

Thought for the day: 'Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower' - Albert Camus

You said, we did! - New Changes to booking parent consultations

In response to the feedback we were given in the summer from parents as part of the parent survey, we will be making big changes to how parent consultations will work this term.

Parents will be able to book appointments online, directly onto their child's teachers. In addition to this, parents will have the choice of either having an online parent consultation with 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 Mullen about their child. We hope these changes will help parents in both booking appointments for their children and helping them to attend the meetings with their children's teachers. Details of how to book a meeting with your child's teacher have been sent out via SchoolComms.

Parent Teacher Consultations

These will take place on:

ONLINE MEETINGS, Wednesday 23rd October until 6.00pm

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS, Thursday 24th October until 7.00pm

Booking for these consultations will be online, via the school link <https://purwell.schoolcloud.co.uk/> once you have logged in to schoolcloud.

Annual School Photographs

Next Tuesday 15th October, the school photographer will be visiting 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.

Bullying update

Since our last update, I am pleased to say that we have had no incidents of bullying behaviour reported in school.

Governors in action

At the Governing Board meeting this week, the school governors were reviewing the skills on the governing board which revealed that amongst many strong and varied skills the governors possess, there is a need for more knowledge about financial management and HR. The board will seek training for governors to improve their knowledge in these areas, but we are always willing to welcome new parent governors who may have these skills to offer to the school. See the next item below, about how you can get involved.

Also, at this week's meeting the governors received updates from Mr Cano about safeguarding. They heard from Mrs Sharp, (our School Business Manager) about finances and budget monitoring and then, from Mr Cano once more about the progress being made on the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Governors also shared their experiences of being invited into school to meet with Ofsted inspectors. The governing board were invited to speak with inspectors and they were able to demonstrate the huge impact that the governing board have had in moving the school forward since the last inspection two years ago. Although we expect the publication of the Ofsted report to be before half term, all we can say at the moment is that we are very pleased with the result, and I would like to extend my gratitude to the work of the governing board in supporting the school to bring about the successes we are enjoying today.

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 Body.

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](#)

Attendance competitions this year

As reported in the last newsletter, this year we are endeavouring to improve attendance results for pupils. This will include sharing information with parents about how the school is doing in terms of attendance data and, also, give half-termly updates to parents of children whose current attendance is below the minimum requirement of 90%. So, before half term, parents of pupils who have attendance which is below 90% will be informed about via a letter.

In addition to this, we have two competitions which will be running this year, which seek to reward classes and individual pupils whose attendance is 100%, or very close to 100%.

This is how they will work. At the end of the autumn term, and at the end of the spring term and summer half term, pupils with excellent attendance will have their name put into a hat. So, those pupils who have had excellent attendance at those three points across the year will have their name in the hat three times! This means they will have three chances for their name to be pulled out of the hat. For those children who have had less than excellent attendance this term, they will still have the opportunity to have their name put in the hat at the end of the spring and summer half term, if their attendance becomes excellent.

At summer half term, one name will be pulled out of the hat and that child and their family will win the prizes below. At that point in the year, the class with the best attendance in the school will also be given prizes. We hope that this incentive will have the positive impact on school attendance and research shows it has been used to great effect in some other case studies.

Here are the prizes to be won, as chosen by the pupils at the school.

Pupil prize	Class prize
A toy of their choice, up to the value of £50	A special best class attendance pencil.
AND	A special day where they can come to school in home clothes. On that day they will have an extra-long play time, and can play football, if they wish.
Family shopping vouchers worth £100	That afternoon, they will have a class party with pizza and ice cream.

We would like to thank parents for their support with this initiative to help boost school attendance.

Request from Willow Class for their RE lessons

As part of our Year 2 RE module this half term, we are looking to invite a visitor into Willow class for a short talk about leadership. This could be a leader in the community, a religious leader or a leader in a place of work.

If you hold a leadership role and would be open to coming to speak to Willow class for 10/20 minutes about your leadership role, please email the office, so we can arrange a time/date within school hours this half term.

Drinks and snacks at school

A reminder to parents that we are a nut free school. Please do not include items that contain nuts in children's lunch boxes. Also, please ensure that children's water bottle contains water **only** and not fruit juices, squashes or any other soft drinks. Thank you.

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.

PE kit

As the weather is now turning a bit chillier, it is important that pupils in KS2 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.

Communicating with teachers

If you wish to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please do so via the school office at admin@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.

Sports news

Our programme of inter-school fixtures is now getting into full swing although, unfortunately, due to the heavy rain we have suffered a couple of postponements. These matches will be rescheduled and we will let you know dates for those when we have them.

Having kicked off the season with rallies at Wilshere-Dacre, our A and Girls' Team footballers will be playing fixtures at Whitehill on Friday 18th October. Our A Team have already started their league fixtures and are playing a Wix Cup fixture against St.Andrews this week (Wednesday). For our girls, however, it will be their first match and they are really looking forward to it.

Last week, we took 3 Tag Rugby teams over to Letchworth Rugby Club for a Year 5/6 festival and, after all the rain from the previous days, were delighted that the sun shone throughout! This week it was the turn of our Y3/4 Tag Rugby players and they enjoyed themselves just as much in their festival, also at Letchworth.

Our netballers have had a frustrating start to the season with their opening match being postponed due to the weather. However, last night (Monday) they got their season off to a start playing a home match against Samuel Lucas and made Miss Radford and Miss Taylor very proud by putting in a tremendous performance despite it being, in many cases, their first time representing the school.

