



achieving and growing together

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2023

A very warm welcome to all our new families
From Maria - Head of School

Firstly, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone here at Purley Nursery School to welcome children, parents/carers and their families.

The children are settling in brilliantly and we thank you for your support in making this as easy a process as possible for the children. The children have already shown such amazing confidence and we are looking forward to seeing them grow in independence as the term continues.

Secondly, a huge 'thank you' for all the support that has been shown to us throughout Croydon Council's Maintained Nursery School Consultation process. Your words of encouragement, offers of help and of course all the survey responses and letters that have been sent to Council Officials, really do go to prove the level of need and value of the schools. We will be sure to keep you updated as soon as we hear any news.

Focus for Learning

The Curriculum plans for this term are supporting learning outdoors - particularly around the seasonal changes and preparing the garden for winter. The children have been busy exploring engaging in activities promoting new vocabulary and social interaction with peers to develop friendship groups and self confidence. Staff continue to upload regular images and comments on Seesaw to share learning experiences for children at nursery. Here are a selection of images of our children engaging in some of our rich learning opportunities available to them this half term.



Learning to be Independent at drop off times

The children are developing their awareness of nursery routines and are making great progress following these systems independently with their new friends at nursery. To support early reading and literacy skills, one of our nursery routines includes children finding their name cards on arrival and adding it to the correct letter pouch with links to their names initial letter. Children have loved engaging with this and take great pride in recognising and sharing their names with their new friends.

To support children to learn our school values to be caring, respectful and independent we encourage all children to take great pride and ownership of their belongings throughout their nursery session. Each child has their own coat peg and we encourage children to store and hang up their coats/ clothing independently. Please encourage and praise your child to do this by themselves at drop off times to develop their independence and learning attitudes towards looking after their belongings. If a large loop of tape, ribbon or elastic is sewn onto the collar of their coats, it can help children do this with greater ease as they develop their fine motor skills to pinch and grip. In addition to this, please ensure that children are wearing trousers or tights that they can manage themselves. Young children cannot always manage belts and buttons or zips very well and we want to give them lots of positive opportunities to face challenges and develop resilience. Purley Nursery School children are taught to take responsibility for themselves and for others - both in looking after one another's things and looking after Nursery toys and equipment.

If you haven't done so already, please could you put your child's name in his/her clothes - especially items of school uniform.

Coats for outdoor learning

Physical activity is crucial for children's health and well-being. At Purley Nursery School children are able to play outdoors every day whatever the weather. They are always required to put on their coat if it is cold or raining and asked to stay under the covered areas if they are not wearing 'wet-weather gear' which we provide. To support your child to be independent in this, please encourage them to try to put on their coat and outdoor clothes themselves. You may also wish to talk about which clothes they will need for different weathers to keep healthy during Autumn. Zips and buttons are a great way to develop children's fine motor skills to support early writing. The pincer grip used to manipulate zipping coats, buttoning jackets, threading laces etc. are all key activities to support children to have the finger strength to hold drawing and writing resources. The more opportunities children have to develop their strength the greater the progress in mark making.

Home-School Library

Purley Nursery School is proud to introduce our Home-School Library. All children will have the opportunity to access the Home-School Library and bring a book home to share with you. This experience allows children to explore the wide variety of picture books available in our book area and follow the library routine of 'stamping out' and 'returning' books just like in a 'real library'. We aim for children to be able to choose books at least once a week and they can keep their book for up to two weeks. They will need to bring their books back before choosing a new one. Please make sure all bookbags are named and that children can recognise them easily. Some children like to attach a key-ring type toy on to them to help them find them quickly. If you wish to purchase a school book bag please contact the school office. Our Home-School Library will be available for children after October Half Term.

Forest School 'Spinney' Sessions

After half term, Purley Nursery School children will have the opportunity to engage in Forest School, 'Spinney' Sessions. This will involve visiting the Spinney at Christ Church School each week for a small block of learning where they will participate in a range of outdoor activities focused on the natural world. The staff team will select small groups of children to attend each block and we will prioritise children who are moving on to reception this year but hope for as many children as possible to take part.



