

Year 2 Curriculum Letter - Autumn Term 2025

Welcome to Year 2

English:

Reading:



CUSP reading lessons take place five times over a fortnight. In Year 2, we focus on building children's reading fluency - their ability to read with expression and develop an understanding of the texts read. We do this through tailored whole class guided reading sessions through our CUSP scheme.

Our [CUSP literature reading spine](#), can be found on the [Year 2 page](#) of the school website. This term we will be reading: 'Grandad's Island', 'The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs', 'Mrs. Noah's Pockets', 'Paddington' and 'The Christmas Pine'. Children will continue with the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme and will read with an adult in small groups three times a week. We read aloud to the children daily at home time to promote reading for pleasure.

Handwriting:

During our handwriting lessons, children are taught to use pre-cursive writing to form their lower-case letters. We start with mastering the basic shape of different letter families. Focus will be on letter size and ensuring that they are consistent with one another. We will practice individual letters that are formed in a similar way and will look at lower case and capital letters. We will then practice our letters within words. Towards the end of Year 2, we will move on to joining our handwriting once we have mastered letter formation and sizing.

Writing:

Writing will be taught every day and will use the Herts Essential Writing scheme that we have moved to this year. All of our writing will be based on a book which we will have explored in depth prior to writing.

In our first unit, we will be writing a short narrative based around the book 'Frog and the Stranger'. We will think carefully about the audience for our writing and throughout the term will write for different purposes - either to entertain or to inform. We will produce different writing outcomes including instructions, lists, poetry, letters & postcards. We will focus on using capital letters and full stops correctly and additionally using exclamation marks and question marks to demarcate sentences. We will use commas for lists and expanded noun phrases to add extra detail into our writing.

Spelling:

All children will be continuing with daily 'Little Wandle' phonics up until October half term. We will be refreshing the children's Phase 5 phonic knowledge by reviewing vowel digraphs and a range of suffixes which will lead into spelling patterns and rules. After the half term, we will be using the 'Bridge to Spelling' units provided by 'Little Wandle' and teach spelling four times a week. The children will learn to use and spell prefixes and suffixes as well as master many spelling rules.

Spellings will be uploaded onto Google Classroom weekly to practice at home.

Maths:

At Applecroft, we use the Herts Essential Maths scheme. We will begin each step of learning by reactivating children's prior learning and addressing misconceptions before any new content is taught. This term, we will focus on securing the children's fluency to twenty and their understanding of place value. We will practice counting on, and back, in ones and tens, calculation skills (including exploring strategies to add and subtract mentally) and estimation. We will then move onto measuring using different scales and using money, including giving change. Maths will be uploaded on to Google Classroom weekly to practice the concepts at home.

Art & Design:

This term, we will focus on painting. We will be exploring different types of paint and how artists create effects. We will create tints and tones and examine and explore these - how they can be used to create different effects such as blocking, washes and thickened paint. This term we will also enjoy our annual 'Art & Design Themed Week'. During this week, we will focus on collage and printing. For collage, we will be 'painting with paper' and will create collages using torn pieces of paper. In printing, we will be exploring negative and positive space and create a final print using polystyrene boards.



Computing:

In Computing, we will begin by teaching fundamental computing skills and emphasising how to 'stay safe online'. The focus in online safety will be always asking the pupils to take care when they are on the internet; to keep themselves safe and always ask a grown-up to check anything they do not feel comfortable with or are unsure about. Later in the term, the children will be learning about photography in our 'creating media' unit. We will use iPads to take pictures in portrait and landscape and learn how to take the best photos and how to add effects to these.



Design Technology (DT):

Our first learning module is 'Textiles'. We will explore materials through the question, 'How can you repurpose an old item of clothing?'. The children will learn about patchwork, joining techniques such as running stitch and over-stitch and will be cutting around templates to create a final piece. The second focus will be 'Food and Nutrition'. The key learning question that the children will be answering is 'What does healthy mean?' The children will learn what processed foods are and how we can make healthy snacks taste good before making our own pitta crisps!

