

Apple Class

Nursery News

Autumn Term 1



A warm welcome back to all our parents, carers, and children, all refreshed and ready to start another busy year in Apple Class. We would also like to welcome all our new families and children that are starting with us this year.

To parents / carers of new children starting; this will be a big step for them.

Remember that transition is a process, not an event.

Over the coming weeks/and month of September your child may express a range of emotions about being here and away from you this can also be true for those children who are returning to a relatively familiar space. We can assure you that all staff are experienced with supporting children to settle in.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.

Meet the team



Mrs Beth Farrar, Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes, Mrs Kerry Wallace and Miss Jenny Carr.

Mrs Farrar is our teacher on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and Mrs Grimes is our teacher on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Kerry and Jenny are our fabulous assistants who work and play with us in Apple.

General Info

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 ensure your child has a named water bottle and water proof coat each day. As the weather changes, hats and mittens will be necessary.
- Your child needs a pair of named wellies in school at all times.
- It is extremely important to name **ALL** clothing. In particular, shoes 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.

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.'**

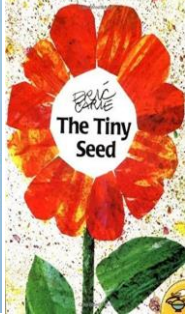
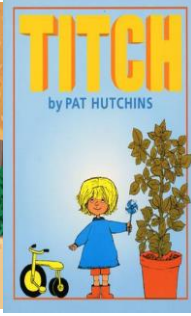
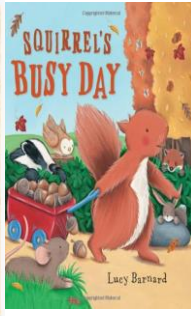
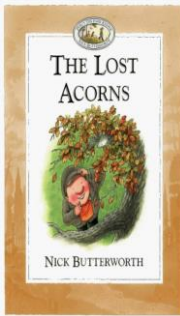
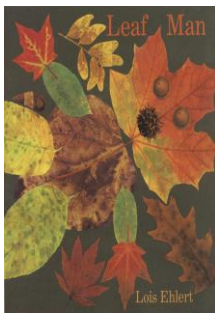
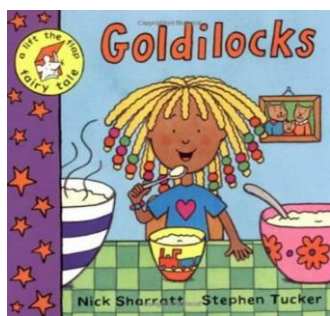
Shared Learning

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!

We look forward to seeing how creative you can be!

Our core texts



Skills to support learning

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
- Listening and joining in with refrains and repeated language in stories in whole class discussions and in smaller groups
- Clapping rhythms in words and phrases and listening to the initial sound in words (especially the first initial of our name)
- Following instructions
- Asking and answering questions
- Retelling stories and creating our own
- 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

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

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 16th of 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.

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!

Nut Free

Please remember we are a 'Nut Free' school. If your child will be bringing a packed lunch to school, please **do not** send any items containing nuts. This includes nut-based chocolate spread and peanut butter in sandwiches.

We also ask that you carefully consider all the items you are packing into your child's packed lunch and make sure they are healthy options. If you would like some advice on what to give them as a balanced packed lunch, please ask. We encourage children to leave their packaging in their lunch boxes so that you can see what they have eaten.

Parent Consultations

We will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and development on two different occasions throughout the year. 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.

Mystery Readers WANTED!

Shhh.. it's a secret!

WHO?

Mystery Readers can be parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, or anyone else who is a special part of the child's life. They secretly sign up to come in and read a story aloud to the class. The child won't know you're coming until you arrive!

WHY?

Children LOVE having their family and relatives visit our classroom to share in their learning by reading a favourite story.

WHAT?

Mystery readers can bring a book from home or read a teacher chosen book from our library.

WHEN?

Look out for our 'sign up' sheets on the '**news you can use**' board.

Request for Resources

(We would love it if you could bring some items in)

Autumnal Treasures – conkers and their shells, acorns etc

Anything we could use and play with for Harvest – tractors, farm vehicles, farmer figures etc (anything that you do not want back!)

Herbs and any other utensils (spatulas, spoons) for our mud kitchen

Purses, handbags, fascinators, old bracelets, men's caps (anything that you do not want back!)

Junk Materials - cereal boxes, empty bottles, bottle tops, yoghurt pots etc (please no toilet roll tubes!)

Apple Library

We're really excited to be starting our library!

This is a great opportunity for your child to choose a book from our collection to read for pleasure. They will be bringing these books home for you to enjoy together.

We will run a system where your child can simply choose a book and when you have finished reading it, bring it back and we can swap it.

We hope you have lots of fun sharing and talking about the books as a family.

Happy reading!

Stay and Play in Apple

We are delighted to welcome you into Apple for our stay and play sessions – which you simply come in and join us for songs, a story and lots of playing.

It's a great opportunity for you to play and engage with your child and see what we get up to!

Look out for our 'sign up' sheets on the '**news you can use**' board.

Let's get started with our Apple Class 2022-23 adventure... off we go!

Mrs Beth Farrar and Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes

bethany.farrar@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

anne-marie.grimes@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk