



BROOKFIELD SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Catkin Class Spring Term Curriculum Letter

Welcome back to Spring Term in Catkin Class and a warm welcome to the thirteen new children joining us this term! The children are all getting to know each other and some of the older children have been acting as 'buddies', supporting their new friends by showing them around the nursery, inviting them into their games and helping them to follow the daily routine. It has been a pleasure to see them taking on these roles. We hope that you, as parents and carers, are also getting to know each other and forming friendships and support networks that will last throughout your time at Brookfield. As our numbers have increased we have welcomed a new member of staff, Maya, to our team. Terri will be starting her maternity leave this term and will be covered by Adrienne.

Our theme this half-term is **Innovation** and for the second half-term it will be **Communication**. Some of our learning linked to these themes is outlined on the following page. However, provision in the Early Years also enables children to develop and follow their own interests and enquiries alongside this. We observe the children closely and embed ourselves in the children's play to ensure we are supporting their learning as much in the activities that they choose themselves as the ones that we have carefully planned to meet their needs.

During the first half of this term new families will meet with their child's keyworker to discuss how they are settling into school. After half term we will have **focus child** meetings for the older children where we will share their successes, provide advice and plan for further progress. You can of course arrange a time to speak with your keyworker outside of these meetings to discuss any queries or concerns. If you are unable to catch us after school at pick-up, email is the best option. Our address is nursery@brookfield.camden.sch.uk These emails are checked daily and one of the team will aim to respond within 2 days. The weekly whole school newsletter, which is emailed to you, is the main way that the school shares news and letters. There will also be an overview of our learning each week on our Google Classroom Page.

Charlotte, Daisy, Jamal, Jo, Rebecca, Maya and Mila

<p>Key dates for your diary: Friday 28th January – INSET Day (School closed to children) Friday 4th February – Safeguarding workshop for parents and carers 9am Tuesday 25th February – Trip to Kite Hill to look at London Skyline 14th-18th February – Half Term</p>	<p>Friday 4th March – Chair of Governors and Headteacher coffee morning Trip to Kentish Town Farm (Date to be confirmed) Friday 1st April – Last day of Spring Term</p>	<p>Weekly schedule: Monday: Music lesson Tuesday: Return reading books Wednesday: Forest School small group sessions Thursday: Friday: Finish at 1pm</p>
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Themes: Innovation and Communication



Our value of the term is kindness

We will be celebrating examples of kindness throughout the day by adding leaves to our kindness tree. We will discuss what kindness looks and feels like through stories and circle times. We will also be exploring the idea of being kind and caring to our planet and other animals during a mini topic on plastic pollution in the sea.

Areas of Learning

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – This term we will be focusing on developing confidence in our own abilities and a growing awareness of how we learn. For example, there will be lots of opportunities to share our constructions and to reflect on what went well and what else we could do to improve them. We will be supporting children in learning to work with and negotiate with others through a range of collaborative design projects. We will continue to encourage children to try a wide range of healthy foods through weekly cooking activities and support them to become more independent in their self-care in regards to toileting, hygiene and dressing.

Communication and Language – We will be developing the children's awareness of what good talking and listening looks like and having lots of discussions in different sized groups to build their confidence. Children will also develop their communication skills through regular show and tell sessions. We will continue to extend the children's vocabulary by sharing poems, songs and stories as well as through the modelling of new language during play and practical activities.

Physical Development – There will be a big focus on construction activities during the first half term. Gross motor skills and strength will be developed through big builds with large blocks and loose parts such as crates and planks whilst the development of fine motor skills will be supported when working with a range of construction kits, learning new techniques for joining materials and when using tools in the woodwork area.

Literacy – We will be sharing stories, poems and songs every day whilst also developing early phonics skills such as describing and identifying different environmental sounds as well as letter sounds. We will be making class books with the children that they will be able to 'read' independently. Children will have lots of opportunities to mark-make for a purpose, for example when designing a robot or writing a label for their construction. Each child will read 1:1 with an adult in school at least once a week and we ask that you read at home with your child for 10-15 minutes every day.

Maths - We will continue to develop children's number sense through practical problems in their everyday play and through routine activities such as cooking and snack time. There will be a focus on sorting objects according to different characteristics, developing important mathematical skills such as pattern spotting and reasoning. We will be developing our growing awareness of number, pattern, shape and size in practical construction projects.

Understanding the World – In our Innovation topic we will find out about buildings in the local area, explore simple electrical circuits, program floor robots and find out about and develop solutions for plastic pollution in the ocean. During our Communication topic we will be making links with children in another country, and thinking about how we can communicate without speech. Following a trip to Kentish Town City Farm we will explore where our food comes from. Throughout the year we will continue to learn about seasonal change and the natural world through regular forest school and gardening sessions.

Expressive Arts and Design – We will continue to introduce the children to new creative materials and techniques such as charcoal, balsa and felting. The children will engage in observational drawings of kitchen utensils and buildings. They will learn a range of ways to join paper and card. The children will have a chance to create their own songs and we will be creating puppets, costumes and props to support imaginative play.