

Purwell Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 8th July 2025

Thought for the week: *"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."*
- B.B. King

Recognition for Leadership and Governance at Purwell

Last week, our Senior Effectiveness Advisor from Herts for Learning, Judith Sumner, visited Purwell for the final time before taking up a new role supporting schools facing greater challenges. We are proud to share that she praised the work of both the school leadership team and the Governing Board.

In the last two years, the school has made significant strides forward. Leaders and governors have established robust systems that ensure high expectations are consistently understood and upheld by both staff and pupils. Across all subjects, the curriculum has been carefully refined to help pupils build knowledge in a more connected and meaningful way. Regular retrieval practice supports pupils in remembering key content, especially in foundation subjects.

Outcomes across the school continue to reflect this progress. In the core subjects in Key Stages 1 and 2, and in the prime and specific areas of learning in the Early Years, the majority of pupils are achieving at nationally expected standards. Leaders also have a clear understanding of the next steps needed to continue this upward trajectory.

Mrs Sumner awarded the school a light green RAG rating, a clear indication of the strong position we are now in.

A huge thank you and congratulations to our dedicated Governing Board and school leaders for the sustained effort and commitment that has driven these improvements.

Sharing Our Strengths with Other Schools

We're proud to share that our school's successes have started to attract the attention, for the quality of teaching and learning taking place at Purwell.

Last Friday, we welcomed staff from William Ransom School, who came to see how we deliver maths using the White Rose scheme. They visited classrooms across the school and spent time with our temporary maths lead, Mrs Lancaster. They left full of praise and said they had gathered lots of ideas and inspiration to take back to their own school.

In addition, we were recently approached by a School Improvement Advisor who was keen to learn more about our successful approach to teaching writing. With national focus on raising writing standards, it's wonderful that our work is being noticed. Our English leaders, Miss Cooper and Mrs Lancaster, will be meeting with colleagues from other schools to share what we've learned and how we've improved writing outcomes for our pupils.

We're always proud to open our doors to other schools and help raise standards more widely. It's a great reflection of the hard work and high standards across the whole Purwell Team.

Sporting Success: County Cricket Champions

Our team, coached by Mr Brazier, has achieved outstanding success this term. After a hard-fought win against local rivals William Ransom in the North Herts U11 Dynamos Tournament, the team trained intensively in preparation for the County Finals on 26th June at St Margaretsbury Cricket Club. Purwell won all three group matches to reach the semi-finals.

A strong performance resulted in a victory against Haberdashers. In the final against Bengoe, Ciaran Duffy's two early wickets set the tone. Despite tight bowling from Bengoe, our team secured a thrilling victory.

This marks a historic achievement for the school, as the team now progresses to the regional finals in Chelmsford on 9th July, representing Hertfordshire against teams from six counties. The whole school is incredibly proud of the players' teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship.



Tomorrow Wednesday 9th July, our Purwell Cricket team head off to the Regional Finals in Chelmsford to take on each of the best school sides from Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. It should be a fabulous day and we wish our team all the best.

On Friday 11th July we celebrate our season of cricket with a Purwell v Purwell match on the school field straight after school. The match offers our Y6 cricketers the chance to play one final match in the Purwell white, while our Y4/5 players will be integrated into mixed teams to continue building for the future of the school team. Do come along and support if you'd like to.

Cycling -

It's been a busy fortnight for Purwell Sport. Last week saw our Year 6 children undertaking their cycle training, with activities both on the field and on the road. The Y6 children did a great job, developing their handling, road awareness and general bike handling skills. We were excited to be able to take a group of our most road aware riders on tours around the secondary schools of Hitchin and Letchworth to help prepare them for Y7.

Our Year 4/5 riders also had a treat as they set out for their first Purwell Pedaller Greenway ride. On Wednesday afternoon, after school, they set out on a 16km ride. They boldly took in both off-road and road riding, building confidence and developing the skills they've learned.

On Tuesday 15th July our most senior Purwell Pedallers, including many of our Y6 children, will be undertaking the full Greenway ride, covering 22.5km.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank both staff and parent volunteers for donning their helmets, dusting down their bikes and joining in with these activities, without them these rides wouldn't be able to take place.

