

Parent Overview – Nursery

Personal Social Emotional Development

As we transition back into Nursery, or begin our Nursery experience, the children will be supported to settle; with key adults or familiar activities. Through texts and discussions, children will learn about a range of feelings and emotions as part of our circle time. They will develop ways to calm themselves and/or be calmed by a familiar adult. As we begin the year we will be supporting the children to have a sense of who they are and their family around them.

As with the main school, we will learn about the importance of our CARE, Be Kind, Be Safe ethos. For the Nursery children this will focus on tidying up and looking after our toys and resources and playing in harmony with one another.

Communication and Language Development

Emphasis on this area of learning is crucial to the development of all other areas. All discussions, adult led work, group work and whole group circle times, exist to develop the children correct use of language and vocabulary bank. In addition, adults will lead sessions on engaging in pretend play. Everyday interactions such as giving instructions, questioning and conversation will support this area of learning also. In conjunction with the Literacy area of learning, children will learn to recognize sounds around them and make distinctions between sounds, leading on to forming vocal sounds and finally leading into speech sounds and grapheme (letter) phoneme (letter sound) correspondences.

Physical Development

Children will become confident to move in a range of ways using different levels, varying their speed within the indoor and outdoor environment. They will independently use a range of appropriate resources to support the development of their manipulation and control, exploring different tools and materials. We will use the balance bikes, trikes and scuttle bugs to develop whole body muscle strength.

Literacy (including reading and writing)

The children will develop and enjoyment of sharing books with adults and friend. They will begin to repeat words and phrases and ask questions about simple stories, joining in with rhymes and predicting events. The children will be provided with mark making opportunities throughout all aspects of the indoor and outdoor environment, as they begin to ascribe meaning to their marks some children will be developing the recognition and recording of their name and some letter forms. Daily phonics sessions will be led by an adult for all children, for some children this will take the form of singing songs rhymes games and chants, to develop an awareness of sounds. For other children we will continue to focus on phoneme recognition in everyday contexts.

Maths

The children will use practical materials, games and everyday child led play to develop their understanding of number. We will focus on the principals of counting; 1 for 1 correspondence, stable order, cardinality, abstraction and order irrelevance, in the context of numbers 1 – 3 to begin with.

Understanding the World

The children will talk about their own experiences and special times they share with their family.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will listen to different types of music and be encouraged to play instruments and sing a variety of songs, following simple actions. We will also be encouraging children to dress up and take on different roles, to develop their imaginations.

Please remember it is open door policy at Mersea Island School before and after school. The best way to contact us is to email earlyyears@merseaschool.org or call after school and we will endeavor to speak to you as soon as possible.

Autumn Term 2026

Dates and times to remember

- Part sessions times are 8:45 – 11:45
- Term starts on **Wednesday 2nd September**
- Open classroom drop in session Monday 14th 3:15 – 3:45

Things to remember

Please send in

- a pair of named wellies to leave in Nursery
- spare named clothes and underwear (nappies and wipes if needed)
- a water bottle/beaker for drinks throughout the day
- a named sunhat

Snack time

During the morning and afternoon sessions we will provide fruit and milk for the children. If you would like your child to have any additional snacks please send them with one and make staff aware.

How can you help?

- When talking with your child, make a conscious effort to expand vocabulary ie 'yes it is a car, a big red car'
- 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 mark making at home using a range of resources ie pens, pencils crayons, felt tipped pens, paints, chalks.
- Share any home learning/experiences on Tapestry.
- Share books with your child on a regular basis, we will send home a bedtime book, please return it when you'd like it changed.



This term we will be welcoming back the children who have already been attending the Nursery as well as lots of new children. Our main focus is to develop new friendships, supporting children in becoming familiar with the adults, one another and the environment. **Please can you send us, electronically or a paper copy, a picture of your family or someone who is close to your child to go on our 'All about Me' display.** We encourage the children to talk about the picture and will have a copy on hand to support their transition. We will be looking at feelings we have and feelings we recognise in characters in stories.

Additionally we will be learning about ourselves; drawing self-portraits, recognising similarities and differences and sharing our preferences and dislikes, our families; who helps me and looks after me, and our school community; who helps me and looks after me at Nursery.

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.

