

# Apple Class

## Nursery News

### Summer Term 1



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 **named** spare 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!

### Staff changes

At the end of the Spring Term, Mrs Grimes was appointed as our Acting Head Teacher. Sadly, she will therefore no longer be teaching in Apple Class on a Wednesday.

**Mrs Farrar** will continue to teach us but her days are now **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**.

We give a very warm welcome to **Mrs Horne – Smith (Pear Class Teacher)** who will be teaching in Apple every **Friday**.

### 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. We continue to encourage children to follow their own interests and current fascinations,

Our theme for this half term will be **'Spring into Summer.'** The children will have many opportunities to learn about:

- Early signs of Spring
- Observe any Spring changes within the natural environment (buds flowering, blossom, spring flowers)
- Develop an awareness of animals and their young on the farm (sheep and lamb, cow and calf etc.)
- Understand that Spring is a time for new life on the farm. The lifecycle of a sheep – what does a new born lamb need to thrive?
- Observe the lifecycle of a butterfly (aided by caterpillars in Apple Class)
- Participate in a wide range of planting activities and begin to understand the planting and growing process

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!**

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

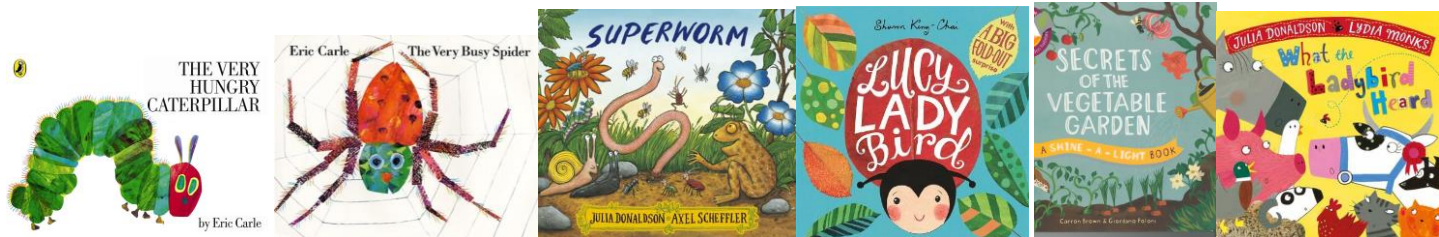
Please ensure that all items of uniform are labelled with children's names. This is particularly important for **jumpers, cardigans, shoes, sun hats**. The children take these items off with great regularity during the day and if they are not labelled, it's very tricky! Staff must then spend their time finding and sorting items instead of interacting and working with the children. 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 sun cream lotion** and we will support them to reapply it at lunchtime. If your child wears pull-ups, please ensure a plentiful supply along with wipes and nappy sacks. Please remember to provide a **change of clothes** for your child in case of accidents. Please return any clothes to Apple Class which your child may have been changed into when their own clothes were not provided. Just a reminder that Swansfield Park remains 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**.

### Skills to support learning

#### 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 (stories around animals and their young, insects/minibeasts).
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.
3. We'd still like you to encourage your child to trace the first letter of their name. Be sure to use a capital letter. If your child is confident, get them to write their whole name! Don't forget to hold pens between thumb and first two 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 *draw one*) 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?

## Our core texts



**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle, **The Very Busy Spider** by Eric Carle, **Superworm** by Julia Donaldson, **Lucy Ladybird** by Sharon King – Chai and **The Secrets of a Vegetable Garden** by Carron Brown and **What the Ladybird Heard** by Julia Donaldson.

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

## 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.**

## 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:

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 the Summer term. You can send in 'actual' photos/pictures or email and we will print them for you.

## Children Staying in Nursery Next Year

For those children **staying in Apple Class next year (2023 – 2024.)** If there are any parents who would like to **increase sessions** or **swap** from mornings to afternoons, or vice versa, (starting from September) now is the time to say. You will be able to express your preferences on the **Google form** that will be emailed out to you 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 inform us of any changes, we will assume that you want to continue with your current sessions.

If your child is due to start Reception in September, then please ignore this box!

Let's get started with our new year  
and new Spring term!

**Mrs Beth Farrar and Mrs Laurie Horne - Smith**

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