



Achieving and growing together

Spring 2 Newsletter 2023

Thank you to all our children and families for being so supportive to the school and staff throughout this Spring Term. It's been a pleasure to welcome so many parent volunteers and visitors to the nursery to enrich our Curriculum for children and families this half term.

What's been happening at Purley Nursery School?

World Book Day

On Friday 3rd March, Purley Nursery School celebrated World Book Day. The children were invited to dress up as one of their favourite book characters and bring in their own special books to share with adults and friends. It was lovely to see the children so confident in their outfits and designs and it was very impressive to see how intact they remained throughout the session too!



We also celebrated the day by inviting our Federation Partner Christ Church School over to share picture books with the children. We welcomed Mrs Imana and her Year 2 class to come and join us. The children loved exploring a range of books with their role model readers exploring their knowledge of letters and sounds with their peers.



Forest School

Forest School continues to be a great success and children are loving how this provision has evolved since it began in January. Children this half term have had the pleasure of experiencing a session with a real campfire! Claire and the Forest School Team welcomed Ella (EYFS practitioner and Forest School Teacher at Christ Church School) to come and light the fire pit and offer freshly cooked popcorn to the group. The children were excited to share their learning and memories with their friends at nursery and created their own campfire role



play and pretend popcorn during their nursery session. We would like to thank our dedicated parent volunteers Katie, Finn and Lindsey who enable us to carry out this fantastic initiative for children. We look forward to inviting our next group of children ready for Summer 1.

Can you help!

We would love to be able to provide this provision for children who access the afternoon session. If you would like to volunteer your time one afternoon a week to support your child and their friends please contact Polly or Maria as soon as possible.

Visit from Purley Fire Station



The children were very excited to welcome real life 'Superheroes' to nursery this half term! Purley Fire Fighters joined us for an afternoon session and we were fortunate to have the chance to meet the team, watch them use the firefighters hose and climb into the Fire Engine! The children were so excited and keen to apply their learning to the classroom. We introduced a new 'Emergency Services Call Center' roleplay and added lots of props around the learning environment for children to apply their learning and creativity! It's been lots of fun and the children have developed lots of new skills in language, vocabulary and mark making!

We hope to invite them again so that we can explore how their fire ladder works too!



We have been planting trees

The children have been exploring Spring life and have planted five new Dogwood shrubs in the outdoor classroom. Ali (Lead Teacher on Wednesdays) explored with the children the tree seedlings and they carefully dug holes and planted them into the ground. The children have been working hard to water and protect them from the elements as part of our nursery routines.

What is a Dogwood shrub?

Dogwood is a small broadleaf shrub, typically found growing along woodland edges and in hedgerows of southern England. Mature trees can grow to 10m. The bark is grey and smooth with shallow ridges which develop with age, and its twigs are smooth, straight and slim. Leaf buds are black and look like bristles, forming on short stalks.

Purley in Bloom

On Saturday 4th March, Purley in Bloom visited the nursery to create a small sensory area for the children in the outdoor classroom. Purley in Bloom volunteers kindly donated their time to weed and add new plants to a small area which will enable the children to explore a range of natural textures and shapes as they grow. We are fortunate to have organised for them to return and we would like to invite our whole school community to join us for our 'Outdoor Project Day' to undertake some new and exciting projects across the school environment.



Our '**Outdoor Project Day**' is scheduled for **Saturday 20th May from 10am - 2pm**. We will be offering free hot drinks, pastries and cakes as a thank you to all our hard working volunteers.

Purley Nursery School is very lucky to share such a large, rich environment for our children to support their learning and development. We love to involve the children as much as we can however some tasks require more time and adult strength and stamina. It's so wonderful when our school community can be a part of these developments. On the day, we hope to welcome our families and Purley in Bloom to help us activities such as:

- Weeding

- Planting hanging baskets
- Creating a new sensory welcome garden on the main entrance path
- Litter picking
- Planting seeds and bulbs

We look forward to seeing you there!

Visits to Purley Library

We have had the pleasure of visiting Purley Library again this half term to attend Rhyme Time sessions with groups of children. The children loved exploring new picture books and titles with supporting adults and their peers. Thank you to all our parent volunteers who helped enable this trip for children.



Coffee Mornings at Purley Nursery School

This half term we have welcomed parents and carers to join us in the Parents Room for a range of short informal sessions to support parental involvement and child development. These have included:

- **Thursday 2nd March** - How to support your child develop their independence and self help skills.
- **Thursday 16th March** - How to support your child develop their literacy skills in Early Years
- **Thursday 23rd March** - What is an ROA? How can I contribute to it to celebrate my child's learning?

Feedback from these sessions has been really positive and we are looking forward to our next sessions planned for Summer term. Next half term we are looking forward to hosting the following themed coffee mornings:

- **Thursday 27th April at 9.00am till 9.30am** - What is play based learning? Led by Julie in the Nest
- **Thursday 18th May at 9.00am till 9.30am** - What is Helicopter Stories? How can this initiative support my child's language and literacy skills? Led by Rikta (Early Years Educator and Keyworker)

We look forward to seeing you then!

