

# Apple Class

## Nursery News

Autumn Term 2



Hello and welcome back to our second half term of the school year. We do hope that everyone has had a great half term holiday. The weather wasn't wonderful but with autumn in full swing, there's so much for our Apple Class children to see and explore outside whatever the weather!

As always please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.

### Staff Changes

No big changes with staffing this half term, but you may have noticed that Mrs Farrar now teaches us in Apple every Thursday, as well as her three usual days (Monday, Tuesday and Friday.) Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes continues to teach us every Wednesday.

In December, we say a big goodbye and good luck to Jenny Carr, as she leaves us to welcome her second child.

Mrs Yvonne Hattrick stays with us this half term to work and play in Apple.

### 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 '**Autumn**' '**Celebrations**' and '**The Stories of Julia Donaldson.**' We will however encourage children to follow their own interests and current fascinations.

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

- Listening and joining in with refrains and repeated language in stories in small groups and as a class
- Clapping rhythms in words and phrases and listening to the initial sound in words (s... for sausage)
- Following instructions - up to three at a time!
- Asking and answering questions
- Retelling stories
- Creating characters and scenarios in role play and small world play relating to our key stories
- Snipping with scissors – using thumb and first two fingers
- Holding pens and pencils with thumb and first two fingers to make shapes, lines and to trace letters in our names
- Talking about and sharing our family traditions for bonfire night and Christmas
- Continuing to describe the changes we see as autumn progresses

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

### A few reminders to keep Apple Class running smoothly...

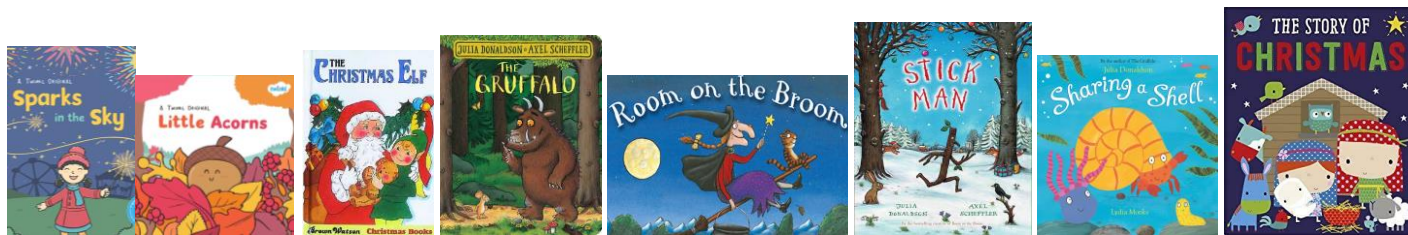
- The gate opens in the morning at 8.45am and we'll close it at 8.55am. The gate will open at 11.45am for children leaving or arriving at lunchtime. The gate will open at 3.00pm for children leaving at the end of the day.
- If you arrive after the gate has been closed in the morning, please take your 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 then have to 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

### Skills to support learning

#### Take 5 – simple ways to support with your child's learning this half term

1. Share the story of the Gruffalo with your child lots of times and encourage them to learn the repeated vocabulary off by heart
2. Cut out pictures to make a visual Christmas list – 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. 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. Make a paper chain to decorate your house – the important bit is threading each strip of paper through the last loop and joining it up with tape – this is great for building finger strength!
5. Go for a walk and observe what is happening to the trees. Maybe you could watch the same tree over a few weekends. What has happened?

## Our core texts



**Sparks in the Sky** by Twinkl, **Little Acorns** by Twinkl, **The Christmas Elf** by Brown Watson, stories we love by Julia Donaldson; **The Gruffalo**, **Room on the Broom**, **Stickman** and **Sharing a Shell**. As we begin to celebrate Christmas we will be reading **The Christmas Story**.

We will also be sharing lots of other stories but these will be our focus up until Christmas.

## Learning Journals

Thank you to everyone who has logged on and contributed to their child's learning journal. It has been great to see so many contributions from home and also to engage in dialogue with you about the entries we have made through the comment box. This really helps us to share next steps in your child's learning and offer ways that you can support these at home. If you are still unable to access your child's learning journal, please let us know and we will send out the invitation request again. Please do remember that when you receive this request, it will not come from school, it comes directly from School 360.

## 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:

### My Favourite Nursery Rhyme/Song

Communication and language is such an important part of our curriculum in Apple Class so this half term we'd like to challenge the children to learn and perform a new or favourite nursery rhyme/song. This could be an old favourite such as Humpty Dumpty, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star or a new song or rhyme. It would be lovely to have some Christmas related performances nearer to the end of term. There will be a certificate for anyone who joins in. You can send us a short video of your child performing or even better, let us know at the gate what they'd like to perform and we'll make space for this during the session.

We can't wait to hear the children; it would be super to have contributions from everyone.

## Lending Library

Our lending library has started! Children will receive a book, once you've read it, bring it back and we will swap it! We ask that you engage in interactive story sessions with your child on a daily basis. Sharing stories promotes your child's development in so many ways.

Reading stories will:

- help your child learn to value books and stories
- expand their vocabulary, develop an awareness of sounds and develop early literacy skills
- develop their attention and listening skills
- help your child develop their expressive speech skills e.g. sharing their ideas, opinions, predictions and relating stories to their own experiences
- help your child understand new or frightening events
- help your child learn about the world, their own culture and other cultures

We ask that you upload a photo, drawing or video to their journal illustrating your child's response to the stories e.g. favourite book, character or event. They might also relate stories to their own experiences and feelings.

## Let's get started with our second half term!

**Mrs Beth Farrar and  
Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes**

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**Please look out over the next week for a  
Google form so that you can give your  
preferences for days/hours for the spring term.**