

Year 1 Curriculum Letter - Spring Term 2025

Happy New Year! Here is what we will be learning in Spring Term this year.

English

Reading:

We will continue to send home two 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** and log your child's reading on Boom Reader. Books will be sent home on a **Thursday**. The children that read 5 times a week and log this on Boom Reader will receive a bonus gem from their teacher!

Library day is also on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their book in their book bag on this day if they wish to take out a new book.



Writing:

In English, we have 5 lessons of reading and 5 lessons of writing over 2 weeks. In reading lessons, we will be looking at the core texts of 'Peter Rabbit', 'Look Up!', 'Here We Are' and the poem 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen. In each unit, we will look at additional supporting texts alongside the core books and practise reading fluency and comprehension skills. In writing lessons, we will initially be looking at shape poems and calligrams. We will then look at writing letters, recounts from personal experiences, nature poems and stories with familiar settings. We will continue to work on sentences composition and using capital letters and full stops correctly and consistently.

Handwriting:

In Year 1, we will begin to teach the children pre-cursive handwriting. All children will continue to look at the lower-case and upper-case letters and the children will practise writing simple words in their handwriting books. Handwriting sessions include direct teaching twice a week.



Phonics:

Phonics will continue to be taught 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.' Reading practise sessions will take place three times a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Maths

In Maths, we will be working with numbers to 20. We will learn about doubling and halving, odd and even numbers and 2D and 3D shapes. We will also practise measuring and the language of comparing measurements, sequencing days of the week and months of the year. Finally, we will

look at coins and understanding their values and counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. We will revisit our work on parts and wholes.

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 reading.

Computing:

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

Design Technology (DT):

In DT, we will continue our work on 'Understanding Materials' where we will building houses out of bread! We will then focus on 'Food and Nutrition' and create a vegetable-based product.



Geography:

In Geography, we will start by recapping our work on the 7 continents and 5 oceans of the world. We will then move onto our new topic 'Hot and Cold places', where we will learn about the equator and hot and cold countries.



History:

In History, our topic is 'The Lives of Significant Individuals'. 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 link to all our learning, personal development, and maintaining 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 a leader.

Art & Design:

This half term, our Art & Design we will be focusing on painting. We will explore mixing paint, primary and secondary colours and warm and cool colours using powder paint. We will explore how different paintbrush sizes affect our painting. We will learn about our class

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.



artists and how they combine paint to create different effects.



Physical Education (PE):

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

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. This half term we will be exploring 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.

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 effectively.

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 explore '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.

Attendance & Punctuality:

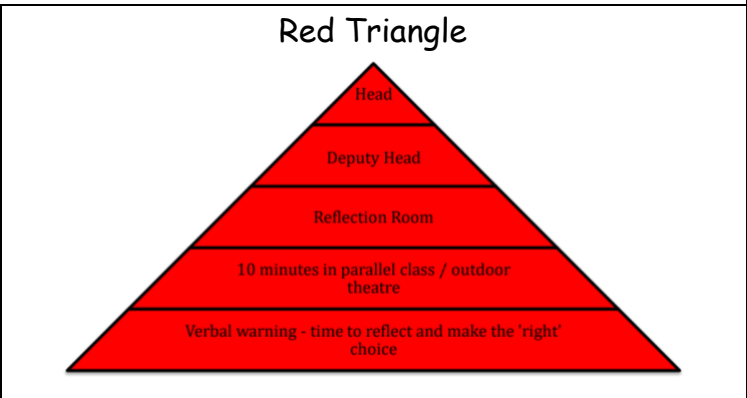
Please ensure your child arrives for 8:35am and is in the classroom ready to learn by 8:45am at the very latest.
Remember we are aiming for 96-100% attendance
The school day ends 3.15 pm when your child should be collected.

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 after 8:45am will be marked late.

Behaviour & Discipline:

At Applecroft School, we have adopted the Hertfordshire Steps therapeutic approach to behaviour management. Our whole school system is based on a green triangle that recognises and rewards prosocial behaviours and a red triangle that recognises and ensures clear consequences for anti-social behaviours. Both triangles have five levels that progress as the behaviours do.

Green Triangle





Communication:

We will use email to communicate with you and Home Learning and reminders will be communicated via Google Classroom so please ensure you check your accounts regularly to make sure you don't miss any of those messages!

If you need to speak to a teacher please feel free to email us at: year1@applecroft.herts.sch.uk

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

Home Learning:

Home Learning will be daily reading of the decodable phonics book and sharing a reading for pleasure book. Please log when your child has read to you on 'Boom Reader'. Please aim to listen to your child read at least 5 times a week!

We also expect children to complete one of the activities from the Spring Term home learning grid. This is set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Friday. This can be handed in either on Google classroom or in their home learning books. Teachers check the work every Friday, so if it is not handed in, it will be marked as missing.

Key Dates:

Safari Stu Visit - **Thursday 23rd January 2025**

PTA Cake Sale - **Monday 10th February 2025**

Year 1 Assembly - **Friday 14th February 2025**

Open Afternoon - **Tuesday 1st April 2025 2.15-3pm**

Safeguarding:

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are Ms Ruth Johnson (lead DSL), Ms Jale Apicella, Miss Eloise Yates, Mrs Natalie Clementson, Mrs Carey O'Connor, Mrs Lisa Withe & Mr Paul Wyatt.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please contact our DSLs via safeguarding@applecroft.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office if the matter is urgent.

Staffing in the Year Group:

Miss Hannah Kenworthy - Year Group Leader & Miro Class Teacher

Miss Hannah Gill - O'Keeffe Class Teacher

Mrs Michelle Russouw - Learning Support Assistant

Miss Skye Barker - Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Natalie Gardner - Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Vikki Wake - PPA Lead - RE

Mr Bradley Passade - PE Coach

Uniform Expectations:

Please ensure ALL uniform is named.

School Uniform:

PE Uniform:

Red jumper/cardigan
 Grey trousers, skirts, shorts or pinafore dress
 White polo shirts, shirt/blouse
 Smart, black shoes (**Boots are not permitted**)
 White/grey socks
 Grey/red tights
 Grey/red/white hair bands/clips/Alice bands
 only

White t-shirt
 Plain black shorts
 Plain black jogging bottoms (no logos)
 Plain black hoodie (no logos)

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	C U S P 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		R E	P E		
Wednesday	EMW	Register	Curriculum Assembly	Phonics & Reading Practice	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		M u s i c	P S H E	P E	
Thursday	EMW	Register	Leader in Me	Phonics & Reading Practice	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		C U S P Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			
Friday	EMW	Register	Achievement Assembly	Phonics & Handwriting	Maths	Outdoor Learning	English		C U S P Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			