



Nursery

We are Oasis

Steve Chalke, our founder, was born and raised in Croydon. He formed what has become one of the largest charities in the UK. Initially focussing on helping young homeless people in London, Oasis now works in eleven countries across four continents in the fields of education, housing and health. Visit <http://www.oasisuk.org> for more information about being part of Oasis.

Oasis Academy Byron

Oasis Academy Byron is one of 54 Oasis academies. We are a hard-working and passionate staff who want our children to have all options open to them when they leave school.

We focus on academic, social, emotional and moral education, on our 9 habits: compassionate, patient, humble, joyful, honest, hopeful, considerate, forgiving and self-controlled. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.oasisacademybyron.org/> or email byron@oasisbyron.org.

This guide will introduce you to the Nursery at Oasis Academy Byron.

The Nursery Day

A Typical Day

Morning Session: 8.30am – 11.30am

Lunch Club Session: - 11.30am – 12.30pm

Afternoon Session: 12.30pm - 3.30pm

All Day Session: 8:30am – 3:30pm

Some children will be joining us for either the morning or afternoon session, or all day.

Parents and children enter the nursery via their classroom door at the beginning of each session. In between morning and afternoon sessions is a 1 hour lunch club.

What will your child do?

Activities are planned using the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance. We plan work around different topics. There are seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We plan for each of the areas above each day and children have the opportunity to explore, discover, experiment, talk and learn new things. Our planning aims to foster excitement and interest in all the children. We follow children's interests as much as possible.

Every day we have whole class carpet times where we learn together through play and song. Children are free to choose which areas to use and we encourage the children to self-select and be independent learners. Children also participate in focus activities with the adults. Staff encourage children to explore all areas, share equipment and play with other children. Children are supported to develop skills and self-confidence which will enable them to make their own choices.

Children are also encouraged to become responsible for themselves and will help tidy up after they have finished using something.

Children have access to many different activities including:

Creative activities – including paint, collage, drawing and model making

Malleable activities – including playdough and clay

Sand – with enhancements such as containers to explore capacity and volume

Small world – including play people and small world animals

Construction play – including wooden blocks, Duplo and Mobilo.

Mark making – including drawing, name writing and early writing

Home corner and role play – dressing up and role play opportunities

Maths activities – counting, number and shape games, matching numerals to quantities

Outdoor play (an extension of the indoor classroom) – development of physical co-ordination, imaginative play, social skills including turn taking etc.

Book Corner – free access to books and stories to explore

Computer – including a range of websites and games to aid learning

The Garden

All children are given the opportunity to play outside throughout most of the day whatever the weather. It is important that you dress your child for school appropriately. Please make sure your child comes in a waterproof coat with a hood when it is cold and wet. Please also bring a sun hat and sunscreen for your child in warmer weather.

Children can get wet, muddy and messy when they play outside. Please provide waterproof protective clothing for them to wear, including wellington boots and waterproof trousers which are available from Hewitts. You are welcome to leave these things on your child's peg in a bag clearly labelled with your child's name.

We teach children how to minimise how messy they get, and they do get better at this as they get older, but it is a vital part of their learning and development - so please understand if your child comes home a little bit messy.

Children gain so much from playing and exploring outdoors. Children must be allowed to experience the world around them fully if they are to make useful meaning of it.

Oasis Habits

Underpinning the whole of the Primary Curriculum are the Oasis Habits. Our nine Habits are: Compassionate, Patient, Humble, Joyful, Honest, Hopeful, Considerate, Forgiving and Self-Controlled. These habits are modelled, recognised and highlighted at all times within the nursery environment. Each half term one habit is highlighted and focused on across the whole primary school. For more details, please see our website.

Record of Achievement

Each child will have their own learning journey where teachers will collect significant evidence or pieces of work. We share targets with parents, along with ideas about how you can support your child at termly parents' evenings.

