

Year 1 Curriculum Letter - Autumn Term 2025

Welcome to Year 1

English

Reading:



In Year 1, we will send home two books each week:

A **decodable phonics book**, which your child will have already read in school.

A **reading for pleasure book**, chosen from the school library.

Children will be reading with adult three times a week in reading practise sessions. These sessions follow the sequence decoding, prosody and comprehension. Book change for both books will be on Thursdays.

CUSP reading lessons will be taught five times over a fortnight. In these lessons, we will be looking at the core texts: Beegu, Where the Wild Things Are, The Storm Whale, The Owl and the Pussy Cat and The Boy Who Cried Wolf. In each of these learning modules, we will look at additional supporting texts alongside the core books and practise reading fluency and comprehension skills.

Handwriting:

In Year 1 we continue to teach the Little Wandle handwriting phrases to ensure all children are forming letters correctly. All children will practise lowercase and uppercase letters and the children will practise writing simple words in their handwriting books.

Writing:

This year, we have a new writing curriculum - the ESSENTIALWRITING programme - a carefully sequenced curriculum designed to help children write with purpose and for real audiences.

All of the children's writing will be based on a book, which we will have explored in depth prior to writing. In Autumn Term, we will be look at the core texts Someone Just Like You, Puffin Peter, Gruffalo Crumble, Purple is... and a range of Traditional Tales. In these lessons, the children will learn to write for different purposes, such as, writing to entertain and writing to inform. Our focus this term will be writing sentences with a capital letter, finger spaces and full stop.




Phonics:

In Phonics this term, we will begin by reviewing Phase 3 sounds and consolidating the children's learning in Reception. We will then move on to words with two or more digraphs e.g. queen, thicker. After that, we will move on to teaching phase 5 sounds.

Maths

In Maths, our key focus will be on securing the children's knowledge of numbers to 10. This will include finding patterns in numbers (including subitising), counting and comparison (more, less, fewer), regrouping the whole, addition and subtraction, solving problems using part or whole, unknown and equality and balance. We will then move on to numbers to 20 and will focus on making 10 and some more, estimating and ordering, 1 more and 1 less, doubling and halving and odd and even numbers.

Art & Design:

In Art & Design, the children will be covering the medium of 'Drawing' and will answer the key question 'How are lines and shapes used in drawings?'. 

In the module, the children will be exploring a range of shapes and lines using a variety of drawing tools. They will explore the artists Roger Hargreaves and Piet Mondrian and will create a final piece which incorporates lines and shapes.

We will also be celebrating 'Art & Design Week' where the children will be exploring printing and collaging techniques. They will be looking at the artists Hannah Rampley, Kurt Schwitters and Karla Reid.

Computing:

In Computing, we will begin by teaching fundamental computing skills and emphasising 'staying safe online'. Our first module will be 'Online Safety'. In this unit, children learn about the potential dangers in the online world and what basic steps we all need to take in order to have positive digital experiences. Our next module will be 'Technology around us'. In this unit, the children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. They will also consider how to use technology responsibly.

Design Technology (DT):

In DT this term, the children will cover the learning modules 'Mechanisms' and 'Structures'.

In Mechanisms, the children will be answering the key question 'How can you make a picture move?'. They will be exploring sliders and their applications, experimenting with different slider systems and will design and create their own moving picture.

In Structures, the children will be answering the key question 'How can you stop a tower from toppling over?'. They will explore different materials to create a tower, understand what makes a structure stable and will create a final tower following a design criteria.

Geography:

In Geography this term, our learning module will be 'Continents, Oceans, UK countries, capital cities and surrounding seas'.

In this module, the children will name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans. In addition, they will also be naming, locating and identifying characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas.



History:

In History this term, the children will cover the learning module 'Changes within living memory'. To engage children in this learning, the module is closely linked to toys and shops. In the module, children will first learn about stages in their life. Next, they will learn about the shops in our community and compare them to shops in the past. They will then interview a member of our community who has lived here for a long time about what shops used to be like.

Leader in Me & The 8 Habits:

This term we will be focusing on Habits 1-4 and how they support learning, personal development and creating a positive classroom culture.

We will be exploring stories related to each of the habits and thinking about how we can use them in our daily lives. We will also be looking at what makes a leader and how every child in Year 1 can be one.

