

Nursery & Pre-School

BUSHEY GAN PROSPECTUS

Bushey Gan is a 76 place nursery, accepting children from eighteen months old to rising 5's.

The Gan offers an excellent educational base to children in our local and wider community. The children will learn the basics of Judaism, which will provide them with essential knowledge for life in the context of Jewish beliefs and values.

By the time the children are ready to leave Bushey Gan, they will have acquired different skills, tools and knowledge which will prepare them for the next stage of their education. This is achieved within the framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EFYS) Curriculum and through the seven areas of learning.

The nursery is registered with Hertfordshire County Council and OFSTED. The Gan is a United Synagogue nursery run by the Nursery Manager - Michelle Peters and a management body answerable to Bushey United Synagogue Board of Management.

PREMISES

The nursery utilises the Bradley Krett Building behind the Synagogue where the youngest children are located. The older children are housed in the main building, and all classes share an outdoor playground with safety flooring.

SCHOOL HOURS

The nursery is open Monday to Thursday between 9.15am and 4pm, and 9.15am until 12.15pm on a Friday. We also offer an optional early bird start at 8.45am every morning for an additional charge.

We are open for 38 weeks per year, following local school term dates. These dates are supplemented by Winter and Summer camps (*subject to demand*). When children begin attending the nursery we ask that children under two years attend for a minimum of two mornings per week, and children who are

over two years attend for a minimum of three mornings per week. It is anticipated that as children develop with us, their attendance will increase.

We do not open for bank holidays, Jewish holidays and staff training days.

FOOD & NUTRITION

We offer a hot nutritious Kosher two course meaty lunch Monday – Thursday at an additional cost. These are specially catered for our nursery by The Baby Nurse who works with a leading paediatric dietitian to create a full line of wholesome, natural children's food. The meals are perfectly balanced & portioned and made of fruit, grains, vegetables and fresh meat for early years children. The healthy grains include buckwheat, millet, oats & brown rice and everything is FREE FROM: gluten, nuts, wheat, dairy, egg and genetic modification. There is also No Added Sugar or preservatives and are suitable for children who are coeliac or suffer from reflux. All fruits and vegetables are certified organic helping to make that great taste for children to learn to love their food.

Our lunchtime menus are developed to offer aesthetically-pleasing and tasty meals, consisting of the four major food groups: starchy food, fruit and vegetables, protein and dairy. All our staff are aware of any special dietary requirements that the children may have, and they are provided for in a sensitive manner. Any meals on our menu can be adapted and alternative appropriate food can be offered.

We plan a rolling two week menu to ensure that we offer an array of foods, adapting it throughout the year to incorporate seasonality. This helps to introduce children to a variety of different food tastes and textures. Our teachers sit and eat with the children to create a positive eating environment. Meal times are social occasions and are a valuable time for practitioners to talk to children about food. We believe that this will develop social skills and good eating habits. This also allows practitioners to praise children for trying new foods and also to give parents and carers feedback on how their child is eating. Children are involved in clearing away the table to encourage independence.

At Bushey Gan we encourage healthy eating whether it is during lunch time or simply our morning and afternoon snack time. Our morning and afternoon snack is fresh fruit or vegetables provided for by the parent/carer. We promote an understanding of basic kashrut to our students.

We are part of a Government Nursery Milk Scheme which provides milk daily (chalav Yisroel), and the children have access to water throughout the day and are encouraged to help themselves. The children drink water with their lunch.

During our weekly Oneg Shabbat all children are offered challah and grape juice. Suitable options are put in place for children with allergies.

FUNDING

We accept 15-hour and 30-hour funding, as well as two year funding.

CURRICULUM

At Bushey Gan we pride ourselves on providing a curriculum which, as well as being developmentally appropriate, allows ample opportunity for each child to discover and further their own personal interests. Our dedicated practitioners promote the children's natural quest for exploration and knowledge which links into the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), set out by the Department of Education.

Through our effective observations and planning, we are able to make sure that all our children are developing and progressing to reach their full potential, within the seven areas of learning. Within these seven areas there are three prime areas which children need a solid foundation, before developing into the four specific areas.

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, problem solve, develop social skills, and assess risk themselves.

The seven areas of learning

Prime Areas:

1. Communication and Language
2. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
3. Physical Development

Specific Areas:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the World

4. Expressive Arts and Design

The children access the curriculum through play in group activities or one-on-one, as we provide a safe and inviting environment to stimulate the child's own thirst for knowledge. The activities are a mixture of structured activities, group work, and free play or child directed/initiated play.

The children have a fun introduction to music and movement through nursery rhymes, classical music, instruments, puppets and their own imagination. Music encourages communication, language, listening and co-operation as well as vocal ability. Movement helps to develop co-ordination, interaction and body awareness.

We are fortunate to have a computer in each classroom and they are used regularly to support and extend the children's learning.

The curriculum is enriched and enhanced with optional extra-curricular activities, at an extra charge. We are currently offering a weekly sports session with a qualified coach, and a weekly yoga and mindfulness session with a qualified practitioner.

LETTERS & SOUNDS

At Bushey Gan we follow the Letters and Sounds six-phase teaching programme designed to teach children how the alphabet works ready for reading and spelling. This programme is recognised by Hertfordshire as a robust method for teaching children to read and write. We teach Phase One which is a completely oral programme of activities that concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills, phonic awareness and oral blending and segmenting.

The activities in Phase One are intended to be used as part of a broad and rich language curriculum that has speaking and listening at its centre, links language with physical and practical experiences, and provides an environment rich in print and abundant in opportunities to engage with books. The activities introduced in this phase are intended to continue throughout the phases, as lots of practice is needed before children will become confident in their phonic knowledge and skills.

Phase One activities pave the way for children to make a good start in reading and writing. In order to enhance children's learning further by:

- ✓ Have fun with sounds

- ✓ Listen carefully
- ✓ Develop their vocabulary
- ✓ Speak confidently to adults and other children
- ✓ Tune into sounds
- ✓ Listen and remember sounds
- ✓ Understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds

Phase One of the programme consists of seven interlinking aspects that help the children tune into sounds. These are:

1. Environmental sounds
2. Instrumental sounds
3. Body percussion
4. Rhythm and rhyme
5. Alliteration (words that begin with the same sound)
6. Voice sounds
7. Oral blending and segmenting

Each aspect contains three strands:

- Tuning in to sounds (auditory discrimination)
- Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing)
- Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension).

TAPESTRY ON-LINE LEARNING JOURNAL

The teachers at Bushey Gan use tapestry on-line learning journal to record the children's development through regular observations.

Tapestry is a secure and easy-to-use platform to record, track and celebrate the children's progress. Each family will have a password protected account to access their child's personal journal.

JEWISH STUDIES

On a daily basis the children start their day with Teffillah time, comprising of a short collection of age appropriate songs with their teachers in their classroom. On a Monday morning we have a special Havdalah service with the Rabbi, often in the main Synagogue. Brachot (blessings) are made prior to eating, and the highlight of our week is our Friday Oneg Shabbat service. Parents are

invited to share in this wonderful experience on a rota, in the summer term of each academic year.

We focus on the Chaggim (festivals) and integrate them into our secular and yearly planning in order to reinforce and celebrate our Jewish identity. This identity teaches the children moral values, for example, the way they relate to each other, to the adults and to their environment. We always keep in mind that our children are individuals, learning at their own pace and take on board what they know and build from there.

We ask all boys to cover their heads with our nursery Kippah and once toilet trained to wear Tzitzit.

UNIFORM

All children are expected to wear the Gan school uniform which consists of sweatshirts and T-shirts with the nursery logo. This is teamed with navy jogging bottoms. A full uniform list is on our website.

WE ASK THAT ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY NAMED

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our aim is to offer each child the opportunity to attain their greatest potential by acknowledging their different physical, emotional and educational needs and development.

We also aim to teach children to have respect for, and an understanding of, their beliefs as well as those of other communities around them without discrimination.

INCLUSION

We recognise the wide range of specific requirements of children, and will always give consideration to these requirements.

POLICIES

Our policies and procedures are available to read on our website.

SECURITY/KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

Of paramount importance in our setting is keeping your child safe. This is achieved in a variety of ways. We operate a password system so if anyone

unknown to us is due to pick up your child, then we must be informed and the person picking up is required to give us the unique password for that child.

We always maintain the statutory adult to child ratios within all areas of the nursery, and there is a trained First Aider on site at all times. We are a nut-free nursery, and there are practitioners trained to use an EpiPen or Jextpen.

All practitioners have been trained to a level 1 in safeguarding, and the whole team keeps up to date with current safeguarding legislation. We have Designated Safeguarding Officers who preserve the confidentiality of this delicate matter, who have all attended specialised training, and are able to deal with these matters using the correct procedures.

There is a designated SENCo who works with the practitioners to ensure early detection of any special needs. We liaise with outside agencies and the parents to meet the needs of all the children in our care.

Daily Risk Assessments are carried out for the building, staff, visitors and equipment. Any resources which are broken or deemed dangerous are removed immediately. Our security alarm and fire system is maintained on a regular basis and all electrical equipment is annually PAT tested. We have full time security guards employed by the nursery.

We have created a routine in the nursery that the children love to follow. This makes them feel safe as they know what to expect and boundaries are clear for them. There is flexibility within this for child-led play and free choice. The practitioners encourage the children to take safe risks within the setting in order to challenge them and learn how to manage risks and keep themselves safe.

**TO VISIT THE NURSERY PLEASE CONTACT US EITHER ON
0208 386 1515 OR EMAIL NURSERY@BUSHEYUS.ORG**

**FOR SECURITY REASONS VISITS ARE BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY**