Nursery Parent Overview – Autumn 2 2026

Contact emails for Nursery

If you have a question or query around your child's hours in Nursery or funding please contact the Mrs Taylor the Nursery administrator on nursery@merseaschool.org
If you would like to speak with the Nursery staff regarding day to day Nursery, please contact Mrs Clarke on earlyyears@merseaschool.org
To report an absence please contact office@merseaschool.org (if possible please cc in the nursery staff on the email above) PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT.

Please note – Due to staffing ratios and the logistics of planning these in conjunction with the rest of the school, we are unable to accept ad-hoc changes to hours, many apologies.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to practice our independence skills, hanging up our coats, putting them on by ourselves and changing our shoes into wellies. Alongside this, we will refine turn taking and sharing skills and where necessary, extending solitary play to playing alongside one or more children and developing these friendships.

Communication and Language.

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's 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 recognise 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

The children will become more independent in their self-help and toileting skills. As the weather begins to turn colder, we will use our school hall to rehearse our balancing, jumping, climbing, running, skipping, hoping and rolling skills. In the indoor setting we will use the weekly texts as a stimulus to draw, cut, paint, colour, trace and glue, creating beautiful things to decorate our Nursery environment. Adults will support the children to develop a dominant hand, as well as supporting them to use the one handed tools correctly.

Dates and times to remember

- Sessions times are
  8:45 – 11:45
  12:15 – 3:15
- Autumn Term ends on **Friday 18th December.**
- Spring Term starts on **Tuesday 5th January**
- Parents' Evening **Thursday 12th November 3:20 – 8pm**

Things to remember

Please send in

- spare named clothes and underwear (nappies, nappy bags and wipes if needed)
- a water bottle/beaker for drinks throughout the day

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.

Literacy (including reading and writing)

The children will listen to longer stories and be able to remember much of what happens. They will use a wider range of vocabulary linked to the story. Children will be able to talk about familiar books and join in with repetitive phrases. In phonics, we will continue to focus on distinguishing sounds audibly; in the environment, sounds we make, musical sounds and the initial sounds in words (including /s/ /a/ /t/ /p/ /i/ /n/ for the older children). The younger nursery children will be encouraged to make marks and ascribe meaning to these and the older children will begin to record some of their name, identifying the initial letter of their name to begin with.

Maths

This half term we will be focusing on pattern. The children will be learning about repeating patterns of colour, shape and size. Adult led and child lead activities will focus on finding, matching, saying, building, continuing and correcting errors in, repeating patterns. We will also continue to consolidate the children's understanding of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and how these can be represented in different ways, as well as comparing them to each other.

Understanding the World

Following our learning on autumn, we will begin to look at our environment in relation to winter, using all of our senses, including exploring melting and freezing. We will continue to expand our vocabulary when making sense of the world around us.

Expressive Arts and Design

Our primary focus this half term will be to learn a variety of songs and move to the music. They will explore percussion instruments through phonic acquisition and free exploration.

How can you help?

- When talking with your child, make a conscious effort to expand vocabulary i.e. 'yes it is a car, a big red car'
- Use real life situations to practice math's e.g. when setting the dinner table, when counting totals of coins.
- Encourage your child to practice their mark making at home using a range of resources i.e. .pens, pencils crayons, felt tipped pens, paints, chalks – for older children develop their recognition of the first letter of their name and extend to writing some of their name. **Please encourage your child to refer to their name writing card when doing this.**
- Share any home learning/experiences on Tapestry.
- Share books with your child on a regular basis, and return books to school for changing.



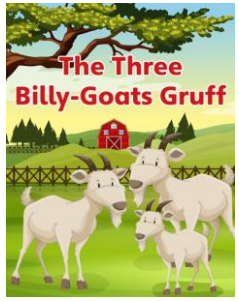
This half term we will be looking at Traditional Tales, the Nativity Story – as Christmas approaches, and we will begin the term learning about how to keep safe on bonfire night.

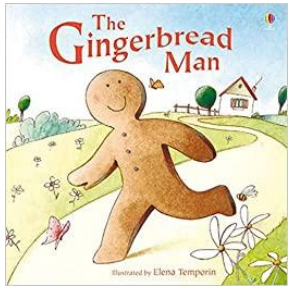


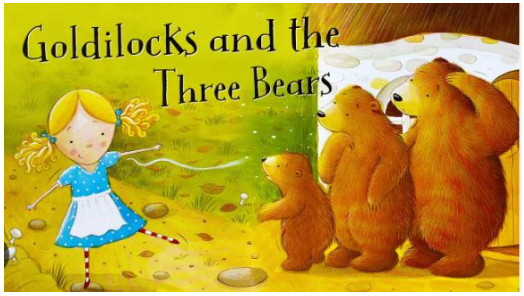


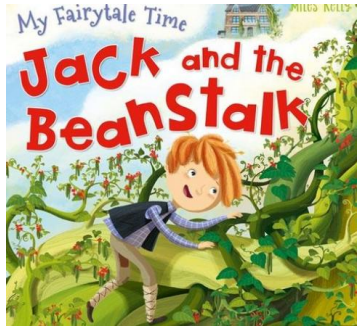
We will look closely at the following texts and use these as a stimulus for our learning. Please support the children to become familiar with these stories. We will also be learning the following songs and rhymes to support our learning across the curriculum, **Humpty Dumpty, Hickory Dickory Dock, 5 Currant Buns** and **Songs for our Christmas performance.**











Christmas Events

On **Wednesday 9th December 9am – 9:45am and Thursday 10th December 2:30pm – 3:15pm** we would like to invite you to our Reception and Nursery Nativity, which this year is called **'Hushaby Nativity'.** This is the second year we have teamed up with the Reception classes to perform a nativity together. We are very excited to be learning songs and dressing as animals and shepherds to be a part of this production. All children and their grown-ups are invited to come along whether they attend Nursery on these day or not. If you do not attend Nursery on this day, **please look out for emails over the coming weeks** as we will send an email in a few weeks in order for you to confirm your attendance.

This year Christmas dinner day is the very last day of term, **Friday 18th December.** If your child is in Nursery this day and you would like to book a Christmas dinner, this can be done via ParentPay. This will also be Christmas jumper day (donation of £1) and non-school uniform for the rest of the school.

The Free Church on Mill Road will again be running their annual Christmas Tree festival and the children in Nursery will soon be busy preparing their decorations for this event. Please go along **(Friday 11th 6-8pm, Saturday 12th 10am-4pm and Sunday 13th 1pm-4pm)** and have a look at the beautiful trees created by the island community and cast your vote.