

Thought for the day: "When we are children, we seldom think of the future. This innocence leaves us free to enjoy ourselves as few adults can. The day we fret about the future is the day we leave our childhood behind". -Patrick Rothfuss

😊 Welcome back to a new school year! 🎨

We hope that you enjoyed a lovely summer break with your children and that you are looking forward to the year ahead.

It has been wonderful to see how positively the children have returned to school, approaching their learning with enthusiastic 'can do' attitudes. Thank you to all our parents and carers for preparing them so well and helping us to make such a positive start to the new term.

We are fortunate to have an experienced team of teachers and support staff who are committed to helping every child thrive. With the strong provision we have in place, we can set high expectations and look forward with confidence to an exciting year at Purwell.

Curriculum information and home/school agreement

In the next few days, you will receive details of the Autumn Term curriculum. Also, you will receive a parental permission form, which needs to be completed and signed and returned to the office.

Homework expectations

Here are the expectations that we have about pupils completing homework this year. Homework will be set on a Friday and is due in on the following Thursday. Weekly homework will consist of:

1. Daily reading-

Please spend at least 10 minutes a day reading and discussing the book with your child.

2. Maths-

KS1 and KS2- Children will be given a CGP Maths Homework book. Teachers will assign work from the book, which supports the learning in class. The children will complete the work in the book, and return back each Thursday.

3. Times tables practice.

For Year 3 and Year 4, this will be via Timetables Rockstars.

4. Spellings-

Spellings will be set weekly for all children in Years 1 to 6. This will consist of a spelling list to learn, linked to the week's spelling rule or pattern, plus key statutory words the children need to learn.

Don't forget, homework club is available to all pupils and runs every Thursday lunchtime, 12:30 to 1.00pm in the library.

Parental support with homework is a crucial part of academic progress. We recognise the importance of it and so welcome all parental engagement with these key areas. Further details about homework appear at the end of this newsletter.

The Purwell Way

The Purwell Way has now been at the heart of school life for two years, with great success. It provides a shared approach that reflects the distinct character of Purwell School and our wider community.

Through The Purwell Way, we explicitly teach pupils the rules, routines, habits and attitudes that help them to learn well, behave positively and succeed in later life.

You can find out more about The Purwell Way and our behaviour curriculum on the school website: [Purwell Primary School » Behaviour Curriculum](#)

Developing Confident Communicators

This year, we are making oracy a major priority across the school. Oracy is the ability to speak clearly, listen carefully and express ideas confidently.

We will be encouraging pupils to speak in full sentences, use appropriate Standard English and explain their thinking with increasing precision. These skills will be developed through classroom discussion, partner talk, presentations and opportunities to perform.

This focus is closely linked to our new writing curriculum. Talking through ideas, choosing effective vocabulary and organising thoughts aloud all help children to become stronger writers. By developing confident speakers, we are also helping pupils to communicate more effectively in their writing.

Parents can support this work by encouraging children to explain their opinions, speak in complete sentences and take an active part in family conversations.

Clubs update for the Autumn Term

The Autumn Term is always a busy term for clubs and fixtures and you will receive a SchoolComms message this week giving information about what clubs we will be offering on each day. If your child wishes to attend, please email your reply to the school office (absence-misc@purwell.herts.sch.uk) by, at latest, Monday 14th September so that we can start to put together registers. Unless otherwise stated, clubs will start the week beginning Monday 14th September.

Whilst we are hopeful that we will be able to accommodate all choices, we are only able to offer a certain number of places for each club and these will be allocated on a 'first-come' basis. We want as many children to be able to benefit from attending our clubs as possible and, as our clubs are popular, those on the waiting list will be invited to take the places of any children who do not show regular attendance. If your child is given a place but no longer wishes to attend, please let the office know so that this place can be made available.

Sports Fixtures

Mr Brazier and Mr Hart have already started the process of contacting other schools to arrange sports fixtures and we will share details of these as soon as they have been confirmed. Whilst, unavoidably, there will be some clashes between clubs and fixtures we always do our best to limit this as much as possible.

Already confirmed, are two Tag Rugby festivals at Letchworth Rugby Club organised by the North Herts School Sports Partnership and supported by Saracens RUFC.

