

Year 5 Curriculum Letter - Spring Term 2026

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year.
Thank you very much for all the cards and generous gifts.

English

Reading:

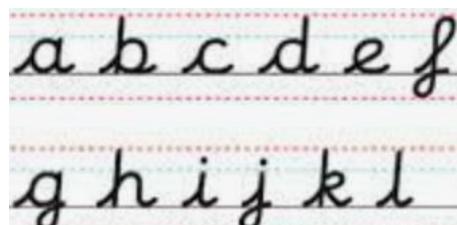


The first book used for our reading lessons is '**Boy in the Tower**', by Polly Ho-Yen. The story is about an ordinary boy who lives at the top of a tower block, but whose life becomes anything but ordinary. The second book is an adaptation of Shakespeare's '**A Midsummer Night's Dream**', by Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross. Our final book of the term is '**I Am Not a Label**', by Cerrie Burnell. This is an anthology which examines the lives of a range of disabled artists, athletes, scientists and activists across the generations. We will monitor the children's reading using our daily tally chart. Please encourage daily reading and listen to your child read at home as often as possible. We really appreciate your continued support.

Writing:

In writing, we will be covering a variety of exciting topics. These will include: third person stories, play scripts, formal letters of applications, poetry and biographies.

Handwriting:



A weekly handwriting lesson will be used to extend and polish learning that has taken place previously. Some children will have additional practice in order to correct errors.

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

Essential Maths topics will cover fractions, problem solving, measures, area and perimeter, percentages and 3-D shapes. Please continue to help your child practise their multiplication tables on a regular basis. This will help in so many areas of maths, including fractions and percentages. There are many interactive on-line games you can use such as Times Table Rockstars and BBC Bitesize.

1				
$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$		
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$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
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$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$
$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$
$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$

Art & Design:

Our art topic this term is all about **drawing** and we will be exploring the use of line and tone as well as the different jobs that require drawing skills. Designers and architects, including William Morris, Antoni Gaudi and Zaha Hadid, will be studied and the children will experiment with different sketching techniques.



Computing:

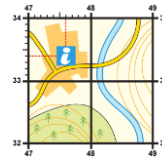
The spring term will cover units in both **Digital Literacy** and **Computer Science**. We will start by producing our own videos, looking carefully at the best camera angles for effect and identifying which tools to use to improve the final product. Following this, we will then move on to programming Crumble microcontrollers, focusing on real-life applications of count-controlled and conditional loops.



Design Technology (DT):

Our DT topic for the spring term is '**Textiles**'. In this block, pupils will consider the durability of fabrics and then design and make a functional and hardwearing bag. They will create fair tests to investigate the properties of a range of fabrics and consider design features such as fastenings and handles.

Geography:



Learning in Geography includes an introduction to **four and six figure grid references**, this term. The children will study lines of longitude and latitude and will learn how to precisely describe locations, landmarks and places in their work as a geographer.

History:

After first completing the unit on the **Ancient Greeks**, our history topic later this term is a study of the **Maya civilisation**. We will be looking at chronology and the significance of this ancient civilisation, how it changed over time and how it might have declined.



Leader in Me & The 8 Habits:

Leader in Me lessons cover leadership and all of the 8 habits. Pupils will learn to lead themselves and others, with weekly modules on topics such as perseverance, proactive language, loyalty and empathy, to name but a few. 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 school.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL):

This term's French unit, '**Quel temps fait-il?**', teaches the vocabulary of the weather; how to ask and say what the weather is like today and how to locate different regions in France. It will culminate in giving a forecast presentation in French!

Religious Education (RE) & Worldviews:

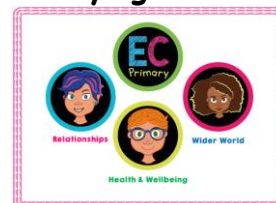
This term we are learning about **Christianity**. We will be studying the life of Jesus as well as looking at the Easter story and the role the disciples played in the beginning of the church.

Physical Education (PE):

P.E. lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays for both classes and will include units on **dance and tag rugby** as well as **communication and tactics** in sport. Children will need to wear their P.E. kits to school on both of these days and must have warm clothing for cold weather. Their trainers should remain in school every day as we will also be participating in the Daily Mile.

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

We are beginning the term with a PSHE unit on respect and relationships. This will cover lessons on **behaviour, friendships, feeling left out, peer pressure and bullying.**



Music:

Our first music unit has a focus on **notation** and children will be learning to play the **keyboard**. We will be studying and learning to play 'Pachelbel's Canon', as well as a range of other simple melodies. Later in the term we will be learning how western styles such as pop, rock and jazz are structured around **riffs and grooves**. We will sing songs in unison and in three different parts, accompanying these with riffs and grooves on the keyboard.



Science

Science this term will include physics topics on **forces and space**. We will look at forces such as friction, air resistance and water resistance and how levers, pulleys and gears work. We will also study key scientists such as Galileo Galilei. We will find out more about our planet and solar system, including how the rotation of Earth is responsible for day and night and why we have changing seasons. Lessons have a strong emphasis on vocabulary and retrieval of knowledge. The children will be asked to think like scientists, finding links and conducting investigations and experiments. There are links on Google Classroom to some information on forces (Curriculum Visions/BBC Bitesize) if the children would like to do some background reading.

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.

Safeguarding:

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

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

If urgent, please contact the school office.

Attendance & Punctuality:

Registration takes place promptly at 8.45am 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 8.45am 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.

Key Dates:

Friday 9th January, 9.00am: Volunteer Safeguarding Meeting
Wednesday 14th January: Travel Plan Initiative - 'Distractions' road safety workshop
Friday 16th January, 9.00am to 10.30am: Parent Workshop - 'Let's talk about our and their tech'
Friday 6th February: NSPCC Number Day
Tuesday 10th February: Safer Internet Day
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February: Half term break
Wednesday 25th February: Young Voices Concert for Choir
Thursday 5th March: World Book Day
W/c Monday 9th March: Traveling Book Fair
Friday 13th March: SOP Workshop
Saturday 14th March: SOP Concert
Tuesday 17th March, 2.30pm : Aylmerton Trip Parents Meeting
Wednesday 18th March: Rocksteady Spring Concert
Friday 20th March, 2.15pm - 3.05pm: Open Afternoon
Monday 23rd March: Dance Festival at The Hawthorne Theatre, Campus West
Friday 27th March, 2.00pm: End of term
Tuesday 28th - Thursday 30th April: Residential Aylmerton Trip

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

Timetable:

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 - 10:25 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		Handwriting & Spellings	PE		Reading	Writing	Music	CLASSROOM READ ALOUD
Tuesday	Register	Leader in Me		Maths	BREAK	Reading	Writing	LUNCH	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 - 10:25 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		
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Friday	Register Maths Fluency		Achievement Assembly	Maths Arithmetic		Spellings & Handwriting	French		Maths	PE	Computing	

The order of our CUSP subjects in the afternoon is as follows:

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

Spring 2: Design Technology, Science, History

Curriculum: Year on a Page:

Year 5 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, and a 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.