



**PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL**  
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**Headteacher: Lisa A de Carteret**  
Assistant Headteachers: Zoe Bailey and Paul Stray  
School Business Manager: Hazel K Dean



04 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we commence this new academic year, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome back following what I trust has been a restorative summer break. Today has been nothing short of exceptional, with our children demonstrating remarkable composure and contributing to an atmosphere of purposeful learning that permeates throughout our school community. The positive energy and focused engagement we have witnessed today sets a promising foundation for the year ahead.

As we embark upon this educational journey together, I feel it is both timely and necessary to reinforce certain expectations that underpin our collective commitment to maintaining the high standards that define Purbrook Infant School. These reminders are offered in the spirit of partnership and shared responsibility for our children's educational experience.

I was particularly impressed by the presentation of our children today, as each one arrived looking exceptionally smart in their school uniform. During this morning's assembly, we explored the significance of uniform as a symbol of unity, emphasising how it demonstrates our collective identity as a team working towards common goals. I would be grateful if you could ensure that these uniform standards are maintained consistently throughout the academic year, as this visual representation of our school community remains an important element of our shared identity.

Regarding footwear, I wish to clarify that whilst sandals are not appropriate for the school environment, black trainers are entirely acceptable and indeed welcomed, particularly given their comfort benefits for children during their active school day. I recognise that many such trainers are marketed as school shoes, and we are pleased to accommodate this practical choice for our families.

As we approach the implementation of our ever-confusing PE timetable next week, I would like to emphasise the importance of correct PE attire, which consists of black shorts paired with a yellow t-shirt. Should the weather change as it so often does, children may wear their school jumpers or cardigans, and you are welcome to send them to school wearing black tracksuit bottoms. However, I must stress that football shirts and crop tops are not appropriate for PE sessions, and hoodies are not permitted for safety reasons during physical activities. Our approach to PE kit requirements reflects our commitment to keeping costs manageable for families whilst ensuring the safety of all children during physical education.

I would also like to draw your attention to our jewellery policy, as outlined in the original school prospectus. Over the past year, we have observed an increase in children wearing necklaces and bracelets, which present both health and safety concerns and the potential for distress should items become lost or damaged. I would therefore request that jewellery be reserved for home and weekend wear, allowing our children to participate fully and safely in all school activities. This also includes the wearing of watches, especially smart watches and Fitbits. Children are of course allowed to wear an analogue watch when able to tell the time, so normally in Year 2.

Additionally, whilst I understand the appeal of personalising book bags with decorative items and key rings to aid identification, I would encourage families to limit these accessories to a single item. Multiple attachments can create unwieldy bags that are prone to damage and loss, and a single identifying feature will serve the same practical purpose more effectively.

Similarly, I would like to remind families that toys are best kept at home, as whilst they may provide comfort to children, they can become sources of distraction within the classroom environment. Our school is well-equipped with sensory and tranquil resources specifically designed to support children who require fidget tools or comfort items during their learning day.

I hope these reminders are received with understanding, as they are offered in the spirit of maintaining the exceptional standards that contribute to our positive learning environment. As I shared with the children during assembly this morning, I am confident that this will indeed be a remarkable year, and I eagerly anticipate celebrating their achievements through our Busy Bees recognition system and witnessing the amazing accomplishments that lie ahead.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in ensuring that Purbrook Infant School remains a place where every child can thrive.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L A de Carteret', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Mrs L A de Carteret  
**Headteacher**