



Applecroft School

Nurturing Potential, Inspiring Minds,
Changing Lives

Information Evening
Monday 16th June 2025





Aims of session

- School Readiness
- Key Information
- Communication
- Important Dates





Meet the Team



Mrs Lisa Withe
Headteacher
DSL



Mr Paul Wyatt
Deputy Head
Teacher
DSL



Ms Ruth
Johnson
Assistant Head
SENDCo
DSL



Mrs Odette Coe
Finance and
Business Manager



Meet the EYFS teachers



Miss Eloise Yates
Early Years
Phase Leader - DSL
Seurat Teacher



Mrs Anya McGrath
Nursery Teacher



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School Readiness

School Readiness is a measure of how prepared a child is to succeed in school; cognitively, socially and emotionally.

School Readiness for EYFS children is defined in terms of the aspects of the school environment that support a smooth transition for children (and their families) into primary school and advance learning for all children.

The characteristics of school readiness involve standards of intellectual, physical, and social development which allows children to meet requirements and cope with the school curriculum.





School Readiness Survey



Kindred²

School Readiness Survey

January 2025

Research conducted by:

Savanta

Key findings

Too many children are behind before they start Reception

- In the 2024 Reception cohort, teachers report over a third (**36%**) of children struggle to play / share with other children, **34%** don't know how to listen or respond to simple instruction, and a quarter (**25%**) are not toilet trained.

Teachers say the school readiness problem is getting worse

- **49%** of teachers say the school readiness problem is worse than in September 2023. A third (**33%**) say it's about the same.
- ...and every child loses out; **on average, 2.4 hours of teacher time is lost every day.**

Parents lack a clear understanding

- **90%** of parents thought their child was ready for school in September 2024, while teachers indicate that 1 in 3 children (**33%**) were not school ready.
- Less than half (**44%**) of parents think children should know how to use books and only 3 in 4 (**76%**) selected toilet training as something a child should be able to do before starting Reception.

...and some don't think it's their job

- Almost half (**49%**) parents and **45%** of teachers say children are not ready because parents don't think it's their job to get children ready for Reception.

- A quarter of parents (**26%**) think it's completely their responsibility to teach children how to say their name and just under half (**48%**) of parents think it's completely their responsibility to ensure their children are toilet trained.
- Fewer than 1 in 5 parents (**18%**) think they are solely responsible for teaching their children to listen to/respond to simple instructions.

The role of screen time

- Over half (**54%**) of teachers and **43%** parents highlight children spending too much time on electronic devices as a factor in children not being school ready.
- **54%** of teachers and **49%** of parents said parents spending more time on electronic devices than with children was a contributing factor.

