

Year 5 Curriculum Letter - Autumn Term 2025

Welcome to Year 5

We hope you all had a lovely summer.

Now the term is underway we would like to say hello and a warm welcome to all parents and carers of Year 5 children. Here is an outline of our plans and expectations for this term.

English

Reading:



The first book that we will be looking at in our reading lessons is 'Shackleton's Journey', which is about Ernest Shackleton's expedition across the Antarctic on his ship, 'Endurance'. The next book is 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. This is an exciting story about four children who find themselves lost in the Amazon rainforest after a plane crash.

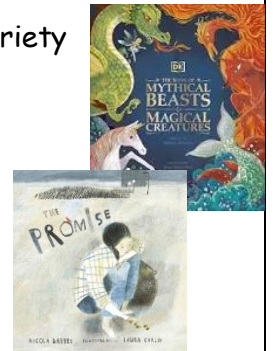
Children will 'self register' their name (on an image of an open book) if they have read the previous night. Reading Society members will add up the scores daily and at the end of the week, totals for each class will be displayed in the main corridor. Please listen to your child read at home as often as possible - we really appreciate your support.

Writing:

In writing, we will be covering a variety of topics such as:

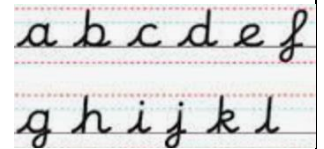
- Non-chronological reports
- Descriptive scenes
- Cinquain poetry
- Narratives
- Biographies

We will use a range of exciting books as inspiration.



Handwriting:

A weekly handwriting lesson will be used to extend and polish learning that has taken place previously. Some children may have additional practice if this is helpful.



Spelling:

Investigations will be a regular feature of our spelling lessons and home learning. We will have weekly dictations to assess the spelling rules learned in school and practised at home.

Maths

We will be following the Essential Maths programme which has a strong focus on number in the first term, starting with a topic on place value. We will cover work on negative numbers, decimals and the four operations in the coming weeks. Later in the term, we will be looking at fractions. **Mental Maths:** Please help your child to practise their multiplication tables on a regular basis. This will help in so many areas of maths, including division and fractions. There are many interactive on-line games you can use such as:

[Times Tables Rock Stars](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#)



Art & Design:

In Art and Design, we will begin with a painting topic, exploring the use of colour. We will look at how artists, including David Hockney, have used colour to create mood.

The children will learn to mix colours accurately and understand the properties of a range of different paint types.



Computing:

This term, we will be learning about internet safety and encouraging the children to use the internet safely at home for research purposes. In addition, we will be learning about vector drawings and how to use different drawing tools to help create images.



Design Technology (DT):

The first DT topic for the Autumn Term is 'Food and Nutrition', looking at why our diets are different around the world. In this block, pupils will look to Middle Eastern and Danish foods for inspiration. They will learn how to make dishes such as mezze bowls and use a range of techniques for preparing ingredients. Later in the term, pupils will design and make a road safety belt, using a range of materials including retro reflective fabric.

We love to invite parents/carers in to help, particularly with some of the practical aspects of DT (and also to hear readers). If you would like to help, please attend one of the **parent volunteers meetings: Friday 12th September at 9.00am and Monday 15th September @ 2:30pm.**

Geography:

Our Geography lessons begin with 'World Countries and Biomes', where we will learn to locate countries across the world through identifying the seven continents, lines of longitude and latitude and the equator. We will use these concepts to notice how and why conditions and vegetation change across the world, classifying similar areas into biomes. Looking even more closely, we will then identify major cities and capitals across the world and consider both the human and physical features by which these are defined. There is a strong emphasis on vocabulary throughout this module, including key prefixes and suffixes which help us identify specific conditions and geographical areas.



History:

The History topic for this term is the Ancient Greeks. We will be learning all about who the Ancient Greeks were, when they ruled, their beliefs, democracy, why theatres were so important to them, their myths and fables, the Olympic Games and



Alexander the Great.

Leader in Me & The 8 Habits:

We will continue to develop leadership in all our pupils and explore how the 8 Habits can support us to be proactive and effective learners and leaders. Leadership roles are an important part of daily life at Applecroft, and children enjoy the responsibility and independence that they are given. They have a key part to play in the smooth running of the classroom.

