

Thought for the day: 'Autumn is our second spring, when every leaf becomes a flower.' Albert Camus

Glee Club set to spread Christmas cheer

Our very popular singing and dancing group, Glee Club is set to make a series of special appearances over the run-up to Christmas. The performers have been rehearsing hard since September, and getting into the Christmas spirit a little early, as they prepare for some very exciting performances coming up in Stevenage.

On the 25th of November, Glee will be performing in front of a huge crowd of spectators at the Stevenage Christmas lights switch on event, at 2pm. Then, two weeks later, they will perform at the popular Christmas Island, event in Stevenage on 9th December, at 11 am. All are welcome to join us at these events and support the club. As you can imagine, the children and staff are all very excited to be part of what is anticipated to be, wonderful festive shows.

Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 13th December

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 13th December, and the children can wear their Christmas jumpers. A letter will be sent out this week for pupils who don't have a school lunch to request one on this day and to state whether they want the vegetarian option, as there is only 2 options Meat or Vegetarian.

It will be assumed that all pupils will have the Christmas lunch, unless you inform us otherwise either via this letter or letting the office know. Please advise the school office, as soon as possible, if you would like your child to have the vegetarian option or a home packed lunch.

If your child/children have an allergy or intolerance to any foods, please complete an online form, giving details of the allergy or intolerance, to ascertain whether a modified meal can be provided for them. This will need to be completed by Wednesday 29th November. The link to the form is <https://hertscatering.co.uk/allergy-menu-application/>

Children get ready for Christmas productions

After half term rehearsals for the Christmas productions will soon commence. The Early Years and infant classes will have separate performances from the juniors. There will be a small charge for attendance at these performances - £2 for children of primary school age and £4.00 for everyone else. All the money raised will go towards school improvements. Tickets will be on sale at the school office from Monday 11th December for those who wish to attend.

Monday 18th December, 2:15pm and 6.30pm, Nursery to Year 2
Tuesday 19th December, 2:15pm and 6.30pm, Years 3 to 6

Party Day - Friday 15th December (pm)

On Friday 15th December, each class will be having a class party afternoon, to celebrate Christmas and the end of term. Teachers will be sending further information out to parents, nearer the time, for what parents can help to provide. Please note: This will also be a non-uniform, day. **Nursery parents**, please note that Nursery pupils should attend in the afternoon of party day and not the morning, i.e., 1pm - 3.15pm.

Dealing with bullying update

At Purwell, we respond immediately if bullying is suspected. We work with children, their parents and staff, to resolve ongoing incidents of regular unkindness. In the last newsletter we reported on an ongoing situation in one of our upper junior classes. I am pleased to say that, following the use of fixed term suspensions for some of the pupils who were involved in bullying, the situation has improved for the child who was the victim. However, the situation continues to be very closely monitored and parents of all the children involved are being updated regularly.

PE kit

As the weather is now turning a bit chillier, it is important that pupils have the proper outdoor PE kit in addition to their indoor kit, for outdoor lessons. This is a navy, Purwell PE sweatshirt (available from Beats, in Hitchin) and navy jogging bottoms.

Reading at home

Please ensure that you hear your child read regularly at home and that this is recorded in their reading record books. The record books are the only indication that your child is having regular opportunities to read to an adult. Comments in the books that relate to the child's phonological progress and comprehension are the most useful for teachers to read.

Free School Meals (FSM)

If you are in receipt of benefits, your children may be eligible for FSM. Registering for UIFSM will identify pupils in Reception and Years 1 and 2. However, you will need to apply separately for pupils in Years 3 - 6. You should complete the appropriate form on: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to apply or contact Mrs Sharp in the office to apply on your behalf.

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.

Parental support, workshops and events

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

PSA EVENTS & NEWS

Halloween

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Halloween events. The parties, cake sale and Pumpkin Trail raised an amazing £870!

Christmas

Christmas Shop - on Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th December a Christmas Shop will be held during the school day. It will be £2 per present for children to buy a secret present for an adult in their family.

Production refreshments - Mince pies and mulled wine will be available to purchase before and after the Christmas Productions. Raffle - We will also be holding a pre-Christmas Raffle with some great prizes. More details to follow! ... and we've got lots of fun stuff planned for 2024!

Next PSA meeting - Wednesday 10th January, 8pm The Anchor Inn

UP & COMING EVENTS

November

Saturday 25th Glee Club to perform at the Stevenage Christmas lights switch-on

December

Saturday 9th Glee Club to perform again in Stevenage

Wednesday 13th Christmas School Lunch - Christmas Jumpers

Friday 15th Christmas Party Day - Non School Uniform

Monday 18th EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)

Tuesday 19th KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)

Wednesday 20th 1:30pm Christmas assembly, with carol singing

Term ends at 2pm

Dates for Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4th January Pupils return to school

19th - 23rd February Half-term

Monday 26th February School Closed for Inset Day

Tuesday 26th March Parent Consultations

Wednesday 27th March Parent Consultations

Thursday 28th March 1:30pm End of term assembly with Easter singing

Last day of term (2pm finish)

Dates for Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April School closed for Inset Day

Tuesday 16th April Pupils return to school

Monday 6th May May Bank Holiday

27th May-31st June Half-term

Thursday 27th June Sports Day

Friday 28th June School closed for Inset Day

Friday 19th July Last day of term (2pm finish)