

PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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17 July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another fantastic year at Purbrook Infant School. As ever we are sad to say goodbye to our Year 2 pupils but are excited to welcome our new Year R pupil. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the outstanding feedback received from our ungraded Ofsted inspection – this was independent validation of many years of hard work and investment by Mrs de Carteret our Headteacher and her amazing staff to ensure Purbrook Infant School provides an exceptional education in a caring and inclusive environment for your children.

We would like to thank all the members of staff for their selfless commitment to ensure that the children of Purbrook Infant school can learn, grow and thrive together. Our staff are integral to all the great things that happen at Purbrook and we are indebted to them.

Similarly, the PTFA led by Lorraine have done an amazing job at coming up with new and innovative ideas throughout the year to provide fun and wide-ranging events to raise funds to support your children. Just as everyone is feeling “the pinch” at home, school budgets are being hit equally as hard with many of the same cost pressures – the school constantly has to do more with less to give your children the education they deserve. The efforts of the PTFA are a true lifeline to the school, as is the support and generosity shown by our parent and carer community.

For the second year running we have completed a Parent and Carer community survey, thanks to all of you who responded. All feedback received is incredibly valuable and the Governing Body will be working closely with the Headteacher and Leadership Team to review, reflect and act on this information, as we seek to continuously improve Purbrook to be the best it can be.

Some headline statistics:

- 100% think Purbrook Infant school is a safe environment for their child
- 100% agree the school and its staff provide a caring environment for their child
- 100% of children know who to talk to (at school) if they have a problem
- 100% believe the school and its staff provide an excellent education for their child
- 99% would recommend Purbrook Infant School to another parent
- 97% perceive that the school and its staff ensure that pupils are well behaved
- 97% consider Purbrook Infant School to be led and managed well
- 96% feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or problems
- 95% recognise that the school takes account of your suggestions and concerns
- 95% believe the school is an inclusive place for children of all abilities and backgrounds
- 94% trust the school encourages a healthy lifestyle

This reinforces many of the views presented in the Ofsted report, and overall is incredibly positive, supported with some very kind feedback. There were three main areas of feedback which was less positive, which we have reviewed and have the following responses to:

Extra-Curricular Clubs

There was feedback it would good if there was more choice and availability of after school clubs, plus visibility of how places are allocated. Firstly, the allocation to clubs is prioritised for our vulnerable children – this is in line with Government guidance, following which it is on a first come first served basis. Unfortunately, the provision of free clubs is dependent on staff giving up their own time to provide these; currently all teaching staff run at least one club and also two Governors have run further clubs. Without bringing in paid external providers for which the cost would have to be passed onto parents/carers there is no scope to further expand this. Previous attempts at paid for provision has been undersubscribed and therefore not financially viable.

In the Autumn term we will look at what paid clubs might be possible to offer in Spring and Summer terms, however these will only be able to run if a minimum number of children have signed up and paid in advance. If any parents/carers have any time to spare and could support running a club please contact the school office. Thank you to all the staff who give up your personal time to run the clubs the school does offer.

Donations and How Spent

There was feedback on the challenges some families face in making donations to support the PTFA, and in turn how the money is spent. Firstly, all PTFA funds are only invested in the children, subsidising school trips (in particular the travel cost of coaches), in-school experiences and providing new equipment such as laptops or outdoor play equipment which would otherwise not be affordable within the school budget. A small proportion is spent on “treats” such as Advent calendars at Christmas or Ice Creams at the end of the summer term – this is intended to provide all children an experience they can share with their friends and peers and is of particular benefit to our most vulnerable children. Lastly, we always make it clear there is no expectation to donate, with clear messaging to give what you can afford – we do recognise the challenging economic climate we all live in.

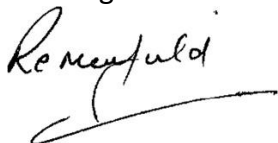
Early Closure for Fundraising Events

As above the fundraising efforts of the PTFA are a lifeline to the school and of huge benefit to all your children. To support this, twice a year we close the school a couple of hours early so as to provide fun and inclusive experiences you can share with your child and also ensure the staff are available to help run the events. Unfortunately, we do not have enough volunteers from the parent and carer community to run the events safely and successfully, so we have to use the staff to do so. We have worked hard this year to give visibility of these dates with plenty of notice, and will continue to do so next year.

As a final update after twelve years, I am stepping back from Chair of Governor duties and wish to welcome Diana Hutchins as the new Chair of Governors. I will remain part of the Governing body and look forward to continuing to see the school go from strength to strength.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer holidays with your children.

Kind regards



Richard Merefield

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body