In order for these curriculum opportunities to run, we need and very much welcome offers of help from parents who are able to volunteer their time. Full training will be given. If you are interested, please come and speak to Maria

Seesaw

If you have not had a chance to sign up to your child's Seesaw Journal this half term, please have a look. Staff have begun to upload photos of learning experiences in the classroom for you to view with your child at home. The Nursery team have also uploaded home learning 'Activities' for you to explore as a family. These activities are linked to learning carried out at nursery and a great way to reinforce new vocabulary and learning concepts with your child. If you are unsure of how to download or access Seesaw, please speak to your child's key worker or Maria for help.

Attendance and Punctuality

As a Local Authority School, we are expected to monitor attendance and note on registers the reasons for absence and lateness. This data is requested by the Local Authority, the Department for Education and Ofsted. We must show how we improve children's attendance and now 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 it is very time consuming to phone families if you have not contacted us.

If you need to request planned time away from school, please complete a form (available from the office) but we strongly encourage children to be in school whenever possible.

What do I do if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell and cannot cope with normal daily activities or if they have a high temperature, you should keep them at home. It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. You can find more NHS advice here: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school to let us know that your child won't be in and give us the reason for absence. If your child seems well enough to come to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, please let someone at the nursery know when you arrive.

Arrival and collection times

Our session times are as follows:

- Morning sessions are 8:30-11:30
- Afternoons sessions are 12:30-3:30

Punctuality is important for children to develop successful routines at Nursery and get the most out of their learning time with us. Children can also become very anxious if they are the last ones to be collected from their group. Please ensure that you arrive and collect on time.

If you need to collect earlier, please ring ahead and ensure you collect before 11:10 or 3:10. This means the group story and singing times are not disrupted. If you are delayed for any reason, please ring so we can reassure your child and arrange for them to be looked after

properly. Persistent lateness can make children extremely anxious and could result in you being charged a late collection fee.

To support families' working patterns and those doing multiple drop offs and collections, we do have spaces in our Breakfast Club and After School Club for Nursery pupils at Purley Nursery School. Please see someone in the school office if this is of interest to you.

If you do need to contact us to report absence or lateness, you can phone - 020 8660 5639 or email - office@purley.croydon.sch.uk

Doors/Gates

Please can I bring your attention to how **VERY IMPORTANT** it is that **EVERYBODY** takes responsibility for **shutting our gates**. Our School is only as safe as WE ALL make it. It is parent/carer's responsibility to make sure the gates are shut and ensure that all children are safe from our surrounding roads. During drop off and collection, please ensure that your child/children remain next to you at all times. Please say goodbye to your child in the classroom rather than allowing your child to walk in independently. Follow the floor marker spots throughout the school entrance, making sure you stand together. Again this is for child safety and to enable nursery staff to welcome you both. Please avoid bringing buggies or pushchairs into the Nursery. Feel free to use our 'buggy/pushchair park' if needed.

Parking at Purley Nursery School

Purley Nursery School values the strong partnerships we have with our local neighbours and surrounding residents. We have been made aware that members of our school community are abusing this by parking in resident car parking spaces and blocking driveways and access. We kindly ask that all families be respectful and considerate towards our neighbours and seek to find alternative parking solutions to visit the school grounds.

Safeguarding children and families

Our new safeguarding policy is on the school website:

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

Now more than ever, 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, Maria, Olivia and Claire. Alternatively, contact the school office and they can arrange for you to receive a confidential phone call to support you.

Autumn Focus: Be Bright and Be Seen!

At this time of year, there is reduced visibility for drivers and pedestrians and as a result, your child can become even more vulnerable near to roads. To help raise your child's awareness of this issue, we have listed below 5 top safety tips so you can discuss with your child and family how important it is to be visible when near roads.

- ★ Brightly coloured clothing or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading back and forth from school.



- ★ Reflective gear can help you be seen when travelling in the dark. Remember fluorescent clothing can't be seen in the dark. Reflective vests, wristbands and sashes work really well.
- ★ Don't forget to accessorise. Even clip-on reflectors, armbands, keychains and stickers are great ways to improve your visibility.
- ★ If you and family members cycle to and from nursery, remember it's the law to have clean and working lights on whilst travelling in the dark (white at the front, red at the back as well as a rear reflector)
- ★ Of course, being bright isn't the only way to stay safe. Remember if you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and always remember to use the green cross code.

