



Achieving and growing together

Summer 1 Newsletter 2023

Thank you to all our children and families for being so supportive to the school and staff throughout this Summer Term. It's been a pleasure to see how much our children have grown and developed during this half term as we prepare for the final months of the academic year.

What's been happening at Purley Nursery School?

Coronation Celebration Day!

On Friday 5th May, Purley Nursery School children and staff celebrated the coronation of Charles III by dressing up as Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses. The children loved sharing their outfits with their friends and engaging in a range of Royal themed activities at nursery. Alongside this national event, Purley Nursery School carried out some fundraising by receiving donations for the day, cake sales and selling framed photographs of children dressed as Royals in our roleplay throne at nursery. The fundraising event was very successful and I'm pleased to share that funds generated from the day have contributed to the purchase of the following:



- New plants/ bulbs and stepping stones for our new inviting main entrance sensory garden.
- Creative chalkboards for the outdoor area
- A new shade cover for the garden to support safe outdoor play in the sunshine
- Brand new fish and fish tank to create a sensory space for all children to access in the nursery classroom
- Brand new natural resources to create dens and natural hideouts in line with Forest School pedagogy in the outdoor learning environment
- Sensory resources to support speaking and listening activities and interventions for children.



We would like to thank our entire school community for supporting us and we are pleased that all our children will enjoy the benefits of these learning spaces and enhancements before the end of this academic year.

Tadpoles in Nursery

Children have been exploring and learning all about new life in our Pond this half term and observing the life cycle of a frog! Children 'pond dipped' and collected some resident tadpoles grown from frogspawn in our pond. The children have loved noticing how their bodies have grown and begun to grow additional features such as arms and legs in our classroom observation tanks. As a focus activity, the children created their own representational drawings of the tadpoles and applied their new vocabulary to explain what they have drawn in their individual pictures. In addition to this, local artist Alicia came to visit the nursery to paint beautiful pond life images around our pond. Children have enjoyed looking at the paintings and asking staff questions about them to develop their learning and understanding of pond life further.

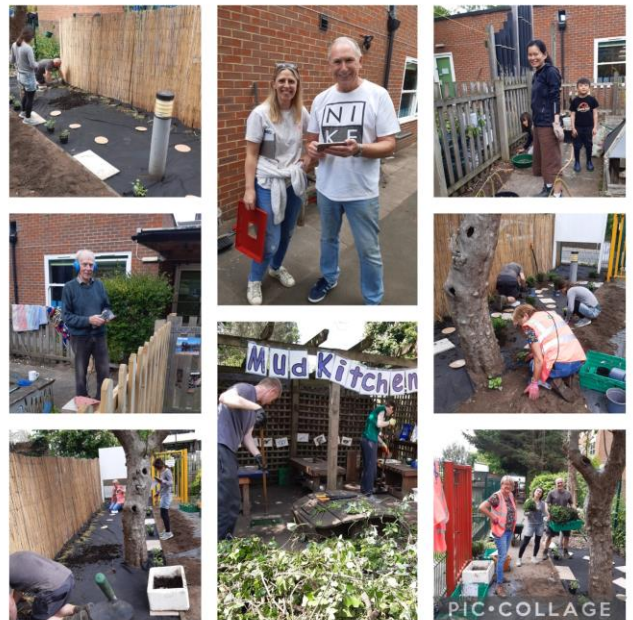


If you have any artistic skills and would like to get involved in helping us paint some learning murals around our nursery environment, please contact Polly and Maria! We would love to celebrate these skills with the children and enhance our learning environment further for our children.

'Outdoor Project Day' and Purley in Bloom

On Saturday 20th May, Purley Nursery School opened our doors to welcome volunteers in our school community to come and help us with outdoor maintenance tasks to enhance our environment for our children. We were so grateful to members of our school community who came on the day to help us with:

- Turning over the soil in our 'digging patch' for children
- Planting new sensory plants around our pond, vegetable patch and around our trike and bike road
- Sanding down ready to paint with wood treatment our new pond fence
- Removing ivy growth from the fence line and storage shed roof
- Hedge trimming our car park entrance
- Painting walls ready for our new mural - watch this space!
-and so much more!





We thank everyone who gave up their time to come and help us in these tasks. We look forward to seeing the children enjoying the benefits and taking pride in our beautiful nursery environment.

