Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and support of the school staff over these last weeks. It has been so encouraging to receive kind comments about the support staff has provided on Seesaw, the emergency child care provision, the distribution of EYPP hampers and all other assistance that has been given to our families during this time. Our staff have found this encouraging as it is hard to keep working without feedback, not knowing if your efforts are appreciated.

Please contact us on office@purley_croydon.sch.uk if you are struggling and need some further advice and we will do what we can to help you.

**Reopening for vulnerable and children of key/critical workers**

Following the recent Government announcement regarding phased reopening of schools, Purley Nursery continues to only be available to vulnerable and children of key/critical workers. Unfortunately, there is not the capacity, staff or space to invite children not in the eligible groups at this time. Staff are working hard to ensure safety measures and procedures are in place, as we continue to support the fight against Covid-19. Government guidance is changing all the time, so we are continually reassessing what we are doing for children and families in order to keep them and staff as safe as possible. Please rest assured that we will do all we can to support your child at this time and to get them back to Purley Nursery School as soon as we can manage to do so safely.

**Home Learning on Seesaw**

Throughout ‘Lockdown’ staff have continually supported families through Seesaw, messaging and uploading daily activities and stories, providing early years guidance to develop your child’s skills and learning attitudes. ‘Activities’ were created to ensure that all children regardless of age and stage could access the learning, and took into account the many barriers created by Covid-19 to families. It is lovely to see the children’s responses and it is fantastic to see their confidence and skills develop. If you have not been able to explore the many ‘Activities’ on
Seesaw with your child, then I recommend you have a look using the Seesaw Class App. There is no expectation that families complete these activities, however they are there as suggestions to support you. We also value the amazing home learning support that parents and carers have provided for their children during school closure. Uploading these learning experiences to your child’s journal will provide a celebrational record for you and your family. This can be viewed and reflected on when school life resumes or ‘New School’ life begins.

Seesaw is a new innovation at Purley Nursery School. It would be really helpful to us for parents and carers to give us feedback on its success in supporting children and parents at this time. Your views and opinions are important to us and will help us improve our parent and child support for school life now and in the future.

Please use the link below to complete our Seesaw Questionnaire for Parents and Carers by **Monday 8th June**.

[https://forms.gle/8tUu23ACj25WorHq9](https://forms.gle/8tUu23ACj25WorHq9)

As we await your feedback, no new home learning tasks will be added. Staff will continue to comment and review children’s uploads from previous activities set and individual learning experiences created at home.

As lockdown restrictions have changed for families at home, staff will be able to generate new activities to support home learning and child development. Transitioning support for children moving into Reception and your feedback will also be taken into account when devising our new home learning support plans.

**Exciting News!**

I am pleased to announce that Kelly has given birth to a healthy baby boy! Kelly and her husband are both doing well and enjoying time together as a family. Kelly has now left to begin her maternity leave. Kelly’s key worker children have been shared between Nursery staff to provide continuity and support throughout the summer term as lock down continues. Nursery staff have been sending messages to their new families on Seesaw. We hope that once lockdown restrictions make it safe for Kelly to visit, we will get to meet her son soon!

**Transition to Primary Schools**

I appreciate that parents will be concerned for their children who are transitioning to Primary school in September. Rest assured that Nursery staff and primary schools are working hard to ensure that steps are taken to enable a safe smooth transition for all children ready for September. Each primary school will have their own plans to ensure this. Reception teachers are working hard to coordinate with Maria and key workers to gather transition information to support your children and Schools are planning creative welcome opportunities and initiatives to engage with you and your child.
If you have not notified the school office of your child’s allocated primary school for September 2020 please do so. This will enable us as a school to support you and primary schools in this transition process.

**September 2020**

None of us know how life will change over the next few weeks, whether more children will be in school before the summer break and what school will look like in September.

All staff are very mindful of the fact that plans for learning and the start back to school will need to meet the children’s needs. It is important that we recognise the impact Covid-19 has had on our children’s development and to all families within our school community. This will be taken into account when creating and developing our curriculum and learning experiences for children when they return to school after this prolonged period of absence.

**Governors – an update from Asha Fowells, Chair of Governors**

It has been a busy time for the Governing Body of Purley Partnership Federation in recent months, as there have been a lot of strategic decisions to be made regarding the Covid-19 crisis. While a lot of what children and families see going on is operational – the day to day activities taking place in school and the learning activities that are delivered through electronic platforms such as Seesaw and Google Classroom – the Governing Body is very often involved behind the scenes in many different ways, for example by considering the safeguarding implications of schools closing and then reopening, and looking at risk assessments and asking questions to ensure that everyone is being kept as safe as possible.

Other activities are also continuing apace, such as scrutinising and approving school budgets, ensuring the buildings and grounds remain fit for purpose, and of course undertaking the detailed process involved in recruiting a new Executive Head Teacher to continue Mrs Pike’s work after she retires. Strong leadership is fundamental to the success of a school, and so governors have also been keeping an eye on and supporting the hardworking leadership team in order to make sure that their wellbeing doesn’t slip off the radar at this extremely stressful time.

We are very lucky to have so many engaged, dedicated and skilled individuals on our Governing Body – including three new additions since January in Yuan Choong, Sally Marvin and Rebecca Pickering – and we have adapted quickly to virtual meetings: remote ways of working may mean distance, but we are doing everything we can to ensure that is physical only, rather than mental and emotional as well.
Final thought

I would like to thank you all parents and carers within the school community for their understanding and patience throughout this time. Coming in new to post in January, I can honestly say that this experience could not have been navigated without the support from staff, the Federation Partnership and the whole school community. I know that this time has been extremely challenging in so many ways for so many people and I sincerely wish that you, and all those you love are safe and well.

Best wishes to you all

Polly Jones

Head of School

Purley Nursery School

#Achieving and growing together
Diary Dates

Tuesday 21\textsuperscript{st} July 2020
School closes for children at 3.30pm
Home learning stops for the summer holiday

Term Dates 2020/21

Autumn Term 2020
Open Thursday 3\textsuperscript{rd} September
Close Friday 23\textsuperscript{rd} October for half term
Open Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} November
Close Friday 18\textsuperscript{th} December for Christmas break

Spring Term 2021
Open Wednesday 6\textsuperscript{th} January
Close Friday 12\textsuperscript{th} February for half term
Open Monday 22\textsuperscript{nd} February
Close Wednesday 31\textsuperscript{st} March for Easter break

Summer Term 2021
Open Tuesday 20\textsuperscript{th} April
Close Friday 28\textsuperscript{th} May for half term
Open Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} June
Close Friday 23\textsuperscript{rd} July for summer break

Please note: Monday 3rd May, 2021 is a bank holiday so the school will be closed

Staff Training (subject to change):
2\textsuperscript{nd} September 2020
2\textsuperscript{nd} November 2020
5\textsuperscript{th} January 2021
19\textsuperscript{th} April 2021