Leader in Me®

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL):

In French, we will begin the year working on our pronunciation, particularly the phonemes 'eau', 'eux' and 'e'. We will then start our first topic 'As-tu un animal?' (Do You Have A Pet?) which covers a wide range of vocabulary for common pets alongside introducing the conjunctions 'et' (and) and 'mais' (but). We will be working towards being able to confidently say (in French) our name, age, whether we do or don't have a pet - if we do, what animals these are, their names, and being able to join these sentences with simple conjunctions.

Music:

Our first CUSP music unit will have a focus on untuned percussion and will be based on 'Musical Stories'.

Children will be composing rhythmic pieces using a combination of choral chanting, body percussion and untuned percussion instruments.



Physical Education (PE):

P.E. lessons will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. This term we will cover gymnastics, netball, football and health-related fitness. Children will need to wear their P.E. kits to school on both of these days and must have warm clothing to wear when the weather turns cold. A pair of trainers should remain in school every day for other sporting activities such as the Daily Mile.

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

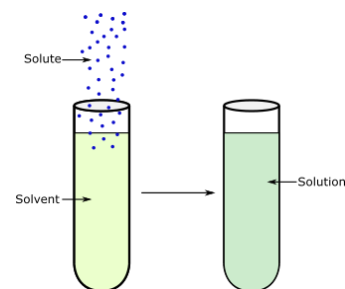
In our PSHE lessons, we will look at 'Being Me in My World'. This will include the setting of goals and discussing the idea of being a global citizen. Our second topic is 'Dreams and Goals'. Children will begin to think about the future and possible careers and the steps they need to take in order to fulfil their dreams.

Religious Education (RE) & Worldviews:



This term Year 5 pupils will be learning about Islam. We will explore early Islamic history and learn about the prophets of Islam. We will also discover what happens on Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, and explore Muslim prayer.

Science

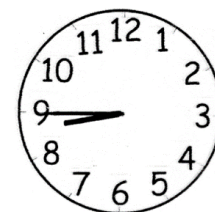


We are following the CUSP Curriculum in Science which has an emphasis on vocabulary and retrieval of knowledge. The children will be asked to think like a scientist, finding links and conducting investigations and experiments. Science this term will include topics on 'Properties and Changes of Materials' and 'Animals Including Humans'.

Attendance & Punctuality:

Registration takes place promptly at 8.45 and the school day runs until 3.15pm. Children should arrive from 8.35am for a 'soft start'. Punctuality is important: children arriving in class after 8.45 will be marked as late in the register. If your child is absent, please inform the school office as soon as possible. Children are expected to attend school every day, unless they are unwell.

96+% = good attendance



Behaviour & Discipline:



Our behaviour & discipline policy encourages positive, helpful and socially acceptable behaviour and children are aware of the school's behaviour expectations: **to be responsible for yourself and your actions; to be honest, open and reflective; to be kind and supportive; to be respectful and well-mannered.** In addition, both classes have created their own class mission statement to support this behaviour and their learning. The green triangle is used to recognise and reward **valued behaviour** and this system includes stickers/ class rewards, house tokens and certificates.

There are warnings and consequences for **detrimental behaviour** which does not meet the behaviour expectations.

Home Learning:

Home Learning tasks will be set as Google Classroom assignments, where appropriate. Children are expected to spend between 30 and 45 minutes on most tasks. All home learning will be set on a Friday and will be due the following Friday. Children who have not completed work will be asked to attend a lunchtime **Home Learning Club**.

Key Dates:

Friday 12th September at 9.00am and Monday 15th September at 2.30pm: Volunteer Meeting & Safeguarding Training

Tuesday 23rd September: Individual Photos

Wednesday 24th September 1.00-2.45pm: Y5 Fun Run at Stanborough Lakes

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

Wednesday 1st October: Flu Vaccines

W/c Monday 20th October: Arts Themed Week

Monday 20th October: Young Shakespeare Company

Thursday 23rd October: 'Me and My Screen' Workshop

W/c Monday 27th October: Half Term Break

Friday 7th November: PTA Fireworks

Friday 21st November at 8.50am Year 5 Sharing Assembly

Monday 1st December: Parent Consultation Day (School Closed)

Friday 5th December from 2.15pm to 3.05pm: Open Afternoon

Tuesday 9th December at 1.30pm and 6.00pm: Christmas Show x2

Thursday 11th December at 6.00pm: Christmas Show

Friday 12th December: Gordon Craig Theatre Panto Trip

Thursday 18th December: Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 18th December at 3.00pm: Carols on the Playground

Friday 19th December at 2.00pm: End of Term

Tuesday 28th April - Thursday 30th April: Residential Aylmerton Trip

Safeguarding:

Should you have any concerns over a child's welfare please contact any of our DSL's via the school office. Our DSLs are Mrs Lisa Withe, Mr Paul Wyatt, Ms Ruth Johnson, Ms Jale Apicella, Mrs Carey O'Connor, Miss Eloise Yates and Mrs Natalie Clementson.

