

Year 1 Curriculum Letter - Summer Term 2026

Welcome back everyone! We hope you have had a lovely Easter break and are looking forward to the term ahead.

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: There's a Rang-tan in my Bedroom, And Tango Makes Three, The Lion Inside and The Proudest Blue. In each of these learning modules, we will look at additional supporting texts alongside the core books and practise reading fluency and comprehension skills.



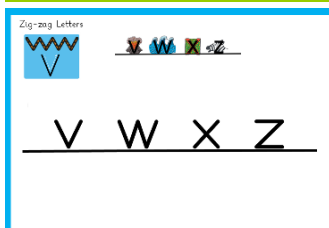
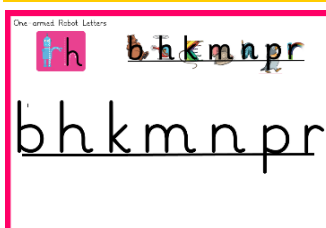
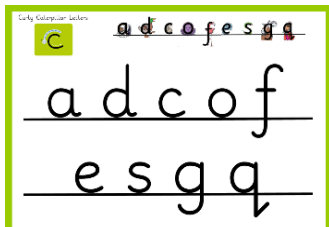
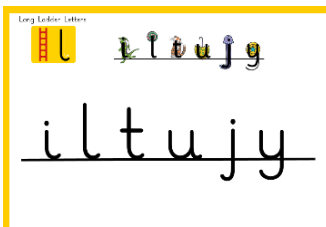
English Writing and Reading:

In English, we continue to follow the ESSENTIAL WRITING programme. The texts we will be basing our writing on this term are Paddington's Post, Here Comes Mr Postmouse, A First Book of Poems: Out and About, Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion, The Big Book of Bugs and We're Going to Find the Monster!

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 is to continue developing their ability to make their writing more engaging for the reader by using a wider range of adjectives and by extending simple sentences with the coordinating conjunction "and."

Handwriting:

In handwriting, we are reviewing all previously learned letters and writing a sentence for each one. We have also been practising a variety of patterns and words within each letter family.



Phonics:

In Year 1, we will continue to teach daily phonics lessons. We'll start by reviewing all the sounds we've covered from Phase 3 to Phase 5. Next, we'll introduce alien words, which are pseudo-words that students will encounter in their phonics screening test in June. Additionally, we'll revisit all the 'tricky words.'

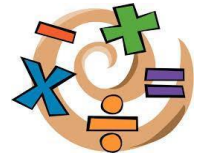
Reading practice sessions will continue to be held three times a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



Maths

In Maths, we will cover the units: multiplication, division, time and fractions. In multiplication, we will look at problem solving, scaling and counting in 2s to 24. In division, we will look at sharing and grouping problems. In time, we will be telling the time to o'clock and half past. In fractions, we will be sharing into equal groups, equal and unequal shapes and continuous quantities, including capacity. Finally, we will be revising numbers to 20 and investigating various ways to make numbers between 11-20.



Music:

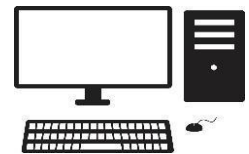
In Music, our learning modules will be looking at two modules.



In 'Exploring emotions through music,' we will learn that music evokes different emotions. We will discuss our own musical preferences and use musical vocabulary to describe how a piece of music makes us feel. We will explore how movement and music are linked and begin to learn some different music genres, recognising that music has changed over time. In 'Experimenting with sounds,' we will be introduced to tuned and untuned percussion through a simple study of Gamelan. This will offer the opportunity to explore the duration of notes and tones and to teach pupils how to control a range of percussion instruments. During the block, we will learn that music can be represented using simple pictures and symbols. We will have the chance to represent significant compositions in this way, as well as compose, perform and evaluate their own musical phrase in this form.

Computing:

In Computing, we will start by looking at the unit 'Digital Writing'. During this unit, we will be learning more about the keyword, looking at how we can add and remove text. We will be exploring the toolbar and then finally deciding whether we prefer pencil or keyboard. Next half term, we will then be looking at 'Programming Animations' where we will be working on the app 'Scratch Jr.' In this unit we will learn to command the sprite to do different movements. We will be comparing tools, joining blocks, making changes and adding sprites. To finish off the unit, we will design our own animation on paper and then create this on Scratch Jr.



Design Technology (DT):

In D&T this term, the children will cover the learning modules 'Textiles' and 'Food & Nutrition'.



In 'Textiles', the children will be creating hand puppets. They will learn how to do a running stitch to join two pieces of fabric together. They will then decorate their puppet to look like a character.

In 'Food & Nutrition', the children will be answering the key question 'Why are vegetables the best?' In this block, pupils will be provided with opportunities to prepare and sample a wide variety of vegetables. They will learn about the health benefits of eating vegetables daily and will develop knife skills and basic culinary techniques.

Geography:

In Geography, we will start by looking at Mapping and Fieldwork, carrying out a range of activities including comparing different types of maps and going on a treasure hunt. We will then be revisiting Continents & Oceans, UK Countries, Capitals and Seas. We will revisit what the seven continents and five oceans of the world are. We will also be looking at the countries and capital cities of the UK, including what seas surround it.



History:

In History, our topic is 'More Lives of Significant Individuals'. We will look at the fascinating lives and achievements of Neil Armstrong, Mae Jemison, Bernard Harris Jr and Tim Peake. We will learn key facts about them and their achievements. The children will then compare their lives, thinking about how these key figures are similar and different.