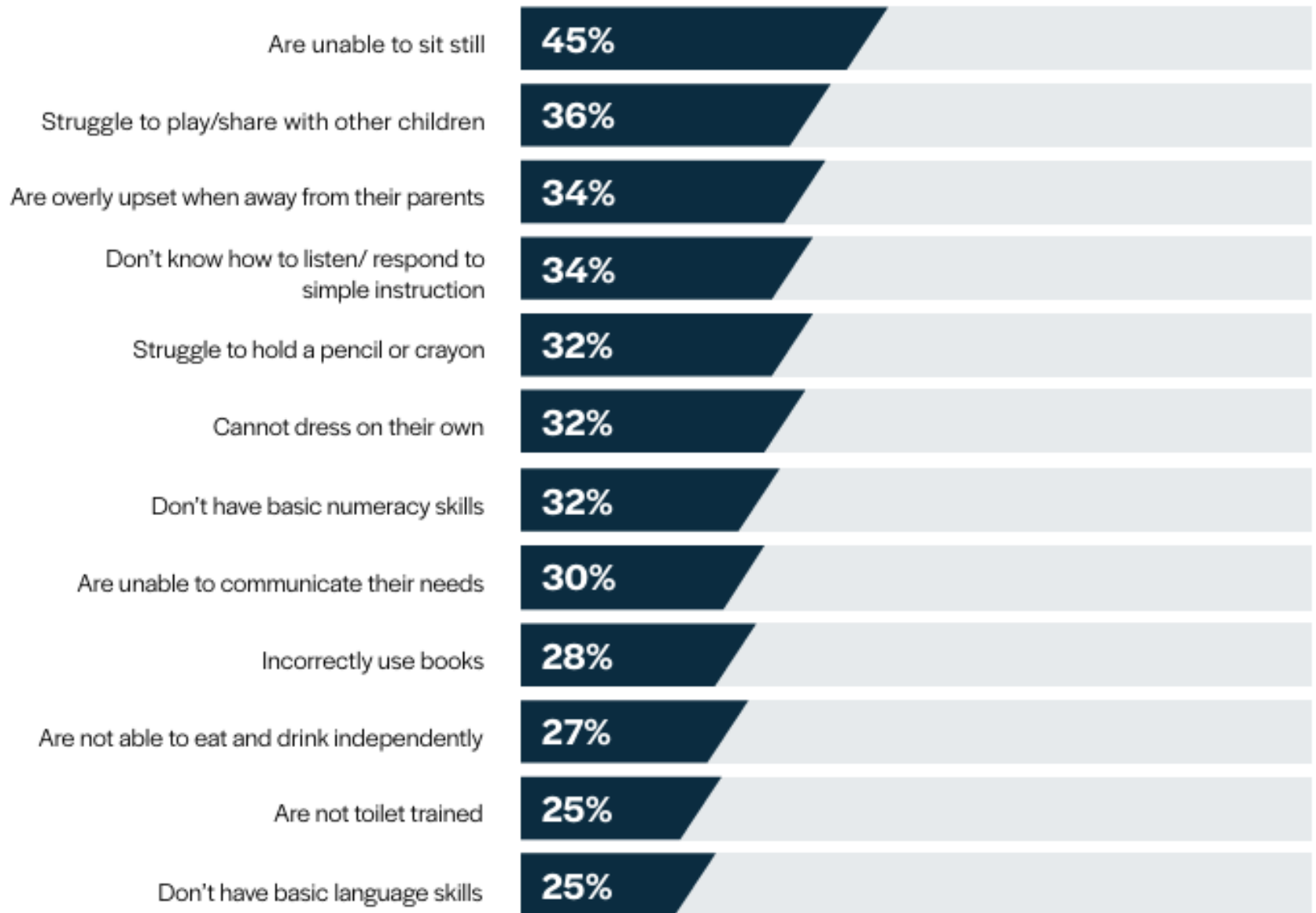
The role of gender

- Teachers report a significant difference between the school readiness of boys and girls. **54%** of teachers say that boys are less ready for Reception than girls, compared to just **3%** who say girls are less school ready than boys.





School Readiness Survey





Preparing for September

A graphic titled 'School Stars' with a dark teal background. It features a rainbow with five bands of color: pink, white, light blue, purple, and yellow. A yellow star is at the bottom left of the rainbow. The text 'Is it Time to Play?' is at the top left, with two puzzle pieces. The text 'School Stars' is in yellow. The text 'Ready for School' is inside the star. The text 'I am practically ready', 'I am ready to communicate', 'I am physically ready', 'I am socially ready', and 'I am emotionally ready' are written on the rainbow bands.

Is it Time to Play?

School Stars

Ready for School

I am practically ready

I am ready to communicate

I am physically ready

I am socially ready

I am emotionally ready



Preparing for September



- I can open my packed lunch box and eat independently
- I can use a knife and fork
- I can sit at a table when I eat
- I have practised getting my uniform on and being ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I get enough sleep
- I am making sure I have breakfast before I leave for school



Preparing for September



- I am able to sit and listen for a short while
- I can follow instructions
- I am understood when I talk
- I am able to talk about myself, my thoughts and feelings
- I enjoy interacting with others
- I enjoy sharing stories



Preparing for September



- I am able to use the toilet independently
- I can wash my hands
- I can get dressed and undressed
- I can move around confidently (walk, run, jump)
- I have good muscle control in my arms, hands and fingers
- I have good balance
- I am confident within climbing, jumping, and running



Preparing for September



I am socially ready

- I am able to share with others
- I am able to take turns
- I am good at making friends with others
- I enjoy interacting and playing with others




Preparing for September



- I am confident being away from my mummy, daddy or main carer
- I am able to identify how I feel and share it with others
- I am willing to have a go at new activities
- I keep trying when I find things difficult
- I know who to ask for help if I'm unsure



Tips and advice



Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train

Last Reviewed: September 2023

Learning how to use the potty independently and stopping wearing nappies is a big milestone for your child. There are lots of new and exciting skills for them to learn with your help.

To make this process easier for you both, follow our evidence-based 3 step **Let's Go Potty** approach.

It begins with **preparation** to use the potty, next is **practising** potty skills before eventually **stopping using nappies** as your child gains confidence.

On this page...

- [When should you start potty training?](#)
- [What is the best age for potty training?](#)
- [How to prepare for potty training](#)
- [Why 'potty learning' helps](#)
- [Supporting children with additional needs](#)
- [What equipment is needed for potty training?](#)



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TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

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Activities

Activities

Simple, fun and free activities to try with your baby. Just select the age of your child.



Advice

Tips and advice

Experts and parents give their advice on language learning and child development.



Science

Child development and milestones

Learn about your child's brain and how they understand the world.



Supporting Smooth Transitions

Use the QR Code below to download a digital version of activity ideas that will help you, as parents and carers, to prepare your child for their next step into school.



Ready Families | **Ready Schools**
Ready Child

Early Years

Supporting Smooth Transitions | Learning at Home

Everything you do with your child can help them to be strong confident, independent learners who are ready to start school.

Use the QR Code below to download a digital version of activity ideas that will help you as parents and carers to prepare your child for their next step into school.

Time spent doing things together at home and seizing learning opportunities will really help your child find out new things and develop skills that will help learning at school. Each card will provide you with ideas of activities you could try in different places at home or out and about as well as Top Tips to encourage further play and learning.

These cards have been developed as part of the Supporting Smooth Transitions project commissioned by Herts County Council, delivered by HFL Education. HFL Education is the largest school company in the UK dedicated to improving education for young people.

EVERY CHILD IN HERTFORDSHIRE DESERVES THE VERY BEST START POSSIBLE.

For further information please contact eytransition@hfleducation.org



Aims of session

- School Readiness
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- Communication
- Important Dates





Attendance

Attendance - 96% or above

Attendance patterns in nursery set the habits for school



Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days absent each year	Learning hours lost each year	The impact over 5 years
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10	
Good	98%	186 days	4	20	
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5	
Unsatisfactory	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5	Quarter year missed
	94%	179 days	11	55	
	93%	177 days	13	65	
	90%	171 days	19	95	
Major issue	88%	167 days	23	115	Half year missed
	86%	163 days	27	135	
	83%	158 days	32	160	
Serious concern	81%	154 days	36	180	One whole year of school missed
	80%	152 days	38	190	
Critical	75%	143 days	47	235	

97% and above - pupils with attendance at this level throughout their school career will make the best progress, this should lead to better prospects for work, college and university
90% - pupils with attendance at this level are missing a month of school a year and may not reach their target grades. Progress will be affected and viewed negatively by employers and further education
85% - pupils with attendance at this level will find it difficult to keep up and their chances of achieving their potential significantly damaged



Punctuality

The Nursery day begins at 8:30am for 15 hour morning sessions.

For 30 hour sessions, the day starts at 9am promptly (unless additional hours are purchased).

Gates open at 8:30am and close at 9am

Gates open at 11:30am - 11:40am for lunch club

Gates open at 12:30 - 12:40 for 15 hour afternoon sessions



Applecroft School
Nurturing Potential
Inspiring Minds
Changing Lives

EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

If your child arrives late to school - their learning suffers

Gates open at **8.30am** and close at **8.45am**

Our school day starts at **8.45am**



Absence / Illness

- Please do not send your child to school if he/she is not well
- Please phone the school office (Mrs Lamaison) by 8:15am and leave a message if your child is going to be absent - please state what the reason for absence is (including type of illness)
- If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, he/she should not return to school until a period of 48 hours has elapsed since the last time they were unwell
- Support and Guidance
 - ['Is my child too ill for school?'](#) - NHS guidance & advice
 - ['Healthier Together'](#) - guidance & support from healthcare professionals across Dorset, Hampshire & the Isle of Wight
 - ['Parents Guide to Keeping Children Healthy...'](#) - guidance from GOV.UK

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**





What your child needs for school in Nursery

School uniform and PE Kit are optional

Children should wear comfortable clothes that they can move in and allow independence



Named sunhat/winter hat, scarf and gloves

Named coat when needed

Named water bottle - containing water, not squash

Sturdy shoes - **NO CROCS!**



Please make sure your child's belongings are labelled and easily identifiable to your child!



School Dinners



- Children in nursery have the option to purchase a hot school meal or to bring food in from home
- Hot school meals are provided by the catering company Dolce
- All food must be ordered in advance via Dolce's ordering system SchoolGrid - the reason food needs to be ordered in advance is so that the cook knows how many of each type of meal needs to be prepared - this helps to keep the cost per meal as low as possible
- The cost of a meal is currently £2.63 - payment needs to be made in-advance
- School meals can be ordered on an adhoc basis - i.e. you can pick and choose which days your child will have a school meal - you do not have to book for the whole week
- Parents and carers will be able to access Schoolgrid from mid August once you have received an email containing your username and password (check your spam)
- If your child has any food allergies or specific dietary requirements these can be noted within SchoolGrid - this will mean that any meals containing ingredients your child should not have will not be visible for you to choose. If your child has a severe dietary restriction Dolce are more than happy to provide a separate menu for your child - please speak to me at the end of the presentation.



A typical day in Nursery

Doors open at 8:30am / Close at 9am sharp

Funky Fingers (Fine motor activity)

Child Initiated Learning

Adult Directed Activity

Child Initiated Learning

Structured Story Time

Lunch / Home Time (doors open 11:30am-11:40am)

Doors open at 12:30pm / Close at 12:40pm

Funky Fingers (Fine motor activity)

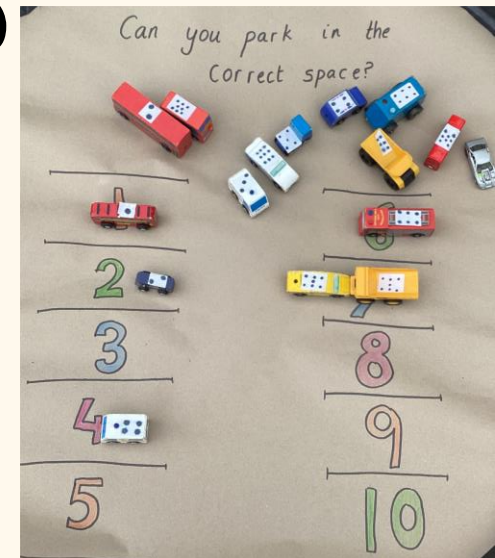
Child Initiated Learning

Adult Directed Activity

Child Initiated Learning

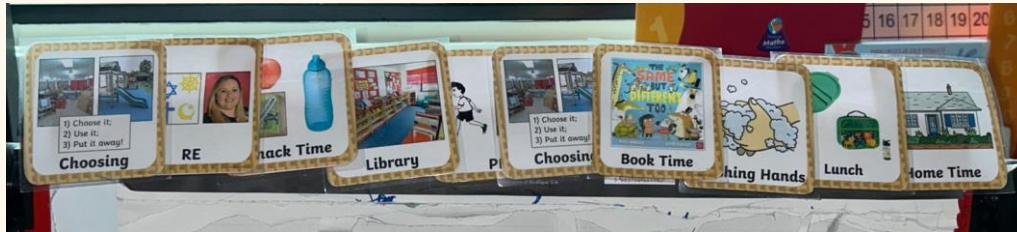
Structured Story Time

Home Time (3pm-3:30pm)





Our Classroom Systems





What is in my information pack?

Documents for information only:

- Parent portal and the Arbor App
- Information on school uniform
- Attendance Guide
- Voluntary Contributions
- Privacy Statement from Schoolgrid
- Learning Journeys (Tapestry)
- Sample lunchtime meal menu
- Applecroft PTA
- Lunch Club
- 30 hours free childcare

Documents to be completed and returned to school by Friday 27th June 2025:

- School Gateway (Schoolcomms)*
- Photography Policy*
- Tapestry consent form*
- EYFS Acceptable use agreement*
- Consent form for local school visits*
- Intimate Care & Toileting Policy*
- Home-School Agreement*
- Uniform order form*
- Adults authorised to collect you child*
- Lunchtime meals*
- Lunch Club Booking Form*
- Additional hours form (for those children attending full time)*

Documents that require online registration:

- School Milk details and registration form*



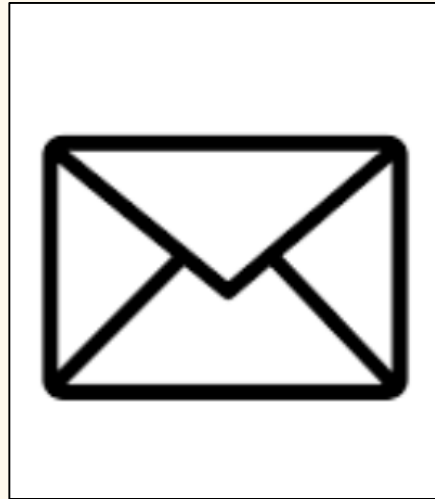
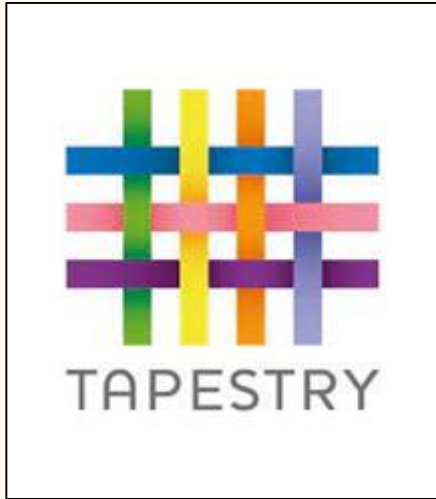
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How we communicate with you



'What are we learning in Nursery poster' and weekly summary including Home Learning activities

Key dates and events

WOW teaching and learning moments

Monthly School Newsletter (with termly updates from the EYFS)

PTA News and Events

Communication from the school office or other members of staff

FIRST AID messages (e.g. head bumps)

Missing School Book

Access to useful information

Weekly Posters

Monthly School Newsletters

School Calendar

admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk

nursery@applecroft.herts.sch.uk



Tapestry in Nursery



Observations / Nursery Learning wc 09.06.25

< Newer

Older >

Nursery Learning wc 09.06.25

Edit

Authorised by Mrs McGrath added 05 Jun 2025 03:44 PM
Approved by Mrs McGrath on 05 Jun 2025 03:47 PM



View history Export

Lika - 4 Likes

Liked by

- Gregory Rawlins
- Lee Theophile
- Michaela Cole
- Nuria Stylianou

What are we learning in Nursery this week?
nursery@applecrafft.herts.sch.uk

Book of the Week
Tiddler: The story-telling fish by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Language and Communication
Our special words are: imagination, shapes, captured, rescue, games, escape.