They can also be contacted via safeguarding@applecroft.herts.sch.uk.

If urgent, please contact the school office.

Staffing in the Year Group:

Mrs Juliet Keefe - Hockney Class (Monday-Thursday)

Mrs Polly Entwisle - Hockney Class (Friday)

Miss Maisie Brown - Gormley Class

Mrs Laura Slee - LSA

Mrs Debbie King - LSA

Mrs Vikki Wake - PPA Teacher (Monday morning)

Mr Bradley Passade - sports coach (Monday morning)

Phase Leader - Mrs Carey O'Connor

Timetables:

Key Stage Two: Year 5 Hockney

	8:35 - 8:45am	8:45 - 8:55am	8.50 - 9:05am Session 1	9:20 - 10:20am Session 2	10:20 - 10:35 am	10:35 - 12:15pm Session 3	12:15 - 1:15 pm	1:15 - 1:45pm Session 4	1:45-3pm Session 5	3:00-3:15pm	
Monday	Register Maths Fluency		Assembly	Maths	B R E A K	Handwriting & Spellings	PE	Reading	Writing	Music	C L A S S R E A D A L L O U D
Tuesday	Register	Leader in Me		Maths		Reading	Writing	CUSP History/Geography/Science/DT or Art and Design			
Wednesday	Register Maths Fluency		Assembly	Maths		Reading	Writing	PSHE	CUSP History/Geography/Science/DT or Art and Design		
Thursday	Register	Leader in Me		Maths		Reading	Writing	CUSP History/Geography/Science/DT or Art and Design			
Friday	Register Maths Fluency		Achievement Assembly	Maths Arithmetic		Spellings & Handwriting	French	RE	Computing	PE	

Key Stage Two: Year 5 Gormley

	8:35 - 8:45am	8:45 - 8:55am	8.50 - 9:05am Session 1	9:20 - 10:20am Session 2		10:20 - 10:35 am	10:35 - 12:15pm Session 3		12:15 - 1:15 pm	1:15 - 1:45pm Session 4	1:45-3pm Session 5		3:00- 3:15pm
Monday	Register Maths Fluency		Assembly	Handwriting & Spellings	PE		PE	RE		Reading	Writing	Music	C L A S S R E A D A L L O U D
Tuesday	Register	Leader in Me		Maths		B R E A K	Reading	Writing	L U N C H	CUSP History/Geography/Science/DT or Art and Design			
Wednesday	Register Maths Fluency	Assembly	Maths		Reading		Writing	PSHE		CUSP History/Geography/Science/DT or Art and Design			
Thursday	Register	Leader in Me		Maths			Reading	Writing		CUSP History/Geography/Science/DT or Art and Design			
Friday	Register Maths Fluency	Achievement Assembly	Maths Arithmetic	Spellings & Handwriting	French		Maths	PE		Computing			

We will be blocking subjects in the afternoon. The order is as follows:

Spring 1: Art and Design, Science, History, Geography, Arts Week

Spring 2: Design Technology, History, Science, Geography, Design Technology

Year on a Page:

[Year 5 Year on a Page](#)

Uniform Expectations:

School Uniform should be worn daily and **all items must be labelled**. Long hair should be tied back using hair ties in school colours (red & black). Black school shoes must be worn, not trainers or boots. No nail varnish or jewellery is allowed other than a pair of small stud earrings.

Our P.E. kit consists of a white T-shirt and black shorts (no branded items). A plain black sweatshirt or joggers may be worn if the weather is cold. Trainers should be in school every day for the Daily Mile. PE kits should be worn to school on Mondays and Fridays.

A small pencil case containing a black writing pen (not a ballpoint), pencil, sharpener, scissors, glue stick is useful. All stationary items are available in the school shop which is open each morning. A reading book from school or home should also be in school daily.

Communication:

We will be communicating with the children via *Google Classroom*, so please ensure they regularly log on to check for assignments and messages. We will also be updating the Year 5 page of the school website and using Instagram for school events.

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any queries. If it is a non-urgent matter, we are usually available on Mondays after school. Please book an appointment via the school admin email, if you would like to talk to us.

If you require an urgent response, please contact us by phone, via the school office.