



BROOKFIELD SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your child's very 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, the dates of forthcoming trips and class events and other useful information.

We are so pleased with how well the children are settling in to the nursery. There is a calm and focused atmosphere, lots of smiles, laughter and collaboration between the children as they learn through their play. Though starting a new nursery can be very tiring, the children are developing their stamina and we are really enjoying getting to know them.

- **Key workers**

Though every member of staff works with each of the children your **key person (either Daisy or Charlotte)** is the best first point of contact if you have any worries or concerns, would like to share some news or want to celebrate your child's new achievements and interests. We usually have more time to chat at pick-up rather than drop-off, when our focus needs to be on settling the children. For longer conversations it is best to arrange a time after school when we can talk in more depth, arrange a time when we can phone you or send an email (email addresses are at the end of this letter)

- **Focus child**

Once the children are all settled, at around October half term, we will be offering settling in meetings with parents. This is just to discuss any particular issues that may have come up during the settling in process and to let you know what they have been up to so far. Once these are finished, the focus Child assessment system will begin. We will be observing the learning and development of 3 children each week and planning activities that reflect their particular learning styles and interests. When your child is a focus child, your key worker will ask about their interests at home and will share their progress and targets with you the following week. This means that you will have a planned progress meeting with your child's key worker every term.

Each child also has a learning journal which will be filled with artwork and mark-making of their own choosing. It would be wonderful if you could spend some time every few weeks looking through the portfolio with your child at drop off or pick up. They would love to share these with you. We record our observations of them more systematically in an online assessment programme called Tapestry. These observations will be shared with you in your pupil progress meetings.

- **Forest School**

We are very lucky to have several trained Forest School Leaders 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. Activities might include den building, climbing trees, whittling wood, building fires to cook on, collecting and creating with natural materials, and making minibeast habitats or bird feeders. 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 Waterlow park on Tuesday mornings . We rely on parent volunteers to allow these trips to happen so we would be grateful if you could let us know which Tuesdays you would be able to volunteer on. There will be a sign-up sheet on the parent noticeboard as you enter the nursery. These sessions will start after half term.

- ***Borrowing Books***

Please remember that you can borrow books from the classroom to enjoy at home. Please write down your child's name, the title of the book and the date in the notebook provided. Only select books from the library box by the entrance door please. If you want to, you can buy a bookbag from the school office to make it feel more grown up !

- ***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 songs* and *Family and Friends*. Next half term we will be exploring *Colour and Light*. 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. Below is a taster of what learning looks like in Nursery and gives you an idea of the sorts of things that will be happening.

- ***Personal, Social and Emotional***

This will focus on developing the children's independence and confidence in the nursery environment. We will be ensuring that children get to know our routine, can find resources they need and use them appropriately. We will be developing each child's confidence to express their needs and preferences to adults and each other. We will be discussing what makes a good friend and learning how to join in with other children, sharing ideas and working collaboratively with each other. By talking through our daily experiences and thinking about characters in stories we will be naming emotions and talking about how we feel in different situations.

- ***Communication, Language and Literacy***

The children have two group times a day where they will be developing the ability to listen in a group and to take turns to speak through games and routines. These times also provide opportunities for the repeated singing and telling of stories, rhymes and songs to develop vocabulary and language structure as we all join in together. The children will also be telling their own stories and acting these out as a group. Through practical activities such as woodwork and cooking the children will be learning to follow verbal instructions. When exploring the garden or mixing materials in messy play we will be encouraging children to ask and answer questions about how and why things happen. Throughout the day adults will be extending each child's language as we play and learn together.

- ***Physical Development***

We will provide a wide range of opportunities for the children to develop strength, control and coordination of large body movements through climbing, balancing, using wheeled toys, large scale digging and mark-making, engaging in ball games, and movement, dance and yoga sessions. There will also be planned daily activities to develop children's fine motor skills, for example teaching children to use everyday tools and strengthening muscles and movements through sensory play. We will be particularly focusing this term on developing children's independent self-care skills for example 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 – this is particularly the case with shoes. Through snack time, lunch and regular gardening and cooking activities we will be encouraging children to try a range of healthy foods.

- **Volunteers**

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. Perhaps you'd like to come and read or tell a story to a small group of children. Would you like to share a favourite recipe and cook with a small group? Do you have a skill or interest that you'd like to share or a 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**

- We always need junk modelling materials to fuel the children's creative endeavours. Please bring in your plastic and cardboard recycling for us.
- Any spare shoes, size 8-10, and spare towels.
- We would love donations of old electrical or mechanical equipment that you no longer need so that children can tinker, unscrew and forage for parts. As well as developing their fine motor skills it really helps them to think about how things work.
- Check your child's work tray for work to take home.

For those of you who are entitled to a free full time place, please remember that you will need to reapply each term . We will send out reminders nearer the time.

Key Dates

October	November	December
4th October – Balance bike workshop 23rd–27th October Half Term 28th October Inset Day	Forest school starts – 5th Nov Visit from Shadow puppet man – 14th Nov Nursery Lantern Festival 3.30-5. A lantern walk followed by songs and warm drinks – 25th Nov	Bookstart session (date TBC) Festive songs and class party 2-3.30 19th Dec Last day of term 19th Dec

Kind Regards,

The Niursery team.

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