

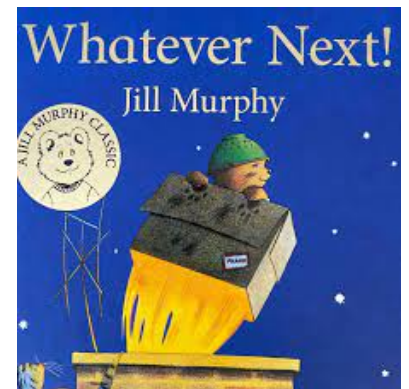
Achieving and growing together

Autumn 2 Newsletter 2022

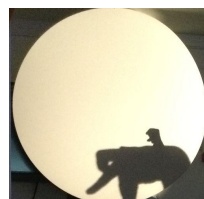
Thank you to all our children and families for being so supportive to the school and staff throughout this Autumn Term. I look forward to seeing their confidence grow as we enter into the final week of the Autumn Term.

What's been happening at nursery?

This half term, we have been learning and exploring about many festivals and celebrations held across the world. The children have explored the Hindu Festival of Diwali and made links with how fireworks and lights are used to celebrate Bonfire Night also. We also have been inviting children and families to celebrate the cultural diversity of our nursery, celebrating languages and family heritage using our classroom world map. In addition to this, children have been blasting off to space in roleplay spaceships linked to our core book 'Whatever Next!' and exploring with a variety of sensory experiences!



We also had a visit from a puppeteer who dazzled the children with his creative animal and character shadow puppets for the children to see and explore together! **Can you guess which animals these shadow puppets are?**



Parent and key worker conferences

Throughout October and November, key workers completed their Parent Conferences to discuss how well the children have settled and learn about new interests and activities they are involved in at home. Learning priorities have been identified and the 'next steps' in children's learning agreed together. Next steps are a good way to show specific progress that the children make within a specific area of their learning. Although we know it is impossible to set next steps in all aspects of children's learning, we can track a 'learning journey' for some aspects that seem most relevant and important.

Records of Achievement

All children have a 'Record of Achievement' and nursery staff continue to share them with children and add new learning stories to capture children's achievements and successes. We encourage children to reflect and think about their learning and how it is successful for them. Through regular questioning and Record of Achievement reviews, we strengthen children's understanding of how they learn best and support them in their confidence and enthusiasm as independent learners. If you have not returned your child's Record of Achievement to nursery, please do so by the end of term. This will enable key workers to add more learning and successes for you to share over the Christmas break.



Records of Achievements will be sent home with children at the end of term to enable families to share and celebrate learning at home. We will look forward to seeing new 'Wow moments' and reflection comments added when they return.

Christmas Celebrations

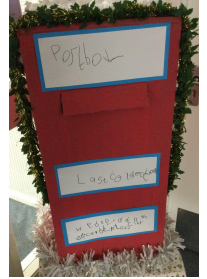
Throughout December, the children will be learning and engaging in activities about the Christian festival of Christmas. Children have been busy creating Christmas tree decorations and cards for their families and enjoying a range of festive songs and stories with the nursery team. It was lovely to see so many families come to join us on our Stay and Play session on Thursday 8th December to decorate the nursery and trees. Children were highly engaged and took great pride in sharing their decorations with their friends and nursery staff.



Post box

Our nursery post box will be available in the main entrance for children to post Christmas cards to friends and staff in school.

Our **last posting date will be Wednesday 14th December**. Please ask your child which friends they would like to post a card to using the key-worker board at the drop off area.



Christmas Jumper Day! - 'Save the Children'

On Thursday 8th December, children and nursery staff were all invited to wear a 'Christmas Jumper' and take part in this fund raising event for 'Save the Children'. I'm excited to share that we raised **£61.35!** Thank you to all that donated to this fantastic charity and cause.



Purley Food Hub

The cost of living crisis is affecting many families in our school and wider community. To support this, we are collecting donations for the Purley Food Hub in the main entrance foyer. Please donate whatever you can to support families and children in need this winter.

Christmas Songs Celebrations

On Monday 12th December, children and staff will be sharing some of their favourite Christmas/winter themed songs that they have been learning together with our new music teacher Finn. All parents and carers have been invited to come and join us in song and celebration to the learning achievements made this half term. We will be hosting a morning (10.30am) and an afternoon session (2.30pm) of Christmas Songs and invite all parents to stay for a hot drink and sweet treat before collection time.

We will be posting a video of the celebration and photos of the day on Seesaw so that all families can view and cherish the memories made over the school holiday.

