



# Apple Class Nursery News

Autumn term 2 2021

[bethany.whitlow@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:bethany.whitlow@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk) [anne-marie.grimes@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:anne-marie.grimes@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk)

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!

Miss Whitlow has thoroughly enjoyed her 1<sup>st</sup> few weeks back in Apple Class and has got to know all of the children really well. The whole team can't wait to get started on a new half term of learning and discovery together.

Here are a few bits of general information and some reminders to keep Apple Class running smoothly:

- The gate now 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. Please **do not** arrive too early at morning or afternoon drop off so that the Pear parents can use the path without obstruction.
- 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

## 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.

## January Sessions and 30 Hours Funding

Thank you for completing the Google form sent out recently about Apple Class sessions in January. There is currently a very high demand for places and although we will try to fulfil everyone's requests, this may not be possible. A member of staff from the office will be in touch very soon to let you know what we are able to offer. If you are eligible for 30 hours funding, please remember that **you must verify your code before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021** or you **will not** be able to access this funding in Apple Class in the spring term (January through to Easter.)

## Parents' Meetings

We're really looking forward to speaking with you at our parent consultation meeting later in the half term. We'll be running telephone consultations on the morning of **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November** and the afternoon of **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. You'll be invited to make an appointment at one of these sessions later on in November. We'll share information about your child's progress at this meeting along with some tailored next steps for your child. It will also be an opportunity for you to ask any progress related questions. But, if you have a pressing concern, please don't wait until then to ask, just drop us an email and we'll get back to you.

### 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.

### 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, Fireworks and Bonfire Night 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!

### Take 5 – simple ways that you can support your child 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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?

**Let's get our second half term underway – don't forget to email or ask if you have any queries we can help with!**