



Apple Class Nursery News



Summer Term 1 2022

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We would like to welcome everyone back after a lovely Easter break and also welcome our new families starting with us in Apple Class. This is our Summer 1 Nursery News. This term is always a fun one with, hopefully, the weather getting warmer and drier as the weeks progress. We will be spending lots of time outside no matter the weather so please ensure your child has a full spare change of clothes in their bag. We are raring to get going again and look forward to some super learning and lots of fun throughout the summer term!

Classroom Organisation

For the benefit of new parents, our Apple Class team includes Miss Whitlow and Mrs Grimes as Apple Class teachers, supported by Kerry Wallace, Lisa Pickard, Hannah Ridley, Ellie Brown and Olivia Taylor (Olivia works with our Apple Class children every afternoon).

Nut Free School/Packed lunches

Just a reminder that Swansfield Park is a nut free school and we would like to gently remind parents (**particularly those bringing in packed lunches**) that products containing nuts/traces of nuts (e.g. peanut butter/chocolate spread) are not allowed. Thank you.

Reminder

Please can we remind parents to leave any toys, sweets or precious items at home. As well as trying to reduce the amount that's being brought into school, lots of these items are getting broken or lost. Thank you.

Children Staying in Nursery Next Year

For those children staying in nursery next year, if there are any parents who would like to increase sessions or swap from mornings to afternoons, or vice versa, you will be able to express your preferences on the Google form that will be emailed in the next few weeks. Please look out for it. This will then allow us to work out how many spaces we have for new starters in September. If you do not tell us that you want to change, we will assume that you want to continue with your current sessions.

Shared Learning 4

As the weather is brightening up and we will be spending more time outside, it would be lovely if we could have some pictures of your child in their favourite outside space—the garden, the park, the beach, or on their favourite walk etc. This will act as a stimulus for discussion and allow the children to share their experiences. These pictures will be used in class discussions (show and tell) then displayed throughout Summer term. You can send in 'actual' photos/pictures or email and we will print.

Clothing and Sunscreen

Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed each day, and bear in mind that even in the short time your child is in school the weather can change dramatically. We will continue to spend much of the time outside, whatever the weather, so children will need to **bring named school sweatshirts/cardigans in every day**. As the weather starts to get warmer, can we please ask that children **bring a named water bottle and a named sunhat** each day too. If it is a sunny day, please ensure that your child has had **sunscreen applied before they come to Nursery**. If your child is staying for the whole day, please bring in a **named bottle of lotion** and we will support them to reapply it at lunchtime. **If your child's feet have grown since you last brought in wellies, they may need a new pair!**

Learning Journals

We hope you're all still enjoying looking at your child's learning journal! Don't forget to look at your child's learning journal every couple of weeks to see what they have been up to in Apple Class. Remember, we don't add everything they do to their journal. We simply take pictures of significant learning moments. Please add your own pictures from home. We would love to see any of the exciting things the children have been learning or achieving out of school. If your child has come from Cherry class you should already have access to your journal, if not please let me know.

To all of our new starters, to access your child's journal, please download the "EYFS parent" app on your phone/tablet. Once you have downloaded this, look out for an email that allows you to set up a username and password which will enable you to login to the app and view your child's journal. Please let me know if you need any support with this.

Blog

For the benefit of new parents, the blog is where we share photos and information about what we have been learning in Apple Class, please take a read and most importantly, share this with your child to consolidate what they have been learning about. If you wish for your child's picture to be on the website, please ensure you have completed our photo consent form. You can find the blog on our Apple Class page on the school website.

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 **'Summer into Spring'** and **'Marvellous Minibeasts'**. We will however encourage children to follow their own interests and current fascinations.

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

- Turn taking and sharing fairly with others
- Speaking in full sentences
- Holding a pencil with a tripod (thumb and 1st two fingers) grip when drawing, colouring and beginning to write letters

We will **continue to...**

- Listen and join in with refrains and repeated language in stories in whole class discussions and in smaller groups
- Clap rhythms in words and phrases and listening to the initial sound in words (especially the first initial of our name)
- Follow instructions
- Ask and answer questions – particularly relating to the changes we see as spring progresses
- Retell stories and create our own
- Snip with scissors – using thumb and first two fingers
- Run, jump, hop and skip with increasing control

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 and read many spring themed stories together and read them lots of times. Encourage them to learn any repeated phrases and vocabulary.
2. Cut out pictures of animals and their young (sheep and lambs, horses and fowls etc) and create a spring themed picture, using papers and magazines – 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. We'd still like you to 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. To build upon finger strength, you could make some simple daisy chains or make stone towers in your garden or at the beach
5. As we learn the name of some common minibeasts, can you make a simple bug hotel or go on a bug hunt? How many and which bugs can you find? Can you draw some and bring them in to show us?

Now lastly, let's get our new and final term underway – don't forget to email or ask if you have any queries we can help with!

Miss Whitlow and Mrs Grimes