Books

We aim to develop a lifelong love of books and stories. We teach children to take care of books and ask that you support this at home. There is a daily story time for children, and they have free access to books during the day in a quiet and cosy book corner. The children will gain early reading skills, which are developed over the year between home and the Nursery. Book bags can be bought from Hewitts. and are a great way for your child to take their work and letters home from Nursery.

Keeping you informed

We are always happy to speak to you about your child's progress and aim to keep you well informed about what your child is doing at nursery. We have a noticeboard outside the classroom, which has term dates and general information. The weekly newsletter informs you about our topics and the kinds of learning experiences we will be providing. We also have termly parent meetings where you will have an opportunity to talk to the staff. It is also an opportunity to share your child's achievements and 'Next Steps'. The nursery is very busy at the beginning of sessions, so it is not always appropriate for lengthy discussions then but please ask to speak to members of staff at

the end of sessions if you have anything you wish to discuss. We also issue reports at the end of the year.

Your responsibilities

Attendance: We monitor attendance carefully. It is a legal requirement to do so and we liaise with our Education Welfare Officer over long-term absence. Regular attendance is key to your child's progress. If your child is unwell telephone on the first and subsequent days to let us know. Persistent and unexplained absence may result in your child losing his or her place.

Punctuality: We expect that your child arrives as punctually as possible and is collected promptly at the end of the session. Telephone us if you are running late, so that we can reassure your child.

Collection of Children: Please ensure that your child is in the care of a responsible adult when coming to school or collected and inform us if someone other than the normal parent or carer is to collect the child. We will NOT allow children under 13 years to collect the children. Please telephone the school if there are difficulties in collecting your child from school:

Nursery N1 & N2, 2 & 3yrs: 020 8668 4877

Toilet training and Clothing: We expect that most children will be toilet trained before starting Nursery. But accidents do sometimes happen, so please provide a change of clothes – just in case. In the event of an accident, we will follow our Intimate Care Policy (see our website).

Uniform and clothing: All uniform with the school logo can be purchased from MAPAC. Please ensure that *all* clothing is clearly named. Sometimes we ask the children to wear their own clothes - please do not send your child in anything too precious or expensive. For health and safety reasons no jewellery should be worn. The only exception is stud earrings.

Parental Contributions: We want to provide the very best resources to enhance your child's learning. We may ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p a week to enable us to purchase little 'extras' for the children in the future, for example seeds so the children can grow their own flowers and foods.

Milk: Milk is provided free of charge for children under 5 years old. Please let Nursery staff know if your child has any allergies (i.e. to dairy products). We also provide water and fruit daily. We promote healthy eating at all times so please do not send any drinks, sweets, crisps or chewing gum to school with your child.

Birthdays: When children celebrate their birthdays at Nursery sometimes parents provide a treat for children to take home. We are happy to cooperate but must consider allergies and dietary requirements. You are welcome to bring in treats or cake, but these must be individually wrapped - we are unable to prepare or cut any food.

Helping your child prepare for Nursery

We hope that we have answered most of your questions in this pack but if there are any queries please contact us. Although we have experience of introducing children to a new environment, we never forget that this may be your first experience. To help with this transition we suggest:

- Sharing the social story with your child so they can become more familiar with the pictures of Nursery and adults.
- Explain what will happen during the day. Talk through the pre-nursery routine.
- Talk about the enjoyable activities he or she will be able to do at nursery. If s/he enjoys doing something at home,
 - reinforce the message that they will be able to do this at nursery too, “You’ll enjoy story time,” or “they’ll be lots of sand to play with.”
- Make links between things you do at home and school, “we’re having a snack now – you’ll have a snack at school too.”
- Practise social skills, for example, turn taking games, following directions and making choices.
- Teach simple chores that will be useful at nursery such as putting toys away or hanging a coat up.
- Be positive about your child’s experience. If you feel anxious, your fears can be passed on to your child.

We are very excited about your child starting with us at our

Oasis Academy Byron Nursery.