

*Thought for the day:* "There is a harmony in autumn, and a lustre in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen, as if it could not be, as if it had not been!" - Percy Bysshe Shelley

### 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.

### Attendance Competition

This year we will, once again, be launching a new class competition linked to pupil's attendance. Every week we share with pupils which classes have the best attendance of the week. A small trophy called SAM (Super Attendance Monitor) is given to two best classes of the week. One for the juniors and one for the younger classes. However, in addition to this, we will monitor the average attendance for each across the year. For those classes that achieve a 97% attendance, or above, by the summer term will be able to choose a fun school trip, for June or July, as chosen by the children from a selected list of venues.

Pupil attendance should be no less than 90% and of that 10%, none of it should be unauthorised. If your child has attendance that 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 to improve it.

### Dealing with bullying update

Purwell School continues to crack down hard on bullying. Last term we shared with parents the school's definition of bullying. We know that bullying is taking place when all these criteria are met.

Being mean  
On purpose  
Over and over

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

At the start of this term, we have seen a noticeably positive response by children who are seeming more 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 adult instances of unkindness and staff have responded quickly to nip matters in-the-bud before they happened again.

### Governors Update

We have two vacancies on the Governing Body, currently. Any parents who are considering becoming a school governor can find out more about the role by approaching Mrs Sharp in the school office. Alternatively, we have a page on our school website that can be accessed by the link below.

[Purwell Primary School » Role & Responsibilities](#)

## SEN Support

If your child has a SEN plan, teachers will be contacting you in the coming weeks to share new plans for the autumn term. Mrs Mullan, the SENCo, can attend these meetings if you have something you wish to discuss. Please let your child's teacher know so we can arrange this.

## Sports News



It's been a busy first few weeks of the new school year for our netball and football teams. Our A Team have started their season in style and performed admirably at their Early Season rally, scoring lots of goals and winning 4 matches, drawing 1 and losing only to Samuel Lucas. Yesterday, they travelled to last year's Champions, Samuel Lucas for their first League fixture and, despite a very good team performance, were narrowly edged out by a team who look like being very strong challengers once again. Next week, they will play their first home fixture, against Pirton. Come along and support if you can. In the Girls' Rally, our team played 5 matches with a mixture of wins, draws and losses. There were some fantastic goals scored

and it was wonderful to see all our girls trying out different positions and taking turns in goal. Well done to all who took part.

In PE, our Key Stage 2 classes have been developing their netball skills and, on Tuesday, our A team put these skills into action when they played their opening match of the season, at Our Lady. With our team still dusting off the cobwebs, Our Lady opened up a large lead by the end of the first quarter but, although they held on to win 6-3, Purwell's passing, movement and teamwork had their hosts chasing shadows for a majority of the next 3 quarters. It was a tremendous performance all round with wonderfully taken goals by Annabel and Hunter.



We are very proud of all of the players who have represented the school in all of these fixtures and are incredibly grateful to all of the parents who have helped with transport and have supported so positively.



*Caption: The girls and boys football teams were in action at the early season rallies*

## 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 Monday 31 October 2022.

### **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.

### **Communicating with teachers**

The teacher emails cannot be contacted directly by parents This is for monitoring and security reasons. So, 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 then, but it might be long enough to deliver a message, or to arrange a meeting, if necessary.

### **School meals**

School meals cost £3.15 per day, £15.75 per week. Payment can be made via cash or on School Gateway. Cheques are no longer accepted.

### **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](http://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.

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

You can keep up to date with what's going on in school via our private Twitter page. As it is a closed group, you will need to apply to become a member on the school's Twitter page before contacting the school office, and giving them your Twitter username, to be accepted into the group.

### **PSA NEWS**

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

Chair, Kate Neate

Secretary, Emma Rook

Treasurer, Natalie Mackenzie

Deputy Treasurer, Heather Haslam;

Marketing Officer, Lindsay Campbell

Licensing officer, Gavin Bonthron.

Voted in class reps: Nursery: Lisa Warren

Reception: Sareece McKenzie,

Y1&YR2: Louise Biggs

Y3: Chelsea Hancock

Y4: Lindsay Campbell

Y5: Heather Haslam

Y6: Kay Tart

Event refreshments orders: Kim Richardson, Cash counters: Chelsea Hancock & Emily Milne.

If you are not in a WhatsApp group yet, please contact your class rep and they will invite you in so you can keep up with the latest! Also, for any new parents please join the "Purwell School Association" Facebook group for all the PSA news and ways you can help.

### PSA upcoming events:

Halloween Disco - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Timings tbc.

Halloween cake sale - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

### Race Dates Announced

Here are the cycling race dates for the winter season. Mr Brazier will be letting parents of the children who attend the races know of the booking information and timings closer to the time.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November - Welwyn, AL8 6XE - Morning Races

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Ashwell, SG7 - Afternoon Races

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December - St Albans, AL1 2EF - Morning Races

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Welwyn, AL8 6XE - Morning Races

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Ashwell, SG7 - Afternoon Races

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Hitchin, SG4 (by the swimming pool) - Morning Races

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February - St Albans, AL1 2EF - Morning Races

### Dates for Autumn Term 2023

#### October

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5 Tag Rugby at Letchworth RFC
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Tag Rugby at Letchworth RFC
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Braiswick photographer taking individual and family portraits
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	PSA Halloween Disco
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Half term</b>
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	PSA Halloween Cake Sale

#### November

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Glee Club to perform at Stevenage Christmas lights switch-on
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#### December

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Glee Club to perform again in Stevenage
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas School Lunch
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm Christmas assembly, with carol singing
	<b>Term ends at 2pm</b>

### Dates for Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return to school
19 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Half-term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	1:30pm End of term assembly with Easter singing
	Last day of term (2pm finish)

### Dates for Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return to school
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> May-31 <sup>st</sup> June	Half-term
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term (2pm finish)