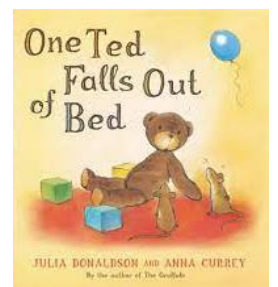
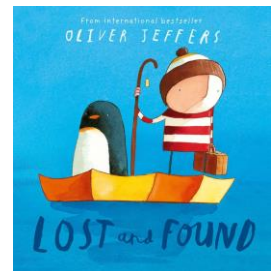
We also had the pleasure of welcoming 'Purley in Bloom' who came to create a beautiful sensory garden and path to welcome visitors and families at our main Christ Church Road gate. Volunteers and organisers worked hard to source donations of plants, shrubs and flowers to fill the space so that in time the children will be able to follow the outlined path through a variety of sensory plants, smells and textures in years to come. We thank Purley in Bloom for all their hard work, creativity and support for Purley Nursery School and our families.

Core Book updates!

At Purley Nursery School, one of our Curriculum strengths is our passion and love of developing children's attitudes to books, stories and characters and language. To support this, staff have created a list of texts that we use to form the basis of our literature Curriculum which we embed within our Curriculum sequence throughout the academic year. These texts are called our Core Books. During this term, we decided to update and introduce three new books to our Core Book list. These are:

- Oh No, George! by Chris Haughton
- Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
- One Ted Falls out of Bed by Julia Donaldson and Anna Currey

These fabulous new editions to our 'Core Book' list have perfect age appropriate links to our school values: Caring, Independence and Respectful as well as age appropriate themes to support children with their emotional regulation, social communication with their friends and also challenge questions relating to rhythm, rhyme for early literacy, early counting and numeral skills. These new texts will be available in our home school library and embedded in our learning focuses across the year. We look forward to sharing these with our children and also welcome our families to explore these great books with our children at home too.



Home-School Library

Purley Nursery School's Home School Library has continued to be a popular enrichment 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 would like to thank Farah and Katie for all their amazing dedication and support in this.



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).

Forest School



Forest School continues to be a great success for children and the impact on children's learning from these opportunities is fabulous to watch. Claire has commented on how children have shown a greater interest in the natural world since Purley Nursery Forest School began last Autumn term, and applied their confidence and creativity from the sessions to facilitate further learning in nursery. A recent example is where children created their own fox dens in 'The Spinney' out of natural materials after finding fox dens and pawprints. The children came back to nursery and began creating dens of their own around the nursery environment to protect the urban foxes that they see around Purley. Parents have also commented on how they have noticed progress in



independence, confidence and creativity at home as a result of this enhancement provided at nursery. We would like to thank our amazing parent volunteers Katie, Finn and Lindsay who have made this possible for children this year!

We are in the process of sourcing volunteers to help us provide this opportunity for children in a series of additional afternoon block sessions for the remainder of the summer term. **If any member of our school community wishes to get involved for summer 2 or for next academic year please let us know as soon as possible! We would love to welcome you to our Forest School Team!**



Staff Development through Erasmus Projects

As a school we are passionate about providing professional development opportunities for our staff so that our children can benefit from high quality, up to date Early Years teaching and learning pedagogy and approaches. This year, staff have had amazing opportunities to visit international Erasmus courses to enhance their skills and develop our Curriculum. Here is what they had to say about their experiences:

Claire attended "Forest Learning" - Lidkopin and Vara, Sweden

"I absolutely loved it! Learning all about the forest, cooking with children, exploring nature with children, making professional relationships and bringing education outside!"

Rachael attended "Inclusion the Swedish Perspective" - Lidkopin and Vara, Sweden

"It opened my eyes to see how they support special educational needs in Sweden. I am now more conscious of learning environments and creating calm atmospheres for children to support their sensory needs."

Rikta and Julie - attended "Creative teaching approaches in Early Years - Reggio Emilia Approach" - Bologna, Italy

Julie "It was an eye opener to see how it works in other countries and see how the Reggio approach impacts children's learning. Since returning I have been inspired alongside colleagues to enhance The Nest learning environment. Watch this space!"

