

## Nursery Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

A note from Mrs Cunningham

Dear Acorn Parents and Carers,

What a busy month September has been for CPS! Our swimming pool build is well under way and due to complete this Spring. Our CPSPA are already planning numerous events for parents, families and for our children throughout the year - what a great team they are!

We are constantly updating our website and this is a great 'go to place' for school information and dates. Please also refer to our CPS weekly newsletters as these contain a lot of useful information for you too.

Of course, we are incredibly proud that Acorns Nursery has now been open for a month and a lot has happened in that time! We have welcomed 33 new children - all have settled incredibly well. I have treasured the time I have already spent in the Nursery getting to know our youngest pupils and I look forward to watching your children thrive as they progress through our school. These children already feel very special to us. Our older children have returned to CPS and have settled well into new routines and year group expectations; they too have all enjoyed seeing the nursery children at play.

Our nursery team worked enthusiastically, shared best practice and completely rearranged the setting ready for Monday morning in response to their observations of the children and their interactions with different learning zones. The weather however has been unusually wet and this week we faced the challenge of flooding both in the Red Acorns Room, the Nursery Foyer and across the school site. The floors were completely flooded and many items soaked through and water damaged. It was disheartening for us all to see, yet the team worked collaboratively to ensure the site was ready for the children to learn through high quality learning opportunities despite this. It is not ideal as we temporarily cannot use this room. Again, the team have been proactive; we have looked to increase outdoor learning opportunities, Mini Woodies, and have tweaked timetables to ensure learning opportunities are not hindered and that those who need a nap can still do so.



Surrey came out last week and put down sand bags and again on Wednesday to assess the damage, look for solutions and to deliver dehumidifiers. Their suggested plan is to add an additional drainage gully and they have agreed this is urgent - how quickly this work will be undertaken however is yet to be seen.

There have been some changes in staffing but our commitment to high quality staff is no less important to us for our Nursery children than for the rest of CPS. The governors, Miss Dias and I are committed to ensuring nursery provision is as strong as in Reception.

We currently have one temporary supply staff member and have an advert out for an experienced nursery assistant. Miss Maggie, Mrs Evans and Mrs Osbourne remain a constant along with Miss Dias.

We are aware some children are getting the wrong book bag. In Reception, some children attach a small keyring to their bag to make them easily identifiable to both staff and children.

We are committed to working closely with you and welcome feedback. I have received a lot of supportive communications regarding our new reports, early parents evening, how well the children have settled and are enjoying learning opportunities (especially Mini-Woodies), and our quick response to staffing changes.

Again, we feel so privileged to be sharing this journey with you. Your support means a lot to us.

Kind Regards,

*Mrs Sandra Cunningham*

Head Teacher



This week we have been learning about our body. The children enjoyed listening to the story 'Ten little fingers and ten little toes' and we played games to develop body awareness such as Simon Says, Move like me and Right or Left.

In Mini-Woodies the children enjoyed playing hide and seek while keeping themselves safe and learning to answer when called by the teacher.

### **Red Acorns**

During chatterbox time the children learned about body parts such as head, hands, feet, fingers, toes, arms and legs.

During our Nursery Rhyme time the children enjoyed singing 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' as well as some of their favourite nursery rhymes.

### **Blue Acorns**

During phonics we focused on developing our listening skills. We played different games to support children listening such as making a sound and naming the object. We also guessed farm animals by listening to clues about each animal. Our favourite game was performing our own musical show to our friends and teachers and talking about what we liked about our friend's shows.

In maths, the children have been learning about shapes. They went on a shape hunt around the classroom, enjoyed matching and sorting shapes, printed shapes on paper and built a house out of shapes. They also learnt a shape house song!

#### **This week's Makaton sign is:**

Home



#### **This week's song:**

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes





## NOTICES:

**All About Me Forms** – Please fill in the forms and bring them to nursery. We will stick the forms in to your child's Learning Journal.

**Waterproofs and wellies** – Each child should have their own waterproof overalls (all-in-one) and wellies labelled to access play outside in all weather conditions.

**Spare clothes** – Each child should have their own set of spare clothes (top, bottom, underwear and socks) labelled in the nursery. Please label all clothes and shoes.

**Class Dojo** – Please sign up for Class Dojo to receive daily photos and learning observations for your child.

**Water bottles** – Please ensure that your child has a labelled water bottle every day in nursery.

**Packed Lunches** – Please be aware that we are nut and sesame free school due to allergies. Please do not send any products containing sesame or nuts in your child's packed lunch. Just a reminder that we are a healthy school and chocolate is not allowed.

**Nursery WhatsApp group for parents** – If you are not on the parents group please ask a member of the nursery team to pass you the reps details.

**Instagram Account** – Claygate Primary School has a dedicated Instagram account for EYFS. Please follow us and see what our EYFS children are learning.  
@claygate\_primary\_school\_eyfs

**Illness** – If your child has any of the three Covid-19 symptoms (persistent cough, high temperature or loss of smell or taste) they need to self-isolate for 10 days or return to school with a negative test result (send a copy of the result to the office).

We thank you, as always, for your continuing support.  
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

EYFS Leader – Miss Dias

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