Open Day/Evening - this Wednesday

The Open Day and Open Evening for parents will be this Wednesday. 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. As Mr Cano is away with the cricket team, Mrs Lancaster and other senior leaders, 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.

Sports Day on Monday

The organisation of our forthcoming Sports Day, this Monday, will be similar to previous years, with children taking part in a range of athletic events such as long jump, javelin and discus, in addition to running races on the track. In the morning, from 9:30am, it will be the turn of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children: Acorn N, Acorn R, Holly and Willow classes, with Key Stage 2 children: Beech, Maple, Aspen and Oak competing in the afternoon, from 1:30pm.

Teachers will be making sure that children have the opportunity to practice each of the events as part of their PE lessons this term. All children should make sure they have their PE kit (including proper trainers) in school so that they can take part.

Parents are most welcome to watch their children on Sports Day - come and join us!

Annual Reports to be sent home on Monday 21st July

On Monday 21st July, parents will be sent, via School Comms, their child's report for the year, as completed by their class teacher.

Year 6 Leavers Assembly - Monday 21st July

This year's Year 6 Leavers' Assembly will take place on Monday 21st July at 2:15pm. Their parents are warmly invited to join us as the children share special memories of their time at Purwell. We'll also be announcing the Year 6 Pupil of the Year!

End of term assembly, Wednesday 23rd July, at 1:30pm

We hope parents will join us for our end of term assembly on Wednesday 23rd July, starting at 1:30pm. We will announce the classes with the best attendance for the term and finish with some words from a good friend of Purwell School, the Rev Melanie Crowley, from St Faiths Church. The school day will end directly after the assembly.

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 Board. 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](#)

Returning books

Please can you ensure that, before the end of next week, all school reading and library books are returned. Thank you.

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.

School uniform

Next half term, we will be having a big push on pupils wearing the correct uniform to school.



The most common issues we encounter are hair bands that are too brightly coloured and the regulation all-black trainers, which should not have any bright colourful logos on. Please ensure that you purchase the correct style for your child in September. PE clothing should be a white T-Shirt, school logo optional and navy blue shorts as they appear in this photo below.



Further details of school's uniform policy can be found here. [Purwell Primary School » Uniform](#)

☀️ PSA News ☀️

As we approach the end of another academic year, we want to say a big thank you for your support at our events. Keep an eye on our Facebook page over the summer holidays - we'll be sharing a round-up of how much we raised together and the wonderful things we've been able to fund. And we're already cooking up some exciting ideas for next term's events - watch this space!

Sports Day Refreshments

We'll be providing refreshments at Sports Day as usual, so be sure to stop by and grab a drink or snack to keep you going while you cheer on the children.

Frozen Friday - 18th July

Our final Frozen Friday of the term is coming up on Friday 18th July! After school, we'll be selling ice creams (£1) and ice lollies (50p) - a perfect way for the children (and grown-ups!) to cool down on a warm summer's day.

Please note: There will be no Frozen Friday on 11th July, as the children will have enjoyed lots of treats at the STEM Picnic instead.

Support Us with Easyfundraising!

Did you know you can raise money for our school just by doing your usual online shopping? Easyfundraising turns everyday purchases into free donations for our school = at no extra cost to you!

It's simple to use:

1. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for our cause.
2. Sign up and choose our school as your charity.
3. Start your online shopping via the Easyfundraising website or app - retailers will donate a percentage of what you spend. With hundreds of retailers like Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, and more taking part, it's an easy way to help us raise valuable funds. Thank you for your support!

Facebook - Purwell School Association - for updates, events, and school news!

PSA email - purwell.school.association@gmail.com

Next PSA meeting - Wednesday 16th July, 8pm, Purwell Community Room

Local Support and workshops for parents

With this newsletter there is an additional document attached with information about local events and workshops for parents.

Dates for Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 9 th July	School Open Day and Evening meeting
Thursday 10 th July	Meet the teacher and Secondary transfer day for Y6
Monday 14 th July	Sports Day
Monday 21 st July	Annual Reports go home
	Year 6 Leavers Assembly, at 2:15pm
Wednesday 23 rd July	Last day of term at 1:30pm (2pm finish)

Academic Year 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

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

Spring Term 2026

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

Summer Term 2026

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