

September 2026

Dear Nursery Families,

AUTUMN TERM 2026

We would like to thank you all for your amazing support as your children settle into their first couple of weeks at Haydn Nursery. We have absolutely loved getting to know each child and are so proud of them!

Our Topics

This term, much of our learning and play will be based around the theme, 'Me and My Nursery.' The children will enjoy exploring their Nursery environment and get to know our special rules and routines. They will begin to build relationships with staff and other children in the setting and will sing songs and take part in circle games to help get to know one another. In our 'busy time' (free-flow play time), we will support the children to develop their fine motor control as they begin to learn new skills such as cutting, sticking, fixing, fastening and mark-making. We will build in the Construction Corner, design in the Workshop, create in our 'messy play' area, read in our Reading Garden and imagine in our Home Corner. The children will investigate numbers through counting songs, matching and sorting, creating patterns and sharing amounts. They will develop their gross-motor and co-ordination skills when using our outside equipment and will have so many adventures to our school wild garden. What a busy time we will have!

Festivals, Seasons and Traditions

Autumn is full of festivals! This term, we will celebrate a number of different festivals and traditions including Rosh Hashanah, Harvest Festival, Nottingham Goose Fair, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas.

Our celebration of Harvest will provide us with a fantastic opportunity to explore healthy eating and the importance of eating fruits and vegetables. We always look forward to celebrating our annual 'Apple Day' where the children will enjoy tasting an array of apples as well as many other apple themed activities. Next half term, we will celebrate the Hindu festival of Diwali. We will find out about the customs and traditions associated with the festival and having a go at recreating some of them here in our nursery. We would be very grateful of any support from any families who themselves celebrate Diwali - maybe ideas for cooking, Rangoli, dancing - whatever skills you can share!

As the seasons change, we will be looking for signs of autumn and winter. We will go on an autumnal walk around the school grounds, will take part in a variety of autumn-themed mud kitchen activities and will enjoy forest school activities in our garden. As autumn approaches, we would love it if your child brought in any seasonal finds to add to our Nursery Nature Table! These may be acorns, conkers, pinecones, big autumn leaves or other interesting finds.

Story of the week

Each week, we will share our 'Special Story of the Week' with you on our class noticeboard (found in the nursery corridor) and on our ClassDojo page. Many of these special stories link closely to seasonal changes and important events happening through the year. Some of our special stories this term include: 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Owl Babies', 'Pumpkin Soup', 'The Story of Rama and Sita' and a selection of Christmas stories.

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AT HAYDN WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN.
HAYDN IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL.

Rhyme of the Week

Every week or two, we will also share our 'rhyme of the week' on our ClassDojo page. These rhymes help to develop the children's speech and language skills, or help to practise their counting. Keep a look out of our nursery notice board in the corridor, and on ClassDojo for our first Rhyme of the Week!

Early Reading and Writing

In nursery, we aim to help the children to foster a real love for listening to, re-telling and eventually reading stories! Whilst formal phonics teaching (teaching children to read sounds and words) begins in F2, the nursery years are the best time to lay the foundations for your child's future reading. Before they can learn to read and write, children must first be able to identify sounds in words. We help to develop these important listening skills through a range of carefully planned songs, rhymes and games. Next half term, the children will begin to learn a 'sound of the week'. We will be in touch shortly with an invitation to our 'Early Reading meeting' which will explain how we introduce phonics learning in nursery and how you can help your child at home.

Health and Safety

As you come into the nursery with your child, please ensure that the nursery gates and doors are closed behind you. This is essential for the safety of your children. Please also remember to hand your child over to their special teacher each morning when dropping off and pick up directly from their room/area each day. If a different friend or family member will be collecting your child, please let a member of our team know in advance. If changes happen last minute, please call the school as we may not see your message in time.

Please remember to label all of your child's school clothes and property - including lunch boxes and water bottles.

Activity Fund

As mentioned in our meeting in July, baking and food preparation is a very important part of our curriculum and we aim to make something to taste each week. This allows children to discover the tastes of different foods, observe how food changes during cooking and the different ways of preparing foods. It is also a great way to celebrate the various festivals throughout the year and to learn about a healthy diet. Unfortunately, the Local Authority does not cover the cost of consumable goods such as cooking ingredients, corn flour and flour for dough, but we are very grateful for the voluntary contribution made by parents and carers each term which helps cover some of the costs. The voluntary contribution of £10 can be paid at the beginning of the school year or termly (£4 autumn Term, then £3 spring and summer terms). This amount will cover the whole nursery year. If you would prefer to send in your contribution termly, please let your child's group leader know. Please fill in and return the slip below with your contribution. We thank you in anticipation.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead and as always, your help at nursery is very welcome and gratefully received. Please do not hesitate to get in touch by contacting a member of our team on ClassDojo, or speaking to us in person each day.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

The Nursery Team

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NURSERY ACTIVITY FUND

Childs Name.....

- ☐ I enclose £10 activity fund money for the whole year
- ☐ I would prefer to pay termly and enclose £4 this term (leaving £3 for the spring term and £3 for the summer term to pay)