If you would like to find out more games, tips and videos visit the tales of the road website on www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

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.



Nut Free School

Please note that there may be children or staff in school with allergies to nuts. We need to keep them safe. Please ensure that all products brought to school do not contain nuts. Some examples of this are: Nutella/cakes/peanut butter/cereal bars.

Free Milk for Nursery Children

With the obvious exception of those who must not drink milk, please encourage the children to help themselves to their carton of milk at the end of the morning or afternoon. It is their entitlement and one of the ways that they can learn about a healthy diet from a young age. Please get them to take it even if they don't like milk at the moment – you will be able to use it at home to show them how many things we can eat or drink that include milk to help build strong teeth and bones. It is intended and ordered for the Nursery children only, but surplus is offered on a Friday to younger/older siblings to encourage healthy drinking!

Fundraising at Purley Nursery School

Tiger Trail

Here at Purley Nursery School we are incredibly proud of the beautiful grounds and garden area we have for the children to play, explore and learn in. The challenging aspect of having such a space is the constant upkeep required to maintain it as a safe and exciting

environment. As you may be aware, school budgets are being squeezed and we are finding it increasingly difficult to give these areas of our school the care they need to be the best environment possible for our pupils.

We are currently looking at ways to raise funds to replace our Tiger Trail that sadly has succumbed to wood deterioration. We hope to hold an exciting sponsorship event next half term to involve all the children but in the meantime, we are asking all of our school family and extended community for voluntary contributions. This money would help to pay for the materials and contractors (when essential) to create an enriching environment for our children and generations of children to come.

Wellbeing

As a school and federation we take the wellbeing of our staff very seriously. With the recent worry of closure or amalgamation of the school hanging over the team they have shown incredible resilience and perseverance to continue to provide the very best for all of our children and families. You too can show your appreciation by continuing to support our fundraising project to promote Staff Wellbeing here at Purley Nursery School.

We are hoping that through your generosity we will be able to continue to redevelop the staff room, to provide the staff with a fresh new, welcoming space for them to take proper rest and to re-energise during their rest breaks from what we think you'll agree is a very demanding job.

- £3 could buy a fresh new cushion cover
- £5 could buy a new shelf for our staff library
- £15 could buy some art work to brighten up the wall space
- £20 could buy a new lamp for softer, more relaxing lighting
- £45 could buy a matching set of china to eat and enjoy lunch together
- £80 could buy a replacement cover for the old worn sofa

If you can make a contribution to either of these causes, no matter how big or small, every little helps! Donations can be made via the school office or alternatively follow this link to our website and make a payment using Parent Pay:

<https://www.parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/Payments/3061002.html>

Just write 'School Fund' or 'Wellbeing Fund' in the 'Reason for payment' box.

Key Dates

Parent/Carer Conferences

To celebrate children's achievements returning and settling into nursery, all key workers are hosting Parent/Carer conferences this term.

Returning families should already have had their meeting and New families who joined us in September will be receiving theirs from Tuesday 31st October to Friday 3rd November.

If you have not yet booked your meeting please speak to your key worker or Lousie or Mary in the school office.

Parent Coffee Mornings

Next half term, Purley Nursery School is pleased to offer parents/carers opportunities to come into nursery to meet and share a coffee/tea with Maria - Head of School and members of the nursery team to discuss key topics in child development:

- **Thursday 9th November from 9.00-9.30am** - Do you have any questions regarding **Special Educational Needs in school**? Come in for a coffee/ tea and a chat.
- **Thursday 16th November from 9.00-9.30am** - Do you have any questions or concerns regarding **toilet training/self help skills** your child? Come in for a coffee/ tea and we can help?
- **Thursday 23rd November from 9.00-9.30am** - Do you need to have some help with **Seesaw**? Come in for a coffee/ tea and a chat
- **Thursday 30th November from 9.00-9.30am** - Are you looking for ways to support you child to develop their **Early Maths Skills**? Come in for a coffee/ tea and a chat.
- **Thursday 7th December form 9-9.30am** - **Help us get ready for Christmas**. Come in for a tea/coffee and maybe even a festive treat.