Rikta "It has developed my confidence in my role and I have come back with many ideas of how to enhance creative provision in the nursery. As an example, children have been making their own props for Helicopter Stories, creating their own display boards and initiating adult focus activities in the nursery"

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

It's been a pleasure to welcome families and members of our school community to these informal sessions to discuss pedagogy and practice at Purley Nursery School.

Feedback includes:

- *"It was so helpful to be able to bring up some issues that were concerning us and also things we've been wondering about how to manage. Polly gave us very clear, helpful advice on several issues personal to us. It was really useful and worthwhile."*
- *"Thank you very much. Loved hearing what you're doing and enjoyed viewing the children's responses"*



- *"Well done" on giving the children a love of stories, the confidence to use their imaginations and such an exciting "introduction" to reading."*

Next Term, we will be hosting a Coffee Morning focusing on Transitions for Primary School and sharing how we at Purley Nursery School are supporting our children to be 'school ready' for September.

We are hosting our '**Supporting our children to be 'school ready' for September**' Coffee Morning on **Thursday 15th June at 9.00-9.30am**.

Welcome to new staff and staff updates

Sherlynna Auguiste Ernest - Newly Appointed Playscheme Maternity Lead. Sherlynna will be leading provision in our holiday playscheme for the 2023 Summer, Autumn and Spring Term 2024.

Kelly Hamilton, has now left to go on maternity leave as she and her family prepare to welcome their baby home. Kelly is aiming to return to Purley Nursery School next year and we wish her and family all the best for their new arrival.

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)**. Please **do not** leave messages on Seesaw.

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 our families who are 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. **This is significantly important to those children transitioning to Primary School in**

September as we have adapted our routines to support 'School readiness'. 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 a late collection charge.

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.



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!



15 to 21 May 2023

Mental Health Awareness Week



Mental Health Foundation

#ToHelpMyAnxiety



Safeguarding children and families

Our 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.

Worried about something?

Contact Designated Safeguarding Leads Polly and/ or Maria in confidence with our new confidential Help Form available on our School Website -

<https://www.purleynurseryschoolcc.com/home/worried-about-something/>

Our Worried about Something Help Form is a safe space where you or members of your family can talk to us if you are worried about something. This may be linked to:

- Concerns you may have with your child's learning
- A friendship issue within school
- A worry outside of school (at home)
- Concerns relating to relationships or finances at home

This information will go straight to a member of staff who can help you to make the situation better. If you could remember to include your name, we can ensure that we can speak to you to ensure that everything is okay.

The Worried about Something Form is open to children, parents and members of our school community.

If we ever felt that you were in danger, we may have to speak to other people to keep you safe.

The Mental Health Awareness Week 2023 theme is Anxiety

Anxiety is a normal emotion in us all, but sometimes it can get out of control and become a mental health problem. Lots of things can lead to feelings of anxiety, including exam pressures, relationships, starting a new job (or losing one) or other big life events. We can also get anxious when it comes to things to do with money and not being able to meet our basic needs, like heating our home or buying food. But anxiety can be made easier to manage.

What makes younger people anxious?

A young person may feel anxious for a number of different reasons, depending on the individual. If your child is feeling unmanageable amounts of worry and fear, this is often a sign that something in their life isn't right and they need support to work out what the problem is.

The following kinds of things can make some children and young people feel more anxious:

- experiencing lots of change in a short space of time, such as moving house or school
- having responsibilities that are beyond their age and development, for example caring for other people in their family
- being around someone who is very anxious, such as a parent
- struggling at school, including feeling overwhelmed by work, exams or peer groups
- experiencing family stress around things like housing, money and debt
- going through distressing or traumatic experiences in which they do not feel safe, such as being bullied or witnessing or experiencing abuse.

How to help your child in an anxious moment:

When your child is in the middle of a very anxious moment, they may feel frightened, agitated or worried about having a panic attack. The important thing to do in the moment is to help them calm down and feel safe.

