



Welcome to Early Years Foundation Stage

A vibrant school inspiring children to realise their potential

We would like to offer you a warm welcome to Bushey Heath Primary School Early Years Foundation Stage. As Early Years practitioners we understand this is a very important change in yours and your child's life and we strive to make this an exciting and happy time.

We are a dedicated and committed team who aim to work in close partnership with parents/ carers to ensure all children accessing our provision have a safe and happy time.

We recognise the importance of Early Years education in supporting children to develop and progress, both now and throughout their educational lives. Through play-based learning and adult supported activities we endeavour to provide each child with a range of opportunities which stimulate their creativity and support their development.



Respect, Encourage and Achieve

Meet the Nursery Team

Mrs Sutherland
Early Years Leader

Mrs Sooben
Class Teacher

Mrs Rattley
Learning Support Assistant



"Staff in the early years constantly expose children to high quality language. Children then confidently use this language themselves. The activities the school chooses for children to complete help them to learn well across all areas of the curriculum. Of particular note is the way children build their concentration and perseverance by sticking with activities that challenge them. This prepares children very well for key stage 1".

Ofsted Inspection Report 2024

Nursery Hours

The Nursery hours are:

8.45 am to 11.45 am (morning session)

8.45 am-3.00 pm (all day session)

12.00 pm-3.00 pm (afternoon session)

Parents and carers should bring their children into the Nursery via the main school gate before the start of the session. At the end of the session, parents and carers must enter and exit via the side gate where their child will be brought by an adult to the bottom of the Nursery ramp.

Different Collection Arrangements

Please inform the office by telephone or email if someone else is collecting your child. We will only release your child to another adult with your prior permission. Alternatively if for any reason you are delayed or plans change please telephone the office. May we remind you the Nursery staff have jobs to do after the session, so prompt collection is important.



Communication with Teachers

The teaching staff are always available for quick messages at the beginning of the day and the end of the sessions.

However, please be aware that their main focus at this time is to ensure the children arrive and leave safely. Please make an appointment with your child's teacher if you have something you wish to discuss at length.

If you do not bring your child to Nursery but would like to arrange a time to chat to your child's teacher, please telephone or email the school office.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

At first glance, it can appear that the children are 'only playing' whilst in the Foundation Stage. However, the best Early Years education is based on the understanding that whilst children are playing, they are learning.

During the day there will be a mixture of adult initiated, child initiated and adult-led activities as well as whole class, small group and individual activities.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is based on seven areas of learning. These areas are then split into two groups, prime areas of learning and specific areas of learning. The prime areas are fundamental and work together to support the specific areas of learning. The specific areas of learning include essential skills and knowledge that will be taught throughout their schooling.

Prime:

Communication and Language
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Physical Development

Specific:

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the world
Expressive Arts and Design

Each learning area has a number of stages called 'Development Matters' which children work through; with the Early Learning Goals being the end of year assessment in Reception. Development Matters recognise the 'age band' your child is working at. It is expected your child is working at 'three and four year olds'.

The Seven Areas of Learning at a Glance

1 Communication and Language

The development of communication and language is the heart of young children's learning. Throughout their early years education, children are encouraged to develop effective communication, express their needs and feelings and interact with others effectively. Listening is also a key area, where the children will follow instructions and listen to stories and show understanding.

2 Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of development is vital at the foundation stage as it promotes the growth of personal values, self esteem and an understanding of themselves and others. It supports learning about emotional well-being, encouraging children to learn to value themselves and others through developing appropriate ways to express ideas and feelings. This will encourage the children to build positive relationships and be confident and motivated to learn.

3 Physical Development

This area includes fine motor skills as well as gross motor control and helps the children to understand the importance of good health and an active life. Through PE sessions and outdoor play, children are encouraged to develop their gross motor skills which include physical control and co-ordination, mobility, awareness of space and how to use equipment. Fine motor skills are developed through the use of malleable materials, puzzles and a range of mark making tools, to strengthen hand muscles and prepare children for learning to write. Children are also given free choice to use the outside area daily and this allows them to develop their muscles and a sense of balance.

4 Literacy

Children are encouraged to hear and explore sounds through activities which will encourage them to develop their reading skills. Listening to stories and sharing favourite books is also an important part of early reading. These opportunities teach the children to handle books correctly and develop early reading skills through talking about pictures and retelling stories from memory. A library book will be brought home each week to share with the family. Library books are changed on a Monday morning.

5 Maths

This area is addressed through practical activities. In number activities children will learn to recognise, count, use pattern making and sequencing, make comparisons, sort and match and order by size. The children will become familiar with the language of mathematics, using more, less, shorter or taller in every day situations.

6 Understanding the World

In this area of learning, children are developing the knowledge, skills and understanding to help them make sense of the world. This forms the foundation for later work in science, history, geography, design technology and computing.

