

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

We hope these questions and answers will reassure you about your child starting school. We understand you may have other questions and are happy to answer them. Please get in touch with us at: [admin@purleyoaks.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@purleyoaks.croydon.sch.uk).

- [Can we come into school to help our child settle?](#)

Due to Covid-19 this year we held small welcome meetings for parents. They were greeted by the Reception team and our Headteacher. We showed them where the classrooms were, where the children could find their coat peg, the toilets and then around the classroom. This approach helps the children feel confident and comfortable when they start school and minimises the need for parents or carers to come into the classroom. The children benefitted from this and settled well.

- [How does the school know about my child from their nursery?](#)

As soon as we know which children will be attending our school, we contact their nurseries and hold detailed transition meetings. These help to inform us of how to plan for your child; it also enables us to start to form bonds before they begin school. We ask all nurseries to pass transition records to us so that we can read about your child's achievements and their next steps before they arrive at Purley Oaks.

- [How do I find out about how to read at home and use the school planner?](#)

We begin reading with the children as soon as we have finished the baseline and assessed their phonic knowledge. Phonics is taught each day, which ensures the children make rapid progress. Books are changed twice a week and we send home an information sheet for parents once we begin reading to explain how to use the school planner and reading books. There is a useful phonics video for parents and carers to explain how we teach phonics so this can be mirrored at home. We write comments in the planners to help you support your child at home.

- [Can I view my child's work?](#)

We continue to use paper journals so that the children can view their journals and take pride in their learning. We encourage parents to be involved in their child's learning. This year we have allowed parents to view their child's journal once every 3 weeks. Parents and carers can still see the progress their child is making and the next steps we have set for them. Parent meetings are now virtual, but we still believe it is important to inform you of ongoing successes and next steps and will answer any questions you have about your child's learning.

- [Will they need a P.E. kit straight away?](#)

The children will be settling into school and learning the routine for the first few weeks. We recommend that you have the PE kit by the time the children are full time at school. Children should wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE. Blue jogging bottoms can also be worn in winter. Please ensure all items are named. We also advise you to keep a spare set of underwear and socks in their book bag in case of accidents.

- [Will my child get a book bag?](#)

We give every child that joins Purley Oaks a free book bag. Your child will be given a named school book bag in their first week. We ask you not to change these to your own bags as ours fit nicely in their classroom trays.

- **Can my child wear any coat?**  
 School uniform is compulsory and is explained in the admissions information pack. However, coats can be your choice but they need to be waterproof with a hood as we spend a lot of time outside. Please ensure your child can do the zip or buttons before they attend school.
- **Can we bring snacks to school?**  
 We provide daily fruit for our children so this is not necessary. They will also receive milk if they are under 5. Please ensure you have filled out the milk form. If you do not want milk, you may bring a bottle with water, not juice.
- **Can my child have a packed lunch?**  
 We encourage all our children in reception to have a school dinner; this gives them the opportunity to try a range of foods and builds their skills using cutlery and eating together. The menu is always available for parents and carers. Please talk to your child about which food they may like to have each day. The staff will help children settle into the routine of the dinner hall as they begin to stay for lunch.
- **Who do I talk to if I have concerns about my child?**  
 Your class teacher is always the first person that you should talk to about any concerns. We are happy to talk with you but this may need to be after school as morning time can be quite busy. We are always around to answer questions and happy to give advice.
- **How do I find out about upcoming topics and dates?**  
 Always read your emails and look at our school app, Weduc. Our noticeboard in the playground contains information about the topics.
- **Do the children have to go outside?**  
 Yes. It is part of the EYFS curriculum to spend time learning outside with many rich experiences. We spend parts of our day learning in our well-resourced outdoor classroom. All children must have a coat and wear sensible school shoes.
- **What happens with breakfast and after school club?**  
 The member of staff from breakfast club will take children to their class and the children are given help to settle. Any messages from home will be passed on. After school club collect children from the classroom and we will pass on any messages through them.
- **How will I get to know other parents?**  
 We have a fantastic PTA at school – The Friends of Purley Oaks. They have a Facebook page and hold events such as mufti days and Christmas card designing. Getting involved with them helps parents and carers meet other parents and carers. It benefits the children because they raise funds for the school and The Friends of Purley Oaks have purchased instruments, new laptops, eBooks and bikes.