

PURWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

10th December 2025

Thought for the day: 'Christmas will only be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand.' Dr Seuss

A Wonderful Early Christmas Arrival

We are delighted to share some lovely news with our school community. Mrs. Cowie, our Year 2 teacher, and her husband welcomed their baby son, Evan, into the world yesterday evening at 10pm. Both mum and baby are doing very well and are hoping to head home from hospital today, just in time to begin settling in for the Christmas season.

It is a truly joyful moment for the Cowie family, and we are sure you will join us in sending them all our warmest congratulations. A very special Christmas gift indeed.

New Musical Opportunities 🎵 ⭐

We have lots of exciting things planned for Music in 2026. We begin in January with drumming lessons for KS2 children, alongside our ongoing piano and guitar lessons delivered by Herts Music Service. In February, please look out for information about an after school Steel Pan club for KS2, run by Mrs Campbell. 🎵

We are also delighted that Herts Music Service has chosen our school to host a special community Family Steel Pan event in March. Booking details will be shared closer to the time. 🎵

As part of Feeling Good Week, Reception and Key Stage 1 will enjoy a Percussion Music and Movement session led by Caz Wolfson from Herts Music Service, which promises to be great fun.

If your child is hoping to learn a particular instrument, please let me know and we will do our best to help find a teacher. 🎵

Miss Daniels
Music Coordinator

A Magical Christmas Treat from Our PSA 🎄 ⭐

We are thrilled to share a wonderful surprise arranged by our fantastic Purwell School Association. Thanks to their generosity, the children will enjoy a special Christmas experience tomorrow afternoon as a travelling theatre company visits school to perform The Snow Queen pantomime in the hall. The production promises all the magic you would hope for, plenty of music, laughter, larger than life characters and all the fun that makes a pantomime so special. It is sure to be a memorable afternoon for the children as we head towards the excitement of Christmas 🎁 🎭

A huge thank you to Mrs Neate and her amazing PSA team for organising this lovely festive treat for the pupils. Their support makes such a difference and we are very grateful for everything they do for our school community.

🌟 **Purwell Achieves Modeshift STARS Accreditation** 🌟

We are thrilled to share that Purwell Primary School has officially been awarded the Modeshift STARS Approved Travel Plan Accreditation. This recognition celebrates the fantastic work happening across our school community to promote sustainable, healthy and active travel.

Whether it is walking, cycling, scooting or simply making safer travel choices, our pupils, families and staff have all contributed to this achievement. Your ongoing support for our travel initiatives genuinely makes a difference for our children and for the environment.

We are excited to build on this success in the months ahead as we continue encouraging safer, cleaner and more active journeys to school.

🎄 Class Christmas Parties 🎄

On the afternoon of Tuesday 16th December, the children will be getting into the Christmas spirit with dancing, games and plenty of festive fun at their class Christmas party. The children can bring party clothes to change into for the afternoon, if they wish.

If you are able to donate any food or drink, we would be very grateful. A sign-up sheet will be available in the school office from 3pm on Thursday 11th December. Thank you so much for your continued support, it really helps make these events special for the children. ✨

🎄 Christmas Letters 📧

In Year 1, the children have been busy writing their letters to Father Christmas as part of their English work on *The Jolly Christmas Postman*. This week, they walked to the local post box to send them off, making sure Father Christmas has plenty of time to get everything ready. The children were so excited to drop their letters in and imagine them on their way to the North Pole. 🧑🏻🎅 ✨

🎄 Christmas Productions

Just one week to go before our much-loved Christmas productions arrive! As with previous years, the Early Years and the infant classes will perform separately from the junior classes, giving each group their moment to shine. There will be a small admission charge to help support our ongoing school improvement projects:

- £2.00 for children of primary school age (up to 11 years old)
- £4.00 for everyone else

Tickets are available NOW, via schoolcomms or (cash) in the school office.

Performance dates:

- Nursery to Year 2: Wednesday 17th December at 2:15pm and 6:30pm
- Years 3 to 6: Thursday 18th December at 2:15pm and 6:30pm

We look forward to welcoming families to celebrate the festive season with us.

Sports Report

Running

Our Cross Country running club has been going from strength to strength since it started after October half term. We have a core group of 14 runners who take to the Greenway each Tuesday after school and have proved themselves to be both fast and determined. It's been fabulous to see the children improving as the weeks go by and 12 of the club runners registered individually for a Parkrun at Pinehill Park in Hitchin on Sunday 7th December. The children who attended did really well and 5 runners managed to be in the top 10. William H, 3rd overall, William R 6th, Jayden 8th and Eljay 9th and Amelia 3rd. This was an outstanding achievement as they came up against other children who had attended 50 or more Parkruns.



The club will be running on Tuesday 16th December and returning from the festive break on Tuesday 6th January as members of the squad continue their training for the Hertfordshire County Championship.

Huge thanks to our team of volunteers, Mr McKendrick, Mr and Mrs Biggs, Miss Thiberg, Mr Aaronson and Ms Lovick, without them supporting the after school running club, the club would not be able to continue.

Football

Our football team had a real treat on Saturday 29th November as they ran out as mascots with Hitchin Town for their home game against Leighton. Not only were our pupils thrilled at the opportunity to visit the changing rooms and to play on the pitch, but they were treated to a 5-0 home win in a game said to have been the best they've played over the past two seasons. Huge thanks to Hitchin for inviting us and to our pupils and their parents for making the event possible.



Children's Mental Health Week (9th-13th February 2026)

We are busy planning a range of activities for the children in celebration of Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is "This is My Place."

Last year, we were fortunate to have several parents and carers volunteer their time to come into school and run activities with the children. This was a great success, giving pupils the chance to experience a wider range of activities than would otherwise have been possible.

If you feel you could support us in any way during this special week, please do get in touch. Your involvement will help make the week meaningful and memorable for all our children.

Mental Health Support- Christmas time

While Christmas is a time of celebration and fun, we know that it can also bring its challenges. If you or your child need some support over the holiday period, you may find the following website useful.

<https://thesandbox.mindler.co.uk/post/the-holidays>

🎄 End of Term Assembly Invitation 🎄

We would love parents and carers to join us for our final assembly of the term on **Friday 19th December**. The assembly will begin at **1,30pm** and will include some festive singing from the children to help us all get into the Christmas spirit.

Term will finish at **2pm** that afternoon. We hope you can join us for this cheerful end to a busy and successful term.

Help your child get the right care this winter

If you are not sure what to do when your child is unwell this winter, a new paediatric Symptom Checker - developed by staff at Lister Hospital - gives quick, trusted advice on common winter illnesses to help parents decide whether to provide self-care, call NHS 111 for advice, or visit an Urgent Treatment Centre for minor injury before attending our busy A&E.



Use the Symptom Checker here: <https://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk/symptom-checker>.

Coats and Cold Weather Reminder

As the weather continues to be changeable, please make sure your child comes to school with a warm coat with a hood each day. We go outside whenever possible, even in light rain, so it's important they're properly dressed for the conditions.



Please ensure that all coats and other items that your child brings in to school are clearly labelled with their name, so that any lost belongings can be quickly returned. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone warm, dry and organised this season!

Reception Admissions 2026-2027

Information for admissions into the Reception class are available on the Hertfordshire website, www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. The online system is open and the **DEADLINE** for applications is the 15th January 2026.

Nursery admissions is open from 1st February until 20th March 2026, application forms can be obtained from the office or on the website, Nursery admissions is with the school not HCC.

PSA NEWS

The Christmas Shop is Coming!

A magical chance for children to choose a special gift for a grown-up in their family - all by themselves! They'll wrap it up and write a tag at school, ready to surprise someone they love this festive season.

Payment details: **Children should bring cash on the day. (coins preferable)**

PSA Christmas Raffle - Amazing Prizes to Be Won!

Packed with brilliant prizes for the whole family, including:

- A Samsung Galaxy Tablet
- A Family Pass to Knebworth House, Gardens & Dino Trail
- A Family Photography Session
- ...and many more fantastic treats



To enter the draw, simply fill in your details on the ticket stub and return it, along with your payment in the envelope provided.

Prefer to pay by card? No problem! Card payments will be available on selected days at pick-up. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and your class WhatsApp group for details.

Draw will be after the KS2 Christmas performance on Thursday 18th December.

Festive Refreshments at the Christmas Performances - Wed 17th & Thurs 18th

- Afternoon shows: hot chocolate and a tasty mince pie.
- Evening shows: mulled wine, mulled cider, and mince pies.

Dates and events for Academic Year 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 11 th December	The Snow Queen - Panto Production (pm)
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Productions (EY and KS1)
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Productions (KS2)
Friday 19 th December	1:30pm Christmas assembly with carol singing. Term ends at 2pm

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 th January	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school
16 th - 20 th February	Half-term
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 th April	Children return to school
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May	Half term
Monday 1 st June	Inset Day
Friday 10 th July	Inset Day
Thursday 23 rd July	End of Term 2pm