7 Expressive Arts and Design

In this area children are encouraged to use their imagination and senses through Art, Design and Music in order to express themselves creatively. Activities are planned which allow children to use a variety of tools, textures and media as well as exploring music and movement. The creative area is accessible to all children where they can choose their own resources and materials.

Assessment

Throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage your child will have goals & objectives to meet. The progress your child makes throughout the EYFS will be carefully tracked and measured against the baseline assessments which are individually conducted for each child on entry to Nursery. Throughout EYFS, regular assessments will be completed to build up a picture of your child's progress.

- Baseline Assessments
- Observations
- Phonic Assessments
- Literacy Activities
- Maths Activities

Your child will be continually assessed through observations and daily group work, this is called 'Assessment in Real Time' and helps support the teacher's planning so lessons delivered meet the needs of your child.

The adults working in the Early Years Foundation Stage use a combination of observational information and assessment to conclude what age boundaries your child is working at. The 'Development Matters' documentation describes what your child should be able to accomplish at each age stage. These guidelines are used to make judgements about what age your child is working at throughout the year.

At the end of the school year your child will be judged against the progress they have made towards 'securing' the objectives within the 'three and four year olds' age band in each area of learning. You will receive your child's report in July.

Helping your child at home

A child's home and family life is of immense importance to them and much of their early learning takes place at home. Talking with your child, reading to them and playing with them are all valuable experiences.

If there is a younger brother or sister, that few minutes every day with just mum or dad's undivided attention can be immensely important for a child.

If you wish to teach your child to write his/ her name we would ask that you use lower case letters except for the initial capital letter. Encouraging your child to listen to sounds, both in the environment and by discussing the sound of the week (which we start after Christmas) will assist them in their phonic knowledge in preparation for reading.

The Nursery Classroom

The Nursery setting is arranged into seven areas of learning. Toys and equipment are all within the child's reach, so that they may help themselves. This promotes decision making and independence.

The interactive whiteboard is a favourite activity and the children may use it at any time, choosing from a range of software and thus building up a mathematical sense and promoting hand/ eye co-ordination as well as using technology to explore and support learning .

The creative area is very popular. Here children can enjoy choosing their own resources and creating freely. Model making with junk materials forms a sound basis for the design and technology which follows later on.

We have a variety of boxed games and puzzles which are used to help the children understand turn taking, winning and losing, following simple rules as well as assisting in mathematics and language.

In the writing area 'tools of the trade' such as pens, pencils, crayons, whiteboards, chalk and scissors are always accessible to increase fine motor skills and encourage drawing and emergent writing. We aim to have a preferred hand and a good tripod grip by the end of the year. We also have a designated reading area for reading for pleasure.

The role play area, stage and dressing up clothes promote imagination, a very important part in a child's development and an understanding of the complex adult world. Social interaction plays a vital part, language is encouraged to flow freely and basic mathematics, such as sorting and matching, thrives in the home corner.

Handling materials, such as clay or play dough, are essential in the Early Years curriculum. Young children need to explore for themselves, finding out how these substances behave. We have three weekly sessions of 'Dough Disco' to help strengthen our fingers, readily for writing.

Our outside area, 'learning garden' is an extension of the continuous provision in bringing our classroom outside and will also incorporate physical play – climbing, cycling, balance, ball skills as well as an area to explore nature. There are minibeasts to be found and observed and herbs growing, to use in the mud kitchen. We have a large construction area as well as sand and water play. We also spend time in the chicken garden with a pond to explore.

We strive to encourage the children to use all of the Nursery activities to provide an all round pre school education.

Nursery Routine

The morning session follows the same basic routine, which nevertheless allows for flexibility and extra activities:

AM

- Welcome and register
 - Days of the week song followed by dough or pen disco
 - Child Initiated Learning—(indoor and outdoor)/ interventions to give extra support in different areas/ adult led activities (phonics and maths)
 - Snack time
 - Tidy up
 - Literacy - strong focus on our class book, counting songs (Magic 10)
 - Lunch
 - Songs and home
-

PM

- Welcome and register
- CIL (in and out)/ interventions/ adult led activities
- Tidy up
- Songs and stories
- Home

Experience shows using a routine helps the children to feel secure, to know what comes next, that home time comes after story time and also gives them a concept about the passage of time.

School Uniform

Nursery life can be very messy! We encourage the children to be very hands on in all the activities inside and out. Therefore, to save their clothes being ruined the Nursery uniform is:

- Black tracksuit bottoms/ leggings
- White polo shirt
- Maroon/ grey jumper
- Sensible footwear the children can take off and on by themselves (sandals, crocs and laces are not permitted)
- Water bottle – named please

In the summer please provide the children with a sunhat and ensure sun cream is applied at home.

