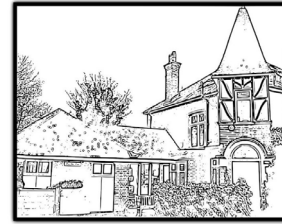


BROOK HOUSE NURSERY

MINI NEWSLETTER

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Reforms Update



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to our slightly different version of the September newsletter. In this addition we hope to provide you with all the information about the changes that the new EYFS will bring to the nursery, as well as welcome all of our new children and their parents. We are very excited about the new term ahead and are looking forward to implementing the positive changes.

Planning and curriculum

A big part of the changes that the reformed EYFS brings, is the reduction of paperwork, and emphasis of utilising practitioner knowledge, of both child development, and individual children's interests and needs. The aim of our curriculum is to equip children with the skills and knowledge they need to explore and understand the world around them, become independent and be ready for their futures beyond nursery. We believe that children grow and develop when they have access to well thought out learning environments and engaged adults. We will, therefore, be using focus themed termly plans, alongside adult led daily activities, to provide endless teaching and learning opportunities. We will also be using the non-statutory Development Matters (government guidance) to support our planning, which will provide checkpoints for termly assessments (a parent version will be available soon). Using the parent feedback that we have received, we have also included seven extended goals that we would like our children to achieve before going to school.

Observations/ Assessments

You may have already noticed the reduction of observations being uploaded onto Blossom. This is because the reduced need to document evidence of children's development means that practitioners can spend more time interacting with the children. We will still be observing children, however, we will be reducing the number of written observations to one meaningful observation per week (and anymore that may be useful, for example to monitor speech and language). We will also be removing the traditional progression tracking documents, and will instead be completing a written assessment once a term (roughly every 4 months), which will be sent home for parents to see. The knowledge that each practitioner has about their key children will provide the basis for the activities and opportunities they experience.

Blossom

As previously mentioned, you will not be receiving as many observations, however, we will be continuing to add daily activities for parents to see what activities their children have been participating in throughout the day, as well as, hopefully, providing ideas for activities to support development at home. This will also be introduced in the Magpie room.

Healthy Lifestyle

The reformed EYFS now has a big focus on children's health, including oral health. We have joined the 'Healthy Early Years London' scheme, which aims to support and encourage health and well being within Early Years settings. We are extremely pleased to have already been awarded our First Steps certificate, and are currently working towards our bronze certificate, which will include strengthening our relationships with services in the local community. We will also be providing information for parents on teeth brushing and local dentists.

Drop off and pick up

We are very pleased to be able to welcome parents back into the nursery! We are very excited to be able to showcase all of the children's amazing artwork that is displayed on the walls. We have been discussing how best to make this work, as we feel that door drop offs have been very successful in ensuring children settle into the nursery in the morning. We would, therefore, like to begin by inviting parents to pick up children from their rooms (starting from the end of September). We will provide each parent with a fob for the door entry system, which will allow them access between 4:45pm and 6pm. We would kindly ask that you are considerate to the nursery routine, and ensure that all doors are closed, and not held open to allow other children to leave. If you would like to continue with a door pick up, then this will not be a problem, please let us know.

We would also love for parents to join us throughout the day to participate in activities, read stories and join in with cooking.

We hope that you find all of this information useful, but should you have any questions, please speak to Katie or Dominika.

MAYOR OF LONDON'S