Geography:

In Geography, we will be learning about human and physical features in our local area. We will be using world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, continents and oceans. We will learn simple compass directions and use locational and directional language to describe the location, features and routes on a map. We will use aerial photographs to recognise landmarks. We will use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of our school and its grounds.



History:

In History, our topic is 'The Great Fire of London'. We will learn about how the community of London came together to put the fire out and how others came to support. We will discuss how some people fled the community. We will learn about the people in power and how they made decisions about the rebuilding of the city and finally we will learn about the changes to London as a result of the fire.

Leader in Me & The 8 Habits:

At the beginning of each school year, the children will refresh their understanding of each of the 8 Habits. We will be using the 8 Habits to help us to collectively establish a good working environment for our classroom. We use them to help inform our class mission statements and the ways in which we conduct ourselves in and out of school. We will track our progress around these habits weekly and celebrate them in the Achievement Assembly.

Music:

This term in Music, our focus will be 'Experimenting with Sounds'. Pupils will learn about the origins of samba music and will have the opportunity to play a range of untuned percussion with a greater degree of control. Pupils will play simple ostinato, call and response rhythms and compose their own basic rhythms. They will learn to follow simple conducting directions and will rehearse and perform as an ensemble.

In the second half term, we will be focusing on singing and how to control our voices.

We will be doing lots of singing practice in preparation for our Christmas production!



Physical Education (PE):

We will begin the year with 'Dance' and 'Locomotion' units. In Dance, the children will become explorers and will develop small and large shapes to create a motif using water as inspiration.

In Locomotion, the children will focus on dodging. They will learn to develop a strong understanding of how, where and why to dodge and apply this understanding in game situations. We will then focus on team building and ball skills using our hands. Please remember to send your children to school wearing PE kit on **Tuesday** and **Friday**.

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

In PSHE, our first topic will be 'Living in the Wider World'. In this unit, we will explore money, including how this has changed from in the past, how we can save and spend our money and the difference between wants and needs.

In the second half term, we will look at 'Health and Wellbeing.' This unit will cover; developing healthy habits, looking after our teeth, the importance of sleep and we will also look at medicines. At the end of this unit, we will explore feelings and how we can identify and manage big feelings.

Religious Education (RE) & Worldviews:

For Autumn Term, we are continuing our learning of Christianity from Year 1. We will explore the creation story and the events that followed. We will be learning about both the Old and New Testaments and listening to stories found in the Bible. We will also be learning about Advent and Christmas. The children will take part in a Christianity Immersion Day linked to Christmas towards the end of the term.

Science

In Science, we will begin with our 'Living Things and their Habitats' unit' and explore the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive, what animals and humans need to survive and how both animals and plants are suited to their habitats. We will also describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chains, and identify different sources of food.



Attendance & Punctuality:

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

Register closes: 8.45 am

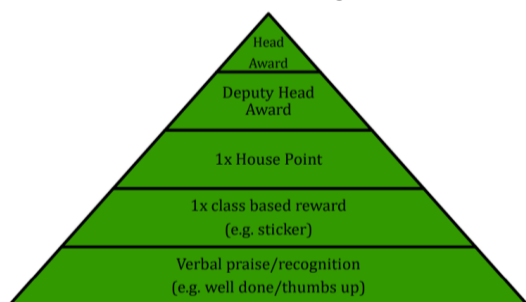
End of the day: 3.15 pm

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.

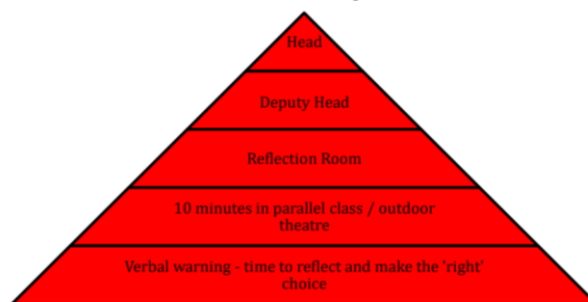
Behaviour & Discipline:

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:

Home learning will be set on Friday afternoons. Please ensure you check Google Classroom at least once a week for home learning as well as any further updates. Home learning will consist of spellings and maths to support any tricky concepts taught in school.