Welcome to new staff

This half term, we have had the pleasure of welcoming Mary to our School Staff Team. She has joined Julie and Louise in the main school office and has already been able to meet with most children and families in our school community. We welcome her to our school community and invite our children and families to come and say "Hello!"

Attendance

Just a reminder that if your child is away from school for any reason please let Louise, Julie or Mary in the school 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.

Nursery sessions times are as follows: **8.30-11.30am - 12.30-3.30pm**

All children are expected to attend their full nursery session and arrive on time. In recent weeks we have noticed that children are arriving considerably late and collected early from their nursery session. Please can parents be mindful that late arrival and collection may contribute to their child missing out on learning opportunities planned in the classroom/ carpet time. To support good routines and habits before transitioning to Primary School, we encourage parents and carers to make every effort to ensure their child access their full session.

Late collection of children may also result in late collection charge.

Travel management at drop off and collection 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 reduce the numbers of adults and children in the main entrance foyer at one time. During these chilly months, we appreciate that getting ready to leave nursery may take a little time, especially if children have hats and large coats etc. 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 outdoor 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 request to move out of the collection queue to chat 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**.

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.

Home-School Library

Purley Nursery School's Home School Library has been a great success for children this half term. Parent volunteers, Katie and Farah, have enjoyed exploring picture books and texts with the children every Friday and signing in and out books through our 'real life Library experience' offered. 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 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 Mary 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 half term and it is great to see children engaging in home learning activities and sharing new 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.

Please note that Seesaw activities are non-compulsory and we encourage families to 'tap in' as and when they can to support their understanding of early learning and development.

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.

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!

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.

Useful Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding

- **DSL:** Designated Safeguarding Lead
 - **PREVENT:** Part of the PREVENT Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism
 - **SPOC:** Single Point of SPOC Contact (PREVENT) - responsible for preventing children being impacted by extremism
 - **LADO:** Local Authority LADO Designated Officer who deals with position of trust safeguarding issues
 - **DBS:** Disclosure & Barring DBS Service used to make safe recruitment decisions
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What is the role of the DSL - Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. At Purley Nursery School we have 3 DSL's: Polly, Maria and Kelly. A DSL is always available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. As school policy there is always a DSL in school from 8.00am to 5.00pm and DSLs are always contactable by telephone outside these hours. DSL's are trained to take on this role and their training is updated every two years with additional training in between. The DSL has many responsibilities including working with staff and agencies involved in safeguarding children, working with parents and families, giving advice to staff, training staff, managing referrals from staff and investigating concerns passing them onto the correct body as necessary, managing the records of safeguarding and Child Protection concerns and keeping own knowledge up to date.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us directly either by phoning the school office on 02086605639 or emailing office@purley.croydon.sch.uk.

A message from Maria, Lead Teacher/Head of School



This academic year we have been fortunate to continue to make use of European funding which has enabled our staff to take part in a range of Professional Development Research trips.

So far:

- Rachael has visited Sweden to learn about Inclusion and Special Education.
- Maria has visited Sweden to learn about Wellbeing in Education.
- Julie and Rikta have visited Italy to learn about Creative approaches to Early Years teaching.

These wonderful opportunities allow us to reflect on what we do day to day at the Nursery, share good practice, learn from identified strengths in Education that are present in other countries across Europe and to engage in professional dialogue with other staff from our Federation partner, Christ Church School, as well as other local colleagues from Croydon, National and International Teachers and School Leaders.



On my recent trip I was able to learn about how Wellbeing is addressed culturally in Sweden for all employees, how Education and Childcare are seen as highly valued professions and important to society, how teachers are encouraged and trusted to manage their time effectively to achieve a good work life balance whilst still achieving some of the highest results for children and how this mindset is translated for the children as they are taught and encouraged to recognise these values and build life skills alongside their academic achievements.



Whilst we cannot replicate all the things we see and learn about, there are lots of ways in which key aspects can inform our practice and enhance the experience and achievement of children here at the Nursery.

Ideas to support our families through the 'Cost of Living Crisis'

KIDS EAT FREE EASTER 2023



MORRISONS

Kids eat for free in Morrisons Cafes every day from 3pm when you spend over £4.49 on a adult's meal.

YO! SUSHI

Kids under 10 get a free bento box deal when an adult spends at least £10. Offer runs 3 - 14 April 2023.

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRE

From noon daily, kids can eat at Dobbies for free when an adult buys a main meal.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANT

Kids under 8 can eat for free at Gordon Ramsey Restaurants when an adults eats from the à la carte menu.

BILL'S

Up to two kids eat for free at Bill's from 3-14 April (not weekends) when an adult orders a main dish.

