



Achieving and growing together

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2020

A very warm welcome to all our new families

From Polly – Head of School

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff to welcome children, parents/carers and their families to Purley Nursery School. All children are settling brilliantly - thank you for your support in making this as easy a process as possible for the children, especially with all the COVID safety measures and restrictions in place at this time. We are grateful to our school families for adhering to our systems of controls to keep our school community safe. The children have shown such amazing resilience and confidence and we are looking forward to seeing them continue to grow in independence as they complete their first half term.

Independence 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. **If you haven't done so already, please could you put your child's name in his/her clothes - especially items of school uniform.** If a large loop of tape, ribbon or elastic is sewn onto the collar of their coats, it helps children hang them up by themselves. Please encourage your child to do this by themselves at drop off times to develop their independence skills. Also, please make sure they are wearing trousers or tights that they can manage themselves - it makes things more manageable for children and staff. Young children cannot manage belts and buttons or zips very well. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and for others - both in looking after one another's things and looking after nursery toys and equipment.

Name cards

On arrival at nursery, all children wash their hands and then they are encouraged to find their name-cards and put them in the correct 'letter pockets' in the classroom. This activity is very important for learning about letters and reading. This may be something you could ask your child about and together you could explore the letters in their name over the autumn half term holiday.



Home-School Library

After half term, Purley Nursery School will be aiming to safely reopen our Home-School Library to enable children to explore our wide variety of picture books with you at home. Children can borrow from a range of multilingual picture books and experience 'stamping out' and logging books borrowed just like a 'real library'. To allow us to safely do this, we are asking parents who wish to borrow books from our library to purchase a school book bag or plastic wallet from the main school office. This will enable us to effectively monitor items coming in and out of school and manage space and storage easily under the current safety measures. Please contact the school office on 0208 660 5639 or email office@purley.croydon.sch.uk if you wish to purchase a school book bag or plastic wallet to join our Home - School Library. Books bags are priced £4.50 each. Plastic wallets are £1.00.

More information regarding the Home-School Library launch date will be available after half term

Please note:

- Children do not need to bring anything with them to Nursery.
- Please discourage children from bringing any toys and bags other than their lunchbox (if they stay for lunch).
- We have many spare clothes to support your child in toilet training. If your child borrows items from the nursery, please wash and return them as soon as you can.

Snack time - VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

All children are offered a snack every morning and afternoon session. Staff vary the healthy snack options regularly often linking it to food harvested by the children in the vegetable garden. We also offer lots of fruit to enable children to try new tastes and foods. To enable us to do this we ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 a week to cover the cost. Please put your weekly contribution in our 'fruit collection bucket' in the main office. This will be available at drop off and collection times at nursery.



Social distancing

To reduce the risk of infection transmission at arrival and collection times, please ensure that you maintain a safe distance from the person in front of you. In addition to this, please ensure that all adults wear a face covering (unless exempt) on entry to the school. This also includes the entrance pathway as this is an area of high congestion.

Contingency Planning

To assist us in supporting our school community further as the COVID crisis continues, it would be useful to know the professions of our parents and carers, particularly those who are classed

as Key Workers. If you are happy to provide us with this information please click and complete this secure [Google Form](#). This information will enable us to plan more effectively in the event of a secondary 'Lockdown'. Please note that this is a **precautionary measure** as we have not received any information regarding school closure or 'Lockdown' from Government or local authorities. Thank you to those who have already completed this form, there is no need to re-submit if you have already done so.

Arrival and collection times

To reduce congestion at arrival and collection times we have put in place staggered timings for children's nursery sessions. Please ensure that you arrive at school for your child's start and end of session time. If you arrive early, it results in adults having to pass each other unnecessarily in confined spaces. Children can become very anxious if they are last to be collected in their nursery session group so please ensure that you arrive on time.

The new staggered timings for nursery session are:

15 hours Morning session **8.35am-11.35am**

15 hours Afternoon session **12.35pm-3.35pm**

30 hours session/ All day session **8.25am-3.25pm**

Rainbow Room 15 hours Morning session **8.45am-11.45am**

Rainbow Room 15 hours Afternoon session **12.45pm-3.45pm**

If you need to collect earlier in the afternoon, please ring ahead and ensure you collect before 3.10pm. 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.

Coats for outdoor learning



Physical activity is crucial for children's health and well-being.

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 their body healthy during autumn.



NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please note that there are children in school with allergies to nuts and 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.



Children's Free Milk

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!

Attendance

Just a reminder that if your child is away from school for any reason please let Polly, Julie or Louise know. You can phone (020 8660 5639) or email (office@purley.croydon.sch.uk). If you need to request time away from school, please complete a form (available from the office). We strongly encourage children to be in school whenever possible.

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 must show how we improve children's attendance. We 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 indicated above as it is very time consuming to 'phone families if you have not contacted us.

What do I do if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell at all, you should keep them at home. This is particularly important if they are showing any of the symptoms of coronavirus;

- high temperature
- a new persistent cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell.

If children show any of the above symptoms, you must keep them at home and arrange for them to have a Covid-19 test. If the test is negative your child can return to school once they

are well. If the test is positive you must let the school know immediately and your household must self-isolate for 14 days. Purley Nursery School has to notify the Local Public Health England Protection Team. These multidisciplinary teams are highly skilled in carrying out risk assessments in such situations and they will advise the school on what other control measures to put in place and how to warn and inform people who might be at risk.

