

Thought for the week: *"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."*, Robert Collier.

Parents Brave the Heat to Attend Open Day

A big thank you to all the parents who braved the heat to join us for our Open Day. It was wonderful to see so many families spending time in the classrooms, taking part in a range of enjoyable learning activities alongside their children. Some parents were also treated to a glimpse of our talented pupils during their steel pan rehearsal with Mrs. Campbell, which was a real highlight of the afternoon.

Later in the evening, in the comfort of our air-conditioned hall, some parents returned to hear a presentation from Mr. Cano, who shared the school's key priorities and the progress made this year in teaching and learning, writing, providing wider opportunities for our pupils, SEND, and attendance.

Parents then had the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet their children's new teachers, and ask any questions they had ahead of the new school year.

Thank you for your continued support. Working together with families is an important part of helping every child thrive, and it was wonderful to see so many of you there.

Supporting Mental Health During Transition

We understand that this time of year can be a little unsettling for some children. Saying goodbye to a familiar teacher and getting ready to meet a new one can bring mixed emotions. While there's a lot to look forward to with the holidays and the new school year, it's important to support our children through this change.

If you'd like resources or activities to help your child during this transition, the following website is full of excellent, free materials:

[Transitions and change](#) | [Mental Health Parent Guide](#) | [Young Minds](#)

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

We hope parents will join us for our end of term assembly on Thursday 23rd July, starting at 1:30pm. We will have pupils playing the steel drums for us. We will also announce the classes with the best attendance for the term. The school day will end directly after the assembly.

Pupils meet their new teachers

This morning children had the opportunity to spend some time with their new teachers and teaching assistants, getting to know one another, in preparation for September.

SEN Summer Transition Meetings

Parents and carers of children on the SEN register who have requested to book a summer transition meeting with both the child's current and new class teachers, will be sent meeting times and days for their meeting slot. Please use the link provided in the email to select day and time slot via the School Cloud system.

These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss your child's current needs and the support in place as they move into their new class.

Safeguarding at Purwell School

Next week, parents will receive an informative letter outlining the many ways we keep children safe and support their wellbeing at Purwell School. It explains the robust safeguarding systems we have in place, including our use of CPOMS to record and monitor concerns, the management and annual auditing of our Single Central Record, and the regular safeguarding reviews carried out by Hertfordshire County Council, alongside Ofsted inspections.

We hope this provides parents with a valuable insight into the extensive measures we take every day to ensure safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do.

Year 6 Leavers Assembly, Tuesday 21st July, at 2:15pm

In the last week of term there will be a mixture of emotions as we come together for our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly. At this special occasion, the pupils of Oak Class will say their goodbyes to Purwell School, and parents and carers of Year 6 pupils will join us to celebrate their time here.

We will look back on some of the pupils' favourite memories of Purwell, enjoy performances that showcase their talents, and listen to musical performances from members of the class.

During the assembly, we will also announce the Year 6 Pupil of the Year, chosen by the staff. The winner's name will be engraved on the prestigious shield, which is proudly displayed in the school's trophy cabinet.

As our Year 6 pupils prepare to move on to their chosen secondary schools, we wish each and every one of them every success and happiness for the future. They will always be a valued part of the Purwell family.

MP Community Meeting at Purwell School

Purwell School will be hosting a community Town Hall style meeting with our local MP, Alistair Strathern, on Monday 20th July, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, in the school hall.

These meetings provide an opportunity for local residents to raise and discuss local, national and international issues in an open and informal setting.

All members of the local community are welcome to attend.

Returning books

Please can you ensure that, before the end of the 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.

Summer Term Dates 2026

Thursday 9 th July	Pupils meet their new teacher for September
Friday 10th July	Inset Day School Closed
Monday 20 th July	Local MP, Alistair Strathern, hosting Town Hall Style Community event.
Tuesday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Thursday 23 rd July	End of term assembly at 1:30pm End of Term 2pm

School uniform

Next 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.

Further details of school's uniform policy can be found here.

[Purwell Primary School » Uniform](#)



Sports Reports

Sports Day

After having to postpone the original date due to a Red Heat Alert, we had perfect conditions for our rescheduled Sports Day last Thursday (2nd July). Children in Key Stage 2 had already earned points for their teams in basketball, dodgeball and tug 'o' war and these points were combined with those gained on Sports Day to crown this year's winning team.

In the morning, Acorn and Cherry classes took to the field completing a circuit of events, in the afternoon, it was the turn of Sycamore, Aspen and Oak. As usual, our cheerleaders opened the afternoon proceedings at 1:30 and the day culminated with races for any willing adults who had come to watch while the children enjoyed ice pops that were kindly supplied by the PSA. It was wonderful to see so many parents attending and supporting the children, who had put in a great deal of hard work to prepare for all of the different events.