Please ensure all clothing, shoes and water bottles are labelled at all times.

Google Classroom and X (Twitter)

Every class has its own Google Classroom account. The teacher will share what the children will be focusing on that week with you, so that you can support your child at home with extra learning. Please share any of this on the account and also any other things your child is interested in or would like to share with their peers e.g. a photo of their growing beanstalk.

We have our own X (Twitter) page, please follow us to see photos of your children engaging in activities in the nursery. This will give you an insight into what they have been doing so that you can talk about it with them after school.

[Nursery X \(Twitter\)](#)

[Bushey Heath X \(Twitter\)](#)

Parent/ Carer Consultations

Formal Parent 1:1 consultations will be held twice throughout the year.



Toys

Please discourage your child from bringing in toys from home (unless specifically requested to do so) as they remain in the going home box for the session and quite often we end up with several unclaimed items. An exception to this might be if a child was finding it difficult to settle at Nursery and needed a link from home as a comfort.

Topics

The children will follow different topics based on books throughout the term. By careful planning the topic will bring in each important area of the curriculum. Outside visitors will enhance this occasionally. A memo on Google Classroom will inform you of what we are covering each week.

Outside Play

There is always a member of staff on duty during outside learning/ play.

Hygiene

Please impress upon your child the importance of flushing the toilet and washing their hands with soap for 20 seconds. This basic training in personal hygiene prevents the spread of viruses, tummy bugs etc. as well as increasing the child's independence.

Head Lice

We do occasionally have cases of head lice in the school: Please check your child's head weekly. If you require further information the staff will be happy to assist.

Spare Clothes

Please can all children bring a drawstring bag with a spare set of clothes, socks and shoes. Even if your child is not prone to accidents, on rainy days and with water play, they can still need to change occasionally, please name the bag. School PE bags are available to purchase at DJ Uniforms in Bushey if you don't already have one.

Please also provide us with a pair of named wellies for outside play, that we will keep in the nursery.

Nappies/ Pull-Ups

We encourage your child to be toilet-trained, but if they are not quite there yet or there is a medical need, please provide supplies of nappies/ pull-ups/ wipes/ nappy bags. Nappies are our preferred choice as we can change standing up without removing trousers and shoes.

Fruit

Fruit is provided for the children at snack time. Fruit varies on a day-to-day basis and can consist of carrots, satsumas, apples, bananas, tomatoes and pears. Please inform staff of allergies known.

Milk

Milk is provided in cartons and is free for under fives. If your child does not like milk or cannot drink it for health reasons, they can use their own water bottle. Please visit [Cool Milk](#) to register your child for milk.

Allergies

We need to be aware of any allergy from which your child suffers. The children often taste various foods, handle different materials and take part in cooking activities.

Illness or Injury



If your child should fall ill or suffer an injury while in school we need to be able to contact you. Please be sure to inform us of any change to either your home or work telephone numbers. We also need the telephone number of a friend or relative should we be unable to reach you.

Hearing and Speech

Please keep the Nursery staff updated on speech therapy and hearing tests; as we need to be aware of any concerns. A copy of any results would be useful to aid us to support your child's needs.



Asthma

If your child is asthmatic please supply an inhaler that can be kept in the school. You will be asked to sign a consent form before we can administer the medication. Please ensure that your child's medication is in date.



Jewellery

Jewellery is not permitted in school. If your child has pierced ears she/ he should wear one small stud earring in each ear only.

Parking

You are requested not to bring your car into the school grounds. The car park is for staff use only.

We have the safety of the children in mind, as they are often out and about in the school grounds during the course of the day.



Sickness

Children suffering from sickness or diarrhoea should be kept at home for at **least 48 hours** to ensure a complete recovery and prevent cross infection.

Absence

If your child is absent from school please telephone/ email the office each morning to inform the school.

A Special Message to the Children

Hello Boys and Girls

We are all very excited about meeting you in September and getting to know all about you! There are lots of exciting activities in your new classroom and lots of friends waiting to play with you!

We are looking forward to saying a big hello on your first day at Nursery!

From all your teachers in Nursery!



Our Mission is to Provide

A vibrant school:

- With a safe, secure and caring environment.
- That is a lively, happy place for your children to learn in. Colour and vibrancy will encompass all aspects of school life.
- That inspires the children to question and challenge.
- With excellent teaching and learning opportunities. Children will be encouraged to take pride in their achievements.
- That provides imaginative learning opportunities, rigorous challenge, the opportunity to make mistakes – and to know that to make mistakes is okay.
- That provides the opportunities to develop independent, resilient children with a love for learning.

A school that provides opportunities for children that realise their potential:

- By equipping children with critical thinking skills, respect for themselves and for others, a strong work ethic and high expectations we will prepare them for secondary school and for their future success.

