

A special message to the children

Hello Boys and Girls,

We are all very excited about meeting you 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 school!

From all your teachers in Nursery!

[Www.busheyheathjm.herts.sch.uk](http://www.busheyheathjm.herts.sch.uk)

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Bushey Heath Primary School

A vibrant school inspiring children to realise their potential



Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery welcome booklet

Welcome to Early Years Foundation Stage

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.

HYGIENE

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

OUTSIDE PLAY

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

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. Pierced ears will be taped for PE lessons and it will be necessary for you to provide tape. No other piercings are permitted.

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.

ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school please telephone the office that morning to inform the school. On return to school please send a written note or email to the office explaining the reason for his/her absence.

Health and Safety

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.

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.

HEARING AND SPEECH

Please keep the Reception 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.

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.

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.

Meet the Nursery Team

Mrs Neary —Class Teacher

Mrs Reading — Class Teacher

Mrs Toms —Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Vale—Learning Support Assistant



Nursery Hours

The Nursery hours are :

8.45am to 11.45am (morning session only)

8.45-3.00 (all day session)

Parents should bring their children into the Nursery via the main school top playground at the start of the session. At the end of the Nursery session, be it 11.45 or 3.00, the children will be brought by an adult to the Nursery side gate.

Different collection arrangements

Please complete the collection sheet on the Nursery wall if your child will be collected by someone else. 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 work in the school in the afternoon therefore 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 to meet your child's teacher, please telephone or email the school office.

A newsletter is sent home giving an overview of your child's learning experiences; further updates and reminders may need to be issued as appropriate.

Milk

Milk is provided in cartons with straws and is free for under fives. If your child does not like milk or cannot drink it for health reasons, we provide water in beakers. Please do not send your child in with any other drinks.



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.

Parent sessions:

Every half term you will be invited to share your child's Learning Journal with them. These sessions are a great opportunity for you to see what your child has been learning. It is also a wonderful opportunity for your child to be proud of their work, sharing and discussing it with you.

We look forward to sharing these sessions with you.

Nursery Fund

This is a voluntary donation of 50p per week. The money can be left in the money box. The money raised goes towards a variety of things including: cooking ingredients, exotic fruits for the children to taste, the Summer and Christmas parties, to name a few. The contributions are **voluntary** but is very much appreciated!

Learning Journal

During your child's time in Nursery they will have a Learning Journal which will contain observations, specific achievements and set class work. Samples of your child's work and photographs are collected and annotated according to the Development Matters.

Children learn best when there is a strong partnership between home and school and when parents and staff share their knowledge and skills. It is very important for parents to contribute to their child's learning.

We offer the following opportunities:

- 'News from home' slips
- Half term opportunities to come into the classroom to share your child's Learning Journal with them

Topics

The children will follow different topics throughout the term. By careful planning the topic will bring in each important area of the curriculum. Outside visitors and trips are planned occasionally. Letters are sent home half termly to inform parents of the topics being covered. Each week we have a 'Sound of the week' which is given in a newsletter. We encourage the children to bring in an object to reinforce the sound.

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.

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, Language and Literacy
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Physical Development

Specific:

Literacy
Maths
Understanding of 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 30-50months.

The seven areas of learning at a glance

Communication and Language:

The development of communication 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. Children are also encouraged to hear and explore sounds through letters and sounds activities which will encourage them to develop their reading skills.

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.

Physical Development:

This area includes fine manipulative 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. Hall periods allow the children to become used to changing into PE kits; develop self help skills and use simple apparatus and equipment.

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 we would ask you to dress your child in our Nursery school uniform

- Black tracksuit bottoms / leggings
- White polo shirt
- Maroon jumper
- Sensible footwear the children can take off and on by themselves (sandals and crocs are not permitted)

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

In the winter please provide wellies for outdoor use.

Please ensure all clothing and shoes are labelled at all times

Nursery Routine

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

AM

- Welcome and register
- Sound of the week, day and weather chart
- Child Initiated Learning—(indoor and outdoor)
- Snack time
- Tidy up
- Group work
- Story / songs
- Lunch / Home

PM

- Welcome and register
- Sound of the week
- CIL (in and out)
- Group work
- Tidy / song
- Home

Experience shows using a routine helps the children to feel

Parent consultations

Should parents wish to discuss their child's progress please make an appointment with us. Parent consultations will be held in the Spring term.

Literacy:

Children are encouraged to hear and explore sounds through letters and sound 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. At the present time library books are changed on a Friday morning.

Mathematics:

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.

Understanding of 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.

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 and thorough assessments will be completed to build up a picture of your child's progress. These will be recorded in your child's Learning Journal and cross referenced to the EYFS goals and may take the form of:

- Baseline Assessments
- Short Observations
- Long Observations
- Phonic assessments
- Literacy Activities
- Numeracy Activities

Your child will be continually assessed through observations and daily group work, this is called 'assessment for learning' 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 age boundaries overlap and 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 stage your child is working at throughout the year.

The home corner and dressing up clothes promote imaginative role play, a very important part in a child's development and 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.

Sand and water play, as well as handling other natural 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 in different circumstances and this free play, with adult intervention, forms a sound basis for mathematics and science.

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

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 computer 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 and ICT skills.

The art and craft 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 which, for practical reasons, we keep on shelves but they are used to help the children understand such things as 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 manipulative skills and encourage drawing and emergent writing.

At the end of the school year your child will be judged against the progress they have made towards 'securing' the objectives within the 30-50months age band in each area of learning.

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. An example of school handwriting is given to parents in the Welcome Pack. Encouraging your child to listen to sounds, both in the environment and by discussing the sound of the week will assist them in their phonic knowledge in preparation for reading.