

**Thought for the week:** *'I've learned that everything is not really everything.  
New skills and habits improve you.'* Sushant - Year 6.

**Thoughts for the week**

In school we have a whiteboard in a corridor dedicated to children sharing their thoughts. Every week there is a new thought-piece, and children write up their ideas and opinions. The topics can range from anything from current affairs to philosophy.

This week's question inspired lots of excellent answers from the pupils. It was, *what is the most important lesson you have learned in your young lives?* Along with the expected responses, such as my handwriting, being a friend, picking up rubbish, crossing the road safely and watering plants, there were some incredibly wise responses. This led us to checking the authenticity of these quotes in case they have been found on the internet, but no, they are original and unique. Starting this week, we will be sharing at the start of each newsletter the wise words and thought-pieces from our very own wise heads on young shoulders. This week we are starting with Sushant's offering.

**Open Day/Evening - Wednesday 10th July**

The Open Day and Open Evening for parents will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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, when Mr Cano will be saying a few words before introducing to the parents 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 parent survey, school leaders have been meeting to agree how best we can respond to the suggestions parents, pupils and staff have made for school improvement. This, *'you said, we did'* section is a regular feature of the newsletters this term. *You said, we did*, is also the title of a display board in the entrance lobby of the school. It details what the school is putting in place to improve what we currently provide for pupils and parents. The school governors are also playing a big part in this process as they respond to parental feedback at meetings, when they will review milestones set in the School Improvement Plan.

**You said:** I'd like to see the parents' evening booking system move to a more modern solution. Queuing for clipboards at 3pm seems unnecessary in this modern age.

**We did:** From the Autumn term, all appointments for parent consultations will be booked using a new online system.

**You said:** 18% of the parents who responded didn't think the school took account of parental views and concerns

**We did:** The parent questionnaire will continue to be the main source for formal feedback from parents and for future surveys parents will be able to choose to complete it in paper form, or online.

Parents will also be reminded that if they have any concerns, or views to express, they can present them, either, through their child's class teacher, or via the school office, or by emailing the school at [admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@purwell.herts.sch.uk).

**You said:** Communication about progress could be better. Perhaps you could introduce an app for parents to look at child progress or what they need support with.

**We did:** In addition to the open door-policy we have, where teachers make themselves accessible to parents between the formal parent consultations, a new system called *Class Charts* will be introduced from September. It allows for teachers and TAs to monitor children's wellbeing and behaviour and be better informed when feeding back progress to parents.

### **District Athletics Review**

On Wednesday 26th June a team of Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the District Athletics competition at Ridlins Sports Centre in Stevenage. We were competing against 9 other schools across a range of track and field events and our whole team were fabulous. In boiling hot conditions they gave their all, with notable performances on the track as well as in our top field discipline, speed bounce. Our Year 6 relay team won their event by some distance and we also had Y6 victories in boys and girls sprints. The Year 5 relay team were also outstanding and won their event. Alex Jennings, who runs the event for the North Herts School Sports Partnership, was extremely impressed with the technique shown by our runners on the track. Our girls brought home the bronze medal on the day, while our boys came a highly creditable 4th overall. Many thanks to all the parents who helped ferry the athletes to and from Stevenage, we couldn't do it without you.



### **Help with transition**

Over recent weeks, teachers have identified children who will benefit from further support with transition to new classes. Some of this support has already begun including additional visits to new classrooms and breaktimes spent on the junior playground for those moving up a key stage. Once children have met their new teachers, those benefiting from additional support, will be sent home with a teacher fact sheet. We hope that you will revisit this with children over the holidays to help familiarise them with their new teacher.

We are pleased to announce that we have migrated our recording and storing of special education needs (SEN) information to a new online platform called Edukey Provision Map. This provides a central place where meetings with parents/ carers, documents from outside agencies and SEN plans can be stored and updated. The new system makes it easier for parents/ carers, as well as staff, to view the current support in place for children at Purwell ensuring a smooth transition between year groups.

