

Year 1 Curriculum Letter - Spring Term 2026

Happy New Year!

Here is what we will be learning in Spring Term this year.

English

Reading:

We will continue to send home 2 books each week; a decodable phonics book which your child will have read in school already and a reading for pleasure book which is chosen from the school library. Please endeavour to listen to your child read **every night**. Book change for both books will be on Thursdays.

In our CUSP reading lessons, we will be looking at the core texts: 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit', 'Look Up!', 'Here We Are' & 'Chocolate Cake'. In each of these learning modules, we will look at additional supporting texts alongside the core books and practise reading fluency and comprehension skills.



Writing:

For writing, we continue to follow HfL's ESSENTIAL WRITING programme. The texts we will be basing our writing on this term are 'Stanley's Stick', 'Ravi's Roar & Ruby's Worry', 'Oi Frog!', 'Martha Maps It Out' and Julia Donaldson's 'Poems to Perform'.

In these lessons, the children will learn to write for a range of purposes, including writing to entertain, writing to inform, and creating poetry. Our focus this term will be on writing sentences that contain capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. We will also be learning how to make our writing more interesting for the reader by using a variety of adjectives and by extending simple sentences with the coordinating conjunction 'and'.

Handwriting:

In Year 1, we will begin to teach the children a printed handwriting style. All children will continue to look at the lowercase and uppercase letters and the children will practise writing simple words in their handwriting books. Handwriting sessions include direct teaching 2 times each week with each session being 15 minutes long.

Phonics:

We will continue to teach phonics daily in Year 1. We are currently working our way through Phase 5.

In Phase 5, children learn different ways of representing the sounds that they have learned already e.g. that 'ai' and 'ay' make the same sound. They will also learn that the same grapheme can represent different sounds e.g. 'ie' can be 'ie' in pie but can sound like 'ee' in shield. We will also be learning new 'tricky words.'

Maths

In Maths, we will be working with numbers up to 20 and exploring doubling, halving and recognising odd and even numbers. We will also be learning about 2D and 3D shapes. In addition, we will continue to develop our measuring skills, using language to compare measurements, and we will practise sequencing the days of the week and the months of the year. Finally, we will learn about coins and their values, and practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We will also revisit our work on parts and wholes.

Geography:

In Geography, we will begin by recapping our previous learning on the seven continents and the five oceans of the world to strengthen our global understanding. We will then move on to our new topic, 'Hot and Cold Places', where we will explore how the equator affects climate and identify a range of hot and cold countries around the world.



Music:

In Music, our unit is titled 'Introducing Pitch.' We will be exploring high and low sounds. We will learn a song that contains different pitches and perform this to our class. We will then evaluate our own and other peoples performances.



Design Technology (DT):

In Design & Technology, we will be exploring the learning module 'Food and Nutrition'.



As part of this topic, we will be investigating the key question: "How does food affect your senses?"

The children will then design and make their own rainbow wraps, using their senses to describe their experiences during both the making and tasting of their final product!

Religious Education (RE) & Worldviews:

This term we are learning about Buddhism.

We will be exploring the life of Siddhartha Gautama and how he became the Buddha. We will also be learning about worship and looking at stories about the Buddha. We are excited to have a Buddhist visitor coming in to talk about being a Buddhist and teaching us how to meditate. A link to books from Curriculum Visions has been put on Google classroom should the children want to do any extra exploration with your support.

History:

In History, our topic is 'The Lives of Significant Individual'.

We will look at the fascinating lives of Mary Anning and Sir David Attenborough. We will learn key facts about them and their achievements. We will then compare their lives, thinking about similarities and differences.

Leader in Me & The 8 Habits:

This term, we will be revisiting all of the Habits, and learning more about being a leader. This will all link to our learning, personal development, and having 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.

Science

Our topic this term is 'Animals including Humans'. We will look at the different groups; mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds and the different types of foods that animals eat. We will use scientific vocabulary of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

We will also look at 'Everyday Materials'. In this unit, we will be learning to name a variety of everyday materials including wood, plastic, metal and rock. We will describe the simple properties of everyday materials, compare and group materials based on these properties and choose the best materials for different purposes.



