



Apple Class Nursery News

Autumn term 1 2021

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We are delighted to welcome you all to Apple Class and can happily report that all of the children are settling so well into nursery life! We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that your children thrive during their time with us. Come and meet the team...



Left to right, Miss Alice Reilly, Mrs Lisa Pickard, Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes, Miss Olivia Taylor, Mrs Kerry Wallace

Here are a few of the most important details you need to know as we get started:

We open the gates at **08.35** and the morning session runs from **08.45 – 11.45**. The afternoon session runs from **12.00 – 15.00**. Drop off and pick up is at the Apple Class Gate at the top of The Avenue. Please remember to leave the site promptly and keep a social distance from others.

We try to keep our school a mobile phone free zone so please, wherever possible, refrain from using your phone.

Your child needs a pair of named wellies in school. Please ensure your child has a named water bottle, sun hat and water proof coat each day. As the weather changes, hats and mittens will be necessary.

Mrs Grimes is our teacher on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Miss Reilly is our teacher on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Miss Whitlow returns from maternity leave at the beginning of October and will take over from Miss Reilly.

If you as parents are not dropping off and picking up each day and you have a regular schedule of others who will be doing this, please email this to us so we can keep a record of it.

Learning Journals

In Apple Class, we use an online journal to celebrate your children's milestones in their learning and development. We look forward to getting these up and running in the next few weeks. We will add photos and information to keep you informed of significant progress. We encourage you to add contributions of significant moments from home too. Many of you will already have access to the online journal (EY School 360 app) but you will need to update your app from the app store. For those of you who are new to Swansfield this year, we'll send out details of how you can download and get started with this app. If you have any questions or queries about the app, do get in touch!

Look around Apple class

We are sad that we are not able to welcome you into our classroom at the moment. We know that many of your children will be telling you about things that they are enjoying and areas of the classroom where they play regularly. However, we also know that many children won't be doing this. So, in the next few weeks, we'll share some videos with you of our classroom environment so you can see where your children spend their days. You'll be able to find these on our Apple Class page on the school website.

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, we will have a home/school project each half term. As this half term progresses, we will be finding out about the season of autumn and we ask that you join us in this exploration. We would like you to look for signs of autumn and create your own art work. This could be a collage made from autumn leaves, a painting of an autumn scene, an autumn model... whatever you and your child enjoy! Please send your pictures in before we break up on Friday 22nd October and we'll display these in the classroom.

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 All About Me, Autumn and Harvest. 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...

- Separating happily at the start of each session
- Getting to know one another
- Getting to grips with apple class routines
- Developing the confidence to 'have a go'
- Independently accessing the resources
- Holding pens and pencils effectively and using scissors
- Counting within 10 with confidence
- Learning to tidy up!
- Washing hands independently
- Beginning to dress for outdoors with a little bit of independence
- Using a knife and fork at lunch time
- Using the toilet independently

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

Parents' meetings

We will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and development on two different occasions throughout the year. It's likely that these will be virtually or over the telephone. You will receive further communication about these nearer the time. If, in the meantime, you have an urgent concern you wish to discuss, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Clothing

It is extremely important to name ALL clothing. In particular, **shoes, wellies and cardigans/jumpers**. These get misplaced easily and without names staff cannot find them easily.

We go outside in all weathers and we have the appropriate suits for the children to wear. However, as the weather gets colder could you please ensure that your child has a hat, scarf and preferably a pair of mittens rather than gloves. It is incredibly helpful to us if **all clothing and shoes are named** in order to ensure that they go home with the correct child at the end of the session!

Apple class blog

Every week we will share a blog on the Apple class page of the school website that will talk about all of the exciting things we have learnt during the week. This will be accompanied by photographs.

To access the blog, go onto Swansfield Park Primary school website. Next, select 'class pages' and then select 'Apple class'. Our first blog will be written on Friday 17th September but we will only add photographs of your child if you have given photo consent. This is an excellent opportunity for you to talk about the week with your child and what they have enjoyed doing. We will give you some suggestions of key vocabulary that we have been learning which you can reinforce at home.

On our Apple class page you can also find all of our curriculum information, newsletters and significant and memorable experiences.

Let's get started with our Apple Class 2021-22 adventure... off we go!