



Dear Parents and Carers,

Reception Autumn Term Curriculum Letter

Welcome to Reception! It has been a busy few weeks as new children have joined Acorn and Conker class each day, but now our classes are complete! We are really enjoying getting to know your children and are very excited about the year ahead. Our priority for the first few weeks has been to familiarise the children with new routines and establish calm, positive behaviour. We have also started to carry out the new statutory Reception Baseline Assessment. The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills using familiar resources and materials. It will help provide us with a useful snapshot of where your child is in their learning, so that we can support them in the most appropriate way.

Our topics this half-term are **Family and Home** and for the second half-term it will be **Fairy Tales and Celebrations**. We have selected high quality texts which support these themes, providing lots of opportunities to find out about ourselves, each other, our homes, families, communities and traditions; to explore the many similarities and differences that people share and to challenge stereotypes. On the next page, we have outlined our main focus for each area of learning, although provision in the Early Years also enables children to follow their own interests alongside this.

Starting next week, the children will choose a picture book to bring home each week to share with you. Please try to find the time to read to your child daily as being read to supports children's early reading development as well as instilling a love of books! After half-term, once the children have learned enough sounds, we will start sending home reading books as well.

If you have any questions or need to arrange to speak with one of us, please email reception@brookfield.camden.sch.uk or catch us at drop off or pick up.

Best wishes,
Seren, Kate, Becca, Adrienne and Oksana

Key dates for your diary:

Monday 16th October - Acorn Class trip to Hampstead Heath
Friday 20th October - Conker Class trip to Hampstead Heath
Monday 23 October to Friday 27th October - Half Term
Thursday November - Open Afternoon (school closes at 1.10pm for Reception)
Friday 8th December- INSET Day
TBC—Trip to St Mary Brookfield
TBC—Reception festive songs performance
Thursday 21st December - Autumn Term ends

Weekly schedule:

Monday: Reading and picture books to be returned
Music and PE lessons
Wednesday: PE lesson (Conker)
Thursday: Singing Assembly
New reading and picture books sent home
Friday: PE lesson (Acorn)

This terms topics: Family, Home, Fairy Tales and Celebrations



Our value of the term is responsibility

We will be exploring with the children, through circle times, everyday routines and role play, the responsibilities we all have to ensure that our class is a safe space where everyone can play and learn.

Areas of Learning

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – As a class, we will play lots of games and activities designed to help the children to get to know each other and build respectful relationships. We will also be talking to the children about their feelings using our key text ‘The Colour Monster’, in order to help children understand and manage their emotions better.

Physical Development - Weekly PE lessons will help to develop the children’s gross motor skills. We will also make use of the gym apparatus in the lower hall once a week and ensure that the children have access to a range of equipment daily in the reception outside area. The development of fine motor skills will focus on correct pencil grip, letter formation, woodwork tools and cutting skills, with lots of fun and sensory activities provided in the classroom to strengthen hand muscles and practise these skills.

Communication and Language - At the start of the year we spend lots of time talking to the children about the importance of listening and helping them to become ‘Super Listeners’. As a class, we will develop Talk Guidelines and later in the term will introduce Talk Tactics to further develop the children’s oracy skills. We will share lots of stories and rhymes; individually, in small groups and as a whole class, encouraging children to express their opinions and ideas and share their knowledge and experiences. As children become familiar with key texts, we support them to retell the stories. New vocabulary, linked to key texts and areas of learning, is taught explicitly.

Literacy - Daily phonics lessons, following the *Little Wandle* programme, will introduce the children to new sounds and ‘tricky’ words. As the children learn more sounds, they will start to blend and segment them to read and write simple words. Once the children have learnt enough sounds, we will begin small group reading sessions, which will take place three times a week with the same book. Your child will then bring the book home to read to you. They should be able to read this to you fluently. Opportunities to draw and write will be planned weekly, linked to our core texts, and the children will practise forming letters and writing their names.

Maths - Pupils will build on previous experiences of number from their home and nursery environments, and further develop their subitising and counting skills. They will explore the composition of numbers within 5 and begin to compare amounts and size using the language of comparison. There will also be a focus on matching and sorting activities, the properties of simple 2D shapes (circle, triangles, squares and rectangles) and exploring simple patterns.

Understanding The World - Throughout the term, the children will learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. We will also be learning about seasonal changes in our environment. Within the area of past and present, we will be comparing old and modern homes and characters from traditional tales with their modern day counterparts.

Expressive Arts and Design - This term, the children’s weekly music lessons will take the form of ‘Write Dance’ sessions, which use music and dance to develop the skills needed for writing. The children will produce movement drawings in response to carefully selected pieces of music. In art, the children will paint self-portraits and experiment with mixing colour and using different tools and resources to apply paint. They will also get the opportunity to work with clay and be gradually introduced to the different woodwork tools so that they can use them independently in their creations. Small world and role play resources will be provided to help children develop their own narratives.