

*Thought for the day: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
Nelson Mandela*

The Great Debate

In assembly on Friday, two teams of pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 debated whether artificial intelligence does more harm than good or more good than harm.

The children spoke well in front of an audience of pupils and staff, presenting their arguments and explaining the reasons behind their views. It was a valuable opportunity to practice speaking in public, listening to different opinions, and disagreeing respectfully.

At the end, the audience voted on which team had presented the most convincing and persuasive case, alongside other judging criteria. The team arguing that AI does more harm than good won overall.

Congratulations to both teams for their contributions. The vote recognised the strength of their debate, while the wider question remains open for discussion!



School Photographs, Tuesday 13th October

The school photographer will be visiting next Tuesday to take individual and family portraits. Please ensure children come to school in their usual smart school uniform, ready for their photographs. For family pictures of siblings and babies please arrive at 8.30am.

Road Safety Reminder

Mr. Cano spoke to pupils in Years 5 and 6 about road safety after concerns were raised that some children had been crossing the road unsafely on bicycles and scooters in front of cars near Purwell Park.

Pupils were reminded to stop, get off their bicycle or scooter and check carefully before crossing, choosing a safe crossing point where they can see approaching traffic and drivers can see them.

Please reinforce these messages at home, particularly with children who travel independently. Taking a moment to stop and check can make all the difference.

Sports Report

On Tuesday 29th September our Purwell rugby team took to the pitch for their first game of the season. Our mixed Year 5/6 team had a fantastic game in the autumn sun, filled with great energy and teamwork from all the players. Purwell put on a thrilling performance against a competitive Whitehill side in a high-scoring game filled with excellent passing and dangerous attacking runs. William Harper was a constant threat, helping Purwell secure plenty of tries. Most pleasingly, the Whitehill parents highly praised our players for their outstanding attitude and behaviour throughout the day. Well done to - William H, Jacobi I, Ethan R, Dominic B, Isaac TM, Tyler MM, Kamsy O, Scarlett B and Leo C.

More Rugby News - our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 classes are heading to Letchworth Rugby Club this week for the North Herts School Sports Partnership's Rugby Festival. Over the past fortnight, we have merged

our Year 3/4/5 PE lessons to build strong teamwork skills. We are incredibly excited to see the children experience a fantastic day of sport together.

National Cycle to School Week

This week is National Cycle to School Week. Near the top of a hill on a busy estate, with a one-way system, we're very much conscious of how tricky it can be for our pupils to walk, scooter or cycle safely to school, but this week we'll be placing particular focus on healthy transport and road safety.

Our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be taking part in balance bike training during their PE lessons, and the whole school will be looking at road safety and sustainable transport as we champion a healthy and green approach to getting to school.

If you can help by supporting your child in walking, scooting or riding part or all the way to school we'd be really pleased. We appreciate some families have tight timetables and logistical juggling to work with, but even parking on Kingswood Avenue to walk the last part of the journey is a real win, both for children's health and the environment around the school.

Football

Our football season kicked off on Wednesday 30th September with an Early Season Rally held at The Priory School. This season, football for Under 11s looks a little different as the Football Association have brought in new rules for this age group. Throw-ins and deliberate heading are now gone, smaller size 3 balls are in and there is now a retreat rule from goal-kicks (where defenders have to go back into their own half) to allow teams more space to play the ball out from defence.

Teams from 10 schools took part in the rally, with each school playing 4 friendly matches to help learn the new rules. Our team included some experienced players alongside others who were playing their first ever matches for the school, and they performed admirably, taking turns in different positions (including goal). A record of 1 win, 1 draw and 2 defeats from our 4 matches was a tremendous return and included goals from William and Dominic (his first for the school). Well done to William, Ethan, Kamsy, Dominic, Jacobi, Tyler, Leo and Efe for playing so well and we are really looking forward to our home match with Whitehill next Friday (16th October).

PSA NEWS

  **SAVE THE DATE!**  

Get your Halloween costumes at the ready... our **Halloween Disco** is coming!   

 Friday 23rd October

 4:30-6:30pm

More details and ticket information coming soon - but for now, get the date in your diary!  

 **Purwell Halloween Trail Update** 

Unfortunately, we won't be able to organise the Halloween Trail this year, as we have a few other commitments and simply can't fit it in.

However, if anyone would like to take on the trail this year, please get in touch with us as soon as possible and we can talk you through it.

AGM

Thank you to everyone who came to the AGM last week!

A very special thank you to Natalie McKenzie, who is stepping down as Treasurer after many years in the role. Natalie has been incredibly dedicated, patient and supportive, and I'm so grateful for all her help, encouragement and good humour over the last few years. She will definitely be missed!

We're also really excited to welcome Mars and Lee to the committee for 2026/27. Thank you both for volunteering - we're looking forward to having you on board!

The new committee for 2026/27, elected at the AGM, is:

Chair: Kate Neate
Vice Chair: Annabelle Martin
Secretary: Louise Biggs
Treasurer: Mars Hoxha
Vice-Treasurer: Heather Haslam
Licensing Officer: Lee Davies
Community Liaison Officer: Lisa Warren

Class Reps:

Nursery & Reception - TBC
Year 1 & 2 - Lisa
Year 3 - Phil Martin Year
4 & 5 - Louise
Year 6 - TBC



Dates for Autumn Term 2026

October

Tuesday 13 th	Photographer in taking individual and family portraits
Wednesday 21 st	Parent Consultations - Online
Thursday 22 nd	Parent Consultations - Face to Face
26th - 30th Oct	Half term

November

Sun 8 th - Fri 13 th	Year 5 and 6 to PGL residential trip
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December

Friday 4 th	School Closed for Occasional Day
Tuesday 15 th	Whole School Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Wednesday 16 th	Christmas School Lunch
Thursday 17 th	Whole School Christmas Party afternoon in the hall.
Friday 18 th	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing
	Term ends at 2pm