Doors/Gates

Please can I bring your attention to how **VERY IMPORTANT** it is that EVERYBODY takes responsibility for **shutting our gates** and following our **one way system**. Our School is only as safe as WE ALL make it. The only gate that should remain open during drop off and collection is the single orange gate near the Rainbow Room. All other gates have hand sanitiser available to enable adults to feel confident to open and close these gates to ensure child safety. It is parent/carer responsibility to make sure the gates are shut and ensure that all children are safe using our one way system from Christ Church Road. During drop off and collection, please ensure that your child/ children remain next to you at all times using the social distancing markers provided. When it is your turn to drop off at the main nursery doors, please ensure that you say goodbye to your child at the allocated coloured spots rather than allowing your child to independently walk in. Again this is for child safety and to enable nursery staff to welcome you both. If you have a buggy/ pushchair, please feel free to leave it at our 'buggy park' on arrival. At collection time, using our one way system, please collect it on arrival and bring it with you to collect your child. This will ensure that you are not exposing yourself to any risk of infection transmission by crossing adults who are waiting on the path.

Parent/ Carer Conferences

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

Week commencing: 19th October for children who have returned to the school in September.

Week Commencing: 9th November and 16th November for children new to the school.

If you have not received the letter to inform you of this, please call the school office and we can book you a Parent/ Carer key worker slot.

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. Maria and 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 visit our Seesaw tab on the

[school website](#) to view helpful videos tutorials. Alternatively, please speak to your key worker or Polly and we will contact you by phone to help.

Focus for Learning



The Curriculum plans for this term are supporting learning outdoors - particularly around the seasonal changes and preparing the garden for winter.

Records of Achievement Folder

This half term we will be sharing with you your child's Record of Achievement Folder (RoA). This is a record of key learning celebrations and milestones that both your child and key worker wish to share. Please enjoy viewing it over the half term and return it back to us so that we can continue to add to it. To strengthen parent partnerships, children and families are welcome to add 'Wow moments' to the folder to celebrate your child's learning journey and experiences at home. Information about how you can add 'Wow Moments' to your RoA is provided inside your child's folder.

Please ensure that you and your child take extra special care of your folder over the holidays and back it back to nursery when you return.

Upcoming Parent Workshops

Next half term, Purley Nursery is pleased to announce the following parent workshops:



FREE SUPPORT

DIGITAL SAFETY WORKSHOP

FREE LIVE WEBINAR ON ZOOM

Tuesday, 17th November 2020, 1.30pm - 2.30pm

If you are using the internet you need to think about how to keep your family safe whilst online. This workshop will help keep you, your personal information and your devices up to date and safe.

To Log into the zoom session please go to Zoom and enter - Meeting ID: 879 3029 1314 Passcode: 886417

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- If you would like to attend our **Digital Safety Workshop** webinar (above) please [click here](#) to register.

- **Early Years Curriculum - Learning and Development Workshop - Thursday 19th November at 10.00am.** This webinar will provide you with information about the EYFS framework and the teaching and learning approaches used at Purley Nursery School.

If you would like to attend this webinar [please click here](#) to register.

- **Parental Involvement at Purley Nursery School -Thursday 26th November at 10.00am.** This webinar will provide you with information on how you can support your child's learning and development at home. It also will discuss the initiatives used at Purley Nursery to support parent partnerships in child development.

If you would like to attend this webinar [please click here](#) to register.

Safeguarding children and families

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 Polly and Maria. Alternatively, contact the school office and they can arrange for Polly or Maria to telephone you at a convenient time.

Primary School Admissions

If your child was born between September 1st 2016 and 31 August 2017 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 2021.

Many schools are not able to welcome visitors during this time therefore have created virtual tours and welcome pages on their school websites. Have a look to find out more about what's on offer in Purley. If you are unsure of how to apply or need any help in this, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Chair of Governors Welcome

Dear Families,

Just as the academic year has started for children, families and staff, it has also kicked off for governors, the body of volunteers who oversee the management side of educational settings. Purley Nursery School is part of Purley Partnership Federation, which also includes Christ Church C of E



Primary School, just across the Rotary Field park. Since September, the full board has met twice - assigning the various link roles for areas such as safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and so on, as well as looking at the reopening of both schools to all children and considering schools budgets among other things - and each committee (finance, curriculum, and health and safety) has also met. There is always a lot to do, but this group of hardworking and dedicated individuals works hard, alongside senior leaders and other staff members, to do as much as they can to make the schools the welcoming, nurturing places so valued by children and families.

Keep an eye out for short updates from the governing body in newsletters and, once more people are allowed in schools, for the governors in person as they often pop in - you can identify them by their lanyard.

Asha Fowells
Chair of governors
Purley Partnership Federation
Christ Church C of E Primary School and Purley Nursery School

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

Take care and stay safe

Polly Jones

Head of School
Purley Nursery School
Purley Partnership Federation
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0208 660 5639
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Term Dates 2020/21
Autumn Term 2019

Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

INSET day: Monday 2nd November (School closed)

School opens: Tuesday 3rd November

Last Day of Term: Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2020

INSET day: Tuesday 5th January (school closed)

School opens: Wednesday 6th January

Half Term: Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

School Opens Monday 22nd February

Last Day of Term: Wednesday 31st March

Summer Term 2020

INSET day: Monday 19th April (school closed)

School Opens: Tuesday 20th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May (school closed)

Half Term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

INSET day: Monday 7th June (School closed)

School Opens: Tuesday 8th June

Last Day of Term: Tuesday 23rd July

These dates are subject to change in regards to the current Covid-19 situation.