Tag Rugby

Both our Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 classes have taken part in the North Herts School Sports Partnership Tag Rugby Festivals this month. We sent 3 teams to each event, held at Letchworth Rugby Club and led by Saracens RUFC, and the pupils did a fabulous job representing the school. Not only did it offer a new experience and a taste of the game to children who'd not played competitively before, but it also gave our more experienced Purwell rugby players the chance to test themselves against high quality opposition from across the North Herts area. Stand out features across our squads were team work and communication, whilst the Hitchin Boys School rugby lead was very impressed with our performances and enquired after the plans of many of our Year 5 and 6 boys. Well done to all those who took part.

We'll be following up on these developments with a pair of home fixtures against Whitehill on Wednesday 16th October and look forward to seeing our players continue to grow on their rugby journey.

Netball

Our netball team came up against stiff opposition this Monday as we welcomed Samuel Lucas to Purwell. As perennial champions the Samuel Lucas team always offer a stern test, and whilst we weren't able to

celebrate a win on the night, Miss Radford and Miss Taylor were extremely proud of the team, their commitment and continued positivity as the game got away from them. Our defensive movement and energy was highly commendable.

Cycling

It was a pleasure to see a group of our Purwell Pedallers making their Eastern Regional Cyclocross debuts for local club, CC Ashwell, at Welwyn's Eastern League race day on 29th September. This was a huge step up for the riders and showed the progress they've made since starting their cycling journeys on the Purwell field a little over 2 years ago. Alyssa Butler, Josh Haslam and Alfie Lewis all entered the highly competitive U12s field and stood up well against a strong field, while Year 2's Alice Haslam continued her rapid cycling development as she debuted in the U8s race. Our Year 6 Purwell Pedallers have made a great start to their year as 'Club Mentors' and it's been fabulous to see them supporting the younger and less experienced riders after school on a Tuesday. Their reward for this effort will be an Autumn Greenway ride, when they'll be tackling our 18km Greenway loop after school on Tuesday 22nd October (please note there will be no club for the Year 4 and 5 pupils that night). RACE UPDATES - Our first Purwell Pedallers race day of the season will be on Sunday 24th November at Ashwell's Smallgains Lane circuit. Riders from U6 - U12 will be able to compete in the Muddy Monsters race events that day. Further details and sign on information to follow.

Football - As well as visiting us for our netball game on Monday, Samuel Lucas provided us with a significant test of our abilities as we came up against them in our most recent Year 5/6 boys football match. With our squad still in its infancy as the Year 5 players are integrated into the team along the Year 6s we took some time to find our feet on the night. In spite of an unflattering scoreline Miss Taylor and Mr Hart were very proud of the team, particularly in the way they conducted themselves when things were going against them.

Cheerleading

We're very lucky to have Mrs Law, of ADA, running cheerleading club after school on a Monday. At present we're short on participants and as such will be showcasing some cheerleading in an assembly in the coming weeks and hope to recruit some new members. If we have the squad to do it we're able to enter national competitions and to perform at sporting events in stadiums around London. Cheerleading is a fantastic combination of gymnastic skill, rhythm and movement and open to children across Year 4, 5 and 6. If you're interested in joining please contact the school office.

Upcoming fixtures

Wed 09/10/24	Football (home) v . St.Andrews (A Team Wix)
Tue 15/10/24	Netball (home) v. St.Andrews (A Team)
Wed 16/10/24	Tag Rugby (home) v. Whitehill (A and B Teams)
Fri 18/10/24	Football (away) v. Whitehill (A team and Girls)
Tues 22/10/24	Year 6 Greenway Autumn Ride - Cycling
Sun 24/10/24	Purwell Pedallers Race Day @ Ashwell
Thurs 24/10/24	Year 5/6 Basketball Competition @ Fearnhill (during school hours)
Sun 24/11/24	Purwell Pedallers Race Day @ Ashwell

Join our PRIVATE school Twitter group to get the latest news

You can keep up to date with what is going on in school via our **private Twitter page**. No pictures or information about the children can be seen by anyone on Twitter who is not part of the private group, you must join the group and only parents of children at Purwell can join. You will need to apply to become a member on the school's Twitter page and then contact the school office, giving them your Twitter username, to have permission to be accepted into the group.

PSA NEWS

To keep up to date with all things PSA please join the Facebook Group ("Purwell School Association") and make sure you are on your class WhatsApp group. The WhatsApp groups are also handy for general class stuff (missing jumpers / birthday parties / what page is this week's homework? Etc!). If you're new to the school and not sure who your Class Rep is please email purwell.school.association@gmail.com and we'll help!

PSA upcoming events:

PSA Meeting - Wednesday 16th October, 8pm, Purwell Community Room. All welcome!

Halloween Disco - Friday 25th October. Timings tbc.

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

Grants Officer: Julie Thiberg

Community Liaison Officer: Lisa Warren



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

Dates for Autumn Term 2024

October

Tuesday 15 th	Braiswick photographer taking individual and family portraits
Wednesday 16 th	PSA meeting, 8pm in Community Room.
Wednesday 23 rd	Parent Consultations
Thursday 24 th	Parent Consultations
Friday 25 th	Halloween Disco
28th - 1st Oct	Half term

November

Monday 4 th	School Closed for Inset day.
Sun 10 th - Fri 15 th	Year 5 and 6 to Kingswood residential trip

December

Friday 6 th	School Closed for Occasional Day
Wednesday 11 th	Christmas School Lunch
Wednesday 18 th	EYFS/KS1 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Thursday 19 th	KS2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening)
Friday 20 th	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing
	Term ends at 2pm



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NEXT POP UP EVENTS



STEVENAGE FIRE STATION

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 10AM - MIDDAY

HITCHIN FIRE STATION

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 10AM - MIDDAY



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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/COATS4KIDSHERTS