## **Bullying update**

Since our last update, I am pleased to say that we have had no incidents of bullying behaviour reported at school.



*'Fancy meeting you here!' - Finley and Miss Cooper bump into Finley's mum at work, on their recent trip to London*

## **The work of the school governors**

Last week some of our governors joined Mr Cano and Judith Sumner, our Senior Effectiveness Advisor from Herts for Learning, for a school visit. After a discussion on progress made in the school's improvement plan, lessons were visited and pupils' books looked at. A selection of pupils from three classes were randomly chosen to talk about their lessons and what facts they could remember. Mrs Sumner also checked-up on the school's safeguarding records and procedures.

## **Becoming a school governor**

Being a school governor is an incredibly rewarding role to take on and it means that you can have a direct input in creating the future success of the school. 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 attached to this newsletter, 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. Parent Highlights: <https://tinyurl.com/DSPLnews> - easy link for sharing with parents; SEND Directory - Local Offer ; DSPL 1 Parent Representative Advert.

## PSA news & events

### PSA News

#### Grow your own pumpkin for Halloween

Mrs Martin of the PSA, (who is Stanley's mum), has grown 100 pumpkin plants from seed ready to plant in the school garden and to sell to raise funds for the PSA. Some of the plants have formed part of our school garden project and we currently have 10 planted, we're hoping to harvest a successful crop in the autumn term which will be used at the Halloween disco. If you'd like to join in the pumpkin growing fun the plants will be available to purchase for £1 each, after school, on Friday 5th July (from outside Year 5) or from the summer fete on Saturday 6th July. They're very easy to care for, although do spread once planted, and produce delicious pumpkins which can be used for decoration and/or tasty cooking.  
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/halloween-pumpkin-cake>



#### Summer Fair, THIS Saturday 6th July 11am-2pm

It's nearly the summer fair!! There will be tombola's, raffle, craft area, face painting (from midday), bouncy castle, BBQ, bar & refreshments and lots of games!

It's not too late to volunteer - so please do get in touch if you can spare even just half an hour to help either before, during or after! We can't do it without you!

Do you have a gazebo we could borrow for the day? We would take very good care of it!

Do you have any cuddly toys that are in good condition and looking for a new home? We would love to take them off your hands.

Thank you for all your bottle and chocolate donations earlier in the week. We really appreciate it!

Please contact the PSA via the email address below or your Class Rep. Thank you!

#### Dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 17th July, Next PSA meeting ,Purwell Community Room
- Thursday 18th July - after school Cake sale

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](mailto:Purwell.school.association@gmail.com) and we'll help!

#### School uniform recycle, bring and swap

A date for you summer calendars. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August, all the school uniform that the school holds will be put out on display for parents to take what they need for their ever-growing children. We also welcome from parents, donations of any used uniform that is clean and in good condition. Ideally please bring those with you on the day. Here's a useful link to the page on the school website regarding school uniform [Purwell Primary School » Uniform](#)

## SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Dates for Summer term 2024

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	PSA Summer Fair, 11-2pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Open day (2:15pm) and evening (6pm)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Meet the teacher morning for pupils
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers Assembly (2:15)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	PSA meeting - Community Room
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	After school PSA Cake sale
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	1:30pm End of term assembly. (2pm finish)
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> August	Uniform clothing drive. 10am until 12:30pm.

### Sporting Fixtures

Sports Fixtures (2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Summer Term 2024)		
Date	Sport	Details
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Cycling	3.15pm – 5.30pm - Purwell Pedallers Greenway Adventure

### Final dates of Lunchtime and after school clubs

Cycling - last date, Tuesday 2nd July

Netball - last date, Wednesday 3rd July

Chess - No chess on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, so last date is Monday 8th July

The last date for lunchtime clubs will be Friday 5th July.

The last Wednesday morning yoga session will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

### Academic Year 2024/25

#### Autumn Term 2024

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