Our Autumn Term

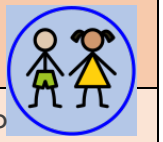
Welcome to Nursery!

We are really happy to have welcomed so many familiar faces back to Blossom as well as lots of new children and their families. These first few weeks are a busy time as we help children to settle in and become familiar with the routines of the day and the resources that are available. Our priority is to form warm relationships with the children and to establish a calm, positive learning environment. On the next page we have outlined the curriculum we will be following this term. Although we cover all seven areas of learning in the Early Years, there is a strong emphasis on the Prime Areas in the autumn term as these underpin all other areas of learning. Provision in the Early Years also enables children to develop and follow their own interests and enquiries. During this term, you will meet with your child's key person, either to discuss how your child has settled into nursery or to review their progress. If you have any questions, please email blossom@brookfield.camden.sch.uk

Best wishes,

Marcia, Helene, Elsa and Patience

What to bring to Nursery



Water: We ask that you send in a cup or beaker to enable your child to access water throughout the day.

Nappies, wipes, cream: Please ensure that your child has a supply of everything they need at nursery.

Clothing: We spend lots of time outside, so children need to wear clothes that are appropriate for the weather. Please don't dress them in their best clothes and label all clothing with your child's name.

Footwear: Shoes that are easy to take on and off independently (no laces please!) and that have a good grip for running and climbing. You may also want to keep a pair of wellies at nursery for wet weather

Spare clothes: Please ensure that your child has spare clothes in a bag on their peg in case of accidents.

Dates for your Brookfield Diary



15th October: Flu team in school

15th October: Open Afternoon (school closes at 1pm)

26th – 30th October: Half-term

2nd November: INSET day (school closed for children)

16th November: Anti-bullying week begins

18th Dec: Last day of term (school closes at 1pm)

Festive songs performance TBC

Don't miss a thing – you can view the school calendar on our website and please read the weekly newsletter which is emailed to you every Friday.

Reminders



Start of the day: Please ensure your child arrives on time to start their session as this helps them to settle into the routine of the day. Morning sessions start between 8.45 and 9.00 am.

End of the day: Afternoon sessions end at either 3.15 or 3.30pm depending on your child's hours. Nursery closes at 1pm every Friday for staff training.

Absence: If your child is unable to attend or is going to be late please contact us on 020 3838 4747 to let us know.

Toys: Please do not let children bring in toys from home (other than a soft toy for comfort) as they tend to get lost or broken or mixed up with our own toys.

Prime Areas of Learning



Personal, Social and Emotional Development - We will spend lots of time getting to know the children and building warm, positive relationships with them so that they feel safe and able to express their emotions. We will introduce words to help them name their feelings such as 'sad', 'upset', and 'angry' and talk to them about why they are feeling a particular emotion. Children will be encouraged to explore the setting and try new activities. We will also be helping children to wait and take turns when using equipment or playing with toys. This term there will be a strong focus on developing good hygiene practices such as hand washing. When children are ready, we will work closely with parents to put good toilet training routines in place, helping children to become increasingly independent.

Communication and Language - The children will be helped to develop their listening and attention skills through sharing lots of picture books and rhymes. Books have been carefully selected to introduce interesting new vocabulary to the children and will be read to them individually, in small groups and as a whole class. There will be a focus on developing language around pretend play in the home corner, such as 'putting the baby to sleep', and adults will be making time to have sustained conversations with children to model good language and expand their vocabulary.

Physical Development - The children will have lots of opportunities to develop their gross motor skills using the equipment outside. We will play games to encourage the children to move in different ways and push and pull carts up and down the slope in order to develop their core muscles. They will also practise kicking, throwing and catching balls and riding on the scooters and trikes. Core activities such as playdough, sand and water play and our creative area will provide many varied opportunities to develop fine motor skills and strengthen hand muscles.

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy - This term, our key texts will include *Owl Babies* by Martin Wadell, *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle, *Dig Dig Digging* by Margaret Mayo and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin, Jr. Children will become familiar with these stories through repeated readings alongside the use of puppets and props to bring them to life and opportunities to act them out. Activities that link to the texts will be provided such as arts and crafts and small world play. We will encourage the children to mark-make on a large scale inside and out, using their fingers, large brushes and sticks in a variety of materials including wet sand, flour, foam and paint. There will also be opportunities for children to develop their fine motor skills using chalk, smaller brushes, pencils and pens.

Maths - This term we will be developing the children's familiarity with numbers 1 to 5 through finger rhymes, songs and stories. Alongside this we will be supporting them to develop counting-like behaviour in a variety of meaningful contexts such as setting the table in the home corner or packing for a picnic. We will also provide lots of opportunities for the children to compare sizes using the language of big, bigger, little and smaller.

Understanding the World - We will explore what the natural world looks like in autumn by collecting tree seeds, such as conkers and acorns, and different coloured leaves. The children will be encouraged to search for worms, woodlice, spiders and other minibeasts in the garden and to develop respect for living things. We will plant some bulbs in our planters and make signs to help us remember what we have planted and where! Our key texts will feature a range of different types of families to help the children make connections between the features of their own family and the families of others. The photos which you have so kindly sent in will be central to this work and support lots of discussion about families.

Expressive Arts and Design - The children will be given the opportunity to move and dance to a range of music from different cultures. They will also be introduced to key songs and rhymes with actions, which we will sing regularly to help the children learn them off by heart. The children will have lots of opportunities to explore and express themselves with paint, using their fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools such as polystyrene blocks and vehicle wheels. Alongside this we will introduce colour names.