PAUSA CAFÉ at DUNELM

Spend £4 and get one free choice from the Kids Menu in Pausa Cafés on Monday to Friday after 3pm.

PREZZO

Kids aged under 10 get a 3 course meal free at Prezzo. No adult spend, but you must have o2 Priority app.

BEEFEATER

Get two free kids' breakfasts for under 16s at Beefeater when you buy an unlimited adult breakfast.

BREWERS FAYRE

Get two free kids' breakfasts for under 16s at Brewers Fayre when you buy an unlimited adult breakfast.

THE REAL GREEK

Children under 12 years get a free meal on Sundays when an adult spends over £10.

A message from our Chair of Governors Sally Marvin

Dear Parents and Carers

I wonder if you enjoy change. Change can be daunting and challenging. However, change can also be an opportunity for new life, fresh vision and exciting prospects.

In recent months, PPF has seen a significant change in the membership of its Governing Board. We have recently had to say goodbye to various governors, either because their term of office has expired or work and family commitments prevented them from continuing with their role. At the beginning of the second half of this term, we said farewell to another governor, Piers Tattersall, one of our two Parent Governors. We are very grateful to Piers for the contributions he has made to the governing board.



We are very blessed, however, that when a governor leaves, there is another individual 'waiting in the wings' to join our board. Thus, I am delighted to share with you that we have appointed two new governors to the roles of Co-opted Governor and Foundation Governor. Alison Thomson joins us as our second Co-opted Governor and Graham Duncan as our ninth Foundation Governor. A short bio describing their work experience and reasons for becoming a governor can be found below. We will also be welcoming a new Parent Governor at the end of this term who will be replacing Piers Tattersall.

Although the PPF Governing Board has seen many changes in recent months, nevertheless, our team continues to strive to fulfill our mission and vision of 'letting our light shine' as the 'critical friend' of Christ Church School and Purley Nursery School, to challenge, support and encourage the staff at both schools as they endeavor to provide in this ever-changing world all that is the very best for your children.

May God bless you with rest, peace and joy as we remember the Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ this Easter.

'The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would. Come, see the place where his body was lying. Now hurry! Tell his disciples he has been raised to life and is on his way to Galilee. Go there, and you will see him"' (Matthew 28: 5-7)

Sally Marvin (Chair of Governors)

Meet our New Governors

Alison Thomson

For most of my working career I have been in Sales & Sales Management, selling Telecommunications, Technology and Wi-fi to large corporate companies. I am a positive and motivated individual with a great deal of energy, a keen listener, and great with children (according to my 6 godchildren, my 7 siblings, my children and my nieces and nephews)



I am currently 'retired' from full time paid employment in order to concentrate on my charity work. I work at the local Food Bank and I act as a Befriender for Tandridge Council; I look after a 90-year-old Widow, I am also a local Keep Britain Tidy ambassador and collect litter close to my home. Helping my local community is very important to me.

I really want to be able to give back and share all the wonderful experiences' life has given me, I'd also like to understand and help with the challenges teachers/schools and pupils come up against today. I am passionate about equal respect, equal opportunities and would like to contribute in shaping the pupils coming into the next phase of their lives, dealing with aspects of life that we simply did not have to.

I am honored to join this Governing team and hope to be able to bring a different perspective based on my background.

GRAHAM DUNCAN

I am a new Foundation Governor. I was born and partially raised in Pakistan until I was 18. That experience of living in more than one country means that I enjoy living in a community with people from different backgrounds and experiences of life. I retired last year after 40 years in the civil service in central London, working on issues like housing, adult social care, children's services, housing, regeneration and the environment. I hope the skills and experience I acquired there will help me make a contribution to the life and success of Christ Church School and Purley Nursery School.



I have been a member of Christ Church Purley for 18 years, and I really value the links between the church and the school. I am currently responsible for overseeing the worship bands at Christ Church. My daughters both benefited from education at Christ Church School (admittedly, some time ago, since they are now 23 and 22). I have happy memories of the school, including the memory of my younger daughter excitedly skipping down Montpelier Road on her way to her first day at school. I will do what I can to make the time that children spend at Purley Nursery School and Christ Church School a similarly happy and fulfilling experience.

Final note

Purley Nursery Staff would like to thank you again for all your support and dedication this Spring 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 the school so we can help in whatever way we can.

Staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Spring half term and we will look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 18th April.

Best wishes to you all

Polly Jones

Head of School
Purley Nursery School

TERM DATES – 2022/23

Spring Term 2023

**Spring 1 – Open Wednesday 4th January – Close Friday 10th February at normal
time**

Spring 2 – Open Monday 20th February – Close Friday 31st March at normal time

Summer Term 2023

Summer 1 – Open Tuesday 18th April – Close Friday 26th May at normal time

Summer 2 – Open Tuesday 6th June – Close Friday 21st July at normal time

Please note:

Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2023

Staff Training (subject to change)

Monday 17th April 2023

Monday 8th May 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

These dates are subject to change.