

Parent Overview – Reception September 2026

Reading

As part of our daily phonics sessions the children will take part in shared reading, learning all letter sounds and becoming familiar with some “common exception words” (words that are not phonically decodable e.g. to/ the.) Additionally, each week the children will explore a new book that will also be the catalyst for many learning opportunities.

During individual reading, our priority is to ensure confident acquisition and application of phonics skills. This will begin with quick recall of all letter sounds and double consonants e.g. ff/ll/ss. Throughout the year we will introduce new graphemes and common words, practicing these on a daily basis.

Writing

Children will learn to hear initial and final sounds in words prior to learning how to sound out words (segmentation) to write e.g. c-a-t = cat. We develop confidence in pencil grip and control; developing fine motor skills.

Handwriting

This term we will be focusing on the correct positioning for holding a pen/pencil. By gaining greater control of the marks they make, children will be ready to learn to form letters correctly. The children will attend daily handwriting sessions (during registration) where they will begin to practice pattern making and forming letters correctly.

Number

Our priority here is for children to confidently recognise, write and order numbers 0-5. We will represent numbers using different objects, as well as solving problems and justifying our answers. When counting we will first estimate the quantity of a set of objects.

Children will begin to learn about number patterns that they can “subitise”. This means that children will be able to “see a number pattern” and quickly identify the total e.g. the dots on a die.

Please remember it is open door policy at Mersea Island School before and after school. The best way to contact us is to email the class account or call after school and we will endeavor to speak to you in a timely fashion. However, if your message is urgent then please speak to a senior member of staff on the gate. Your child needs need to bring their **reading folder (reading book, diary and phonic booklets) into school each day. They will also need a snack and water bottle.**

Dates to remember

Wednesday 2nd September 2026
First Day of term.

Transition week 1
8:45am-1pm

Transition week 2
Everybody fulltime
8.45-3.15pm

Friday 23rd October 2026
Last day of half term.

8.45am – 3.15pm

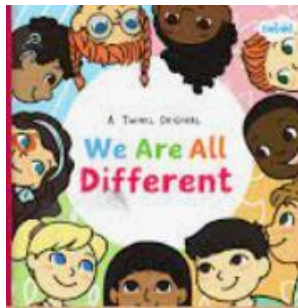
How can you help?

- When talking with your child, make a conscious effort to expand vocabulary and refine grammar e.g. “I go” instead of “I goed”
- Use real life situations to practise maths e.g. when setting the dinner table, when counting, comparing or ordering numbers to 5.
- Encourage your child to practice their writing skills at home. Children will be learning to write their name independently.
- Share any home learning/experiences on Tapestry – this encourages your child to develop confidence when talking in front of their class mates.
- Practise regular reading of school reading books and phonics books. The school expectation is to read **four nights out of seven**. 5 ‘reads’ equals a ship token. (Don’t forget to sign your child’s reading record so we know that you have read.

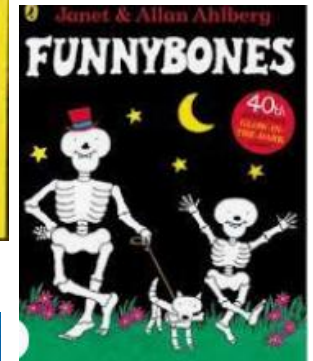
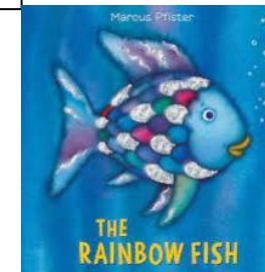
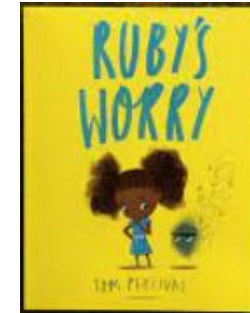
This half term our topic is

Marvellous Me

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 talk about the stories at home once we have introduced them at school.



- The Colour Monster
- Ruby's Worry
- Funnybones
- We are all different
- Rainbow Fish



We will also be learning the following songs and rhymes to support our learning across the curriculum.

- 10 Tall Fingers
- Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- If you're happy and you know it.
- 1 Finger, 1 Thumb
- Brush your teeth