

## EYFS Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Please do read the CPS Newsletter too! We began our week by celebrating Mother's Day with a tea party. The children sang a mother's day song beautifully and offered a flower to their mums (or significant grown up) before we had a lovely picnic. They certainly enjoyed preparing sandwiches and baking for the event and also enjoyed decorating biscuits!

We ended our topic and our learning about dinosaurs. The children loved listening to their favourite dinosaur stories and learning some dinosaur names (although some children already knew so many!).

During child-initiated activities, the children enjoyed exploring dinosaurs' habitats, painting dinosaurs, creating dinosaurs from shapes, playdough and junk modelling.

We listened to an Easter story and talked about how Christians celebrate Easter. The children also enjoyed taking part in an Easter Hunt.

### Nursery

In Phonics, we finished our unit on voice sounds. The children explored using their high voices and low voices and making long and short sounds. They enjoyed playing our 'make your voice go...' game. For example, make your voice go down a slide... wheeeee! Make your voice bounce like a ball...Boing! Boing!

In Mathematics, we continued developing number patterns skills and using familiar shapes to create animals and dinosaurs.

In Mini-Woodies, the children explored and discussed signs of Spring such as listening to the sounds of birds, looking out for new shoots, buds and flowers, insects and discussed longer days and later sunsets.

### Reception

In Phonics, the children completed their Spring 2 assessment on Phase 3 phonemes and tricky words. We continue to encourage the children to read and write independently during child-initiated activities.

In Mathematics, the children consolidated their learning on finding the total and learning how to read number sentences. They used concrete resources to add two groups and to count them altogether.

In Mini-Woodies, Reception utilised natural resources to make their own animals using their own creative ideas. The children described the key features of their animals to each other. This activity helped the children to build their confidence when speaking to a group and to think outside the box for their creative ideas.

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

Poorly/ill



**Reception Exciting Words of the Week:**

- Forgiveness
- Extinct
- Landscape
- Portrait
- Relax

**Reception Number focus:**

17

**Nursery Weekly Song:**

Ten little dinosaurs

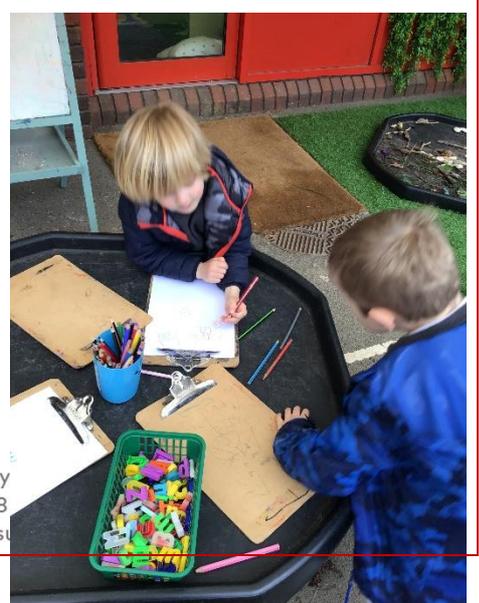
**Nursery Practise at Home:**

- Next term we will be learning about the natural environment, growing plants and life cycles. During the holidays we challenge your child to go on a nature walk to spot trees, plants and flowers.
- You can also support your child's learning by reading different stories such as Jaspers Beanstalk, The Very Hungry Caterpillar or The Tiny Seed.

**Reception Practise at Home:**

- Next term we will be learning about the natural environment, growing plants and life cycles. We challenge your child to visit a garden centre to look at different plants and flowers. What else can you buy in the garden centre?
- Practise phase 2 and 3 tricky words.
- Complete DoodleMaths.







## Meet our EYFS staff team:

### Sandra Cunningham

My career spans over 3 decades! In this time I have had the privilege to teach in 2 small RC schools in Newcastle before I moved to Surrey almost 30 years ago and subsequently worked in all age ranges in Infant, Junior and Primary schools; all of which gave me a solid understanding of a child's learning journey. After enjoying headship in a Banstead school, I joined Claygate in 2018. I am now excited to see our school grow and the opportunity Acorns gives us to get to know our children even earlier!



