

Thought for the week: "Science is magic that works." -Kurt Vonnegut, novelist and satirist.

STEM 2024

(Science, Technology, English and Maths) topic will be Habitats. Children across the school will be replacing their traditional science curriculum, this half term, with this topic-based work and there will be a theme running from EYFS to Year 6 which allows the whole school to share in elements of the work.

We're focusing heavily on sustainability for 2024 and as such will be building habitats and related items which will be used across the school site for the benefit of wildlife and other grounds users. Projects will include bird houses, tables and boxes, hedgehog houses, bee boxes and more.

We're hoping to balance material purchasing with donations from parents and families who may be able to support us with the work and will be looking for any support with provision of the following materials:

- Any sheets, including offcuts, of 1.5 - 1.8cm thick timber (nothing smaller than 15cm square)
- No6 or No8 screws (preferably wood screws) 25mm or longer
- Rubber handled screw drivers
- Children's Hammers
- Children's saws
- Combination squares
- Lengths of timber 50mm square, 75mm square or 100mm square, including offcuts (nothing shorter than 50cm)
- Dowel, no smaller than 10mm diameter
- Roofing felt
- Wooden Pallets (given the size we need no more than 10 pallets)
- Hollow bamboo canes
- Tape Measures
- Bird Seed

We are hoping to work outside during the construction phase and would be grateful for the loan of some workmates, with clamps, to allow children to safely cut timbers. If anyone could lend these for a 2 week period please let us know so that we can work out what numbers we'll require.

We're always grateful for specialist support so if any parents are experienced with build of this nature and could give up a couple of hours one afternoon please let the office know. We may not be able to accommodate all those who offer dependent upon numbers and timetabling, but will respond to all who offer.

World book day - Thursday 7th March

Next Thursday, the school will be celebrating World Book Day. At Purwell we strive to instil a love of reading, which can spark the imagination and stimulate curiosity!

To mark the occasion, this year, we would love children to come dressed as a noun or adjective! This could be a colour- red, yellow, green; an object- a knight, a princess, a scientist or perhaps you want to be sparkly, brave or energetic! We can't wait to see where your imagination takes you!

Classes will also be completing some book related activities, sharing stories and each child will also receive a World Book Day voucher to spend on a book.

Parent Teacher Consultations

These will take place on;

Tuesday 26th March - Parent Consultations (Early)

Wednesday 27th March - Parent Consultations (Late)

Booking forms for consultations will be in the entrance lobby from 3pm on Friday 15th March for all pupils, from Nursery to Year 6. In the past, only parents of Nursery pupils in their first term of Nursery were invited to parent teacher consultations. This has been extended to include all Nursery pupils.

Nursery admissions for September 2024

Nursery Admissions for September 2024 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) or contacting the school office. The application deadline is 18th March 2024.

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 - [30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

A Springtime bird nest watch

This year we have a brand new nest box setup in the school grounds, equipped with a camera, to watch nesting birds. For years at Purwell School, children have enjoyed watching the birds on the screen in the canteen at lunchtime. This year, rather than watching in grainy black and white, the children will be able to see birds nesting in glorious colour and HD. Let's keep everything crossed that any birds looking to nest will choose our box to set up their new home for the Spring.



Coffee with the SENCO

Our next SEN coffee morning is scheduled for the morning of the 25th of April. This will be our third SEN coffee morning, and everyone is welcome. If you have concerns about your child or just want to meet other parents of children with special educational needs, please come along. We are hoping to have an SEN officer from Hertfordshire County council joining us at this upcoming meeting. If there is anything you would like to find out about at the coffee mornings, please get in touch. We are keen to be guided by you.

Governors Update

Earlier this week we emailed parents with news that we currently have two vacancies on the Governing Body. 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](#)

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.

Taking holidays during term time

Another reminder to parents that you should not take your child on holiday in term time, as it is disruptive both to your child's education and to school. The next academic year's dates are detailed below, so any parents making holiday plans can check that they fit around the school dates first before booking anything.

Parental support, workshops and events

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

PSA News

Dates for your diary!

- Friday 22nd March - Spring disco
- Monday 22nd April - Bag2School clothing donations
- Friday 26th April - Family Bingo
- Wednesday 22nd May - Plant & Cake sale
- Saturday 6th July - Summer fair

Purwell Party Pack - Don't forget if you have a party coming up soon we have a brilliant party pack available to hire. It contains plates, bowls, cups, cutlery, jugs, serving plates and bunting! £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 and make sure you are on your class WhatsApp group. If you're new to the school and not sure who your Class Rep is please email Purwell.school.association@gmail.com and we'll help!

Next PSA meeting - Wednesday 6th March, 8pm, The Anchor Inn - Come on down!!

SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates for Spring & Summer term 2024

Dates for Spring Term 2024

Monday 4 th March	STEM two weeks begin
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day - non-uniform day
Tuesday 26 th March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 27 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 28 th March	1:30pm End of term assembly, Easter singing - 2pm finish

Dates for Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 th April	School closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 16 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 6 th May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 17 th May	Non-uniform day
27 th May-31 st May	Half-term
Thursday 27 th June	Sports Day
Friday 28 th June	School closed for Inset Day
Friday 19 th July	Last day of term (2pm finish)

Academic Year 2024/25

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2 nd September	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 3 rd September	Children return to school
28 th Oct- 1 st November	Half-term
Monday 4 th November	School Closed for INSET day * new date
Friday 6 th December	School closed for occasional day
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 th January	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 7 th January	Children return to school
17 th - 21 st February	Half-term
Friday 14th March	School closed for INSET day <i>*this has been rearranged to 4th November</i>
Friday 4 th April	Last day of term

Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22 nd April	School closed for INSET day
Wednesday 23 th April	Children return to school
Monday 5 th May	Bank holiday
26 th - 30 th May	Half-term
Friday 27 th June	School closed for INSET day
Thursday 10 th July	Meet the teacher day (Secondary transition day)
Wednesday 23 rd July	Last day of term