Carousel Newsletter

Sept. 2026



Nursery News

Curriculum Changes

This September we introduced new topics to the Carousel curriculum. These topics will apply for 7 months of the year, with the remaining 5 months dedicated to Christmas (Dec), Easter/World Book Week (March) and three months with a Cultural Celebration Week.

The practitioners in each room of the nursery plan an adult-led activity every day. These are designed to help the children meet their next developmental milestones, whilst aligning with the learning and development expectations laid out in the EYFS. The new topics will help to ensure we are meeting these expectations and will also give the practitioners a helpful steer in their planning. We also think that the new topics will be fun and will boost our practitioners' creativity when planning exciting new activities for the children to enjoy.

Each week there will be a couple activities planned that will fit in with our topical themes. The display board on the left as you come through the front door of the nursery shows the different topics being covered each term. The annual nursery calendar has also been shared in a ParentHub post, in case you missed it. To kick things off, our topic for September will be 'Food and Farming; from field to fork'. This will incorporate Harvest (donations box in the foyer for donations to Billericay Foodbank) and a pre-school trip to Waitrose.

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Nursery Photos

Tuesday 27th October

Every year we book in a professional photographer to take photos of the children, which parents can buy.

To manage the morning smoothly, this year we will have slots for children to attend who won't be in nursery on this day. These will go up on the front door (much like the Parents' Evening ones) two weeks before the photoshoot. The photographer will be here between 8am and 11am, and we will offer slots to children not at nursery between 8am and 9.30am.

The photographer will also take photos of siblings, whether the sibling is at nursery or not. This date is in half term if you would like to bring an older child for a photo with their brother or sister. If bringing a sibling who is not at nursery, you will need to book a slot.

The photos are usually available to buy soon after the photoshoot, and are delivered within a few weeks.

Auto Adrenaline Injectors (AAIs)

Now held on-site at nursery

In February 2026 the Government passed Benedict's Law, which has made it compulsory for schools to hold spare AAIs (popularly known as EpiPens) on-site to be used in case a child experiences anaphylaxis.

This law does not apply to nurseries, but we have decided that we will have AAIs on-site. They are in place now, along with a policy on their use.

We have a robust allergy management policy in place at the nursery and a child's allergy information is collected at the Home Visit before a child starts attending. However, this can only make us aware of known allergies and it is entirely possible that a child could have a reaction at nursery to an unknown allergen, e.g. a bee sting.

We have purchased two AAIs suitable for young children. We have put a policy in place for their use and training has been delivered to staff.

Our practitioners always cover anaphylaxis on their Paediatric First Aid course, which is refreshed every 3 years. All staff are therefore aware of the signs of anaphylaxis and know how to use the AAIs, which also have straightforward instructions on the packaging.

We hope this gives parents peace of mind, but we would like to stress that the chances of a child experiencing anaphylaxis in response to an unknown allergen are low.



As the weather turns wetter and colder over the next few months, please ensure your child comes to nursery in suitable footwear and with a coat. We do not have spare shoes and coats on-site, so we will have to ask parents to drop them off if these items are missing. Thank you for your co-operation.

Other news

An in-house baker

Our new cook, Shannon Briggs, also owns her own baking company called SMV Create, Bake, Decorate. She makes celebration cakes to order and other services include sugar craft decorations, muffins & cupcakes, sweet bakes and fondant chocolate oranges. Her email address is smv_createbakedecorate@hotmail.com and you can find her company on Instagram. We have tried and tested one of her cakes and can confirm it looked beautiful and tasted delicious! There are some of Shannon's business cards in the foyer.

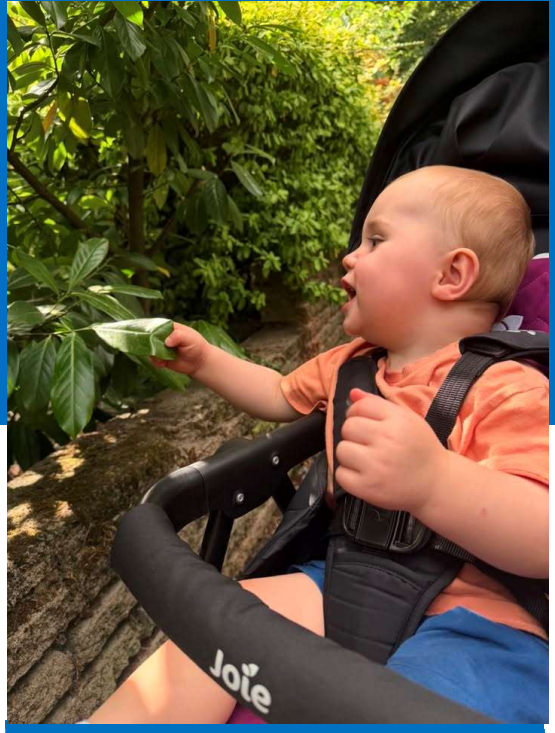
Building updates

We continue to work hard to keep the nursery looking and feeling fresh. Following our big kitchen refurbishment at Easter, we made a few other changes in the summer term too. We installed new Perspex on the garden canopy roof, installed a new drain in the garden to collect the roof rainwater and replaced the flooring in every room. This term the whole nursery will be re-decorated and we will be installing air-conditioning in the office and staff room to make these rooms more comfortable than they were this summer!



Date for your diary – this year's nativity (Rabbit and Pre-school children only) will be on ***Friday 11th December****. Doors will open at 4pm for a 4.30pm start.*

Trips/Visits



We love to offer curriculum-enhancing opportunities whenever we can at nursery. Given the age of the children we care for, this tends to take the shape of trips and visits outside of the nursery for the upper nursery, and the organisation of visitors to the nursery for the younger rooms.

This term we will be taking the pre-school children on a trip to Waitrose on 22nd September. We will get the bus there and once in the shop the children will work as a team to gather the ingredients needed to make bread rolls for their tea. This links to our topic on Food and Farming, helping the children to understand the end point in the process of getting food to our plates, and do some cooking too!

The lower nursery have been really enjoying the Sing and Sign classes that have recently started, and the dance and sport classes for the older children continue to be well-loved too.

In October we will enjoy a visit from ZooLab, a company that bring exotic creatures like snakes and giant snails to the nursery for the children to see and touch, if they wish! We will also be booking in a magician as a Christmas treat in December for all the children.

On top of this, we take all the children for walks in the local area, and often stop off at parks or local greens to let them play or explore nature with their friends.

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Toilet Training

As we prepared to say goodbye to the children going to school last term, we were inundated with communications from the local authority about the importance of ensuring that children are starting school fully toilet-trained. Shockingly, around 25% of children in the UK are starting school not toilet trained, and this causes a huge problem for schools who do not have the staff to help children in the toilet.

It is virtually unheard of for children from Carousel to start school in nappies. We work closely with parents to help a child reach independence with toileting and this process usually starts when the child is in the Rabbit room. It is normal for parents to start the process when they think their child is ready, but we will encourage a family if we think toilet-training could begin.

Most children are ready to start toilet training between 18months and 3 years of age. All children differ, but it is important not to leave it too late as this can make the process harder. There is lots of advice available on the Talk, Listen Cuddle website and on the ERIC charity website. Our experienced practitioners are happy to discuss this at any time, and our toilet training policy is available on our website.