When the final results had been counted, last year's winners (Green) were in second place and we had new winners. Our Yellow team were very excited to get their ribbon back on the shield after a few years! The final results were - Yellow (Wilshere) 444, Green (Fairfield) 429, Red (Sanfoine) 374 and Blue (Benchley) 355.

Many thanks to all who came to watch, to the PSA for the ice pops and to Miss Taylor who volunteered her time to come back into school to setup and help Mr Hart and Mr Brazier organise the events on the day.

District Athletics -

District Athletics Championship

On Friday 3rd July, a team of Year 5 and Year 6 athletes represented Purwell at the annual District Athletics Championship at Ridlins Athletics Stadium, Stevenage. Competing against schools from across North Hertfordshire, our pupils demonstrated excellent determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the day. Highlights included Jayden finishing as the third-fastest Year 5 sprinter in the district and William placing fourth in his Year 6 sprint event. Scarlett delivered an outstanding performance to win the ball throw, becoming the inaugural district record holder in the event.

The boys' team finished an impressive 5th out of 13 schools, while the girls' team secured 7th place out of 13, despite competing with a smaller squad than many other schools. We are extremely proud of all our athletes for representing Purwell so positively and successfully.

Sports Thank You

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents for their efforts in ferrying children to and from sports events across the academic year, we know how much effort and organisation this involves and appreciate the fabulous experiences their participation allows the children to enjoy

PSA News

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Summer Disco. It was fantastic to see so many children (and grown-ups!) having a brilliant time together.

Easyfundraising - Free, Simple, and Makes a Big Difference

Thank you to everyone already raising donations through easyfundraising. Not joined yet? It's quick, free, and genuinely helps!

Every time you shop online with your favourite brands, they'll donate to Purwell at no extra cost to you. With over 8,000 retailers involved - including John Lewis & Partners, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more - your everyday purchases can help fund exciting opportunities for our children.

Sign up here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/purwellprimaryschoolhitchin/>

Stay Connected with the PSA

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

- Join our Facebook Group: Purwell School Association
- Check you're in your Class WhatsApp Group - perfect for quick questions, lost jumpers, party invites, and homework reminders.

If you're new to Purwell and not sure who your Class Rep is, just drop us a message at purwell.school.association@gmail.com and we'll point you in the right direction.

Next PSA Meeting - PSA AGM

Tuesday 29th September, 8pm Community Room

Everyone is welcome - please come along and get involved!

Squirrels coming to Purwell

We are pleased to share that 16th Hitchin Scouts will be opening a new Squirrel Drey at Purwell Primary School from September 2026.

Squirrels is the youngest section of the Scouts family and is for children aged 4 to 6. It gives children the chance to have fun, make friends, try new activities and earn badges, working towards the Chief Scout Acorn Award before moving up to Beavers.

The group will meet at Purwell Primary School on Wednesday afternoons. If your child would be interested in joining Squirrels, please contact Denise Wells, Group Lead Volunteer, at glv16thhitchin@gmail.com, or use the QR code on the leaflet (there is one on the schools office door).



Applying or Re-applying for FREE SCHOOL MEALS

New parents/carers need to register before September 2026 to benefit from FSM. You will need to register and if you already receive FSM you will need to re-register to claim FSM from September 2026 as your registration will be cancelled at the end of July 2026. Please click on the link below:

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

To register or re-register for Free School Meals (FSM) in Hitchin, applying online takes just 5 minutes, and you will receive an immediate decision.

Key Steps & Requirements

What you need: Your National Insurance number or Home Office number. Applications must be in the name of the person receiving the qualifying benefit.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM): All Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 children receive free hot lunches automatically. However, you should still register even if your child is in these early years, as this secures extra Pupil Premium funding (over £1,000 per eligible child) for their school.

Moving from Year 2 to Year 3: If your child is transitioning to Year 3, you must reapply for Free School Meals before the start of the academic year.

Have Your Say, The Big Future Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, wants to hear directly from children and young people about their experiences, hopes and ideas for the future.

The **Big Future** survey gives children the opportunity to share their views, helping to ensure that their voices are heard by Government when decisions are made about issues that affect them.

We encourage our pupils to take a few minutes to complete the survey before the end of term. Parents and carers are also invited to support their children in taking part.

The survey is available here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Thank you for helping to ensure that the views of children in our school are represented.

NEXT ACADEMIC SCHOOL DATES 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1st September 26	School Closed for Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September 26	Children Return to School
Mon 26th Oct-Friday 30th Oct 26	HALF TERM
Friday 4th December 26	School Closed for Occasional Day
Friday 18th December 26	END OF TERM

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January 27	School Closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 5th January 27	Children return to School
Mon 15th Feb-Fri 19th Feb 27	HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February 27	School Closed for Inset Day
Friday 26th March 27	END OF TERM

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April 27	School Closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 13th April 27	Children Return to School
Monday 3rd May 27	Bank Holiday
Mon 31st - Fri 4th June 27	HALF TERM
Friday 9th July 27	School Closed for Inset Day
Thursday 22nd July 27	END OF TERM