



PURLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Upcoming dates

*****Please note that a separate document with key dates up to Christmas will be distributed alongside the newsletter this week*****

Sun. 6th November 6pm

Thameside Firework Fiesta

Tues. 8th & Weds. 9th November

Year 6 Bikeability Level 2

Weds. 9th November

Bag2School collection

Thurs 17th November

School photos session 2

Mon. 19th December

FOPS Christmas Disco for pupils

Tues. 20th December 10am

Christmas Service at St Mary's church

Message from Mrs Holland

Welcome back to another exciting half term here at Purley. We start our term with an important fundraiser: the FOPs-organised Firework Fiesta. I hope to see many of you there!

Badger Class have already got into the swing of this term, making patterns with sparklers as an introduction to their topic 'What is that Light?' and our Collective Worship theme this week likewise focused our thoughts on how we can be that 'light in the darkness', setting examples to others.

This term, our whole school academic focus is on **Maths**, particularly on pupils having facts at their fingertips. It was fantastic to see how many children were enthused and engaged by the recent Battle of the Bands (read on to find out which House won!). This certainly helped to raise the profile of times tables in school. I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the recent messages from the Meet the Teacher evenings about the importance of pupils completing their maths homework tasks. For most children, these are linked to their KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) and secure knowledge of these is a huge factor in making expected progress and attainment.

Finally, as we look ahead to a very busy couple of months, please make sure to take note of the dates in the list being emailed today. There is lots happening! If it's not too early to mention Christmas, we would welcome adult help at our Craft day

Mrs Holland

In Collective Worship This Week....

'Try to shine as lights among the people of this world.'

Philippians 2.15



Tying in neatly with our fireworks festivities this weekend, we have been talking in Collective Worship about 'Celebrating Difference', which links to our Jigsaw PSHE theme for the term. We found out some amazing facts about animals which make them unique: did you know a slug has 4 noses, or that a crocodile can't stick out its tongue, for instance? Reflecting on our own qualities, we considered what makes us unique and how our difference is what makes us special. We talked about Jesus' example and how we can be shining lights, providing a positive example to others.

Courageous Advocacy at Purley

A courageous advocate is someone who champions a cause which is special and meaningful to them.

At Purley Primary School we have a strong emphasis on encouraging our pupils to become courageous advocates, not just locally, but nationally and globally. Our school values of **love**, **courage** and **wisdom** are lived out through the causes that we raise awareness of and fundraise for.

So far this term, with your support, we have raised money for humanitarian charities in Ukraine through our Inter House Sports Tournament and donated food to the ReadFood Food Bank at Harvest time.

This term, there are several opportunities for our school community to champion some causes relevant to our pupils. I thought it might be helpful to provide an overview of what those are, and what we are planning on doing to support them:

9th November- Bags 4 School. A FOPS fundraiser. See below for details!

11th November- Remembrance Day. Pupils will make a poppy wreath in classes and we will gather in front of the school to observe the moment's silence. You are welcome to join us at 11am. Poppies will be on sale in school from the end of this week.

Monday 14th November Odd Socks Day. To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that children wear odd socks to school. This is in support of the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) and further information will be sent home shortly. Voluntary suggested donation of £1.

Friday 18th November- BBC Children in Need. To mark this year's '[Great Spotacular](#)', and inspired by the iconic Pudsey Bear, we invite children to bring a teddy bear to school. If children wish to wear CIN merchandise on the day, they are most welcome to. Voluntary suggested donation of £1- children have also been invited to design fundraising activities for the day and we will keep you posted!

Eco Schools Award. Our newly formed committee are meeting shortly to complete their Eco audit of the school and will begin work on an action plan to make our school a 'greener' place to be. Watch this space...

FOPS Events Update

Sun 6 November: Thameside Firework Fiesta

Don't miss Purley Primary's biggest fundraiser of the year this Sunday. Make sure you take advantage of our advance ticket prices as tickets are more expensive on the day

thamesidefireworkfiesta.co.uk

Gates open at 3.30pm Fireworks display at 6pm

Wed 9 November: Bag2School

Please donate your unwanted textiles in as many carrier/bin bag(s) as you can fill! Bag2School collect adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags, bed linen, curtains and soft toys, (please see bag2school.com for full info). In addition to raising much needed funds for Purley Primary School it will also raise awareness of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

Don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well: Bag2School pays us per kilo, so the heavier the collection, the better!

Please bring your bags in on Wed 9 November by 9am: Drop off is in the ball court.

Battle of the Bands: RESULT

After a flurry of activity over half term, the **Fiery Foxes** were able to retain their lead and clinch victory in the Battle of the Bands. Well done to all those pupils who contributed to their overall House scores!

	Class Average Correct	Class Total Correct	
1	Fiery Fox	1,929	
2	Watery Otter	1,692	
3	Earthy Bear	1,546	
4	Airy Heron	243	

Girls on Track

I had the privilege of accompanying 10 of our Year 5 and 6 girls to this amazing opportunity on Tuesday. We were very fortunate to have picked up a place right at the end of last term, due to another school withdrawing.

The event was held at TeamSport Go-Karting in Reading and the objective of the day was to highlight all the roles that are needed to make a successful team; and that females can do this as well as males. During the day the girls had the opportunity to drive a kart, make a decision on which flag was to be waved during a range of F1 scenarios, complete a fitness challenge, design and build a F1 racing car with the F1 for schools team (we are now hoping to take this forward into a national competition!), construct a racing car from Lego and programme it on an iPad, and to interview Leona Theobald, a young motorsport racer. Congratulations to Lilly-May who was the overall top scorer for the Batak Light challenge! *Mrs Pickering*



Parents: STEM Returners Opportunities



Have you taken a career break of any length from STEM and wish to return? Are you working below your capability in a different sector? Do you have a STEM qualification that you aren't using? Do you wish to transfer STEM sectors? If so, this could be the opportunity for you!

STEM Returners provide STEM Professionals with a supported route back into the career they worked hard to build. Plus advice, career coaching, networking opportunities and mentoring to ensure they are ready and confident to return. We do this through partnering with STEM organisations to run returner programmes, enabling professionals to return to an equitable and inclusive industry.

We have recently launched a new STEM Returners programme with AWE, based at their sites in Berkshire, in areas such as manufacturing engineering, systems engineering as well as IT positions. For more information about these opportunities, please visit www.stemreturners.com or email hello@stemreturners.com.

No career break is too long, register to return to STEM today!