absentee level is 5.9%, whereas in the rest of Herts it is at a record high of 17.5%

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Fundamentally, our approach is to put the maintaining of positive relationships at the heart of what we do. Some of the children we work with have all kinds of external factors present that impact negatively upon them. In school, these can sometimes appear as challenging behaviours. At Purwell, we adopt a consistent and personalised approach. All staff are trained annually in these methods and feel confident and well-supported that they approach dealing with difficult behaviour in-line with the agreed techniques.

When children's behaviour becomes difficult, disruptive, dangerous, or unkind, our emphasis is to ensure that the child reflects on their behaviours, then repair anything damaged, or that needs tidying up, and restores positive relationships with the pupils and adults involved. When apologies need to be given, we ensure that the child has given sufficient thought to the impact of their words, or actions, so the apology is as genuine and heart-felt as possible.

It is also important that any sanctions that are used by staff are linked closely to the occasion, so, for example, if a child spends too much time talking in class and reminders from the teacher have had little impact, then the child will, either, have to complete the missed work at home, or stay in a break time to complete it. For more information on this topic, please see our Behaviour Policy on our website. Here is a link: [School Policy for PSHE and Citizenship \(purwell.herts.sch.uk\)](http://purwell.herts.sch.uk)

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

On Wednesday 20th July, at 2.15pm, there will be some mixed emotions at the Year 6 Leavers' assembly. At this assembly, Oak Class pupils will say their goodbyes to the school, and the Year 6 Pupil of the Year will be announced. Parents of pupils in that class are most welcome to join us for this event.

Annual Reports to be sent home on 18th July

On Monday 18th July, parents will be sent, via School Coms, their child's report for the year, as completed by their class teacher.

Dealing with bullying update

This week, we have had one bullying disclosure from a parent of a child in lower juniors. The parent had approached a member of staff and told them that the child had not been telling their adults in class of what had occurred and, as such, it had gone on under-the-radar.

The parent was commended for approaching staff with their problem, just as we ask all children to do in cases like this. On receiving this information, the allegation of bullying was immediately followed-up. Mr Cano brought all the three of the children involved together to discuss the matter further. The outcome of the meeting was that the two of the three incidents had taken place the previous day and, the third, the week before. There were three acts of unkindness, but as they had not happened regularly, over time, this cannot be considered as a case of bullying.

One child admitted to invading the space of the victim while they lined up on the playground to come into class, going 'nose-to-nose' with them. They acknowledged that this could be considered intimidating behaviour. They also admitted to pulling a face at them in class. The child considered this was just a 'bit of fun', but after exploring further, they conceded that it was received as unkindness. The victim of this unkindness was reminded that children are taught to say, 'Stop, I don't like that!' at times like this and they should use that in future to make it crystal-clear to everyone how it is making them feel. The second child admitted to saying 'shut up' to the victim in the classroom the previous week. Both children agreed that their behaviour was anti-social and apologised to the victim. The victim was reminded about their *network hand* of school-based adults that they can turn to if they ever need to.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs Jackson announces her retirement

After 22 years as a member of the support staff team, Mrs Jackson has announced that she will be retiring at the end of term. Mrs Jackson will certainly be missed by many of the staff and children, and we wish her a very long and enjoyable retirement.

Parents help with running clubs in September

From September, staff will be running a variety of extracurricular clubs for pupils for all ages, both during lunchtimes and after school. These will cover a range of sports, hobbies, art, and craft.

To supplement this provision, we are asking for any parents who have any suitable skills or expertise, who may, either, already run clubs outside school, or want to offer to run a new club at Purwell School to let us know.

If we feel that the club would be a suitable addition to what we have planned already, then we can make further arrangements. Club leaders will, of course, be subject to full DBS checks and will have a member of staff with them, supporting them with the running of the club and managing the children, at all times.