These strategies can help:



- **Breathe slowly and deeply together** - You can count slowly to five as you breathe in, and then five as you breathe out. If this is too much, try starting with shorter counts. If it works for them, gradually encourage your child to breathe out for one or two counts longer than they breathe in, as this can help their body relax.
- **Sit with them and offer calm physical reassurance** - Feeling you nearby, or holding your hand or having a cuddle if it's possible, can be soothing.
- **Try using all five senses together** - Connecting with what they can see, touch, hear, smell and taste can bring them closer to the present moment and reduce the intensity of their anxiety. You might think together about five things they can see, four things they can touch, three things they can hear, two things they can smell and one thing they can taste.
- **Reassure them that the anxiety will pass and that they will be okay** - It can be helpful to describe it as a wave that they can ride or surf until it peaks, breaks and gets smaller.
- **Ask them to think of a safe and relaxing place or person in their mind** - If you haven't tried this before, agree with them when they're feeling calm about what this place or person is. It could be their bedroom, a grandparent's house, a favourite place in nature or somewhere they've been on holiday. Sometimes holding a memento of a relaxing place, like a seashell or pebble, can help.
- **Encourage them to do something that helps them to feel calmer** - This could be running, walking, listening to music, painting, drawing or colouring-in, writing in a diary, watching a favourite film or reading a favourite book.

A message from our Chair of Governors Sally Marvin

May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that the first half of the Summer Term 2023 has been a good one for your children. Hopefully some warmer weather is on the horizon and more outdoor activities can be enjoyed.

At PPF, we welcomed back Mrs Hudson from her secondment to Coulsdon C of E Primary School. Mrs Hudson is an Associate member of our governing board along with Miss Jones and Ms Reeve from Purley Nursery School. An Associate member attends governor meetings and can contribute to discussions but



doesn't have voting rights. We are very fortunate to have these three members of staff on our governing board bringing their wealth of expertise and experience to our meetings.

We also welcomed Alan Bates, the new PPF Parent Governor. A brief bio can be found below. I am pleased to say that we now have every governor vacancy filled except for the staff governor but hopefully this latter role will be filled soon.

Those of you with a keen eye might have spotted that the 'Our Federation' pages on the CCS website are in the process of being updated. Under a new tab 'Meet the Governors', you can now read the bios of each of our governors as well as view some of their photos. More photos to come soon we hope! If you see us around either school now, you will know who we are. Do come and introduce yourselves - we would love to get to know you better.

Each PPF governor possesses unique gifts and skills. They all share, however, a deep commitment to ensuring that your children receive the best educational experience possible. We are extremely fortunate to have such generous individuals who give up their time voluntarily to work for the good of the PPF community.



I hope you all have a restful half term break.

Best wishes

Sally Marvin (Chair of Governors)

Meet our New Governor - Alan Bates

My name is Alan and I am a recently elected parent governor of the Federation. My daughter is in Year 1 at the primary school and previously attended the nursery. I also have a boy in Year 6 living with me, and a 7-month-old daughter who will hopefully be attending the nursery and then primary school in a few years' time.

I have been a governor of another London primary school for nearly 20 years, through which I have learnt a lot about how good schools can become even better, and how governors can work in partnership with the head teacher, staff and families to do that. I hope my 'apprenticeship' at another school helps me to better serve the Federation's children in my new role.

I work as a barrister and part-time judge and have found that my legal background is sometimes useful in helping a school's governing board navigate legal issues. Occasionally, boards have to resolve formal disputes between the school and individual families or staff members, and it is

very important to me that governors deal with such matters in a way that is impartial, diligent and fair.

I am part of the Christ Church Church community across the road and my Christian faith is central to my life, but I also believe that the two schools should value equally all the families who entrust us with their children, regardless of their religious background (or none). Part of education is helping children grow up to think for themselves. I am of mixed race heritage and it matters a lot to me that the schools love every child and welcome families of all shapes and size, and work in close partnership with them regardless of race, sex or sexual orientation. So I am glad that I have been asked to make 'inclusion' a specific focus of my work as a governor. Please feel free to speak to me any time about that topic or anything else: as a parent governor, I want to help the governing board listen to families' views about how we can make the schools even better.

Final note

On behalf of the nursery staff, I would like to thank you all for your support and dedication to the children and the school. The help and support offered by our school community in both volunteering, funding raising, caring and thoughtfulness towards children and staff is amazing and we are proud to serve you all.

Staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Summer half term and we will look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 6th June for the final months of this academic year.

Best wishes to you all

Polly Jones

Head of School
Purley Nursery School

TERM DATES – 2022/23

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

Staff Training

Monday 5th June 2023

The term dates for 2023/2024 can be found on our website