



*Achieving and growing together*



# Autumn 2 Newsletter 2020

Thank you to all our children and families for being so supportive to the school and staff throughout this Autumn Term. I am so pleased to see how confident and resilient the children have become despite the many challenges and changes that families have faced these past few months. I look forward to seeing their confidence grow as we enter into the final weeks of the Autumn Term.

## **Parent and keyworker conferences**

Throughout October, keyworkers completed their Parent Conferences either by phone or virtual meetings to discuss how well the children have settled and learn about new interests and activities they are involved in. 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 at nursery. 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. Staff recently reviewed Records of Achievement as part of our monitoring programme and took note of the many 'Wow Moments' and comments made by children and families at home during the October half term holiday. It was clear to see that children enjoyed sharing these with family members as they were very keen to show their friends at nursery once they had returned to class.

If you have not returned your child's Record of Achievement to nursery, please do so by the end of term. This will enable keyworkers to add more learning and successes for you to share over the Christmas break.

Records of Achievements will be sent home with children **week beginning 14th December** 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.

## Attendance

Just a reminder that if your child is away from school for any reason please let Louise or Julie in the office know. You can phone (020 8660 5639) or email ([office@purley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto: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 to enable us to monitor sickness and absence at school alongside the Covid crisis.

## Sickness Absence

In line with Government guidance, it is crucial that if your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms related to Covid 19 that **you do not come to school** and that you **arrange for a Covid test and self isolate**.

Symptoms include:

- High temperature
- Continuous cough
- Loss of taste or sense of smell

You can book a test using <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and results can usually be obtained in 48 hours. **For the safety of our most vulnerable members of our school community we expect your support and commitment in this to ensure that we remain Covid free and remain open.**

## Drop off and collection times

Thank you to all families for being so prompt and supportive of our collection/ drop off times and safety measures. Social distancing within the main entrance is effectively managed through our space indicators and through the support of our children and families.

***Please ensure that you use the social distancing markers on the main entrance path as infection transmission is at its highest in this confined space. Adults should remain two metres apart whilst waiting in this area to reduce to risk of infection transmission.***

We appreciate that families will have had to manage many new start and collection times for both work and their children's schools this term and we are grateful to you all for making every effort to collect and drop off on time.

### 3 and 4 year old classroom

30 hours (all day) - 8.25-3.25pm

15 hours morning session - 8.35-11.35am

15 hours afternoon session - 12.35-3.35pm

### Rainbow Room

15 hours morning session - 8.45-11.45am

15 hours afternoon session - 12.45-3.45pm

If you have difficulty for any reason you must **phone** the school office. Please be aware that persistent lateness in collection may incur a charge for staff time.

### **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 Rainbow Room and are offered a healthy breakfast and space to play enabling them to have a happy, calm start to their day.

#### **Prices:**

- **7.45am** - to the start of their nursery session - **£3.75 per day**
- **8.00am** - to the start of their nursery session **£2.50 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**.

### **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 future 'Lockdowns' in 2021. Please note that this is a precautionary measure as we have not received any information regarding school closure from Government or local authorities next year.

### **Home-School Library**

This half term, children have been enjoying borrowing books from our library to share with family at home. It's been great to see the children so excited and motivated to explore the books with their friends, developing their early reading skills by turning the pages and using the pictures to retell the stories. 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.

The Home-School Library is open on Monday and Tuesday each week and children take it in turns to sign in and out their books with Andrea and the nursery team.

We encourage all children to join our Home-School Library, so if you haven't signed up please speak to Julie or Louise 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 your child's Seesaw class app, please speak to a member of the nursery team or contact the school office.

### **What else has been happening at nursery?**

This half term, we have been learning and exploring about many festivals and celebrations held across the world.

#### **Diwali**



In early October we learnt about Diwali, a Hindu 'festival of light'. We provided the children with rich opportunities to share related stories, listen and dance to music and explore cultural dress associated with this festival. The children had the opportunity to explore Rangoli designs and Mehndi patterns with Rikta (nursery keyworker). They all loved sharing their chosen patterns with the nursery team and their friends.



#### **Bonfire Night**



During November we explored Fireworks and talked about children's experiences of Bonfire Night and fireworks at home with friends and families. The children created their own firework pictures using chalks and black paper, as well as neon and glitter paints.



#### **Nursery Rhyme Week**



For the past few weeks the children have been learning lots of nursery rhymes and songs to sing and sign to their friends and family. Maria (Lead Teacher) has been posting these nursery rhymes on Seesaw and it's been lovely to see children share their videos at home of them singing. In addition to the rhymes we have been learning, children have also posted videos of them singing songs in different languages from across the world. The children and staff have been excited to hear these being shared in the classroom and it's been lovely to watch children celebrate their cultures with their friends.

#### **Upcoming Christmas Celebrations**



Throughout December, the children will be learning and engaging in activities about the Christian festival Christmas. Children will have the opportunity to create Christmas tree decorations and cards for their family as well as get involved in decorating the learning environment through their pictures and crafts.

## Post box

A post box will be available in the nursery main entrance from **Monday 7th December** for children to post Christmas cards to friends in school. In line with our safety measures, our **last posting date will be Monday 14th December**.

Please ask your child which friends they would like to post a card to using the keyworker board at the drop off area.



## Christmas Jumper Day! - 'Save the Children'

On **Friday 11th December**, children and nursery staff are **invited to wear a 'Christmas Jumper'** and take part in this fund raising event for 'Save the Children'. If your child has a Christmas jumper, please let them wear it on this day. All donations for this worthy cause to be collected in the main entrance in a special collection box.

## Christmas Trees



Purley Nursery School is very lucky to have had our Christmas trees donated from B&Q this year. The staff have already begun to decorate the learning environment with festive lighting and Christmas themed resources. Over the next few weeks, the children will continue to develop and enhance the classroom with their own Christmas craft and decorations, taking ownership and pride in their learning space.

## End of Term Parties - Thursday 17th 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. 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 - Head of School

## 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. It may be worth practicing with your child to put their hat and gloves on by themselves to support their independence and management of these belongings at nursery.

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. As the winter weather increases, we wish to support children in managing their own belongings at nursery therefore visual cues are a helpful tip in this.

### **Fruit contributions**



Thank you for your contributions towards the fruit that the children enjoy!

### **Parent Workshops**

This term we carried out three virtual parent workshops to support families and children at nursery. These included 'Online safety' where we discussed how parents can safeguard their children online at home, 'EYFS Curriculum - Learning and Development' where Maria outlined the curriculum that children learn through at nursery and finally 'Parental Involvement' which explained lots of different ways parents can support children's development at home. We received great feedback from parents and we plan to repeat these workshops in the Spring and Summer 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)
- Used wrapping paper
- Old notepads
- Craft paper

Office staff will collect and store these items securely in the main entrance area prior to them being used in the classroom in line with our safety measures and procedures.

## **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. Hand sanitiser is available on entry to ensure all adults handling these gates feel confident and safe to do so.

## **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](http://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. If you are unsure of how to apply or need any help in this, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

## **January 2021**

Please note that Purley Nursery School will **reopen** for children **on Wednesday 6th January 2021**.

## **Final note**

Purley Nursery Staff would like to thank you again for all your support and dedication this Autumn Term. We recognise that the Covid crisis has had a great impact on families and we wish to reach out to our school community and ask them to contact us if they need any support or guidance at this challenging time. We are all here to help as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.

Staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas 2021 and we will look forward to welcoming in a new year in 2021. Best wishes to you all

Polly Jones

Head of School  
Purley Nursery School

**Please see Spring and Summer Term dates below:**

**Spring Term 2021**

*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.