Reception - Our Autumn Term

Welcome

A warm welcome to you all! It has been a busy time as lots of new children have joined our Reception classes over the last few weeks, but now our classes are complete! We are really enjoying getting to know your children and are very excited about the year ahead. For the first few weeks, our priority will be to familiarise the children with new routines and establish calm, positive behaviour.

A reminder that the school day starts at 8:50 am and ends at 3:20 pm. Now that children have settled in, they can be dropped off in the playground and walked into the classroom by their teacher. This will enable us to begin the day with a short teaching session.

The Weekly Schedule

Music will be on Mondays. Both classes will be taught by Eva who is Brookfield's music lead.

Both classes will have a PE lesson on Friday mornings with David, and on Monday afternoons with Seren. Please send children to school wearing trainers/plimsolls and stretchy trousers on these days. Shoes should be pull-on or have a Velcro fastening if children are unable to tie their own laces.

Reading books will be sent home on a Friday and **must be returned on a Monday**. Your child will be sent home with a picture book at the end of week 4, and with a Little Wandle phonics book at the end of week 6.

Dates for your Brookfield Diary

15th Oct: Parents Evening (school closes at 1pm)

15th: Flu immunisations

19th Oct: Trip to the Secret Garden on Hampstead Heath

26th – 30th Oct: Half-term

2nd Nov: INSET day

3rd Nov: First day back and individual photos

16th Nov: Anti-bullying week begins

5th Dec: Winter Fair

18th December: Last day of term

Don't miss a thing – read the weekly newsletter which is emailed to you every Friday. Please keep an eye out for details about a trip to St Mary Brookfield church and a performance of festive songs in December!

Reminders

Please ensure that your child's bag is big enough to fit a large picture book inside. Ideally, we would like children to have a 'book bag'. These can be purchased from a range of shops or the school office.

Children are not permitted to bring any toys or 'special' items from home into school as they often lead to conflict in the classroom or become lost or broken.

Please remember to send your child in with a water bottle each day.

Prime Areas of Learning



Personal, Social and Emotional Development
During the first half-term, we will focus on settling the children into their new classes and helping them to become familiar with routines and expectations. We will play lots of games and activities designed to help the children to get to know each other and build respectful relationships. The children will also be introduced to Brookfield's School Values and we will help them to think about how they can demonstrate these in the classroom and lunch hall. We will use emotional coaching strategies to help the children better understand and manage their emotions, and after half-term, will explore a wider range of emotions through carefully selected texts.

Physical Development
In addition to PE lessons, the children will have the opportunity to develop their gross motor skills on the climbing frame in the infant playground. They will be introduced to it in small groups and taught to use it safely. The children will also have access to a range of equipment outside, including bikes and large wooden building blocks, which will help develop their core strength and balance. To support with the development of fine motor skills, the children will have daily handwriting sessions which will focus on correct pencil grip and letter formation. There will also be a focus on developing cutting skills.

Communication and Language
At the start of the year we will focus on the importance of listening and taking turns to talk. As a class, we will create 'Talk Guidelines' and develop the use of talk partners. We will be sharing lots of stories and rhymes throughout the day and encouraging children to join in and express their ideas. As children become familiar with key texts, we will support them to retell and make up their own stories using pictures, props and story maps. New vocabulary, linked to key texts and areas of learning, will be taught explicitly as the 'Word of the Day'.

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy
Over the autumn term, we will teach your children the sounds of the first set of letters in the Little Wandle programme (Phase 2) so that they can begin to use phonics to read and write simple words. Daily phonics lessons will also introduce children to 'tricky words' which are unusual and do not make sense until much later in your child's reading journey. The children will be given reading books closely matched to their growing knowledge of phonics and they will practise reading in a small group three times a week before bringing the book home.

Maths
There will be a strong focus on developing subitising and counting skills. The children will explore the composition of numbers up to 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 and exploring simple patterns.

Understanding the World
This half-term, the children will explore similarities and differences between themselves in our topic 'All About Me'. We will also be sharing books featuring different family structures and encouraging the children to talk about their own families. If you haven't already sent in a family photo for your child to share, please do! The children will learn about the festivals Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas and their common theme of 'light'. We will also be looking out for the signs of autumn and learning about seasonal change will be supported by our trip to the Secret Garden on Hampstead Heath.

Expressive Arts and Design
The children will have lots of opportunities to paint this term and to experiment with mixing colours and changing the texture of paint. Before producing their own self-portraits, the children will learn about Frieda Kahlo and look at some of her most famous paintings as inspiration for their own work. Later in the term, they will make diva lamps out of clay, linked to our learning about Diwali. As part of our continuous provision, there are a wide variety of junk modelling and collage resources available which the children can access independently and use in any number of creative ways.