Our Autumn Term

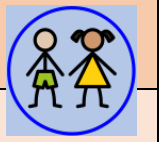
Welcome to Nursery!

We are really happy to have welcomed so many familiar faces from Blossom to Catkin Class, 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 three Prime Ares 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. We look forward to meeting with you during Open Afternoon to share with you how your child has settled in and the activities they are enjoying getting involved in. If you have any questions or need to arrange to meet with one of us, please email us at nursery@brookfield.camden.sch.uk

Best wishes,

Adam, Kate, Seble, Kerry and Alice

What to bring to Nursery



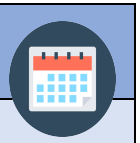
Water: We ask that you send in a cup or beaker to enable your child to access water throughout the day.

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)

3rd November: First day back & individual photos

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 here, 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 at 8.50 am as this helps them to settle into the routine of the day.

End of the day: Afternoon sessions end at either 12.00 or 3.20 pm depending on whether your child is full time or part time. 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 the office to let them 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 – At the start of the term, we will be focusing on helping the children to settle into nursery and to get to know us and each other. They will be learning how to play alongside and collaboratively with others, developing skills such as, sharing, turn-taking and waiting. Alongside this we will be supporting children to follow new routines and rules and to gain independence within the environment. Later in the term, we will explore a range of feelings and begin to develop strategies for managing powerful emotions. There will also be a strong focus on healthy eating and good hygiene.

Communication and Language – We will be focusing on supporting the children to develop their listening and attention skills during whole-class and smaller group times. There will be lots of opportunities to read stories with repeated refrains (which the children can join in with) and to sing along to rhymes and songs. The children will be introduced to new vocabulary linked to our key texts. Children will also be learning to follow instructions within the routines of the classroom and to develop confidence in speaking in groups.

Physical Development – Core activities such as playdough, clay, sand and water play and creative projects will provide many varied opportunities to strengthen hand muscles and develop manipulation and control using a range of one handed tools and equipment. Additionally, children will regularly have the opportunity to get involved in activities such as threading, cutting, puzzles and making models with construction resources such as Lego. Children will be developing their gross motor skills while exploring the climbing frame and outside play equipment and riding the bikes and trikes. As the term progresses, we will introduce games which require the children to freeze and move in different ways. They will also develop their ability to negotiate space safely while playing racing and chasing games

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy – This term, we be reading traditional tales such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bear*s and *The Gingerbread Man*. We will make class books with the children which they will be able to 'read' independently. Children will have lots of opportunities to mark-make using sensory materials and to write for a purpose, for example in role-play or when writing messages to each other. After half-term, we will begin developing children's familiarity with the sounds and syllables in words and help them to tune into individual sounds through nursery rhymes and fun engaging games.

Maths - Children will participate in daily routines that engage them in rich mathematical experiences such as sharing out fruit equally at snack time, sorting and counting toys at tidy-up time and measuring out the ingredients to make playdough. We will specifically focus on counting up to three, helping the children to recognise that anything can be counted - sounds and actions as well as objects. We will be singing lots of number rhymes to help children learn to recite numbers up to and beyond five in the correct order. Towards the end of the term, children will be supported in the early stages of perceptual subitising - the ability to recognise small quantities without counting. In addition to our work around number, the children will be given time to explore construction materials, to notice and discuss differences between shapes and to select shapes for a purpose.

Understanding the World – We will make a great deal of use of our fantastic outdoor space and children will be involved in composting, planting bulbs as well as harvesting pears from our pear tree and pressing and bottling their own pear juice. The children will have the opportunity to explore a range of natural materials and textures and to observe seasonal change. The concept of decay will be explored by observing a pumpkin rot over time! The children will also be learning about the similarities and differences between their own families and other people's. They will be supported to notice and talk positively about differences and appearance as well as to celebrate what we hold in common. Over the term, they will learn about and celebrate a range of cultural and religious events including Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas.

Expressive Arts and Design Children will learn a repertoire of songs, beginning with many classic nursery rhymes. In art, the children will focus on collage and painting, exploring different textures within these. Junk modelling projects will include repairing or making new chairs and beds for baby bear! As the season changes, the children will create prints and rubbings of leaves in various colours and experiment with mixing their own colours.