

Thought for the week: 'Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.' -Judy Garland

Children's Mental Health Week (5th- 9th February 2024)

This week, we are supporting children with a range of activities designed to help develop an understanding of mental wellbeing and develop helpful coping strategies. Staff have been running activities which have been personalised to the children in each class. As well as class-based activities, earlier this week the children enjoyed mindful activities with Suzie from Happy Little Yogi. If your children enjoyed this activity, Suzie runs a Yoga Club at the school. For more information, you can contact her at www.happylittleyogi.com/classes.



Dealing with bullying update

Purwell School continues to crack down hard on bullying. Part of this is ensuring that we have a shared understanding with parents of what bullying is and what it isn't. The school's definition of bullying is clear and features on page 3 of our [Behaviour-and-Discipline-Policy-2023 \(7\).pdf](#)

We know that bullying is taking place when all these criteria's are being met.

- B**eing mean
- O**n purpose
- O**ver and over

The children remember this as **BOO** for short.

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 an adult, any instances of unkindness and staff have responded quickly to nip matters in-the-bud before they reoccurred.

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.

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.



'SPORT' - Last week pupils took part in an inter-school indoor athletics competition

Governors Update

Earlier this weekly we emailed parents with news that 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](#)

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.

School closures - Winter 2024

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.

Parental support, workshops and events

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

PSA News

Dates for your diary!

- Wednesday 14th February - Doughnut sale (after school)
- Friday 22nd March - Spring disco
- Monday 22nd April - Bag2School clothing donations
- Friday 26th April - Family Bingo
- Friday 17th May - Non-uniform day
- 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

5 th -9 th February	Mental Health Week
19 th - 23 rd February	Half-term
Monday 26 th February	School Closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 26 th March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 27 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 28 th March	1:30pm End of term assembly with Easter singing Last day of term (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)