Purleigh Post

Achievement for all in a community that cares

Friday 2nd October 2026

Hello Everyone,

Following the letter I shared with everyone yesterday, I wanted to take a moment to say a little more as we begin this next chapter together. I have been deeply touched by the messages and good wishes from children, parents and colleagues since the news was shared. The children's reactions, in particular, have been incredibly special and a wonderful reminder of the relationships that make Purleigh such a happy and unique place to be.

This year also marks 25 years since I joined the school, a landmark which many of you kindly celebrated in September. It is difficult to put into words what that milestone meant to me, or how grateful I am for the many memories, friendships and experiences that those years have brought. I want to reassure everyone that my commitment to our school remains as strong as ever. I will continue to give my very best to the children, families and staff until Easter, with the same care, energy and kindness that I have always brought to the role. There is much to look forward to, and I feel privileged to continue sharing this journey with you all. I know that the LGB and governors are working hard to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr Stotter

The Governors Response

The Purleigh governors are saddened to hear of Mr Stotter's impending retirement but want to thank him for his 25 years of service to Purleigh, both as a teacher and leader of the school. Although he will be with us until the Easter break, we want to wish him a long and happy retirement.

In our most recent meeting, the governors identified the key points of discussion that would have the most impact on the children and their learning. These were:

- Recruitment of a new Head Teacher.
- The superb SATS results recorded by Year 6 in July, including 62% of children achieving the highest standard possible in Maths, far above national averages.
- The calm and confident way that the new reception intake has settled into Purleigh.

We are also looking to recruit more governors to our LGB. We have space open for another parent governor and a governor from the wider community. If you, or anyone you know, would like further information, please contact me via the school's admin email.

Thank you,
Jess O'Brien
Chair of Governors

Darcie B
Matilda S
Nathan N-T
Max P
Bertie M
We hope you all have a wonderful day!



THE GOLDEN BOOK

Every Friday we celebrate one child in each class who has had a superb week, often focusing on our assembly theme as the reason for their selection. Congratulations to the following children who are in the Golden Book this week:

Class R- Frankie W

Class 1- Maisie S

Class 2- Oliver C

Class 3- Penny J

Class 4- Sidney O'B

Class 5- Elliott H

Class 6- Mia H

AROUND THE CLASSES

CLASS 6

We have been keeping busy over the last couple of weeks, getting stuck into Macbeth, starting with analysing the plot in depth, making comparisons between characters and linking our wider text knowledge with Shakespeare's classic. We have also moved onto our new maths unit of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, having completed the unit of place value. We have been looking at a variety of methods for using these arithmetic skills in order to answer a variety of problems and question types. We also enjoyed some wholesome time in the fresh air, when the whole class got to take part in some harvesting, watering and sowing of seeds in the allotment.

CLASS 5

Today, year five are enjoying taking part in dramatic re-tellings of Egyptian stories. They are also re-enacting life in ancient Egypt with the help of history specialist and enthusiast Stephen. They are using their imagination and some creative genius to bring the past to life and to hopefully make a day that will stick in the memory. Mr Harverson is pleased that they have been able to answer so many questions on this topic, despite still being the first half of the term. October 1 was National Poetry Day. The theme was Wonder. With Michael Rosen's help online, many children were inspired to write poems of their own. It was an inspiration in itself to hear 2026 young poet laureates read their own work: poems written by children and performed to children of a similar age. Wonder is a word which has a split meaning; it can carry the sense of question and query as to why … but it can also convey a sense of something wonderful and awe-inspiring. Whichever sense you think of, it is worth taking the thoughts beyond the first day of the month and further into the Autumn Term and poetry is a wonderful way of doing so!

CLASS 4

Class 4 had a day full of fun and drama with Mr Mortimer on their Maya Day. It was a lively opportunity for the children to explore Maya stories through storytelling, performance and plenty of imagination. The children listened carefully to a range of Maya stories before bringing them to life themselves. They especially enjoyed acting out the story of the Hero Twins, working together to take on different roles and recreate the events through expression and movement. The children even acted out a human sacrifice, helping them to engage dramatically with another aspect of the stories they were exploring. There was lots of enthusiasm throughout the day, as the children used their voices, actions and teamwork to develop each performance. Mr Mortimer guided the activities and encouraged everyone to join in, making the Maya Day an engaging experience for Class 4.

CLASS 3

Class 3 have had lots of fun learning all about wonky vegetables and developing our persuasive writing skills! We explored why perfectly imperfect fruit and vegetables deserve a place on our supermarket shelves and thought carefully about how we could persuade others to see things from a different point of view. The children became fantastic persuasive writers, using emotive language, rhetorical questions, powerful adjectives and persuasive phrases to make their arguments convincing. Their persuasive skills were very impressive, and they certainly showed that they know how to make their readers stop, think and take notice! The children also showed a fantastic creative flair when transforming their wonky vegetables into their very own wonky vegetable superheroes. They came up with imaginative characters, names, powers and persuasive pleas to help save wonky vegetables from being wasted! This week, the children have also worked incredibly hard on their handwriting and presentation skills as they published their finished pieces. They took great care to form their letters neatly, use their best handwriting and present their persuasive writing beautifully.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 8th October	Year 6 CPR Training
Friday 9th October	Dare to be Different Day
Monday 12th October	Year 6 Trip to Layer Marney
Thursday 15th October	Year 2 Great Fire of London Day
Thursday 15th October	Year 5/6 Girls Football @ Meadgate
Monday 19th October	Parent's Evening Week
Thursday 22nd October	Individual School Photos
Thursday 22nd October	Year 5/6 Boys Football @ Meadgate
Friday 23rd October	Inset Day
Mon 26th- Fri 30th Oct	Half Term
Tuesday 3rd November	Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Thursday 5th November	Bonfire Themed Lunch
Thursday 5th November	EYFS Open Afternoon
Tuesday 10th November	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 12th November	EYFS Open Afternoon
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Monday 16th November	Multi-Cultural Week
Thursday 19th November	EFYS Open Afternoon
Tuesday 24th November	Bernardo's Concert at The Royal Albert Hall
Tuesday 1st December	Christmas Art Day

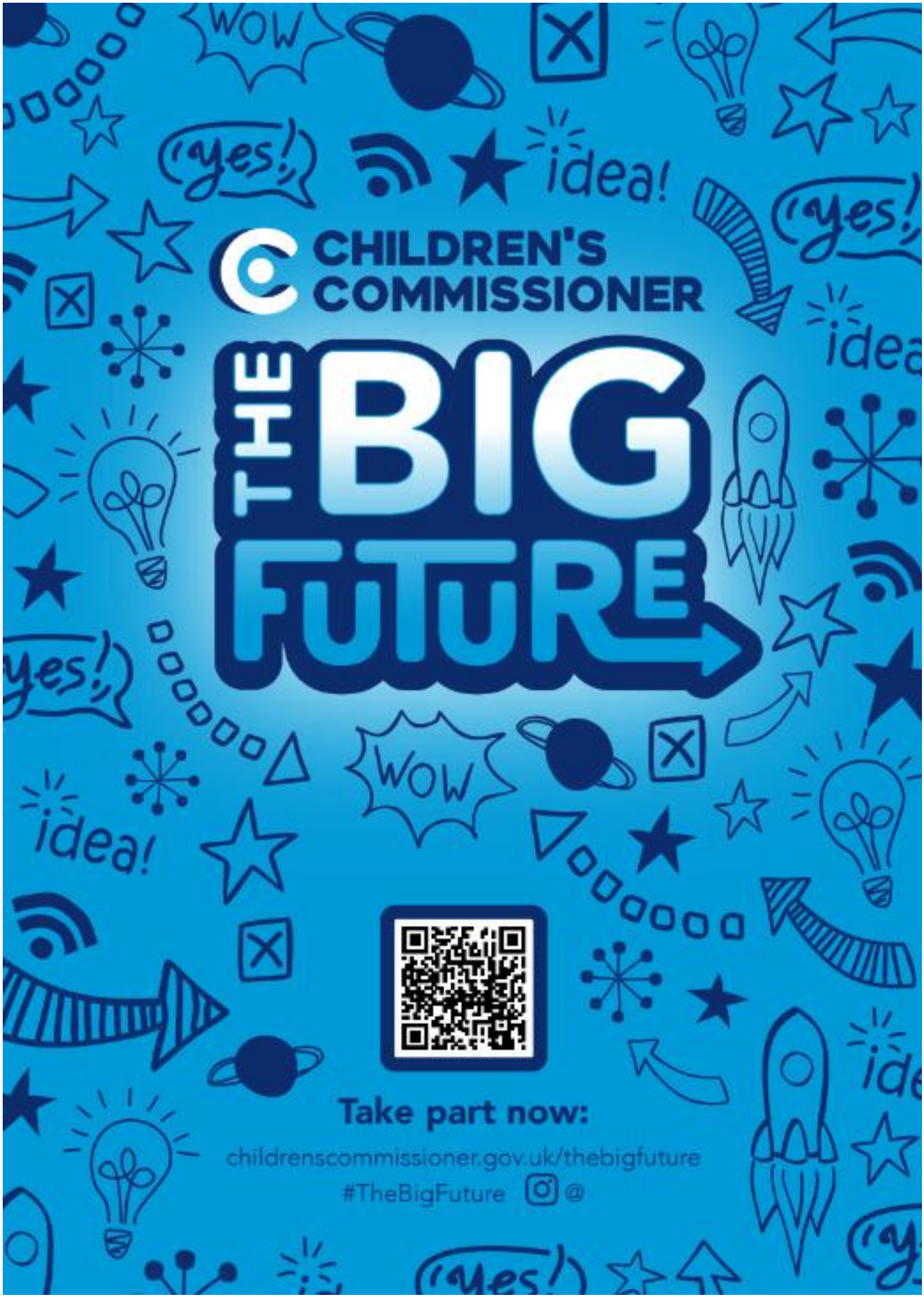
2026/27 Future Dates

Friday 23rd October	Inset Day
Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October	HALF TERM
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Autumn Term
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 4th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 5th January	First Day of Spring Term
Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February	HALF TERM
Thursday 25th March	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 29th March - Friday 9th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Monday 3rd May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May	Inset Day
Monday 31st May- Friday 4th June	HALF TERM
Wednesday 21th July	Last Day of Summer Term



Family Support Worker: Joelle Mortimer, Purleigh Primary School, Wednesday, 01621 828282


CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER
THE BIG FUTURE
The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Future survey.
It's your chance to have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today - what you love, what worries you, how you have fun, and the changes you want for a better future.
There are questions about voting, school, your area, online safety, and space for you to tell her what you think is important!
It takes less than 10 minutes to complete the survey.
Take part now:
childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture
#TheBigFuture @childrenscommissioner
yes!
idea!
WOW


CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER
THE BIG FUTURE
Take part now:
childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture
#TheBigFuture @