

## Frequently Asked Questions

We hope these questions and answers will reassure you about your child starting school. Please get in touch with us if you have any other questions: [admin@purleyoaks.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@purleyoaks.croydon.sch.uk).

### ***Can we come into school to help our child settle?***

Yes, you can come in to the classroom briefly on the first few days and show your child where their coat peg is and help them to settle them in.

### ***How does the school know about my child from their nursery?***

We contact your child's nursery and hold detailed transition meetings. These help us get to know your child and enables us to start forming bonds. We ask all nurseries to send us their records so that we can read about your child's achievements and their next steps.

### ***How do I find out about how to read at home and use the school planner?***

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

### ***Can I view my child's work?***

We continue to use paper journals so that your child can view their journal and take pride in their learning. We encourage you to view your child's journal once every 3 weeks, which allows you to see the progress your child is making and the next steps we have set for them.

### ***Will they need a P.E. kit straight away?***

Your child will be settling into school and learning the routine for the first few days. We recommend that you have the PE kit by the time the children are full time. Please ensure all items are named. We also advise you to keep a spare set of underwear and socks in their book bags in case of accidents.

### ***Will my child get a 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?***

Coats can be any colour, 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 start school.

### ***Can we bring snacks to school?***

On a daily basis we provide fruit so this is not necessary. Your child will also receive free milk if they are under 5. If you do not want milk, you may bring a bottle with water, not juice.

### ***Can my child have a packed lunch?***

We would like you to encourage your child to have a school dinner. This gives them the opportunity to try a range of foods. You will find a sample menu in this information pack. Please talk to your child about which food they may like to have each day. Our staff will help your child 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 called Weduc. Our noticeboard in the playground also 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. Your child must have a coat and wear sensible school shoes.

### ***What happens with breakfast and after school club?***

Our breakfast club staff will take your child to their class and help them to settle. Any messages from home will be passed on. Holiplay, our afterschool club provider, collect your child 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 – 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 and also benefits your child because they raise funds for the school. Previous fundraising efforts have enabled them to purchase instruments, new laptops, eBooks and bikes.