

Parent Overview – Reception Summer 2 2026.

Reading

In school the children learn to read through daily phonic sessions. At this time children take part in a shared session where they learn to read common words (words that cannot be sounded out) and phonetically decodable words that include digraphs e.g. ch-ur-ch. In addition, we explore a new book weekly and at this time children discuss the content of the books and interesting vocabulary. During individual reading, our priority is to ensure confident acquisition and application of phonics skills. We introduce new digraphs (ee/oo/th) and common words, as appropriate, and we practise these on a daily basis.

Writing

We will continue to model the skills to write in different contexts, for example: writing lists, labels, sentences and letters. This will take place through our adult led teaching sessions and within child led learning opportunities. We always encourage children to write independently and we share their efforts retrospectively. We will reinforce accurate letter formation, capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.

Handwriting

We will be working to ensure correct letter formation for all letters, using the following letter families.

Curly caterpillar family – c, a, o, d, g, e, f, s, q

Ladder letters – t, y, j, u, l, i

One armed robot letters – r, n, m, h, b, k, p

Zig-zag monster letters – v, w, x, z

Number

This half term we will continue to consolidate patterns in the number system to 50. We will be rehearsing quick recall of doubling numbers to 10 and finding ways to make number to 10 e.g. 6 and 4 make 10, 3 and 5 make 8. We will also be learning the value of coins and use combinations of coins to make 5p, 10p and 15p. We will be exploring measures for capacity, mass and length, working practically to estimate, accurately measure using non-standard units, compare and secure correct vocabulary.

Please remember:

- It is an open door policy at Mersea Island School before and after school.
- Your child needs their P.E. kit in school.
- Your child needs their reading book and phonic/CEW books in school every day.
- As the weather gets better can we ask the children have a named sun hat in school and please check that sun cream does not contain nut oils.
- Our library day is still a Friday to return or swap their book.

Dates to remember

Monday 1st June 2026

First day back

Thursday 11th June 2026

Sports Day (more information to follow)

Thursday 16th July 2026

Last day of school year!

8.45am – 3.15pm

Our PE day is **Thursday**

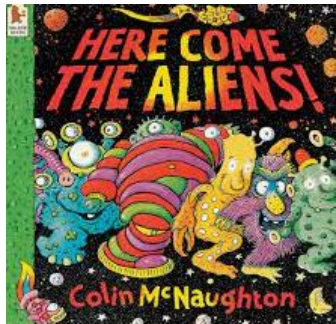
How can you help?

- When talking with your child, make a conscious effort to expand vocabulary and refine grammar, this will prove invaluable in their written work!
- Use real life situations to practise maths e.g. when setting the dinner table, when counting totals of coins.
- Encourage your child to practise their writing skills at home.
- Share any home learning/experiences on Tapestry.
- Practise regular reading of school and library books. The school expectation is to read **four nights out of seven (five reading sessions equates to a Ship Token)**. Don't forget to sign your child's reading record so we know if you have read.
- This term we will continue to send home digraphs/common words to reinforce in class learning. These will be updated regularly. Please practise the words by "breaking down the sounds" in a word e.g. s-p-ar-k.

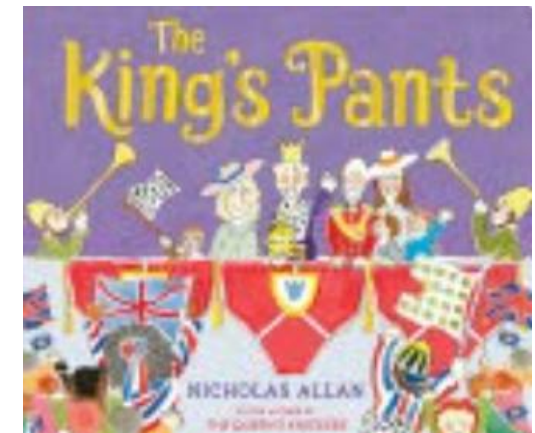
This half term our topic is



The following key texts will drive all areas of our curriculum. We would be grateful if you could support our learning by encouraging the children to become familiar with these stories



- Meet the planets - Ceryl Hart – Week 1
- Here come the aliens - Colin McNaughton – Week 2
 - Planet Awesome - Stacy McAnulty – Week 3
 - The Queen's Hat/Pop up London book –Week 4
 - The King's Pants – Week 5



PHSE – RSE

This half term in our PHSE lessons the children will be covering the unit called 'Growing and Changing' the learning outcomes for the whole unit are:

- Understand that there are changes in nature and humans.
- Name the different stages in childhood and growing up.
- Understand that babies are made by a seed and an egg.
- Use the correct vocabulary when naming the different parts of the body.
- Know how to keep themselves safe.

Over the half term the children will have weekly lesson as seen below. We have plans for each lesson and if you would like to see them please ask.

- Seasons
- Life cycles – Plants and animals. We will be talking about how things grow in cycles. For example - frogspawn, tadpole, frog and looking at how plants grow with lots of talking about how it all works in cycles
- Human life – Who will I be? – We will share the book 'Once there were Giants' with the children and talk about how the little girl in the story changes and grows up and how in the end she becomes a 'giant' (A grown up)
- Where do babies come from? – We will begin by sharing the story 'There's a house in my Mummy' and then move on to talk about babies coming from a Mummy's tummy. We will also look at babies and matching them with their grown up for example a puppy and a dog
- Getting bigger – Lots of talking about growing up and the differences between babies, toddlers, children, teenagers, adults and older people. Reminding the children of previous learning we have done when we talked about growing up earlier in the year.
- Me and my body girls and boys. – This lesson we will be talking about all of our body parts. Beginning with the ones we are familiar with but also our private parts. We will be using the correct terminology when talking about them including penis, testicles, vagina and vulva. We will be talking about the difference between boys and girls. We will also be reinforcing with the children the importance of staying safe and what to do if they are not sure what to do. We will be sharing the NSPCC Pantosaurus song [Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus and his PANTS song & TalkPANTS - YouTube](#)