Tuesday 6th October (10am - 2pm)- Year 3&4 Tag Rugby Festival

Thursday 8th October (10am - 2pm) - Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Festival

On these two dates, groups of children from our Key Stage 2 classes will be attending and further details and letters to relevant parents / carers will follow later in the month. We have already started our preparations for these events in our PE lessons!

Year 5 and Year 6 Residential Trip

This year's Year 5 and Year 6 residential trip to PGL, Overstrand in Norfolk, will take place from Sunday 8th November to Friday 13th November.

The trip will be led by Miss Cooper, who will be accompanied by Miss Kerr and Mrs Watson.

We will soon announce the date of an information meeting, when parents and children will be invited to find out more about the visit and what they can expect during their exciting week away.

Parking

We remind parents, from time to time, that parking on the roads close to the school should be considerate to our neighbours.

We advise that, if you are driving, you should park in Wilshire Crescent, or Kingswood Avenue, rather than Fairfield Way, which can become very congested and walk to the school from there. If it cannot be avoided, then parking should always be legal and considerate, as should the speed at which you drive in the vicinity of the school. We thank parents for your support in this matter,

Free School Meals (FSM)

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) will be changing. From the start of the new school year, all parents/carers who are in receipt of Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of the amount received.

Applying takes around 5 minutes, and you will need your National Insurance number. Applications can be made using the following link:

[Free school meals and other benefits | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Secondary Transfer for Year 6 pupils

All the information you need is available on the website 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. 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 31st October 2026.

Communicating with teachers

If you wish to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please do so via the school office at Absence-Misc@purwell.herts.sch.uk or by phoning 01462 432950. Alternatively, if you are able to, you can speak directly with the teacher at the start and the end of each day, before they enter the classroom to start the day, bearing in mind the limited time they have, but it might be long enough to deliver a message, or to arrange a meeting, if necessary.

PSA NEWS

💙 **PSA AGM - Come and join us!**

Our PSA AGM is on Tuesday 29th September at 8pm in the Purwell Community Room (the building in the school car park).

We'd love to see some new faces! Whether you're already involved with the PSA or have never been along before, everyone is welcome. We'll be voting in the 2026/27 committee, with all roles up for re-election as usual. Fancy getting involved? Take a look at the attached flyer for more details about each role. No pressure - just come along, have a cuppa and find out more! 🍵

👉 Class Rep needed!

We're looking for a class rep for the Nursery and Reception Acorn Class.

Class reps are a really simple way to help keep your class in the loop. They share information from the central class rep WhatsApp group and are a friendly point of contact for parents with questions about PSA events. If you'd be happy to help out, please get in touch with the PSA!

New to Purwell?

Don't forget to join our Purwell School Association Facebook page and your class WhatsApp group.

Search Purwell School Association on Facebook.

 To join your class WhatsApp group, just email the PSA and we'll add you in (purwell.school.association@gmail.com)

The class groups are great for keeping up with PSA events, but they're also handy for the everyday stuff - homework questions, lost jumpers and party invitations!

Dates for Autumn Term 2026

September

Tuesday 29th Tag Rugby match V Whitehill

October

Tuesday 13th Photographer in taking individual and family portraits

Wednesday 21st Parent Consultations

Thursday 22nd Parent Consultations

26th 30th Oct Half term

November

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

December

Friday 4th School Closed for Occasional Day

Tuesday 15th Whole School Christmas production (afternoon and evening)

Wednesday 16th Christmas School Lunch

Thursday 17th Whole School Party afternoon in the hall.

Friday 18th 1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing

Term ends at 2pm

NEXT ACADEMIC SCHOOL DATES 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Mon 26th Oct-Friday 30th Oct HALF TERM

Friday 4th December School Closed for Occasional Day

Friday 18th December END OF TERM

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January School Closed for Inset Day

Tuesday 5th January Children return to School

Mon 15th Feb-Fri 19th Feb HALF TERM

Monday 22nd February School Closed for Inset Day

Friday 26th March END OF TERM

Summer Term

Monday 12th April School Closed for Inset Day

Tuesday 13th April Children Return to School

Monday 3rd May Bank Holiday

Mon 31st - Fri 4th June HALF TERM

Friday 9th July School Closed for Inset Day

Thursday 22nd July END OF TERM