Finn is a qualified Primary Teacher who specializes in music. Finn carries out private group music sessions for children aged 0-6+ in both London Schools and in our local areas. Check out her website to find out more! www.crescendolondon.org

Attendance

Just a reminder that if your child is away from school for any reason please let Louise, Julie or Zaima in the office know. You can phone (020 8660 5639) or email (office@purley.croydon.sch.uk).

As a Local Authority School, we are expected to monitor attendance and note on registers the reasons for absence. This attendance/absence data is requested by the Local Authority, the Department for Education and Ofsted. We have a duty to contact you if you have not informed us already that your child is absent - for any reason. Please, therefore, do contact us as indicated above as it is very time consuming to 'phone families if you have not contacted us.

Drop off and collection times

Thank you to all families for being so prompt and supportive of our collection/ drop off times. Drop and collection is managed through our space indicators in the main entrance and through the support of our children and families. This is to ensure child safety and support transition times for our young and vulnerable pupils. During these winter months, we appreciate that getting ready to leave nursery may take a little time, especially if children have hats, gloves, scarves etc. We kindly ask that parents remain patient and understanding in this. You can support your child and us to aid collection times by helping and encouraging your child to be independent with dressing and collecting these winter items at the end of session as swiftly as possible. In addition, if you wish to speak to a member of the nursery team, please make an appointment or use the messaging option on Seesaw. It is not possible for staff to speak to all parents at the end of the day however we do encourage parent partnerships as much as possible. If you are unsure or have any concerns about your child, please speak to Polly or Maria.

Purley Nursery School Breakfast Club

To support working families in the morning with drop off routines, Purley Nursery School can offer Breakfast Club care for children from 7.45am Monday to Friday. All children attending Breakfast Club are welcomed by Julie in The Nest and are offered a healthy breakfast and play to enable them to have a happy, calm start to their day.

Prices:

- **7.45am** - to the start of their nursery session - **£4.25 per day**
- **8.00am** - to the start of their nursery session **£3.00 per day**

If you would like to enquire further about this provision ready for January please contact Julie in the school office on **0208 660 5639**.

Home-School Library

Purley Nursery are excited to share that the Home-School Library will be up and running next term. Parent Katie, has kindly offered to support this enrichment provision for children on Friday's which will enable children to access the Home-School Library regularly at Purley Nursery School. Children love engaging with our wide variety of picture books and texts in play and it is fantastic that we can offer this opportunity for children with the help of Katie. Developing positive attitudes towards reading is crucial at this age and we wish to foster and nurture it through lots of positive, rich experiences in our book area. If you or any member of your family wish to come into Nursery to assist the nursery team or Katie in the home school library please let us know.

We encourage all children to join our Home-School Library so if you haven't signed up please speak to Julie, Louise or Zaima in the office so we can issue you with a plastic wallet (£1) or order you a Purley Nursery Book bag (£4.50).

Seesaw

Seesaw has been a great success this term and it is great to see children engaging in home learning activities and sharing these experiences with nursery staff and their friends. If you have not downloaded Seesaw to access your child's journal and the activities set by Maria and the team please speak to a member of the nursery team or contact the school office. Here is this weeks' activity to support your child's awareness of the natural changes of the season and their independence skills in dressing.



End of Term Parties - Thursday 15th December

To mark the end of the Autumn Term, children and nursery staff will be hosting end of term parties as part of their morning or afternoon session on **Thursday 15th December**. Children who stay all day join in both parties. Celebrations will include: dancing, singing and enjoying a festive sit down snack with friends at nursery.

Voluntary contributions towards our 'End of Term Parties' would be most welcome and there will be a collecting box in the School Office.

All food and drink will be provided by the school for the children on the day. If you have any questions regarding the festive party snacks please speak to Polly or Maria.

Nursery Clothes

Please check at home to see whether you might have any clothes belonging to the school. We'd be pleased if you could return them to us as soon as possible.

Coats, jumpers and winter accessories

As the winter weather draws in, please ensure that your child brings in a warm coat and outdoor accessories e.g. gloves to nursery. The children have been working really hard to master zipping up their coats this half term! As a next challenge, why not practice with your child to put their hat and gloves on by themselves at home to support their independence and management of these belongings. The children have been working really hard to master zipping up their coats this half term!



Please ensure that you write your child's name or initials on all coats, uniform, hats, scarves and gloves. To aid children identifying this, please show them their name or initials so that they can find their items more easily at nursery. Letter recognition and awareness is a fantastic early literacy skill which we support and encourage at nursery. Once your child recognises their initials in their clothes items, it can be a great spring-board for early reading and writing skills. Why not use the winter break to carry out this exciting activity at home ready to explore and develop further at nursery in Spring. In addition to this, we wish to support children in managing their own belongings at nursery therefore these visual cues are a helpful tip in this.

