



Achieving and growing together

Autumn 2 Newsletter 2023

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our school community for being so supportive of the school and staff throughout this Autumn Term. We received some wonderful words and gestures of support throughout both the Consultation period and when OFSTED came to inspect.

On the note of OFSTED.....

It is with great pleasure that I am now able to share with you all that **Purley Nursery School remains an OUTSTANDING school.**

The inspection itself was conducted over one day by two experienced Inspectors. They were very thorough and looked at many aspects of school life, including our Safeguarding procedures and practices; the Quality of Education, our curriculum development, teaching and learning in several key areas and how well pupils achieve; Behaviour and Attitudes, towards each other and towards learning; Personal Development, how well children and staff demonstrate our school values and have opportunities for enrichment based on their needs and interests; Leadership and Management, how well leaders including Governors run the school and support staff, children and families to feel valued.

The Final Report has not yet been published on the OFSTED website but will be available very soon. We look forward to sharing it with you and being able to share our success more widely.

On a personal note, I would like to thank and congratulate the whole school community for their contributions to this wonderful result. An outcome such as this is not purely based on the findings of just one day, it is the culmination of many weeks, months and years of hard work, commitment and dedication and it is very much a team effort in which everyone has played a part.

It has been a busy half term...

We have been learning and exploring about many festivals and celebrations held across the world. The children have explored the Hindu Festival of Diwali and made links with how fireworks and lights are used to celebrate Bonfire Night also.



Developing independence

The children have been working really hard to master putting on and zipping up their coats. As a next challenge, why not help your child to put their hats and gloves on by themselves.



As the winter weather draws in, please ensure that your child brings in a warm coat and outdoor accessories to nursery. Write your child's name or initials on all uniform, coats, hats, scarves and gloves. To help the children to look after their things independently, please help them to recognise their own clothes and show them where you have named or initialed them so that they can find their items easier. Letter recognition and awareness is a fantastic early literacy skill which we support and encourage at nursery. Once your child recognises their initials in their clothes, it can be a great spring-board for early reading and writing skills. Why not use the winter break to carry out this exciting activity at home.

Forest School

After Half term, visits to the Spinney resumed and children had the opportunity to engage in many creative enrichment experiences to support their learning such as making nature crowns and learning about insects. Children transitioning to Primary School this September will be prioritised for this opportunity and Staff will organise the groups of children based on learning next steps and interests. As always we need volunteers who can support Claire and the nursery team to facilitate these learning experiences for children.

If you can help on any on the dates below, please let us know:

- **Wednesday 17th January**
- **Wednesday 24th January**
- **Wednesday 31st January**
- **Wednesday 7th February**
- **Wednesday 28th February**
- **Wednesday 6th March**
- **Wednesday 13th March**
- **Wednesday 20th March**



Details of further exciting experiences, such as visits to the local library, cafe, barbers, train station, bus rides etc... will be shared with parents next half term so watch this space....

Home-School Library

We were excited to see the Home-School Library restart and wish to thank Farah, our Parent Volunteer, who has kindly offered to support this enrichment provision for children on Thursdays. The children love engaging with our wide variety of picture books and texts in play and it is fantastic that we can offer this opportunity for children. 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 or Farah in the home school library please let us know.

We encourage all children to join our Home-School Library and so all children will be given a plastic wallet for their book. However, if you would like to buy a Purley Nursery School Book Bag, these are available to purchase at the school office for £6.50.

Seesaw

Seesaw has been a great success this term and it is great to see children engaging and sharing their learning and experiences with nursery staff and their friends. If you have not downloaded Seesaw to access your child's journal and the activities set by Olivia and the team, please speak to a member of the nursery team or contact the school office.



Parent Workshops and Coffee mornings

This term we carried out a series of Coffee Mornings. We selected topics that we felt would be of particular benefit or interest to Parents and Carers in supporting children at nursery. However, these were not very well attended. Next term, I will be sending out a Google Form questionnaire to find out why and what we can do to make them more accessible to families before we offer more opportunities for parents to join us.

Parent and key worker conferences

Throughout October and November, Key workers completed Parent Conferences to discuss how well the children have settled and learn about new interests and activities they are involved in at home. Learning priorities have been identified and 'next steps' for children's learning have agreed together. Next steps are a good way to show the 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. Key workers will be reviewing these before Christmas and again before meeting with Parents and Carers at Easter.



Christmas Celebrations

Throughout December, the children have been learning and engaging in activities about the Christian festival of Christmas. Children have been busy creating Christmas tree decorations and cards for their families and enjoying a range of festive songs and stories with the nursery team. It was lovely to see so many families come to join us on our Stay and Play session on Friday 8th December to decorate the nursery and trees. Children were highly engaged and took great pride in sharing their decorations with their friends and nursery staff.



The children and nursery staff were also invited to wear a 'Christmas Jumper' and take part in this fund raising event for 'Save the Children'. I'm excited to share that we raised **£174.06!** Thank you to all that donated to this fantastic charity and cause.



In addition, thank you to everyone who donated items for Purely Food Hub. The cost of living crisis is affecting many families in our school and wider community. You can still make contributions so please consider donating if you can to support families and children in need this winter.

The last day for contributions will be Tuesday 19th December.

Post box

Our nursery post box is available in the main entrance for children to post Christmas cards to friends and staff in school. The **last posting date will be Monday 18th December**. Please ask your child which friends they would like to post a card to using the key-worker board at the drop off area.