Looking ahead

On **December 18th** we will be hosting our annual **Christmas Songs**. There will be an opportunity for families to come in during either the morning or afternoon to hear the children sing their Christmas songs and to join in with them. More details to follow but put it in your diary now.

Primary School Admissions

15th January 2024 - Deadline for applications to Primary School

If your child was born between September 1st 2019 and 31 August 2020 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 find out about the schools in their area and be guided through the steps in the application process.
- Apply through an eAdmissions account at www.eadmissions.org.uk

If you are unsure of how to apply or need any help, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Our Federation Partner, **Christ Church School**, is holding an open day on **Tuesday 7th November**. **There are two sessions, 2pm and 6.00pm**. Many schools are welcoming visitors. Have a look to find out more about what's on offer in Purley by visiting the schools' websites.

Term Dates 2023/24

Autumn Term 2023

Autumn 1 – Open Wednesday 6th September – Close Friday 20th October at normal time

Autumn 2 – Open Monday 30th October – Close Thursday 21st December at normal time

Spring Term 2024

Spring 1 – Open Monday 8th January – Close Friday 9th February at normal time

Spring 2 – Open Monday 19th February – Close Thursday 28th March at normal time

Summer Term 2024

Summer 1 – Open Tuesday 16th April – Close Friday 24th May at normal time

Summer 2 – Open Tuesday 4th June – Close Wednesday 24th July at normal time

Please note:

Bank Holidays: Monday 6th May 2024
Monday 27th May 2024

Staff Training (subject to change)

Monday 4th September 2023
Tuesday 5th September 2023
Friday 22nd December 2023
Monday 15th April 2024
Monday 3th June 2024

A Letter from Sally Marvin, Chair of Governors at the Purley Partnership Federation

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope your children have all had a good beginning to the new school year and have settled down into their new classes. An especially warm welcome to all families who are new to Purley Partnership Federation.



The governing board began the term with a wonderful barbecue at the home of one of our governors. As we hold all of our meetings online, we thought that it would be a good idea to meet in person throughout the year to help develop team spirit. Hence we have also planned for coffee mornings each Friday before a half term holiday. We are fortunate to have a very welcoming Foyer Cafe at Christ Church just opposite Christ Church School where we will be meeting.

This half term, the PPF Governing Board welcomed back Mrs Sam Harper-Allen. Sam had resigned last September due to personal circumstances at the time but feels able to return to fill our Co-opted Governor vacancy. We are delighted that she is once again part of our governing body and look forward to working with her once again. Her specialism is in safeguarding so she will take on monitoring safeguarding at both Christ Church School and Purley Nursery School.

A great deal of the governing board's time this half term has been focused on addressing our response to Croydon Local Authority's consultation with regard to possible plans to either close or amalgamate some of its Maintained Nursery Schools, Purley Nursery School being one of those targeted. The governing board formed a working party of four of our governors ably led by Graham Duncan, their purpose being to produce a document which would form the PPF Governing Board's response to the consultation. The team has worked extremely hard researching into educational and financial areas of Purley Nursery School which have a bearing on the present situation, and have met with notable dignitaries including local councillors. We were especially pleased that Chris Philp, MP for Croydon South agreed to meet with us which proved to be a very positive meeting.

Purley Nursery School has been part of the Purley community since 1946 and has always been a source of outstanding education for children aged 2 to 4 years no matter what their ability or family circumstances might be. In 2017, the school federated with Christ Church School to become Purley Partnership Federation. The PPF Governing Board is thus presenting a strong response to the Local Authority's consultation arguing for the retention of Purley Nursery School. Many thanks to all those parents and carers who have also responded to the consultation and sent in your own individual responses. It has been a very uncertain and unsettling time for both schools' staff members, but especially so for those who work at Purley Nursery School. Governors have done their very best to support and encourage them.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable and relaxing half term.

Best wishes

Sally Marvin (Chair of Governors)

All staff at Purley Nursery School wish you all a happy half term break.

Maria Reeve
Head of School
Purley Nursery School
Purley Partnership Federation
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