Religious Education (RE) & Worldviews:

In RE this term, the children will be learning about Hindu Dharma. We will be exploring the main beliefs held by Hindus and learning about Hindu celebrations. We also look forward to welcoming Batkhavadia Temple to Applecroft to work with the children during their RE Immersion Day, where the children will get to experience aspects of Hindu life. More information will be sent home nearer the time.

A link to books from Curriculum Visions has been put on Google classroom should the children want to do any extra reading.



Music:

In Music this term, our learning modules will be 'Being together in music' and 'Introducing rhythm and pulse'. In our 'Being together in music' module the children will learn to sing a range of simple nursery rhymes. They will be introduced to folk songs and nursery rhymes from other cultures in subsequent units. They will join in with singing and reflect on how this makes them feel. They will be introduced to simple conducting cues and learn the terms melody and lyrics.



In our 'Introducing rhythm and pulse' module the children will be introduced to the simple terms, 'rhythm' and 'pulse'. They will build on this knowledge by learning to pick out and play the pulse of a familiar song. They will also learn to copy back and join in with simple rhythms, using both body percussion and a range of untuned instruments.

Physical Education (PE):

In PE this term, the children will be covering gymnastics and locomotion.

In gymnastics, the children will cover the unit 'Wide, Narrow and Curled'. In this unit, children will move and balance in wide, narrow and curled ways, applying champion gymnastics criteria, on the floor and on apparatus. They will also experiment moving in a variety of wide, narrow and curled ways, understanding the differences between each type of movement.

In our 'Locomotion' unit, children will learn to run by applying the correct technique to ensure maximum speed. They will play games that encourage them to think about where to run, why to run there and when and why running fast is important in games.

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE):

In PSHE this term, we will be covering the units Living in the Wider World, Health and Wellbeing, and Relationship Education.

In the Living in the Wider World and Health and Wellbeing units, we will be exploring the following lesson titles: This Is Me, How We Grow, What Are Feelings?, Feelings and Loss, How We Play and Learn and Staying Safe.

In our Relationship Education unit, we will be covering the following lesson titles: Respect, Polite Words, Sharing and Taking, Turns, Being Kind and Getting Hurt.

Science

In Science, we will cover the learning modules, 'Seasons and Weather', 'Day and Night', 'Plants' and 'Animals Including Humans'.

In our Seasons and Weather module, the children will learn about each of the seasons and identify what the weather is like in each season.

In our Day and Night module, the children will learn how day becomes night and explore what happens to the sun at night-time.



In our Plants module, the children will identify the parts of a flower and tree, and learn about wild plants, garden plants, deciduous trees and evergreen trees.

In our Animals Including Humans module, the children will learn about the different groups: mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds and the different types of foods that animals eat. We will use the scientific vocabulary of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Attendance & Punctuality:

Doors open: 8:35 am - please aim to arrive at school at this time.

Register closes: 8.45 am

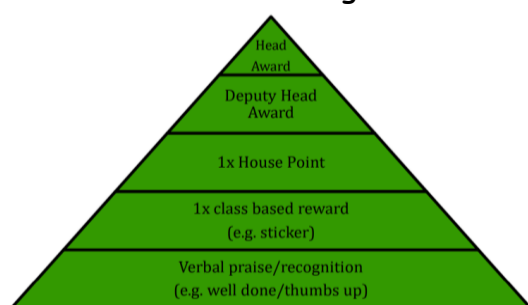
End of the day: 3.15 pm

Good attendance is essential for high achievement and outstanding learning. Please ensure you arrive promptly to drop off and pick up your child. Any child arriving in their classroom after 8:45am will be marked late.

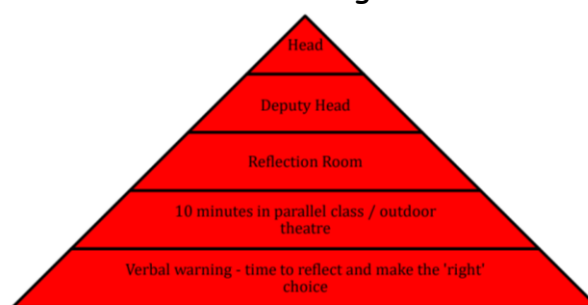
Behaviour & Discipline:

At Applecroft School, we have adopted a therapeutic approach to behaviour management. Our Behaviour & Discipline policy is based on a green triangle that recognises and rewards valued behaviours and a red triangle that recognises and ensures clear consequences for detrimental behaviours. Both triangles have five levels that progress as the behaviours do.