Snack and Cooking - VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

To enable the children to have a daily healthy fruit snack during the session and for the children to experience cooking activities each week, we are asking parents to make a voluntary contribution of £1 per week or £13 per term to help towards the cost. We rely on these donations to do this. If we do not receive enough contributions to do this we may need to reduce snack and cooking opportunities in the nursery. If you would like to make a donation please put it in our 'fruit collection bucket' by the school office.



Thank you for all your contributions for this half term!

Parent Workshops and Coffee mornings

This term we carried out parent workshops to support families and children at nursery, understand the Early Years Curriculum and explore Parental Involvement for Learning. The 'EYFS Curriculum - Learning and Development' outlined the curriculum that children learn

throughout the Early Years and finally 'Parental Involvement' which explained lots of different ways parents can support children's development at home.

We plan to repeat these workshops in the Spring to support parents and families who were unable to attend this term. Dates to be confirmed next term.

In addition to this, coffee mornings were held for parents and carers to come together to share experiences and ask questions regarding Seesaw, Forest School, SEND (Special Educational Needs) and how to support your child in toileting. Next term, Purley Nursery School plans to offer more opportunities for parents to join us to discuss support in: Seesaw, managing independence and self-help skills, how to support skills in Literacy and activities to develop communication and language. Dates to be confirmed next term.

Craft Donation Request

Children are developing their creative skills well across our nursery environment and demand for replenishing craft resources is high! We are asking families to donate items that the children can use for their creative work during their nursery session. Please collect and bring in:

- Ribbons
- Buttons
- Lining paper
- Wallpaper
- Old greetings cards
- Kitchen towel rolls (No toilet rolls thank you)
- Wrapping paper
- Old notepads
- Craft paper
- Plastic bottle tops
- Cardboard boxes (unsoiled and in good condition)

Doors and Gates - *Gentle reminder*

Please ensure all green and yellow entrance and exit gates are closed after you to keep all the children safe **AT ALL TIMES**. Please don't leave them open for the person behind without seeing them in.

Safeguarding children and families

Our new safeguarding policy is on the school website:

<https://www.purleynurseryschoolcc.com/>

It's important for our school community to be vigilant about safeguarding children and families. If you have any concerns about a child or family or wish to speak to someone in confidence please do not hesitate to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Leads, Polly, Maria and Kelly. Alternatively, contact the school office and they can arrange for you to receive a confidential phone call to support you.

Focus: Safeguarding online

Many children and families within our wider school community may receive new online devices over the Christmas period. We strongly advise that parent controls are set up on their devices before the children are allowed to use them. **Safer Internet** have lots of information for parents about setting up parental controls. They also recommend having open and honest conversations with children about their online use.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/parental-controls>

Age restrictions of Social Media Apps

Please be mindful that social media apps are not appropriate for pupils under the age of 13. Below are the age restrictions for the most popular apps:

- What's App—16 years
- Instagram—13 years
- Facebook—13 years
- Snapchat—13 years
- TikTok—13 Years



What are the risk of children using social media apps?

- Many sites include an instant message function that allows private conversations between site members.
- Most social networking sites have an app version available, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet.
- Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.

- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are. Chatrooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated.
- Chatrooms and forums are some of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use a lot of sexual language and engage in online flirting. This is sometimes done through video chat programs.

Useful contacts:

- MASH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0208 726 6464 To report any safeguarding concerns. This can be done anonymously
- [Purley Food Hub](#): 07546 635295
- [Young Minds](#): supporting children and young people's mental health
- [Mind](#): adult mental health support and information
- [Refuge](#): domestic abuse support: 0208 200247
- [Saneline](#): Emotional Support: 07984 967 708 (leave name and number and someone will call you back)

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - if you're worried about someone, please act now.

Primary School Admissions

If your child was born between September 1st 2018 and 31 August 2019 then you and your family should be preparing to explore local primary schools and apply for a school place. Visit www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions to apply. The closing date to apply is the 15th January 2023.

January 2023

Please note that Purley Nursery School will **reopen** for children on **Wednesday 4th January 2023**.

Forest School and Curriculum Enrichment visits at nursery

During the Spring and Summer Term, Purley Nursery School children will have the opportunity to engage in one of many creative enrichment visits and experiences to support their learning. These include Forest School, Story and Rhyme Times at Purley Library, Bus journeys, restaurant/ café visits and walks to local community shops and businesses. All children transitioning to Primary



School this September will have the opportunity to engage in one of these experiences at nursery. Staff will organise the groups of children accessing each creative learning opportunity based on learning next steps and interests. As always we need volunteers who can support Maria and the nursery team to facilitate these learning experiences for children.