In addition, it is the expectation that all children read **every day** for at least 10 minutes.

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:

Tuesday 23rd September - Individual/Sibling School Photos

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

Thursday 2nd October - Opal Parents Play Date - 1:30-3pm

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

Friday 24th October - Year 2 Class Assembly @ 9am

Monday 1st December - Parent Consultations

Friday 5th December - Open Afternoon - 2:15-3:05pm

Tuesday 9th December - Christmas Show - Matinee and 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:

Mrs Natalie Clementson - Year 2 Goldsworthy Class Teacher, Year Group Leader and Phase Leader

Mrs. Sadie Smart - Year 2 Monet Class Teacher (Mon-Weds)

Mrs. Jade Ansell - Year 2 Monet Class Teacher (Thurs/Fri)

Miss Sarah Edlin - Year Group LSA

Mrs. Madge Ma - Year Group LSA

Mrs. Vikki Wake - PPA Lead - RE

Mr. Bradley Passade - PPA Lead - PE

Timetables:

Year 2 Goldsworthy - Autumn 2025

	8:15 - 8:30	8:35 - 8:50	8:50 - 9:05	9:05 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:20	10:20 - 10:35 am	10:40 - 11:00	11:00 - 12:00pm	12-1pm	1pm - 2pm	2-3pm	3-3:15 pm
Monday	T E A M	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Assemb ly / KS1 Phase Meetin g	English Writing	Phonics/ Spelling		English Reading	Maths		BLOCK MODULE (SE Phase Leader Time Cover from 1:30)	BLOCK MODULE (SE Phase Leader Time Cover)	C L A S S R E A D A L O U D
Tuesday	M E E T I N G	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Leader in Me	English Writing	Phonics/ Spelling	B	Reading Practice	Maths	L	RE PPA (1.00 - 2.00)	PE PPA (2.00-3.15)	
Wednes day	R E A D I N G	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Assemb ly	English Writing	Phonics/ Spelling	R	Reading Practice	Maths	U	BLOCK MODULE	BLOCK MODULE	
Thursd ay	A K	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Leader in Me	English Writing	Phonics/ Spelling	E	Reading Practice	Maths	C	English Reading and Handwriting	PSHE	
Friday	S T A F F B R I E F I N G	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Assemb ly (Until 9.15)	English Writing (RV cover fortnightly)	Phonics/ Spelling (RV cover fortnightly)	A	English Reading	Maths	H	PE	Music and Handwriting	

Year 2 Monet - Autumn 2025

	8:15 - 8:30	8:35 - 8:50	8:50 - 9:05	9:05 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:20	10:20 - 10:35 am	10:40 - 11:00	11:00 - 12:00pm	12-1pm	1pm - 2pm	2-3pm	3-3:15 pm	
Monday	T E A M	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Assemb ly /Phase Meetin g	English Writing	Phonics/ Spelling		English Reading	Maths		BLOCK MODULE	BLOCK MODULE	C L A S S R E A D A L O U D	
Tuesd ay	M E E T I N G	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Leader in Me	English Writing	Reading Practice	B	Phonics/ Spelling	Maths	L	PE PPA (1.00 - 2.00)	Handwrit ing (with VW) (2.00 - 2.30)		English Reading 2.30-3
Wednes day	R E A D I N G	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Assemb ly	English Writing	Reading Practice	R	Phonics/ Spelling	Maths	U	BLOCK MODULE	BLOCK MODULE		
Thursd ay	A K	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Leader in Me	English Writing	Reading Practice	E	Phonics/ Spelling	RE PPA (11.00-12.00)	C	Maths	PSHE		
Friday	S T A F F B R I E F I N G	Regist er EMW/ RFP	Assemb ly (Until 9.15)	English Writing	Phonics/ Spelling	A	English Reading	Maths	H	PE	Music and Handwriting		

CUSP Block Module: Geography, History, Computing, Science, Art, DT

(Timetable is subject to change on occasion)

Year on a Page

[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.

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 at collection or by 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!

