

Thought for the day: 'Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over' - Guy Finley

☺ **Welcome back to a new school year** ☺

We hope you all have had a lovely break with your children and are looking forward to what promises to be an exciting year at school.

I am delighted with how positively the children have returned to school displaying 'can-do' attitudes and I would like to thank all of our parents for preparing your children so well for the new term.

The children deserve nothing less than to have the experienced team of teachers and support staff here at Purwell School, to support them through the year to come. With the excellent provision that we have, we can allow ourselves to have the highest of expectations for the forthcoming year.

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. Times tables practice.

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

2. Maths-

KS1- Teachers will assign an activity/task on Mathletics or send home an activity linked to their current topic. We encourage the use of Mathletics at home. This is an enjoyable way to help children improve their mathematical fluency.

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. Daily reading-

Please spend at least 10 minutes a day reading and discussing the book with your child. Please comment/sign your child's reading record each time you read. At least 3 times per week as a minimum!

4. Topic work-

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be assigned an activity on Purple Mash linked to their current learning.

5. Spellings-

Spellings will not be set weekly but will be dependent on individual needs. Activities could consist of a spelling list to learn, or an activity linked to the week's spelling rule or pattern.

Don't forget, homework club is available to all pupils and runs every Thursday lunchtime, 12:30 to 1pm, 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.

Exciting news for Mrs Nichol

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our school community. We are pleased to announce that Mrs Nichol is expecting her first child in January! Please join us in congratulating Mrs Nichol and wishing her well.

We would also like to take this opportunity to assure parents of children in Year 3 that we will make the necessary arrangements to ensure a smooth transition for our students during Mrs Nichol's absence. We will be recruiting to secure a highly qualified teacher for the spring and summer terms, who will maintain the continuity of learning and provide a nurturing environment for our pupils.

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 Tuesday 31st October 2023.

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.

Parking

We remind parents, from time to time, that parking on the roads close to the school should be considerate to our neighbours. Unfortunately, there has been a complaint from a local resident who has experienced someone parking across their driveway and blocking it completely.

We advise that, if you are driving, you should park in Wilshere 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)

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 or contact Mrs Sharp in the office to apply on your behalf.



MIDDAY SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT (MSA) REQUIRED

Purwell Primary School requires a Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA) to work from 11.55am to 1.05pm, Monday to Fridays, term time only.

The duties of an MSA are to supervise children in the dining room, on the playground and in the classroom. The rate of pay is £10.60 an hour. Please contact the office for an application form.

School meals

School meals now cost £3.15 per day, £15.75 per week. Payment can be made via cash or on School Gateway. Cheques are no longer accepted.

Join our PRIVATE school Twitter group to get the latest news

You can keep up to date with what's 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 have to 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.

Dates for Autumn Term 2023

September

Saturday 16th Boys football rally at Wilshere Dacre
Saturday 23rd Girls football rally at Wilshere Dacre

October

Tuesday 3rd Year 5 Tag Rugby at Letchworth RFC
Tuesday 17th Braiswick photographer taking individual and family portraits
Wednesday 19th Parent Consultations
Thursday 20th Parent Consultations
23rd -27th Oct **Half term**

November

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

December

Saturday 9th Glee Club to perform again in Stevenage
Wednesday 13th Christmas School Lunch
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)