



SURBITON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER 2026



WELCOME

Hello to all families and may we extend a very warm welcome to your child and family from all of us at Surbiton Hill Nursery. We are really excited to be starting this new year together with your whole family and watching your child as they grow and progress over this year.

Starting nursery is a big step and I know that you will have lots of questions, and possibly some worries too. I do hope that the home visit, Stay and Plays and conversations with staff have supported you. I am starting to get to know many of you and have enjoyed saying hello at drop off or pick up. I have also loved meeting your fantastic children who have started to settle into their class. We have been so pleased that many of the children are already so confident, making friends and playing so purposefully so early on in the new term.

This is our first newsletter of this academic year. Our newsletters will be sent home at the start of each term. They will hopefully keep you informed of events that are happening in the nursery and provide you with information about other activities that might interest you. Each newsletter will include a list of forthcoming dates. We will also remind you of key dates (for example, school closures). The newsletter will be sent via Tapestry and can be viewed on our website. Paper copies will be made available in the nursery if you prefer.





We have a school website <https://surbitonhillnursery.com> and this will also provide you with additional information about our school such as reporting absences, holidays, policies, etc.

For all absence, please call the office on 020 8390 2555 or email office@shn.kingston.sch.uk

We will shortly be offering you an appointment to meet with your child's Teacher. This will be an opportunity to talk about how your child has settled and to find out about the work that we do as a school to help progress your child's learning in nursery. We are interested to know how your child is progressing at home and the consultations give you an opportunity to ask questions and work with us in partnership. I do hope that you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

We welcome Emma Dowsett to the team as our new Senco. She will be covering whilst Hannah Tayler is on maternity leave.

Lastly, I would like to say that I hope you and your child will enjoy your time with us. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Jacqui.

Best wishes

Esther and Jacqui



Our Curriculum and Outdoor Learning

We have developed our curriculum to create a highly ambitious, broad and inclusive curriculum.

We use a seasonal approach to learning, exploring the world around us to learn and develop the children's knowledge. We do this through our environment, both inside and outside, using authentic resources and providing a range of experiences to develop the children's understanding and encouraging curiosity in new ideas. We are now an accredited Natural Thinkers setting. Natural Thinkers is a programme that supports our teachers and practitioners in connecting children with nature and enables us to bring all aspects of the curriculum outside with accessible activities.

Our school follows approaches from Scandinavian countries, such as Sweden, to introduce nature to children. This term the children will be looking at the changing season of Autumn into Winter. Once the children are more settled, we will be taking small groups to Fishponds to learn about our local area. We welcome help from parents as volunteers. Please contact Jacqui if you are interested in helping.

If your child would like to bring in any items they have found linking to Autumn, such as pine cones and conkers, that would be much appreciated.



Appropriate Clothing

The nursery is a workshop environment where we all get dirty. We are encouraging children to become independent in their self-help skills. All the materials we use are described as 'washable', but we do find that some colours come out of clothing more easily than others! The garden continues to be an important part of our learning environment and we plan opportunities inside and out throughout the winter months. Please could you dress your child in practical, warm and waterproof clothing so they can enjoy these activities.

Children are encouraged to look after their personal belongings, but clothes they take off are easily mislaid. Therefore, please name all clothes, especially hats, coats, scarves, sweatshirts, etc. We put any unnamed items that we find in the lost property basket by the office



*“Every child, Every
chance, Every day!”*

SURBITON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

Curriculum Overview

At SHNS our curriculum is accessible for all
of our children.
The same goal, different pathways

1

**To become a confident
learner - PSED**

**To understand others
and be understood - C&L**

2

3

**To move with purpose
while managing risks - PD**

**To enjoy stories and
rhymes - Literacy**

4

5

**To be a mathematical
problem solver - Maths**

**To explore and look after my
world and the people in it -
UTW**

6

7

**To create an emotional
response through my
senses - EAD**

**To become resilient and
persevere even when things are
hard**

8

EVERY CHILD WILL MAKE PROGRESS
AND BECOME CURIOUS AND
PURPOSEFUL LEARNERS.

EVERY CHILD WILL ENJOY A RICH
AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT,
WHERE ALL CHILDREN AND ALL
FAMILIES FEEL INCLUDED, SECURE
AND VALUED.