If you can, please save the following dates to help us:

- **Thursday 26th January**
- **Tuesday 31st January**
- **Tuesday 7th February**
- **Thursday 9th March**
- **Thursday 4th May**

Details of the experiences will be shared with parents once confirmed.

Welcome to new staff and opportunities

This half term, we welcomed our new administrator Zaima to the office team. Zaima will be working Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons in the main school office. She has enjoyed meeting all our children and families at collection times and has commented on how welcoming and friendly our school community has been since her appointment.

Over the Christmas break, Purley Nursery School is advertising for a new Early Years Educator to join our Nursery Team for Spring. If you know of any skilled and creative practitioner who is looking to join an outstanding early years team, please find further details on our [website](#).

Moving on

Early Years Educator and key worker, Holly will be leaving Purley Nursery School this term. Holly has worked at Purley Nursery School for 9 years and has been a key worker to multiple children and families throughout her time. Holly is well-known for her kind, caring and thoughtful nature towards children and families throughout the nursery. Her amazing video stories and learning activities were a comfort to so many children and parents during 'Lockdown' and her early years expertise and creativity within the classroom will be sadly missed by children and colleagues. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors and thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the school and staff team.



A message from our Chair of Governors Sally Marvin

Dear Parents and Carers

I have just returned from attending a performance of the Year 1 and 2 Nativity Play at Christ Church School - what a treat! The children entered into their roles with great enthusiasm and sung their hearts out. Tremendous thanks go to all those involved - children, staff and parents - for creating such a wonderful re-telling of the miracle of Christmas.



The Nativity Play is just one of many examples of the excellent outcomes that Christ Church School produces. We as governors are so proud to be a part of the PPF community - and there is a lot to be proud of. I attended a prospective new parents evening in November and all those present were so impressed with everything they heard and saw as they toured the school. Similarly, my recent visit to Purley Nursery School made me so proud of all that is achieved there: enriching activities and lots of fun in such a warm and caring environment.

During this half term, one of the tasks that the PPF Governing Board has been focussing on is reviewing our Mission, Vision and Values statements to ensure that they reflect the Christian ethos of Christ Church School. We have also devised a new strap line for the federation: *let your light shine (Matthew 5:16)*. Whatever our faith or culture, we aim to bring the light of knowledge, compassion, equality and inclusiveness to our work as PPF governors so that your children receive the very best education and are able to achieve their God-given potential.

Sadly, PPF Governing Board is having to say goodbye to two governors at the end of this term, Helen Whitley and Dannielle Batten. Helen has been involved with Christ Church School for several decades: first as a parent and subsequently as a governor. She has been a dedicated and supportive governor in all areas of governing board work with a special interest in monitoring Maths at Christ Church School and special educational needs at Purley Nursery School. She has also been Chair of the Curriculum Committee. Dannielle has brought her experience of leadership in education at a local secondary school to the board and has been extremely helpful in areas of work involving school personnel and pupil behaviour.

On a more positive note, we are delighted to welcome Vanessa Sefa to our governing board. Vanessa will be our new Local Authority governor with special responsibility for safeguarding. Vanessa is lead practitioner for English at a secondary school in Croydon.

The Autumn Term is always long and demanding: the first half as the children settle down into their new year groups and the second half as they prepare for all the forthcoming Christmas activities. So I am sure that families are very much looking forward to the upcoming Christmas break. I hope that it will be a time of joy and thanksgiving for you all as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

“The angel told the shepherds: I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Saviour - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born tonight in Bethlehem!”
(Luke 2: 10-11)

Best wishes

Sally

Final note

Purley Nursery Staff would like to thank you again for all your support and dedication this Autumn Term. We recognise the impact that the 'cost of living crisis' and increased energy bills have had on our community and wish to reach out to any family who is struggling. Please contact Polly or Maria before the end of term so we can help in whatever way we can.

Staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas 2022 and we will look forward to welcoming in a new year in 2023.

Best wishes to you all

Polly Jones

Head of School
Purley Nursery School



Please see Spring and Summer Term dates below:

Spring Term 2023

INSET day: Tuesday 4th January (school closed)

School opens: Wednesday 5th January

Half Term: Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

School Opens Monday 20th February

Last Day of Term: Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2023

INSET day: Monday 17th April (school closed)

School Opens: Tuesday 18th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May (school closed)

Half Term: Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

INSET day: Monday 5th June (School closed)

School Opens: Tuesday 8th June

Last Day of Term: Tuesday 23rd July

These dates are subject to change.