Maths
This week, we will have our first lesson focusing on shape. We will learn to identify shapes by counting their sides and corners.

Expressive Art and Design
We will use collage to create sea creatures!

Physical Development
In PE, we are practicing attack vs defence games. We are learning to work as a team and to remember the rules of each game.

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Comments

A Science Experiment



Edit

Authorised by Mrs McGrath added 23 May 2025 01:25 PM
Approved by Mrs McGrath on 23 May 2025 01:31 PM



View history Export

Lika - 7 Likes

Liked by

- Anna Ziemska
- Gregory Rawlins
- Louise Archer
- Michaela Cole
- Nuria Stylianou
- Samantha Orchard
- Sarah Lambert



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Comments



Nursery Noticeboard / Open Door Policy





School Calendar

Calendar

[Home](#) >> [School Life](#) >> [Calendar](#) >> [Reception Parent/Carer Information Meeting](#)

Reception Parent/Carer Information Meeting

Start: 17/06/2024 18:15

End: 17/06/2024 19:30





School Procedures



Birthday books only

No gifts bags/party bags and toys

No cakes/ sweets as we are a 'Healthy School'

We are also a 'NUT FREE school'



Phone or email the school office (Mrs Lamaison) before 2pm

Leave a message if your child is going to have an alternative pick up arrangement

Any sent after 2pm are likely to not be picked up



We ask that routine dentist & doctor appointments take place out of the school day whenever possible

Phone or email the school office (Mrs Lamaison)

School Office not to be confused with 'Reception'.

admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk - Mrs Lamaison (Office)

nursery@applecroft.herts.sch.uk - Nursery Team



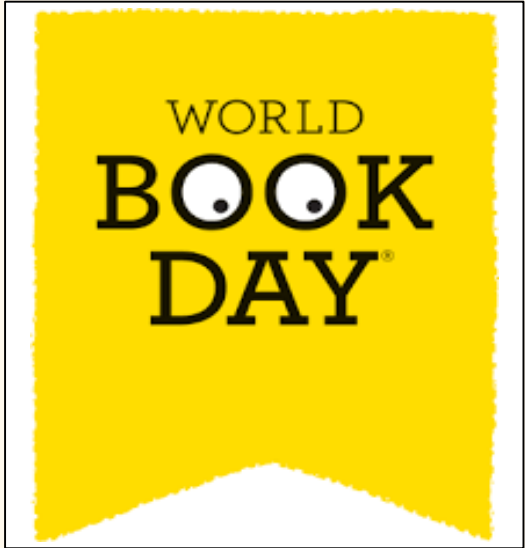
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Special Events / Weeks / Days





Important Dates

- Nursery Story Sessions are after school on Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th July - 3:30-4:30pm (Phone Mrs Lamaison to book in a slot - 1 slot, parents stay)
- Nursery WELCOME meeting - Wednesday 3rd September at 5pm
- Home Visits take place Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September. Your date and time will be emailed
- Nursery Children (30hrs) start on Monday 8th September
- Nursery Children (15hrs) start on Tuesday 9th September
- Nursery 'Love of Reading' Meeting for all Nursery parents/carers - Friday 19th (8:45-9:15am) or 26th September (2:30-3pm)



Pedestrian Gate / Nursery Entrance





Contact us

Get in Touch

Contact Details

[Home](#) >> [About Us](#) >> [Contact Details](#)

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Gardner (via admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Withe (head@applecroft.herts.sch.uk)

Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion & Well-Being: Ms Ruth Johnson (senco@applecroft.herts.sch.uk)

Contact for general queries: Mrs Lyn Lamaison (admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk)

**Applecroft School
Applecroft Road
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire.
AL8 6JZ**

Telephone: 01707 323 758

Email: admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk

For any queries please contact us via the above admin email address.



Questions



See more from Applecroft School