Dates for Summer Term 2022

Friday 1 st July	-	School closed for Inset Day
Wednesday 6 th July	-	Cheerleaders to HGS for Gym and Dance display NEW
Thursday 7 th July	-	West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village
Monday 11 th July	-	Madingley Hall & Gardens Cuffley Shepreth Wildlife Park
Tuesday 12 th July		Year 4 trip to the Sikh Temple in Hitchin. NEW
Wednesday 13 th July	-	Open Day and Evening
Thursday 14 th July	-	Meet my next teacher morning, for pupils
Saturday 16 th July	-	Purwell Rocks Event
Monday 18 th July	-	Annual reports go out to parents
Wednesday 20 th July	-	Year 6 Leavers assembly, 2:15pm
Thursday 21 st July	-	Mountfitchet Castle
Friday 22 nd July	-	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Academic Dates for 2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022

Thu 1 st September	Children return to school
Fri 23rd September	School closed for Inset Day
Mon 24 th Oct-Fri 28 th Oct	Half term
Mon 31st October	School closed for Inset Day
Fri 2nd December	School closed for Occasional Day
Wed 21 st December	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Spring Term 2023

Thu 5 th January	Children return to school
Mon 13 th Feb-Fri 17 th Feb	Half term
Fri 10th March	School closed for Inset Day
Fri 31 st March	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Summer Term 2023

Mon 17th April	School closed for Inset Day
Tues 18 th April	Children return to school
Mon 1 st May	Bank holiday
Tue 30 th May - Fri 2 nd Jun	Half term
Fri 30th June	School closed for Inset Day
Fri 21 st July	Last day of term - Finish at 2pm

Parent support, events, training and workshops

REMINDER A Space To Be ...

Are you, or do you know a young person that could benefit from a **creative space to help with mental health**? If so, take a look at this... A Space To Be... is a national Heritage Lottery funded project which is designed to improve the wellbeing of young people living in Hertfordshire. It is being run by Hertfordshire Museums Development Team in partnership with artists and museums across the county. A Space To Be ... workshops for young people who are aged from 14 to 18 and in full-time education, will provide opportunities to socialise away from the pressure of school and exams.

Workshops will take place in partner museums or online for those who cannot attend in person. They will give young people the chance to work with artists and health professionals in activities that will foster creativity, increase their personal resilience and help safeguard their mental health. If you would like to sign up for the next round of workshops, please email aspacetobeherts@gmail.com

What is it? 8 weekly 1.5 hour art based workshops.

Who is it for? Anyone aged 14 – 18 who needs a bit of time out in a friendly, relaxed space.

When is it? Weekdays after school.

What will I be doing? Different artists will be leading different creative activities – it might be photography, art, writing, music, collage... Each workshop will draw on the collection of a local museum for inspiration. Most importantly – you don't need any experience – everyone is welcome including complete beginners. It is NOT a formal art class.

Where does it take place? In museums and online.

How do I join in? The museum workshops will be easy to get to but if you need help to access them we may be able to provide transport. To participate in the online workshops you will need an internet connected device (preferably a laptop or PC). Art materials can be provided if needed.

How do I sign up? Young people can sign up for the workshops via the pastoral team at their school or by contacting Jo Askham, Project Manager: e: aspacetobeherts@gmail.com m: 07746 578 292

REMINDER PARENT/CARER WELLBEING EVENT

Providing a FREE opportunity for parents/carers of autistic people to explore their own wellbeing.

There will be stalls, Mind, mental health services, PHower- advocacy, health hub, Watford FC and more as well as tasters in Mindfulness, dance, drumming and acupuncture! FREE refreshments and CAKE! Parking available on site.

8 July 2022, 1pm to 4pm Welwyn Civic Centre

To register: contact@carersinherts.org.uk / 01992 586969

Angels Support Group

[Home - Angels Support Group](#)

REMINDER [Microsoft Word - Angels Summer2022 programme \(angelssupportgroup.org.uk\)](#)

Titles include: (Virtual and Face to Face)