Leader in Me & The 8 Habits:

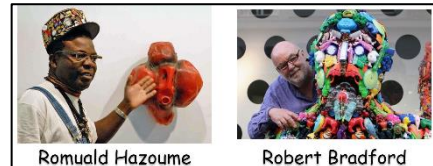
This term, we will be looking at a range of modules: Building Trust, Practising Empathy, Empathic Listening, Speaking with respect, Working With Others, Sharpening the Saw, Helping Others Lead, Higher Order Thinking. These lessons give us vital tools to support our learning and development, both in school and in the wider world.

Religious Education (RE) & Worldviews:

Christianity is our focus this term. We will be learning about different stories found in the Bible and how the stories help teach Christians. Links to extra reading on Curriculum Visions have been added to Google Classroom. If you would like to come in and be involved in the RE learning, please do get in touch as we'd love to have parent volunteers in to share their experiences with the children.

Art & Design

This term we will be focussing on sculpture. We will experiment with construction by joining materials using glue, masking tape and paper clips. We will look at the work of artists Romuald Hazoume and Robert Bradford.



Romuald Hazoume

Robert Bradford

Physical Education (P.E.):

P.E. takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and children will need to come into school in their P.E. kit on these days.

This half term, we will be working on ball skills using our feet and locomotion skills, including jumping.

After half term, we will be focusing on health and wellbeing, including the health benefits of running.



We will also be looking at games for understanding attacking vs defence.

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

This term the children will cover 'Relationships and Education' and 'Living in the Wider World'.

In the Relationships and Education module, we will learn about people who care for us, different types of families, all about bodies, consent and asking for permission.

After half-term, we will be exploring the topic 'Living in the Wider World'. In this topic we will learn about caring for living things, recycling, pollution, global warming and community helpers.

Science

We will be revisiting the 'Animals, including Humans' learning module and will be recalling different ways to group animals. We will be using the vocabulary: blood, senses, feather, young, fur, scales, mammal, amphibian, reptile, herbivore, omnivore and carnivore.

We will then revisit 'Plants' where we will take a closer look at the names of wild and garden plants, and the differences between them and trees. We will also be looking closer at our key





vocabulary words; bud, trunk, branch, bark, seed, nutrients, stem, deciduous and evergreen. For each of these words we will 'link' 'analyse' and 'use in a sentence'.

Attendance & Punctuality:

Please arrive for 8:35am. Registers close & the day begins at 8:45am

Remember 96%+ = 'good' attendance

Start of day: 8:45 am

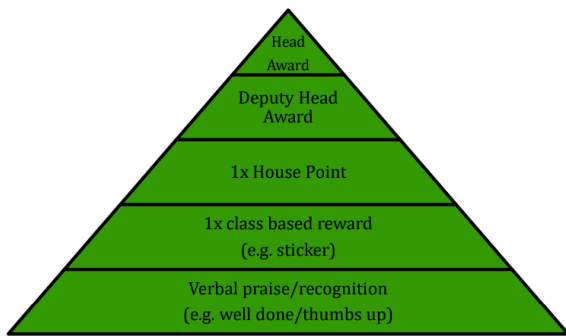
End of the Day: 3.15 pm

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 after 8:45am will be marked late.

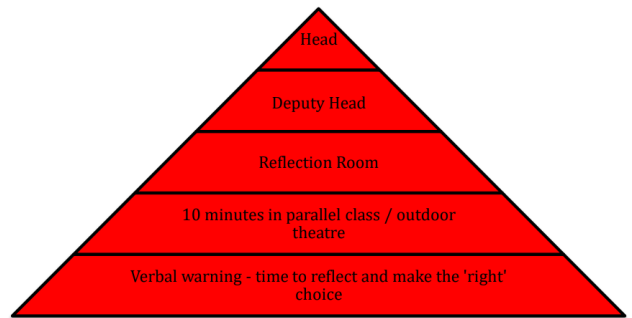
Behaviour & Discipline:

At Applecroft School, we have adopted Hertfordshire's 'Therapeutic Thinking' approach to behaviour management. This approach is supported by our green triangle which recognises and rewards 'valued' (pro-social) 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 will be 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 the following Friday.

Key Dates:

Summer Term 2026:

Monday 13th April → Thursday 23rd July

BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 4th May

HALF TERM: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

OCCASIONAL DAY: Monday 22nd June
 INSET DAYS: Friday 22nd May, Wednesday 22nd July & Thursday 23rd July

Other important dates:

Tuesday 21st April- Class Photos
 Monday 8th June- Phonics Screening Check Week
 Wednesday 24th June- KS1 Sports Day- AM
 Monday 29th June- KS1 Sports Day- AM (back up date)
 Saturday 11th July- Camp Applecroft
 Tuesday 21st July- Last day of school- 2pm finish

Safeguarding:

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

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please contact our DSLs via safeguarding@applecroft.herts.sch.uk

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
 Mr Bradley Passade - PE Coach
 Mrs Varnals-Scrace - Early Reading Teacher

Timetable:

	8:35 - 8:45am	8:45 am	8.50 - 9:15am	9:20 - 10:00am	10-10.20 am	10.20 - 10.35 am	10.40- 11.20am	11.20- 11.55am	12-1pm	1-2 pm	2-3pm	3-3:15pm	
Monday	EMW	Register	Music Assembly	Phonics & Handwriting	English input	B R E A K	English	Maths	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	English input		English	Maths		RE	PE		
Wednesday	EMW	Register	Curriculum Assembly	Phonics & Reading Practice	English input		English	Maths		Music	PSHE	PE	
Thursday	EMW	Register	Leader in Me	Phonics & Reading Practice	English input		English	Maths		CUSP Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			
Friday	EMW	Register	Achievement Assembly	Phonics & Handwriting	English input		English	Maths		CUSP Geography/ History/ Art/ D&T/ Computing			

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.