



# Purleigh Post

Achievement for all in a community that cares

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## Welcome Back!

We are delighted to announce that our hard work in the musical curriculum has led to us being awarded the much coveted 'Music Mark' by The UK Association for Music Education. This celebrates the achievements of our pupils both inside and outside of school. Next Friday will see us support Jeans4Genes Day- please read the information later in the newsletter about how we can support this great cause.

*Mr Stotter*



**Quantum**  
M.A.T.

### School Timings

The school gates open at 8.30, and will close promptly at 8.40 every day. If you are late, please visit the office to sign pupils in- they must be accompanied by an adult. The school day ends at 3.10 for all classes, except Reception, who end at 3.05. Please arrive and leave down the slope and not through the white gate by the office. Children should not be dropped off early and left unsupervised.



**Grayson S**  
**Oakley S**

We hope you have a fantastic day!

## This Week in Assembly

This week we have looked at the school's values and ethos in assembly.

### Our Core Values

Equality

Commitment

Learning

Enrichment

Responsibility

Compassion

Courage

How do you demonstrate these values?

## Jeans4Genes Cake Sale

We are looking forward to hosting a cake sale for pupils on Jeans4Genes Day- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We would welcome as many families to donate some baked offerings for this wonderful cause- please can you ensure that there are no nuts included. Cakes can be bought into school from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Children will need to have a small amount of cash if they would like to buy a cake that day, along with a £2 cash donation for their non-uniform. Thank you for your support of this cause.

## PE Days & Wearing Jewellery

All jewellery needs to be removed for PE. Taping is not allowed under the Essex County Council Health & Safety Policy. If children can remove their earrings, we can put them in a small envelope to take home. If pupils cannot take their earrings out, they sadly will have to sit out of PE- School staff are not allowed to do this for the children. If your child has their ears pierced during term time, they will be unable to participate in PE lessons or Sports Events until they can remove their earrings safely. The following schedule has been confirmed for each classes PE lessons:

**Monday- Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.**

**Tuesday- Years 1 & 2**

**Wednesday- Years R & 6**

**Thursday- Years 5 & 6**

**Friday- Years 3 & 4**

## Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Flu Immunisations
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Jeans4Genes Day (Non-uniform) & Cake Sale
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Assemblies- KS1- 9am & KS2-10am
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Cyber Safety Workshop
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Black History Month
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	EYFS Coffee Morning (9.10am)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 4 Mayan Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Inset Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Trip to Layer Marney
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> - Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents Evenings
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 2 Great Fire of London Experience
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Individual Photos
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Pupils return after half term
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Bonfire Lunch
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS Open Afternoon (1-2.45)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS Open Afternoon (1-2.45)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need (Non-uniform)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Enterprise Week
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS Open Afternoon (1-2.45) & Parent Drop Ins (3.15-4)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Art Day
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto @ Civic Theatre
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Week
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Christmas Party
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Term- Non-uniform

## 2025/26 Dates

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Inset Day
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	AUTUMN HALF TERM
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Autumn Term 2025/26
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	First Day of Spring Term 2025/26
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	SPRING HALF TERM
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Last Day of Spring Term 2025/26
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	EASTER HOLIDAY
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	May Bank Holiday
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	Inset Day
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	SUMMER HALF TERM
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Last Day of Summer Term 2025/26

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

## AROUND THE CLASSES

### CLASS R

Class R have had a wonderful start to their school journey this week! The children have come into school with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm, and it has been lovely to see how quickly they are settling into their new routines. They have enjoyed exploring the classroom with Miss Cook, making new friends, and joining in with a wide range of fun activities. From story time to creative play, building, painting and outdoor games, the children have shown great curiosity and confidence. Already, they are beginning to learn how to share, take turns, and work together as part of a team. It has been especially lovely to see the children supporting one another and celebrating each other's achievements. We are so proud of how well Class R have adapted to their new environment, and we are excited to see all the learning, laughter and new adventures that the year ahead will bring!



### CLASS 1

Class 1 have settled well into their classroom routine and have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities. This week we began our new English topic based on the book *Handa's Surprise*. The story is about a girl named Handa who prepares a basket of fruit for her friend Akeyo, but along the way some cheeky animals take the fruit. When she finally arrives, the friends discover a wonderful surprise together! The children have been sequencing the story, retelling it to their friends, and using their senses to describe the fruit with a range of adjectives. In Maths, they are continuing their learning from Reception by sorting different objects, finding ways to count, and counting carefully from larger groups of objects. They have used a range of resources to show they understand how to sort and count. In Science, we have been learning about the human body and labelling different body parts.



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## CLASS 2

Class 2 have started the year in fine form! We have already been exploring our topic of Time Travellers- looking at the Great Fire of London in great detail. We have looked at the clothing and equipment that firefighters had at their disposal in 1666, and compared it to what a modern firefighter would use. We all agreed that the firefighters in 1666 must have been very brave, as they have a very difficult job! Elsewhere we have started our writing topic of, 'Whatever Next,' and also looked carefully at what all living creatures need to live- water, air and food. We imagined we were stuck a desert island, and wanted urgent supplies sent to us. As we as food and water, we asked for items such as teddy bears, clothes, bedding and even our electronic devices! Well done Year 2 to a superb start to the term!

## AN UPDATE FROM THE GARDEN

Some of the Year 4 and Year 6 helped to harvest and sell the school grown produce in the playground this week. Thank you to all who purchased the vegetables, it raised £25 which will be reinvested into the garden. Well done for all your hard work.



## PARKING REMINDERS!

Once again we urgently need your support in ensuring that children's wellbeing is protected at all times. There are still cars being parked on the zigzag lines outside school which are making the area unsafe at pick up and drop off time. Please can everyone assist in keeping these areas clear of traffic- while we appreciate it may be quicker to park here, this could be at the expense of another person's safety. The staff park should not be entered or reversed into- there are regularly people in this area.

## Little Edi Foundation Harvest Festival Donations

This year our Harvest Festival donations will be shared with the Little Edi Foundation- they are a non-profit organisation based in Essex who aim to support children and young people.

They have kindly asked for the following items in your donations:

Long Life Milk	Teabags	Coffee	Squash	Tinned Fruit
Rice Pudding	Ketchup	Tinned Tomatoes	Baked Beans	Pasta
Rice	Tinned Peas	Tinned Spaghetti	Tuna	Tinned Carrots
Spaghetti	Sweetcorn	Tinned Potatoes	Pasta Sauce	Rice Krispies
Biscuits	Jam	Soup	Corned Beef	Tinned Ham



# SCHOOL CLUBS AT PURLEIGH

**DANCE - YRS 1 - 6**  
MONDAY BEFORE SCHOOL

**MULTISKILLS - YR 1 - 3**  
MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL

**NETBALL - KS2**  
TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

**GYMNASTICS - KS2**  
WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

**MULTISKILLS - KS2**  
THURSDAY BEFORE SCHOOL

**FOOTBALL - KS1 & KS2**  
THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL

**GYMNASTICS - KS1**  
FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL



For half termly costs and start/finish times, please visit our website.

Book online: [www.essexkidscamp.co.uk/activities](http://www.essexkidscamp.co.uk/activities)

Email: [info@essexkidscamp.co.uk](mailto:info@essexkidscamp.co.uk)



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

### 1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

### 2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

### 3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

### 4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

### 5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on their first day back.

### 6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

### 7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "how's your day been?" for "what's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

### 8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

### 9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

### 10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

### Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an emotional health professional with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



Wake Up Wednesday

The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. Current as of the date of release: 27.08.2025

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