- **NEW** 28 June - Workshop Managing Meltdowns (VIRTUAL) 10am to 12pm
- **NEW** 30 June - Workshop Managing Meltdowns (FACE TO FACE - Stevenage) 10am to 12pm
- **NEW** 5 July - Parent/Carer Support Group (VIRTUAL) 10am to 12pm
- **NEW** 7 July - Q&A on Education Issues - EHCPs, Graduated Response, etc (FACE TO FACE - Stevenage) 10am to 12pm
- **NEW** 12 July - Techsafe Workshop - finding your tribe online (VIRTUAL) 10am to 12pm
- **NEW** 14 July - Parent/Carer Support Group (FACE TO FACE - Stevenage) 10am to 12pm & (VIRTUAL) 7:30PM TO 8:30PM
- **NEW** 19 July - Parent Carer Support Group (VIRTUAL) 10am to 12pm
- **NEW** 21 July - Knowing your rights (FACE TO FACE - Stevenage) 10am to 12pm

NESSie and Angels Support Group

Supporting Children with Additional Needs. Funded by HCC, provided by NESSie and Angels Support Group.

- Supporting Children with ASC/ADHD: **Emotionally Based School Avoidance** [Nessie Public Booking Platform \(procfu.com\)](#)

- Supporting Children and Young People who are gender questioning 4 July [Nessie Public Booking Platform \(procfu.com\)](#)
- Supporting Children and Young People who are gender questioning 7 July [Nessie Public Booking Platform \(procfu.com\)](#)
- **NEW** Supporting Children and Young People in the LGBTQ+ Community for Parents/Carers [Nessie Public Booking Platform \(procfu.com\)](#)

ADD-vance

Funded training workshops for parents and carers of children and young people with ADHD/ASC - [ADD-vance](#)
[ADD-vance Events | Eventbrite](#) SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION: [ADD-vance](#)

- **NEW** [Tips & Tools to Manage Anxiety - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP Tickets, Thu 23 Jun 2022 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Tips & Tools for Positive Behaviour - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP Tickets, Mon 27 Jun 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Preparing for Adulthood \(14+\) FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP Tickets, Tue 28 Jun 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP for Parents/Carers of Primary Aged Children Tickets, Tue 28 Jun 2022 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Understanding Neurodiverse Teens - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP Tickets, Thu 30 Jun 2022 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Tips & Tools to Support Social Skills - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP Tickets, Mon 4 Jul 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Thinking about College? - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP Tickets, Tue 5 Jul 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP for Parents/Carers of Secondary Aged Children Tickets, Tue 5 Jul 2022 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Space Hertfordshire

[SPACE Hertfordshire](#) runs many free online workshops for parents and carers covering many aspects of supporting children and young people who are autistic, have ADHD or other neurodiverse conditions.

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/events/>

- **NEW** [SPACE Hertfordshire Volunteering Presentation Tickets, Thu 30 Jun 2022 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Mental Health in Neurodiverse Children and Young People Tickets, Tue 5 Jul 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Online Lego Club Tickets, Wed 6 Jul 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Navigating the SEND World Tickets, Thu 7 Jul 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Starting SPACE Tickets, Fri 8 Jul 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Online Cookery Session Tickets, Mon 11 Jul 2022 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Autism and Complex Needs Workshop Tickets, Thu 14 Jul 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Supporting Links:

[Supporting Links Home](#) Alongside our usual Parenting Courses, Supporting Links are pleased to be offering the

following workshops. These are open to parents and carers of children with ASD and/or ADHD across Hertfordshire, funded by the Local Authority.

- [Talking ASD & ADHD: Anxiety and Stress. For parents/carers in Herts \(511\) Registration, Tue 28 Jun 2022 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Talking ASD and ADHD: The teenage years. For parents/carers in Herts \(515\) Registration, Tue 5 Jul 2022 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Talking ASD and ADHD: Responding to Anger. For parents/carers in Herts \(512\) Registration, Wed 13 Jul 2022 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

We accept referrals or parents can self-refer and book places via Eventbrite. [Supporting Links Events | Eventbrite](#)

Family Lives

[Parenting and Family Support - Family Lives \(Parentline Plus\) | Family Lives](#)

// Sessions will cover :

