

*Thought for the day:* "It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela

**How to book parent consultations - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct**

After positive feedback on last year's parental choice of whether parents which to choose an on-line teacher appointment, or a face to face one, we are running this term's parent consultations in the same way. Parents will be able to book appointments online, directly onto their child's teacher, or a face-to-face consultation. The duration of either of these meetings will be the same: 10 minutes.

For parents of children with SEN, they will be able to book an online appointment to speak with our SENCO Mrs Mullan about their child. Details of how to book a meeting with your child's teacher and Mrs Mullan will be sent out next week via SchoolComms. These will be:

ONLINE MEETINGS, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October until 6.00pm

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October until 7.00pm

Bookings for these consultations will be online, via the school link <https://purwell.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

**Annual School Photographs**

Next Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, the school photographer will be visiting the school to take photos of the children. Samples of these photos will follow and be made available to parents who may wish to purchase them. As well as individual photos, where there are siblings in school, a photo will be taken of the family group. If you have children of pre-school age whom you wish to have photographed with your school-age children, please bring all the children to the school hall, from 8.30am that day.

**SEND Update**

Our next SEND coffee morning will take place in the community room straight after drop-off on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. We are delighted to be joined by a representative from the local Angels Support Group, who will be available to answer questions, offer advice, and explain more about the support they provide. Please sign up via the school office if you plan to attend. You do not need a diagnosis to join. This session is open to all families

**Spanish Celebration Week - Special Themed Lunch!**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October we'll be celebrating 'El Día de la Hispanidad', the National Day of Spain (which takes place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October). Classes across the school will be learning about the Spanish culture, with plenty of language work included, and children will be celebrating with the special themed menu in the lunch hall. If you have any interesting Spanish items or resources at home which may be shared and enjoyed in class that day please don't hesitate to talk to your class teacher.

There will only be the menu below to order, please do not order any other foods on the Cypad as the Kitchen will not have these in.

**Main course:**

 Chicken Paella

 Spanish Plant Meatball & Bean Casserole (Ve)

**Sides:**

 Patatas Bravas

 Green Beans, Sweetcorn, and Carrots

**Desserts:**

 Peach Tart with Vanilla Ice Cream

 Orange Shortbread

## **Sports Report**

Our footballers and netballers have been preparing for the season ahead, showing commitment and dedication to attending our lunchtime and after school clubs. Mr Hart and Miss Taylor have been very impressed with the attitude of the players, particularly with our netballers who are in many cases playing for the first time and are having to learn to play in all 7 court positions.

We are putting the final touches to our programme of fixtures for football and netball and will share this in the next newsletter but our footballers have already taken part in the traditional season opening rally, playing 5 short matches against other schools. Despite losing our first two matches, as the rally went on, our performances improved with every game and in a terrific draw with a strong Samuel Lucas team who had won every other match. Our final record of 2 defeats and 3 draws was very creditable. Congratulations to all who took part and sincere thanks to all of the parents who helped with transport and stayed to support and cheer the team on - it really is appreciated.

Friday 26th September saw the turn of football as our latest Year 5/6 team took to the pitch at The Priory School for the pre-season festival. Our players put on good performances against all the schools they faced and it was great to see our Year 6 players stepping up to take responsibility on the pitch. William Renney took on the goalkeeping role and made some fabulous saves, while McKinley Medford worked hard outfield. Huge credit must also go to Year 4's Leo Corbett, thrown into the mix against the older children and more than holding his own.

Our Year 5/6 rugby team took part in the North Herts School Sports Partnership festival on Thursday 2nd October. All three teams were outstanding, with no defeats until a Purwell v Purwell grudge match came up on the schedule. All the children threw themselves into the games with great enthusiasm and received excellent feedback from the other schools.

On Tuesday 7th October it was the turn of our Year 3/4 children to take part in their rugby festival. In spite of the novice status many of the players arrived with huge smiles and played with great energy, hinting at continued rugby strength in the future for our upper KS2 team.

We're also very much looking forward to taking part in National Cycle to School week, which begins on Monday 13th October. As well as outings for our cycling club members we'll be sharing and discussing the importance of Green Transport for both the planet and our mental health in class.

## **Reception Admissions 2026-2027**

Information for admissions into the Reception class are available on the Hertfordshire website, [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) The online system opens on **3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025** and the deadline for applications is the **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

## **Secondary Transfer for Year 6 pupils**

All the information you need is available on the website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). The website has full details about the application process and a school directory providing information about secondary and upper schools in Hertfordshire. Apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). You should visit the website to view admissions information and apply online because: • it is quick, easy to use and secure • you will receive immediate confirmation that your application has been received and you can view it at any time. If you do not have internet access at home, you can apply online from any Hertfordshire library. The closing date for applications is **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**.

## **PSA News**

Thanks to all who came to the PSA Annual General Meeting!

The following members were voted on to the Committee for 25/26:

Chair: Kate Neate

Vice Chair: Annabelle Martin

Secretary: Louise Biggs  
Treasurer: Natalie McKenzie  
Vice-treasurer: Heather Haslam  
Marketing Officer: Lindsay Campbell  
Licensing Officer: Melda Squires  
Community Liaison Officer: Lisa Warren

Class reps: Nursery - tbc; Reception - Kate; Year 1 - Lisa; Year 2 - Alison; Year 3 & 4 - Louise; Year 5 - Chelsea; Year 6 - Lindsay.

### **Stay Connected with the PSA**

Calling all Nursery, Reception and other new families to the school!!

Want to stay in the loop with school events, updates, and everyday chatter?

- Join our Facebook Group: Purwell School Association
- Make sure you're in your Class WhatsApp Group - perfect for quick questions, lost jumpers, party invites, and homework reminders! Please note the Nursey group is a little thin on ground at the moment so please do get in touch if you are a nursery parent!

New to Purwell and not sure who your Class Rep is? Just drop us a line at [purwell.school.association@gmail.com](mailto:purwell.school.association@gmail.com) and we'll point you in the right direction.

### **COMING UP OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:**

Friday Cake Sale - Sweet Treats for a Great Cause!

Join us after school this Friday (10th) for a delicious cake sale outside the KS2 classrooms! Every cake is just 50p, and we'll be accepting cash (coins preferred) and card payments.

Calling all bakers and shoppers!

We'd love your homemade or shop-bought donations - please bring them in on Friday morning. Just one important note: no nuts, please, to keep everyone safe.

### **SAVE THE DATE - Halloween Disco!**

Get ready for a spooktacular afternoon at our Halloween Disco on Friday 24th October, from 4:30-6:30pm! All year groups are invited to join the fun - with a DJ, hot dogs, games, crafts and of course, fancy dress!

Important note: KS1 children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

More details coming soon - but for now, mark your calendars and start planning those costumes!

### **Dates and events for Academic Year 2025/26**

#### **Autumn Term 2025**

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Spanish Celebration with themed lunch
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Braiswick photographer in for families and individual photos <b>NEW</b>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	SEN Coffee morning
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parent consultations (online appointments)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parent consultation (face-to-face appointments)
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
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch and Xmas jumper day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Productions (EY and KS1)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Productions (KS2)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing. <b>Term ends at 2pm</b>

#### **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