



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to your first term at Lowbrook. We feel it is important that parent/caregivers are given information about what your child is learning during the school day. We believe this will help you to know what kind of topics and activities your children are gaining experience in as well as ensuring progression in your child's learning. We hope that you find this useful.

Our topics for Term 1 are 'All About Me' (2 weeks) 'Our School' (2 weeks) and 'Under the Sea' (3 weeks). Within these topics we will be working towards the Early Learning Goals for the Foundation Stage.

### **Communication, Language and Literacy**

To begin with we will be doing a lot of work on traditional nursery rhymes. Each day the children will be learning a new rhyme. We will then begin to learn single letter sounds, learning how to blend these words together to read and how to segment words into individual sounds to help them to write words. Throughout the year speaking and listening skills will be developed through various activities.

The children will be reading individually and in small groups. They will be learning about story language through reading a range of books together. Reading well-written stories is a very important foundation for their own future story writing. As well as hearing your child read every day, we encourage you to continue sharing stories together.

### **Mathematics**

We will begin the term concentrating on counting, with children being able to count on from a given number and be able to identify the 'next' number to a given number. We will progress onto describing the properties of 2D shapes.

### **Understanding the World**

In the topic 'Our School' the children will be interviewing different staff members and learning about their roles. The children will investigate the school using maps and will go on an exciting treasure hunt around the school grounds.

In the topic 'Under the sea' we will be learning about the different mammals and exploring their habitats. We will also be experimenting with different objects to see what floats and sinks and investigating how bubbles are made.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children will have opportunities to play in the role play area during these topics. They will explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in many art activities. During our 'Under the Sea' topic we will be creating various under the sea creatures to display in and around our classroom.

### **Physical Development**

The children will be learning about the effects of exercise on their bodies and exploring how our body changes when doing exercise. Each term we will be working on a different fundamental movement skill. This term we will be focusing on coordination and static balance with Mrs Lucas. There will also be many daily activities available for children to improve both their fine and gross motor skills.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

The theme this term is 'New Beginnings'. Children will have a number of opportunities to appreciate and celebrate differences and to understand how it feels, and how important it is, to belong to a group. They will consider how everybody can be supported to feel safe and happy in their new school and to understand the routines and expectations.

Throughout the day the children will always be encouraged to share and be kind to others. There is a Kindness Cup and Children of the Week stickers are awarded to children who do something particularly kind.

**Homework**

We will be changing your child's reading book on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday but please re-read the books, as repetition is the key to early reading. They will have a library book once a week which they will choose themselves and can keep for the week.

In week two and three there will be a nursery rhyme a day to learn and decorate. The children will then begin to receive a daily sound which reflects the sound we have learnt that day. There is a song to sing and a little activity to complete. On a Fridays, the children will receive 'red' words to learn and a maths challenge to tackle.

**Finally**

At Lowbrook we have an "Open Door" policy. Whilst we always try to make ourselves available at the beginning and the end of the day to answer any of your queries, I'm sure you will understand that this is not always possible as our priority is always the safety of your children in our care. Should it not be possible to see you straight away, we would invite you to make an appointment and we will of course endeavour to see you at our earliest convenience. Appointments can be made via the school office.

Yours faithfully

*Miss Iasi*