



Apple Class Nursery News

Spring 1 January 2022

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Firstly, a very happy new year to all our Apple Class families and a very warm welcome to our new Apple Class children! We really do hope that you've had a very enjoyable and happy Christmas and would like to extend our thanks to you all for your support throughout last term and for your kind wishes, cards and gifts at Christmas. We are raring to get going again and look forward to some super learning and lots of fun throughout the spring term!

Just some reminders to keep Apple Class running smoothly:

- If you arrive after the gate has been closed in the morning, please take your child to the main office so that they can be signed in.
- Please ensure that all items of uniform are labelled with children's names. This is particularly important for jumpers, cardigans, shoes, coats, hats, scarves and mittens/gloves. The children take these items off with great regularity during the day and if they are not labelled, it's very tricky! Staff must then spend their time finding and sorting items instead of interacting and working with the children.
- Please have **water only** in bottles brought to Apple Class each day
- If your child wears pull-ups, please ensure a plentiful supply along with wipes and nappy sacks
- Please remember to provide a change of clothes for your child in case of a toilet accident or getting wet/muddy during the course of the session. The changes of clothes should be passed to a member of staff and will be stored on your child's peg. Please return any clothes to Apple Class which your child may have been changed into when their own clothes were not provided.

Full-Time School Places

If your child is due to start in Reception Class in September 2022 please ensure that you have applied for a place at Swansfield Park Primary School. Unfortunately, being in the nursery does not guarantee you a place. You can apply through the Northumberland County Council website. If you need any help with your application, please speak to a member of staff. It can be accessed via the Northumberland County Council website and search for 'Reception entry applications'

Last day to apply BY is JANUARY 15TH 2022

Illness

As most of you are aware, many children were off poorly before Christmas as coughs / viruses can spread extremely quickly. Can we please remind carers and parents that if your child is poorly, the best place for them is to be at home resting (so they can recover, and to ultimately stop the spread of germs). If your child has sickness and diarrhoea, they should be off school for a minimum of 48 hours (from when they last vomited.)

Weekly Blog

A reminder to parents that we write a weekly blog. This is always up and ready to view by the end of the school day on Friday. It's on the school website, under class pages and it gives a little insight of what we've been up to during the week. It's where we share information for the following week, and it also helps you to see what your child has been doing in Apple Class. You can look through many photos together and allows you to follow up the key learning opportunities at home.

Shared Learning

As parents and carers, we value the key role that you play in your child's education and we are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for your children. As a part of this collaboration, here are the details of this half term's home learning task:

Family history is an important part of our Early Years curriculum and a great way to begin exploring the past. We'd like to explore **'brothers and sisters'** for this term's family learning. This can involve looking at photos of your family – when brothers/sisters were born, a time before brothers/sisters or the children themselves were born. It can involve their brothers and sisters or brothers and sisters of parents. It can also involve cousins if this is relevant. The key is for children to begin to discuss and talk about their family history. You can upload photos and information from this task to your child's School 360 Journal and we look forward to talking with the children about their findings. The children could make a pictorial family tree, make a montage of photos or simply snuggle on the sofa with some photos and a parent to chat!

Our Curriculum

Children learn as they play and play is at the core of our curriculum in Apple Class. We provide a range of play-based provocations and encourage the children to engage with these. As staff, we spend a large proportion of our time joining children in their play, encouraging communication and language development. We encourage children to be curious, to ask questions, to spot things that are happening and to be imaginative.

Our themes this half term are 'wonderful Winter' and 'all about birds'. We will however encourage children to follow their own interests and current fascinations.

There are many skills that we will be focusing on over the half term and beyond and these include...

- Turn taking and sharing fairly with others
- Speaking in full sentences
- Practice independence when dressing for the outdoor environment (**we will be going outside in all weathers this term and it will get chilly if we get snow, so please bring a named hat, scarf and mittens every day.**)

We will **continue to...**

- Listen and join in with refrains and repeated language in stories in whole class discussions and in smaller groups
- Clap rhythms in words and phrases and listening to the initial sound in words (especially the first initial of our name)
- Follow instructions
- Ask and answer questions
- Retell stories and create our own
- Snip with scissors – using thumb and first two fingers
- Hold pens and pencils with thumb and first two fingers to make shapes, lines and to trace letters in our names

It would be great if you could reinforce these skills at home!

Take 5 – simple ways that you can support your child this half term

1. Share and read many wintery stories together and read them lots of times. Encourage them to learn any repeated phrases and vocabulary.
2. Cut out pictures of birds and cold colours (white, light blue, silver) from papers and magazines to create a collage – be sure to hold scissors with thumb and first 2 fingers, if you need a pair of child's scissors, just ask as we have lots!
3. We'd still like you to encourage your child to trace the 1st letter of their name. Be sure to use a capital letter. We've added the school script to our Apple Class page to help you. If your child is confident, get them to write their whole name! Don't forget to hold pens between thumb and first 2 fingers.
4. To build upon finger strength, you could make some simple bird feeders and hang them up outside to help the birds survive during these colder months. Using some string and cheerios carefully thread the cheerios onto the string and then tie at both ends.
5. As we learn the name of some common birds, go for a walk, and observe what the birds are doing. Can you see a bird in its nest? Can you see a bird flying? Can you find a bird having a wash? Can you spot some of the birds that we've talked about in Apple class?

Now lastly, let's get our new year and term underway – don't forget to email or ask if you have any queries we can help with!
Miss Whitlow and Mrs Grimes