### Luisa Dias

My career began in Portugal where I worked with children from 0 to 5 before moving to the UK. I have 18 years experience working in day nurseries as well as in a school environment which gives me a sound knowledge of child development. I have been the EYFS lead at Claygate Primary School since September 2020. I love teaching in EYFS and I am passionate about learning through play.

### Daisy Spalton-Woods

I began my teaching career at CPS and enjoyed working with children in their early stages of learning as a Year 1 class teacher. I requested a move to Reception and have loved the opportunity to develop our EYFS provision, working with Miss Dias and the team. I have particularly liked being able to develop our outdoor classroom and mini woodies, creating exciting learning opportunities for our children. This year I have been very much involved in the expansion of our EYFS to include Acorns Nursery. I love teaching at Claygate Primary School and I feel really lucky to work with such an amazing team.





### **Sarah Tamimi**

Although my career began in engineering, my teaching career began in 2018 and I joined Claygate Primary School in 2019 where I taught Year 3. In January this year, I joined the Acorns Nursery team and I am enjoying getting to know more about the new EYFS Framework and creating learning opportunities through continuous provision and seizing opportunities to learn in the moment.

### **Charlotte Omar**

I began working with children in 2005 at a lovely day nursery, and quickly realised how passionate I was about childrens' learning and development. During my break to raise my own family, I led a weekly local church playgroup for 0 to 5 year olds before joining the Claygate Primary family in 2016. Here, I have enjoyed working within all year groups from Reception all the way up to Year 6, gaining lots of knowledge along the way.



### **Petra Brewer**



I began my working career in business as a marketing manager for a range of high profile food/electrical businesses. After 15 years, I decided to take a short break to raise my children. This break enabled me to volunteer at CPS and soon develop my love of teaching. I have now been at CPS for over 7 years specialising in EYFS, Key stage 1 and leading Outdoor Learning. I love what Mini-Woodies offers our children and seeing their delight in learning outdoors!

### Miss Jones

As a qualified Nursery Assistant, I did decide to train to be a teacher, but then realised I particularly enjoy working with preschool children. I am so pleased to be a permanent member of the Nursery Team.

I love playing alongside the children and sharing in their play, taking them on the next steps of their learning journey.



### Miss Hobbs

My childcare career started five years ago where I worked in a private nursery. I currently work for an agency and have experienced a range of settings but I love Acorns Nursery - I am enjoying working with a wonderful team and children.

### Miss Nisa

I am qualified teacher and have been working as a Nursery Assistant in the UK since September. It is interesting to get to see the English education system especially from the early years. Although I work for an agency, I am enjoying working at Acorns Nursery and raising my family.



### Bahia Bekri

I am an experienced, qualified Nursery Assistant. I have worked as an EYFS practitioner, Teaching Assistant and Nanny since 2006. I joined CPS in January and love the opportunity to work with both Year 1 children and Acorns each day.

**NOTICES:**

**Sun Cream** - As the weather gets warmer please apply sun cream to your child before they come to school and send your child with a cap/hat as they spend a lot of time learning outdoors.

**April Parent Consultations** – If your child has their birthday on April or October the class teacher will contact parents near the time to book a parent consultation slot. The meeting will be on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Books of Interest** – We will collect your child's book of interest this week as the children will begin to request books from the school library after Easter.

**Waterproofs/Wellies** – We will send your child's waterproofs and wellies to be washed over the holidays. If you wish to swap your child's waterproof for a summer one please do. We continue to encourage children to wear their waterproofs when playing outside in the mud and water, in all weather conditions, removing jumpers if needed.

**Gardening Donations** – Next term we will be learning about the environment, growing and life cycles. We accept donations of watering cans, seeds, artificial flowers, flower pots, compost, children's gardening tools etc. Thank you

**Dolls' Clothes** – If you have spare dolls' clothes (or newborn baby clothes) we appreciate your donation. Thank you.

**Water bottles** – Please ensure that your child has a water bottle every day in school. Please support us in teaching your child to understand when they need to drink water and to be independent with their self-care.

**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

**Parent communication** – Please remember if you have any questions or concerns you should first contact your child's class teacher followed by the EYFS leader. We are happy to discuss any questions that may arise regarding your child's learning.

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

Acorns Nursery – Mrs Tamimi  
Holly Class – Miss Spalton-Woods  
Willow Class and EYFS Leader – Miss Dias

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