



BROOKFIELD SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your child's first curriculum letter at Brookfield School. At the beginning of each term you will receive a letter setting out some of the things we will be learning, dates of forthcoming trips, class events and other useful information.

The children are settling in very well to the nursery. There is a calm and busy atmosphere and lots of smiles and collaboration between the children as they learn through their play. Starting a new nursery can be very tiring, but the children are building up their stamina and we are really enjoying getting to know them.

Links with key workers

Though every member of staff works with all of the children, your **key person** is the best first point of contact if you have any concerns, queries or want to celebrate your child's new achievements. We will have more time to chat at pick-up time rather than in the morning, when our focus needs to be on settling the children into their day. For longer conversations, try us after school when we can talk in more depth, arrange a phone call, or send an email (email addresses are at the end of this letter).

There will be an Open Afternoon on Thursday 11th October where you will have a chance to meet with your key worker to discuss how your child is settling. From the following half term our Focus Child assessment system will begin. This means that we will be closely observing the learning and development of 3 children each week and planning activities according to their particular learning styles and interests. When your child is a focus child your key worker will ask about their learning and interests at home and will share their progress and targets with you the following week. This means that you will have 2 additional formal meetings with your key worker.

We have recently moved to an online system of tracking and recording your children's progress, which we will share with you at these progress meetings. In addition to this, each child has a learning scrapbook, which will be theirs to add to as they wish. You may also add in pictures or photos if you like, as a record of their time here. We regularly share these with the children so that they can comment on and begin to evaluate their own achievements. They would love to share these with you too.

Forest School

We are very lucky to have several trained Forest School staff in the nursery. The core of the Forest School programme is to develop children's confidence, independence, self-esteem and ability to manage risk through regular experiences in nature. The range of activities is diverse and follows children's interests, observations and seasonal change. Examples may include den building, climbing trees, whittling wood, building fires to cook on or collecting and creating with natural materials. The children will engage in many of these forest school activities in the nursery garden but after half term we will also be taking groups to the Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve or Waterlow Park for a wilder experience.

We rely on parent volunteers to allow these trips to happen. There will be a sign-up sheet on the parent noticeboard as you enter the nursery, nearer the time.

Borrowing Books



Once a week your child will be able to choose a book for you to read with them at home. Charlotte's key children will change books on a Tuesday, Rebecca's on a Wednesday and Daisy's children on a Friday. School book bags are available from the office, should you choose to buy one.

What are we learning about?

Each half term we choose a theme to base our planned learning activities around. This half term the theme will be **Nursery Rhymes and Traditional Tales**. Next half term we will be exploring **Light and Dark**. We also observe the children's interests closely so that we can plan activities around the things that they are interested in. Our planning is always available for you to have a look at on the parent noticeboard, along with details of any book, rhyme, or song of the week.

This term we will be focusing on the following areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Developing the children's independence and confidence in the nursery environment.
- Getting to know our routine, finding and using resources appropriately.
- Developing children's confidence to express their needs and wants to adults and each other.
- Learning how to join in with other children, sharing ideas and resources and working collaboratively.
- Through talking and stories, naming emotions and talking about how we feel in different situations.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Developing the ability to listen to others in groups and taking turns to speak through games and routines.
- Repeated singing and telling of stories, rhymes and songs to help develop vocabulary and language structure.
- Telling our own stories and acting these out as a group.
- Following verbal instructions and asking and answering questions about how and why things happen.

Physical Development

- Developing strength, control and coordination of large body movements through climbing, balancing, using wheeled toys, large scale digging and mark-making, ball games, dance and yoga sessions.
- Developing fine motor skills by using tools such as scissors, hammers, tweezers and screwdrivers, and strengthening muscles and movements through sensory play e.g. clay, dough, cornflour etc
- Developing children's self-care skills e.g. handwashing, toileting and dressing. **(It would be really helpful if you could support us in this by dressing children in clothes that they can manage themselves – particularly shoes, velcro rather than laces.)**
- Through snack time, lunch and weekly gardening and cooking activities we will also be encouraging children to try a range of healthy foods.

Literacy

- Daily shared reading with the children to developing an understanding of how books work eg that the words always stay the same and that in English we read from left to right.
- Encouraging children to retell familiar stories using props across the nursery e.g. setting up the Three Bear's House in the home corner
- Developing the children's ability to hear rhythm, rhyme and alliteration in words and to be able to break words down into syllables.(through songs, rhymes and games).
- Modelling writing for children and demonstrating that it has a purpose.

Numeracy

- using songs, rhymes, games and practical activities to teach the sequence of numbers and being able to count accurately for a purpose.
- challenging children to start recording numbers e.g scoring a ball game with tallies
- discussing the properties of shapes and the position of objects in space during model making and construction play.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Celebrating some festivals of light including Divali, Hannukah and Christmas.
- Planning our own EYFS community celebration with a lantern walk.
- Practical investigations during our work on light and dark, creating shadows, making simple electric circuits
- Gardening –planting spring bulbs, sowing salad for a winter crop, sowing broad beans for spring, sweet peas for the summer and planting garlic.



- Regular cooking sessions which will provide lots of opportunities to observe and describe change.
- Explorations in the garden, Forest School sessions and caring for our snails to provide many opportunities to talk about what we observe, develop our awareness of growth and change over time and support us to develop care and concern for living things.
- Developing understanding of the potential of technology by using cameras, torches, lightboxes, circuits and scanners in investigations as well as taking apart old technological equipment to find out what's inside.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Access to a wide range of construction, collage, mark-making and painting materials as well as open-ended resources to encourage imaginative play.
- Learning specific skills to create lanterns with willow and tissue paper, printmaking, and working with clay.
- Daily opportunities to join in with singing and dancing activities.

Volunteers/ PTA

As well as volunteers for Forest School and trips we welcome parents in to the nursery to share skills and spend time with the children. Could you come and read or tell a story to a small group of children or do some cooking? Do you have a skill, interest or job that the children could find out more about? If so, please speak to your child's key worker and we'll support you to make it happen.

The school has a Parent Teacher Association which runs a number of fun events throughout the year which raise important funds for the school. They'll be looking for some nursery parents or carers to act as class representatives to help pass on messages and get other parents involved in events. It's a really great way to make new friends and meet people in the wider school community so we'd urge you to get involved.

Requests

- Junk modelling materials. Please bring in your plastic and cardboard recycling for us.
- Any spare shoes and wellies, size 8-10, and spare towels.
- Donations of old electrical or mechanical equipment that you no longer need so that children can tinker, unscrew and forage for parts.
- For those of you who are entitled to a free full time place please remember that you will need to reapply for this at the end of each term. We will send out reminders nearer the time.
- There is a voluntary Nursery fund to pay for cooking and playdough ingredients – any contributions very welcome! You will find the tin below the parent information board near the door for you to add coins to – those 20 and 50p's all add up.

Key Dates

October	November	December
1st Black History month begins 6th Family Fun Run 11th Open Evening Chance to meet with your child's key worker to discuss their settling-in 22nd–26th Half Term Nursery closed	7th Shadow puppet show 9th Maths workshop for EYFS parents 23rd Nursery Lantern Festival 3.30-5. A lantern walk followed by songs and warm drinks	1st Winter Fair 21st Festive songs and class party 2-3.30 21st Last day of term

Kind Regards,
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