Green Triangle



Red Triangle



Home Learning:

Please ensure you read with your child at least five times a week. We will be introducing Book Talk every morning, where children will have the opportunity to record at school if they read the previous night. We will also discuss these books together as a class.

Each term, we will provide a Home Learning Grid containing a variety of tasks. Each week, your child can choose one activity from the grid to complete. These activities are linked to what your child has been learning in school, so they will already have some background knowledge of each topic.

The grid will be uploaded to Google Classroom each week, and there will be an option to 'hand in' completed work online. Children can either submit their work on Google Classroom or complete written tasks in their Home Learning Book.

Home learning will be set every Friday and will be due in by the following Friday.

Key Dates:

Autumn Term Dates 2025

Wednesday 3rd September → Friday 19th December

INSET Day: Wednesday 3rd September & Monday 1st December

HALF TERM: Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October

CHRISTMAS BREAK: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

Other important dates:

Friday 12th September @ 9am / Monday 15th September @ 2:30pm - Volunteer Meeting & Safeguarding Training

Tuesday 23rd September - Individual/Sibling School Photos

Monday 29th September-Thursday 2nd October - Book Fair in school

Thursday 2nd October - Opal Parents Play Date (1:30-3pm) - more details to follow

Monday 20th - Friday 24th October - Art & Design Themed Week

Monday 1st December - Parent Consultations online (more details to follow)

Friday 5th December - Open Afternoon for parents/carers (2:15-3:05pm)

Tuesday 9th December - Christmas Show Matinee & Evening Performance

Thursday 11th December - Christmas Show Evening Performance

Friday 12th December - Panto Day

Safeguarding:

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Ms Ruth Johnson (Lead DSL),

Mrs Lisa Withe,

Mr Paul Wyatt,

Ms Jale Apicella,

Mrs Natalie Clementson,

Mrs Carey O'Connor,

Miss Eloise Yates.

If you have any urgent concerns regarding safeguarding, please ring the school, if it is not urgent then contact our DSLs via safeguarding@applecroft.herts.sch.uk

Staffing in the Year Group:

Miss Hannah Kenworthy - Year Group Leader & Miro Class Teacher

Miss Felicity Ryall - O'Keeffe Class Teacher

Mrs Michelle Russouw - Learning Support Assistant

Miss Skye Barker - Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Sarah Nolan - Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Vikki Wake - PPA Lead - RE

Mr Passade - PPA Lead - PE

Mrs Varnals-Scrace - Early Reading Teacher

Communication:

Teachers are available to meet with you if necessary. Please arrange a meeting with us in advance by speaking to a member of the team or emailing the office via admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk.

Google Classroom will be used for updates throughout the year as well as uploading home learning so please check this weekly.

You can also follow the school on Instagram to see what exciting things we have been up to!



Year 1 Timetable:

Year 1 - Timetable

	8:35 - 8:45am	8:45 am	8.50 - 9:15am	9:20 - 10:20am	10:20-10.50	10.55- 11.25	11.25 - 11.55	12- 1pm	1-2 pm	2-3pm	3- 3:15 pm	
Monday	EMW	Register	Music Assembly	Phonics & Handwriting	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English	L U N C H	PE		RE	C L A S S R E A D A L O U D
Tuesday	EMW	Register	Leader in Me	Phonics & Reading Practice	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		CJSP Science/ Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			
Wednesday	EMW	Register	Curriculum Assembly	Phonics & Reading Practice	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		Music	PSHE	PE	
Thursday	EMW	Register	Leader in Me	Phonics & Reading Practice	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		CJSP Science/ Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			
Friday	EMW	Register	Achievement Assembly	Phonics & Handwriting	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		CJSP Science/ Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			

(Timetable is subject to change on occasion)

Year on a Page

To view what the children will be learning throughout Year 1 please click on the link below to view our 'Year on a Page' document overview.

[Website Link](#)

Uniform Expectations:

School Uniform: Red jumper/cardigan / grey trousers, skirts, shorts or pinafore dress / white polo shirts, shirt/blouse / smart, black shoes / white/grey socks / grey/red tights / red /black hair bands/clips/Alice bands only

Black boots are not permitted - black sturdy school shoes only

PE Uniform: White t-shirt (plain or school logo) / plain black shorts / plain black jogging bottoms / plain black hoodie (or school logo) / trainers

OPAL Outside: Wellies and a waterproof coat and trousers / all in one.

Please ensure all uniform items are labelled with children's names so items can be returned if lost.