

Apple Class



Nursery News

Spring Term 2

We wish to extend a very warm welcome back to all our children and their families. We hope you had a well-rested February holiday and that you're ready for a busy, jam packed half term.

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 theme this half term is '**People Who Help Us.**'

Learning through play and hands on experiences are the best ways to learn. The 'people who help us' topic provides many opportunities to offer real life experiences to children.

We'll be looking closely at different occupations and job roles (**police officers, fire fighters, doctors, dentists, farmers, vets, postal service, bin service** etc). If you're in a job role that fits this topic and would like to come into school to talk to the children about your role, please talk to Mrs Farrar or Mrs Grimes!

From this topic the children will learn about:

1. The role and purpose of people who help us in our community.
2. Developing caring, nurturing, kind and empathetic skills.
3. Identifying and naming equipment and resources (**stethoscope, stretcher, patient, ladder, hose, siren, fire extinguisher etc.**) More vocabulary will be shared with the children as each new job role is introduced to them.
4. Developing early mathematical concepts through play (**sorting and matching equipment, counting skills: 2 spoons of medicine, 1:1 correspondence: 1 bed: 1 patient, measurement concepts and language: long/short bandage.**)
5. developing an awareness of shape within our environment (**wheels on an emergency vehicle are round etc**)

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 (d... for doctor, p.. for police, f... for fire)
- 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 core texts and real life experiences (visitors in Apple Class)
- 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 experiences

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

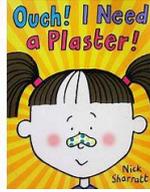
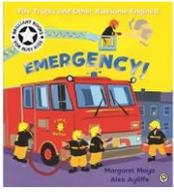
- Please ensure that **ALL** items of uniform are labelled with children's names. This is particularly important for **jumpers, cardigans, shoes, coats, hats, scarves and mittens/gloves**. The children take these items off with great regularity during the day and if they are not labelled, it's very tricky! 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. Talk and walk - go for a little wander in our community and see what you discover – pop into our local library which is now within the Playhouse! *Did you hear a siren? What could this be? Can you hear the bin wagon? Let's take a look. That's the doctor's surgery - what happens there?*
2. To help reduce waste in our area, can you recycle one thing, re use one thing and repair one thing?
3. In an emergency it's important to know your **name and address**. With a bit of help, can you learn this?
4. Some of you may already know the names of the local people who help us - if you don't, can you find out the names of people who help us in our community? (Dentist / post man / bin man / doctor, vet etc)
5. Read and sing! Read many stories related to our theme and make up your own. Sing new nursery rhymes - we can't wait to hear some back in Apple Class!

Our core texts



Emergency by Margret Mayo, **Mog and the V.E.T.** by Judith Kerr, **The Ladybird Series (Doctor Daisy, Farmer Fred)**, **Ouch! I Need A Plaster** by Nick Sharratt, **Thank You Heroes** by Patricia Hegarty.

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

Little Movers

Every **Thursday morning**, a group of Apple class children, will be joining in with integrated music, dance and movement sessions, with the residents at Summer Hill Care home. The Little Movers team will lead these exciting and fun sessions. Only children who attend Apple Class on a Thursday morning will be invited to join in with these sessions.

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.

A little reminder about our weekly blog

Our Apple Class weekly blog is always up and ready to view by the end of the school day on **Fridays**. It's on the school website, under class pages and it gives you an overview of all the fantastic things we get up to in Apple. You'll see many photos and a few words about our learning and play during the week.

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 Story

This half term we will be talking about the children's love of books (with links to World Book Day). So we would like your child to draw a picture of their favourite book or character so we can make a display.

It would be super to have contributions from everyone, as we feel it is important for children to associate learning not just with school, but at home too!

Our Trip to the Library

We have been busy organising a trip for each child to visit our local library during this half term. Our local library is now situated within the *Alnwick Playhouse*.

We will inform you of when it's your child's day to go down and join in with the library's Song and Rhyme session. These sessions are organised by the staff at the Playhouse and are aimed for children 5 and under. They read a story, sing songs, play with instruments and then have a calming, crafting time to finish the session.

We have been told that during our visit we will have the opportunity to create a library membership for each child – which sets them up with their first library card (if they don't already have one.)

More information can be shared with you on this, as to set a new membership they do require some information from yourselves first.

Request for Resources

Thank you for your continued support with bringing in resources as requested.

This half term we would appreciate items to enhance our role play and small world areas. Anything that is now unwanted or unused will be greatly appreciated!

Things such as: **unused plasters and their boxes, bandages, torches, thermometers, walkie-talkies, old mobile phones, small figures (people.)**

Along with the usual junk modelling bits (small boxes – which haven't had a **nut product** in them, plastic containers, kitchen roll tubs, plastic milk/bottle lids etc)

Colour Fun Tiddly Triathlon

Across Early Years we want to continue to develop our outdoor learning environments. With this in mind we are organising an inaugural Swansfield 'Colour Fun Tiddly Triathlon' on **Monday 27th of March**.

We hope you will get behind us, by sponsoring your child and supporting our outdoor learning project. Look out for details on this event coming soon.

Let's get started with our very exciting half term!

Mrs Beth Farrar and Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes

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