

**Thought for the week:** "In the simple joys of life, children remind us to rediscover wonder, curiosity, and the beauty of the present moment."

**Children's Mental Health Week: 3rd February**



The week beginning 3rd February marks Children's Mental Health Week, with this year's theme: Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. This event, organized by Place2Be, provides valuable resources for both schools and families. You can explore their family-friendly materials by visiting Families - Children's Mental Health Week.

At school, we will be running a variety of activities to promote mental health and wellbeing. We would greatly appreciate any support from parents and carers during this week.

**Do you work in health or wellbeing?**

Could you lead a fitness session, mindfulness activity, or similar workshop for the children? If you're able to help, please contact Mrs. Mullan. Your involvement could make a big difference in creating a memorable and impactful week for our students. Thank you for your support!

**Mental Health Update:**

We know that from time to time everyone struggles with their wellbeing. On our website, you will find a list of websites which may be useful if you feel your child needs some help.

Purwell Primary School » Mental Health and Wellbeing

One of the organisations on our website, has published guidance for parents who want to know how to help their children with worries;

Simple ways to chat about worries with your child

Normalise worries - 'It's ok to worry - everyone does it!

Model bravery - 'I worry too sometimes about \_\_\_\_\_, but I've learned to be brave by \_\_\_\_\_.'

Show confidence - 'Go on, have a go! I know you can do it!'

Make it fun - 'Worries can be scary, but we're going to have a fun adventure together!'

Take a pause - 'You seem really worried, let's take a deep breath and then we'll try again soon.'

Track progress - 'Think of all the challenges you've already completed!'

**Celebrating Neuro-diversity**

At Purwell, we are committed to teaching our whole school community the importance of accepting all communication styles. One way we achieve this is by sharing videos in assembly to help children understand and accept our differences. Recently, the children were shown the video below in assembly. You may wish to watch this again with your child and talk about the main themes. We also display the following poster throughout school to celebrate neurodiversity.

[t-ag-1676886412-all-brains-are-celebrated-here-inspirational-poster\\_ver\\_1.pdf](https://www.place2be.org.uk/parents/mental-health-week/celebrating-neuro-diversity)

## **Sports Report**

### **Cycling**

Whilst we've been unable to run our club during the winter months due to light issues (and cold hands) there's been plenty going on behind the scenes. This Saturday, 1st February, sees the Ashwell Muddy Monsters Raceday, with riders invited to take part in 3 fun and friendly races at Ashwell's home track.

Purwell Pedaller sessions will kick back off on Tuesday 25th February and we look forward to seeing our riders back out on the field. A selection of our strongest Year 6 riders have been invited to complete a full ride of the Greenway on Tuesday 25th March, a big step up in their development as they move on from the shorter Greenway loops they've been riding in the past. We look forward to seeing the Year 4 and 5 riders making their Greenway debuts on the shorter loop in the summer.

### **Cricket**

Cricket may be a long way from your minds in the colder, wetter and darker depths of winter, but action begins in earnest today as a group of our Y3/4 children attend the Sports Partnership's rapid fire indoor festival.

We're looking forward to participating in the Hitchin School's cricket league this summer with our Y5/6 team and are hoping to organise some friendlies to bring along our Y4 children.

### **Football**

We're very much looking forward to mascots day at Hitchin Town FC on Saturday 22nd February. On Wednesday 15th Feb our A-Team are in action with an away fixture at Highover.

### **Netball**

Our team are away at Whitehill tonight for a fixture, Miss Radford says the players continue to brave the cold and play with a smile on their faces whatever the weather. The team are away again on 26th February for a match against Highover.

### **Taking holidays during term time**

We kindly remind parents to avoid taking their children on holiday during term time. Such absences disrupt your child's learning and can impact the overall school environment. The government has recently introduced a new national framework for penalty notices regarding unauthorised term-time holidays. These measures are now in effect.

To assist with your planning, the term dates for the next academic year are listed below. We encourage all families to check these dates before booking any holidays. Thank you for your support in prioritising your child's education.

### **School closures - Winter 2025**

As part of the school's planning for emergencies, parents are reminded that incidents that necessitate school closure include such things as extreme weather and loss of essential electrical, water or heating services. Details of school closures will be texted to parents via Schoolcomms. They will also be displayed on the front page of the school website and on Twitter. On days when the weather conditions are poor, but the school is open, parents are advised to walk to school, if possible, and, for those driving, it is

advisable to park on Purwell Lane or Kingswood Avenue and walk the remainder. We hope you appreciate that the decision to close is never made lightly, as the safety and welfare of our children, school staff and parents/carers is of paramount importance, and no one would like to see this compromised.

## PSA News

Exciting Upcoming Events! 🎉

Mark your calendars for these fantastic school events:

- 📅 February - Doughnut Sale 🍩
- 📅 March - Spring Disco 🎵 🎉
- 📅 May - Plant & Cake Sale 🌱 🍰
- 📅 June - Summer Picnic & Music Event 🎵 🌞

Stay tuned - exact dates will be confirmed in the next newsletter!

Purwell Party Pack - A Fun & Eco-Friendly Choice! 🎉 ♻️

Planning a party? Why not hire the Purwell Party Pack - a sustainable and budget-friendly way to celebrate while supporting the school!

- ✅ Only £5 per hire (+£1 refundable deposit)
- ✉️ Email the PSA to book!

Every hire helps raise funds for our school - thank you for your support! ❤️

## Logo competition results

At the end of last term, some of our talented Year 5 students put their creativity to the test by designing logos for the PSA. After a vote by the committee, we're delighted to announce that Freya (Year 5) is the winner, with Connor (Year 5) as the runner-up!

A huge well done to both Freya and Connor for their fantastic designs. Freya's winning logo has been digitised, and we look forward to seeing it in action.

Congratulations to all who took part - your creativity and effort were truly inspiring! 🎉



## **Dates for Spring Term 2025**

17 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half-term
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	1:30pm End of term assembly with Easter singing Last day of term (2pm finish)

## **Dates for Summer Term 2025**

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School closed for Inset Day
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Pupils return to school
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank Holiday
26 <sup>th</sup> May- 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Half-term
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	School closed for Inset Day
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Meet the teacher and Secondary transfer day for Y6
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of term (2pm finish)

## **Academic Year 2025/26**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School closed for INSET day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Children return to school
27 <sup>th</sup> Oct- 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half-term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	School closed for INSET day
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	School closed for Occasional day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

### **Spring Term 2026**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half-term
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term

### **Summer Term 2026**

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half-term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	School closed for INSET day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	School closed for INSET day
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of term