WE RECOGNISE THAT PLAY IS THE
MOST POWERFUL MEDIUM FOR
LEARNING IN THE EARLY YEARS AND
TO PROVIDE RICH AND STIMULATING
FIRST HAND EXPERIENCES.

EVERY CHILD WILL BE CELEBRATED
AND OUR CURRICULUM WILL BUILD ON
WHAT CHILDREN ALREADY KNOW AND
CAN DO.

EVERY CHILD WILL BE ENCOURAGED
TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
AND DISPOSITION TO LEARN.

WE AIM TO ESTABLISH TRUSTING
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STAFF,
PARENTS AND CARERS TO DEVELOP
THE CHILD'S FULL POTENTIAL.

Timings

Breakfast club starts at 7.45am and drop off is at Gate B.

Morning and full day sessions start at 8.45am and drop offs are at the appropriate class gates. The gates will be closed at 9am so the teachers can focus on the session. Any arrivals after 9am must come to the office and enter the class through reception (with the exception of Green class who continue to enter through Green class gate).

Morning sessions end at 11.45am, full day sessions end at 2.45pm and afternoon sessions (for Supported Places, Green class and end of week/beginning of week pattern children) end at 3.45pm.

The last pick up time for after school club is 5.45pm.

Please arrive on time for pick up. If you need to pick up your child early, please let the office know in advance so we can prepare the children.

Arriving and picking up on time minimises disruption for the children and the school day.

Please be aware that we have a new security system on our main gate. Please press the green buzzer on the intercom panel to the left of the gate to contact the office and wait there so the office can see you and speak to you before they release the gate. The office is manned between 8.30am and 4.30pm. If you get no response, please call 020 8390 2555.

For breakfast drop off and after school club pick up, please use the doorbell to the right of the intercom panel.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Research shows that children with high attendance in nursery start primary school with better learning outcomes and high levels of school readiness.

Encouraging regular attendance provides structure and simple routines that help children's development.

Bring your child to nursery on time every session.

Good attendance and punctuality establishes good habits from the start.

Children settle more quickly into new settings and routines when arriving on time.

Please let the office team know if your child is going to be absent for any reason.

All attendance is recorded and monitored and we will contact families for any unexpected absences.

PARKING

Parking around the school is limited. The car parking area in Alpha Road has permits in place between 11am and 2pm every day. Middle Green Close is for residents parking only and there are regular parking attendants who check. As a matter of courtesy to our neighbours, may I remind you not to park in residents parking bays, or to block residents' cars when bringing or collecting children.

We are a "no idling" area and ask for all engines to be switched off when stationary.

MOBILE PHONES



When in the school grounds, please do not use your mobile phone.

Food and drink

Please bring a named water bottle daily. Water only please, no juice.

For snack time, please bring fruit (whole) or snacks, like crackers or breadsticks (whole packets only please due to allergies - we need to see the ingredient lists).

We are a nut aware school - please do not bring nuts.

Please ensure snacks are not eaten on site at pick up and drop off or left in your child's bag.

The lunch and tea menus are listed on our website.

Toileting

We remind children to use the toilet throughout their session. However, accidents still do happen as the children get engaged in many exciting activities and may leave it too late. This is not a problem for us and you do not need to worry if your child has accidents.

If this is recurrent for your child, your teacher will discuss with you ways that we can manage this together.

The ERIC website is very useful for tips and ideas on toileting, toilet training and all things toilet related.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 7 th October	Photographer in school Individual photos
Saturday 10 th October	Big Bulb Plant 10- 11.30am All welcome
Week commencing 19 th October	Parent Consultations
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October	Half Term (School open for children on an Year Round contract only)
Monday 2nd November	All children return



The Senior Leadership Team are currently looking at family social event opportunities and these will be communicated in due course.

TAPESTRY

Some of you have asked "How do we know what they have been doing all day?"

Very young children often can't remember all of the exciting things they have done each day as they have done so much!

We will be sharing our observations and photographs via Tapestry.

Please add your own photos too - the children love to share these with adults and their friends.

We also use Tapestry as a general communication tool about events happening at the nursery.

If you have not yet done so, please activate your account and speak to the office if you have any queries.