



OUR SCHOOL LEARNING JOURNEY

We have three classes at Bushey Gan who work and plan together following the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

We ensure that all planned and child initiated activities include many educational elements for the children to experience through their play. Furthermore, we provide a broad-based curriculum to make sure that each child is supported, and has a variety of opportunities to learn and develop in all areas of the EYFS. There is also child initiated learning opportunities, where the children are encouraged to choose what they wish to play with.

Planning is undertaken by all our three classes together to ensure we have a stepped programme for all the children through the nursery. Of course, if a child's ability is higher than the expectation, we will provide appropriate activities to cater for this.

Saplings Class - Age 2 plus

This class is the children's first port of call and quite often the first time they are separated from their parent or carer. In this class we work on personal, social and emotional development helping the children to settle into the new environment and become familiar with the daily routines. We believe that a confident child will be able to thrive and reach their goals set out for them. Some of these may be to wash their hands independently and go to the toilet.

Once we have a confident, settled child we can encourage them to explore all of the areas of the curriculum, with our carefully planned activities in these areas.

In the sapling class there will be first stage puzzles, construction and other mathematical toys available for the children. There will be a home corner with familiar toys that will help the children's role play.

Elm Class - Age 3 plus

The children will usually move on to this class after having been in the sapling class, unless they join the nursery aged 3 years old.

The elm class is a continuation of the sapling class, still being a nurturing environment but a more focused class. The activities presented in this class will have a slightly higher expectation, and by the end of the children's time in the Elm class the children will hopefully be attending to their own toileting and self-care needs. The children would possibly have formed bonds with their peers and begin playing with them, and not alongside them as they would in the sapling class. The different areas of development will again will be carefully planned for taking each child's expectations into consideration.

Oak Class - Age 4 plus

The children will enter this class hopefully full of confidence, usually having attended one of our younger classes although on occasion children do enter the nursery straight into this class.

In the Oak class the focus is preparation for the pending transition to primary school and the children will be preparing for a full day at school eventually. The children will usually stay for lunch and be encouraged to sit at the table and use their cutlery to eat independently. They will now not only be encouraged to dress themselves but to be able to manage buttons, zips and shoe fastenings.

The children will be encouraged to understand the daily timetable and anticipate time based events such as snack time, lunchtime and outdoor play. In this class the emphasis on independent play and interaction with their peers will be quite evident. The children will be expected to have an input on the activities that have been planned for them and make their own choices.

The careful planning in this class will show the progression of the different activities relative to the individual age and stage of the child.