- * **Special Needs – a whole-family issue**
- * **Understanding your child's behaviour**
- * **Helping your child manage their feelings and outbursts**
- * **Balancing support of siblings**
- * **Learning new parenting strategies to address challenging behaviour**
- * **Making a positive difference in your family life**

Families in Focus

[Current parent courses – Families in Focus](#)

[Autism, ADHD & neurodevelopmental conditions/needs courses Spring 2022 / Parent Networks / Handling anger in child with Autism/ADHD]

Funding from Early Help, Hertfordshire Children's Services. All our courses are evidence based and have a continue to deliver effective, evidence based support to parents caring for neurotypical and neurodiverse children across Hertfordshire. Our SEND courses are accessible for parents who's children may already have a diagnosis and for the may who are on assessment pathways across Hertfordshire Health Services. Parent can access these free session by joining Families in Focus private Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184975381651870/>

June 2022 Zoom Parent Network:

[Parent Network – Families in Focus](#)

Email: bookings@familiesinfofocus.co.uk

- NEW** School transitions to new class and SEND (under 11s) 4 July 7pm to 9pm
- NEW** Transition planning during the holidays for back to school 11 July 10am to 12pm
- NEW** Support and planning for getting out and about in the summer holidays (under 11s) 13 July 9:30am to 11:30am
- NEW** Guide to Hertfordshire SEN support services 14 July 10am to 12pm
- NEW** Surviving the summer holidays with children with SEND 14 July 7pm to 9pm
- NEW** Wills and Trusts with Richard Horwood, Longmores Solicitors 19 July 7pm to 9pm
- NEW** Let's pop the kettle on - SEND chat, giggles and a cuppa 20 July 9:30am to 11:30am

Families Feeling Safe

Supporting families with **Protective Behaviours**

[Families Feeling Safe • Families Feeling Safe](#)

HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners

[Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Service | Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust \(hct.nhs.uk\)](#)

Includes supporting self-esteem, ability to self regulate, sleep and many more.

[HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Events | Eventbrite](#)

[Supporting Your Child's Self-esteem Tickets, Tue 28 Jun 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

NEW [Supporting Your Child With Sleep Difficulties Tickets, Tue 12 Jul 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

- **NEW** [Supporting Adolescents with Sleep Difficulties Tickets, Tue 12 Jul 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **NEW** [Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing and ability to self-regulate Tickets, Wed 13 Jul 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Up on Downs

[UpOnDowns Hertfordshire – Down's Syndrome Support Group – Hertfordshire](#)

[SEND news - 15 March 2022 \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Family Centre SEND Drop-In

[North Herts Spring 2022 timetable \(hertsfamilycentres.org\)](#)

First Thursday of each month – booking via Eventbrite [Herts Family Centre Service - North Herts District Events | Eventbrite](#)

[School nurses in Hertfordshire \(hertsfamilycentres.org\)](#)

Carers In Hertfordshire

Learning Disability Carers Training - Care Plan Reviews

Learn how to get the best out of Care Plan Review meetings and understand the legal status of Care Plans. Sam Wood-Ede, Direct Payments Manager at HCC will be at the session to answer questions.

28 June 1pm to 3:30pm

Bookings: [Learning Disability Carers Training - Care Plan Reviews \(carersinherts.org.uk\)](#)

CAMHS Online Support Group - Talking to your Teenager [suitable if child is accessing CAMHS service]

Learn to communicate more effectively with your teenager, gain a better understanding of the teen brain.

5 July 7pm to 9pm

Bookings: [CAMHS Online Support Group - Talking to your Teenager \(carersinherts.org.uk\)](#)

Services for Young People

North Herts **Project for Young People with Learning Disabilities** at Hitchin young People's Centre. Ages 13-17

Wednesdays, 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Term Time Only. Bookings always needed - FREE

Hitchin Young People's Centre, Nightingale House, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1SD

sfyp.northherts@hertfordshire.gov.uk / 01438 843340 or text: 07860 065 178

Mental Health Support

See Training: A Space to Be

[If your child is too anxious to go to school \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

School Avoidance/Anxiety - Webinar and Resources: [Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Service | Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust \(hct.nhs.uk\)](#)

Just Talk Herts

[Just Talk \(justtalkherts.org\)](#)

[Emotional wellbeing information and resources to help young people in Hertfordshire \(justtalkherts.org\)](#)

[School nurses in Hertfordshire \(hertsfamilycentres.org\)](#)

[NHS England » What to do if you're a young person and it's all getting too much](#)

[NHS England » Advice for parents, guardians and carers on how to support a child or young person if you're concerned about their mental health](#)

[Home :: Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together \(hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Services for Mental health and wellbeing \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

[Just Talk \(justtalkherts.org\)](#) Links, Resources, Information for Mental Health and wellbeing.

[SEND documents and resources \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Young People

The Ambitious about Autism youth network is a fun and friendly space for autistic young people, between the **ages of 16-25**, to meet other autistic young people and be themselves. It offers them a safe and moderated online space to help them understand their autistic identity and reduce isolation and loneliness that many feel.

Young people will be able to take part in peer support sessions which are held on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 5:45-6:45** over Zoom. These sessions are a chance to meet new autistic young people across the country, share experiences and find volunteering, work experience and employment opportunities. Sessions are a safe environment where you can stay within your comfort zone, there is no pressure to turn on your camera or microphone. You can choose to participate or just observe.

The sessions are led by [Ambitious staff](#) trained in safeguarding, who you may contact at any point if you are uncomfortable or feel unsafe. Every session has a different theme, past sessions have included arts and crafts, comedy night, DJ sessions, language lessons, and a monthly general knowledge quiz. Youth network members over the age of 18 also have a chance to instant message each other on the platform.

To access the peer sessions, you will need to [request to join the youth network](#).

[Join the Ambitious Youth Network \(ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk\)](#)

[Guest Blog SFYP - Moving on from school \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

[Exam and Revision Stress \(justtalkherts.org\)](#)

[Services for Young People](#)

[Invasion of Ukraine - wellbeing resources for parents - BBC Bitesize Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)

SEND Support

This short video (less than a minute) is designed to give an understanding of what the Local Offer website is, and what kind of information and resources they can find on there. You can see the video on Youtube here:

<https://youtu.be/hmcGbFqmsl8>

- [Deaf and Hearing Support Service \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)
- [SEND documents and resources \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

[The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust - Parents](#)

Herts Parent Carer Involvement

[Herts Parent Carer Involvement \(hertsparentcarers.org.uk\)](#)

[Webinars | Herts Parent Carer Involvement \(hertsparentcarers.org.uk\)](#)

ISL Advice Line

[ISL SEND Advice for Parents/Carers \(hertfordshirefamiliesfirst.org.uk\)](#)

[SEND news - 31 May 2022 \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#) - links to ReachOut, SEND and Local Offer Updates

SPACE Lending Library

All ages, borrow sensory, educational practical

If you live in Hertfordshire and your child has additional needs, SPACE operate [Hertfordshire's only specialist equipment lending library](#). Visit them to:

- borrow sensory, educational and practical resources for free
- get some friendly advice and help on equipment for your child's specific needs
- find a listening ear for emotional and practical support
- benefit from signposting: knowledge and understanding of local resources, as well as community and statutory services

Stay for a drink and a chat with the SPACE team and other parents /carers. Children are welcome! **Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 9.30am - 12.30pm - Unit 7, Arlington Business Park, Whittle Way, Stevenage, SG1 2BE**

For more information or queries please follow our [Lending SPACE Facebook page](#) or email

lendingpace@spaceherts.org.uk.

[The Hertfordshire Local Offer](#)

Ukrainian Support - [Invasion of Ukraine - wellbeing resources for parents - BBC Bitesize Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)

[-Baldock - A Midsummer Party, 25 June 2022 2pm to 6pm, Cadecote Manor, Cadecote Baldock SG7 5LD](#)

Fusion of British and Ukrainian food and entertainment Find tickets: [A MIDSUMMER PARTY: Fusion of British and Ukrainian food and entertainment Tickets, Sat 25 Jun 2022 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

[Hitchin](#)

Christchurch, Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Drop-In weekly