Art & Design:

This half term in Art & Design, we will be focusing on painting. The children will explore colour mixing, including primary and secondary colours, as well as warm and cool colour palettes, using powder paint. They will also experiment with different paintbrush sizes to see how brush choice can change the effects in their artwork.

We will study our class artists, Georgia O'Keeffe and Joan Miró, looking closely at how they use paint to create a variety of visual effects and inspirations for our own work.



Computing:

In Computing, we will be looking at the unit 'Digital Painting'. In this module, children will develop their understanding of a range of tools used for digital painting. They then use these tools to create their own digital paintings, while gaining inspiration from a range of artists' work.

Our next module will be 'Grouping Data'. This unit introduces children to data and information. Labelling, grouping and searching are important aspects of data and information. Searching is a common operation in many applications and requires an understanding that to search data, it must have labels. This unit of work focuses on assigning data (images) with different labels to demonstrate how computers can group and present data.

Physical Education (PE):

This half term we will be working on dance, linked to 'growing' and gymnastics, where we will focus on big and small movements.

After half term, we will continue dance linked to 'The Zoo' and practise ball skills using our hands.

Year 1 will have PE on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays** and children will need to come in to school in their PE kit on these days.

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE)

This term the children will be working through the 'Living in the Wider World' topic. They will be reading and discussing stories and learning about the world around us.

After half term, we will be exploring the topic Health and Wellbeing. Here we will be exploring how we grow and how to communicate our emotions and feelings.

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.

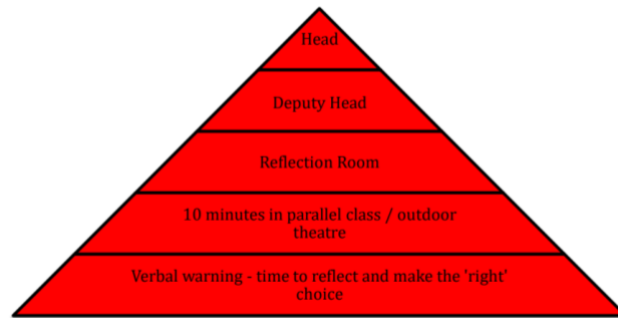
Behaviour & Discipline:

At Applecroft School, we have adopted the 'Therapeutic Thinking' approach to behaviour management. Our system is based on a green triangle that recognises and rewards 'Valued' (prosocial) behaviours and a red triangle that recognises and ensures clear consequences for 'Detrimental' (anti-social) behaviours. Both triangles have five levels that progress as the behaviours do.

Green Triangle



Red Triangle



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.

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



Home Learning:

Please ensure you read with your child at least five times a week. We will be continuing '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 link to what your child has been learning in school, so they will already have some background knowledge of each topic. The Home Learning Grid is 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:

Volunteer Safeguarding Meeting - **Friday 9th January 2026**
(for those who were not able to attend in September)

World Book Day - **Thursday 5th March 2026**

Travelling Book Fair - **Monday 9th March - Thursday 12th March 2026**

Year 1 Assembly - **Friday 27th March 2026 at 8.50am**

Safeguarding:

At Applecroft School, we have several Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), Ms Jale Apicella, Miss Eloise Yates, Mrs Natalie Clementson, Mrs Carey O'Connor, Mrs Lisa Withe, Mr Paul Wyatt and Ms Ruth Johnson (our Lead DSL).

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please contact our DSLs via safeguarding@applecroft.herts.sch.uk for urgent safeguarding matters please telephone the school office.

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 Bradley Passade - PPA Lead - PE

Mrs Varnals-Scrace - Early Reading Teacher

Timetable:

Year 1 - Timetable

	8:35 - 8:45am	8:45 - 8:55am	9-9:15am	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	Cusp Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			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		RE	PE		
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		Cusp Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			
Friday	EMW	Register	Achievement Assembly	Phonics & Handwriting	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		Cusp 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.