Christmas Songs Celebrations - Monday 18th December

On Monday 18th December, children and staff will be sharing some of their favourite Christmas/winter themed songs that they have been learning with the Nursery staff and our music teacher Finn. All parents and carers have been invited to come and join us in song and to celebrate the learning achievements made this half term. We will be hosting a morning (10.30am) and an afternoon session (2.30pm) of Christmas Songs and invite all parents to stay for a hot drink and sweet treat before collection time.

We will be posting a video of the celebration and photos of the day on Seesaw so that all families can view and cherish the memories made over the school holiday.

End of Term Parties - Wednesday 20th 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 on **Wednesday 20th December**. 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 Maria or Olivia.

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. 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. Key workers will be adding to these with more learning and successes for you to share over the Christmas break.

Records of Achievements will be sent home with children at the end of term 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.



January 2024

Please note that we will **reopen** for children on **Monday 8th January 2024**.

Primary School Admissions

If your child was born between September 1st 2019 and 31 August 2020 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 2024.

Attendance

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

Please help us support the new families by setting good examples with prompt collection/ drop off times. Drop off 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 support transition times for our young and vulnerable pupils. During these winter months, we appreciate that getting ready to leave nursery may take a little time, especially if children have hats, gloves, scarves etc. We kindly ask that parents remain patient and understanding in this. 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 winter 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 make an appointment 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 Maria or Olivia.

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**.

Snack and Cooking

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!

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:

- Lining paper
- Wallpaper
- Kitchen towel rolls (No toilet rolls thank you)
- Wrapping paper
- Small see-through plastic pots

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.

Focus: Safeguarding online

Many children and families within our wider school community may receive new online devices over the Christmas period. We strongly advise that parent controls are set up on their devices before the children are allowed to use them. ***Safer Internet*** have lots of information for

parents about setting up parental controls. They also recommend having open and honest conversations with children about their online use.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/parental-controls>

Age restrictions of Social Media Apps

Please be mindful that social media apps are not appropriate for pupils under the age of 13. Below are the age restrictions for the most popular apps:

- What's App—16 years
- Instagram—13 years
- Facebook—13 years
- Snapchat—13 years
- TikTok—13 Years



What are the risk of children using social media apps?

- Many sites include an instant message function that allows private conversations between site members.
- Most social networking sites have an app version available, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet.
- Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are. Chatrooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated.
- Chatrooms and forums are some of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use a lot of sexual language and engage in online flirting. This is sometimes done through video chat programs.

Useful contacts:

- MASH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0208 726 6464 To report any safeguarding concerns. This can be done anonymously
- [Purley Food Hub](#): 07546 635295
- [Young Minds](#): supporting children and young people's mental health
- [Mind](#): adult mental health support and information

- [Refuge](#): domestic abuse support: 0208 200247
- [Saneline](#): Emotional Support: 07984 967 708 (leave name and number and someone will call you back)

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - if you're worried about someone, please act now.

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.

Maintained Nursery School Consultation

Please find below a letter from our Governors with an update on the Maintained Nursery School Consultation that took place during September and October.

CROYDON NURSERY SCHOOL CONSULTATION – UPDATE (POSITIVE NEWS!)

Message from Sally Marvin, Chair of Governors, Purley Partnership Federation

THANK YOU for the tremendous support we received from parents during Croydon Council's recent consultation on the future of the borough's five nursery schools. The Council received many more messages of support from Purley Nursery School parents than for any of the other nursery schools. Many of you wrote movingly about how much your children have benefited from Purley Nursery and its commitment to ensuring that every individual child can achieve their full potential. Some of the comments from families of children with special educational needs or who have faced exceptional challenges were truly heartwarming.

We also received great support from our local MP, Chris Philp, and from our local councilors (with special mention to Councillor Dwesar and Councillor Llabuti). They all supported us in making a powerful case for keeping Purley Nursery School open. Purley Nursery is the only school of its kind in the south of the borough; and the educational progress made by the children is exceptionally strong (as measured by national standards).

I am pleased to say that the Council has listened. It will now work with all the nursery schools to find positive ways forward which ensure their long-term sustainability.

We believe this is good news for Purley Nursery School. Of course, as the Council has not yet reached final decisions about the future of the five nursery schools, we cannot yet be entirely certain of the final outcome. However, we are financially stable and are putting in place a strategy to strengthen our finances further. We have no doubt we can find a way forward that enables Purley Nursery to continue providing children with an excellent start in life and education in a caring and supportive environment for many years to come.

Please continue to tell other parents of nursery-age children what Purley Nursery has to offer, and encourage them to visit the Nursery to see for themselves.

Once again, thank you so much for your support, which has made a huge difference. I wish you and your family a very blessed and joyful Christmas.

Sally

Final Note

Purley Nursery Staff would like to thank you again for all your support and dedication this Autumn Term. Staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas 2023 and we will look forward to welcoming in a new year in 2024.

Best wishes to you all

Maria Reeve

Head of School
Purley Nursery School



TERM DATES – 2023/24

Spring Term 2024

Spring 1 – Open Monday 8th January – Close Friday 9th February at normal time
Spring 2 – Open Monday 19th February – Close Thursday 28th March at normal time

Summer Term 2024

Summer 1 – Open Tuesday 16th April – Close Friday 24th May at normal time
Summer 2 – Open Tuesday 4th June – Close Wednesday 24th July at normal time

Please note:

Bank Holidays

Monday 6th May 2024
Monday 27th May 2024

Staff Training (subject to change)

Monday 15th April 2024
Monday 3th June 2024