



# Applecroft School

Nurturing Potential, Inspiring Minds,  
Changing Lives

## Welcome Meeting

Wednesday 3rd September 2025





# Meet the Team



Mrs Lisa Withe  
Head teacher  
DSL



Mr Paul Wyatt  
Deputy Head  
DSL



Ms Ruth Johnson  
Assistant Head  
SENDCo  
DSL



Charlie our  
School Dog



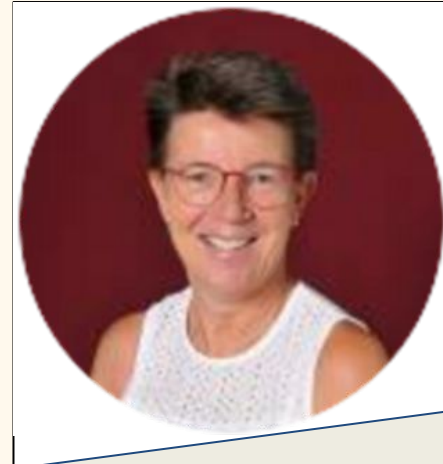
# Meet the Team



Mrs Odette Coe  
Finance &  
Business Manager  
Lead First Aider



Ms Jale Apicella  
Family Link  
Support Worker &  
DSL



Mrs Gill Williams  
Finance Assistant  
Lead First Aider



# Meet the Nursery Team



Miss Eloise Yates  
Early Years  
Phase Leader  
Seurat Teacher



Mrs Anya  
McGrath  
Nursery Teacher



Ms Martina  
Noskova  
Early Years  
Practitioner



# Meet our wider Nursery Team



Mrs Rachel  
Varnals-Scrace  
Early Reading  
Teacher



Mrs Vikki Wake  
PPA - RE Teacher



Mr Bradley  
Passade  
PPA - PE Coach



# Attendance

Attendance - 96% or above

Attendance patterns in nursery set the habits for school

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days absent each year	Learning hours lost each year	The impact over 5 years
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10	
Good	98%	186 days	4	20	
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5	
Unsatisfactory	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5	Quarter year missed
	94%	179 days	11	55	
	93%	177 days	13	65	Half year missed
	90%	171 days	19	95	
Major issue	88%	167 days	23	115	
	86%	163 days	27	135	
	83%	158 days	32	160	
Serious concern	81%	154 days	36	180	One whole year of school missed
	80%	152 days	38	190	
Critical	75%	143 days	47	235	

**97%** and above - pupils with attendance at this level throughout their school career will make the best progress, this should lead to better prospects for work, college and university

**90%** - pupils with attendance at this level are missing a month of school a year and may not reach their target grades. Progress will be affected and viewed negatively by employers and further education

**85%** - pupils with attendance at this level will find it difficult to keep up and their chances of achieving their potential significantly damaged



# Punctuality

The Nursery day begins at 8:30am for 15 hour morning sessions.

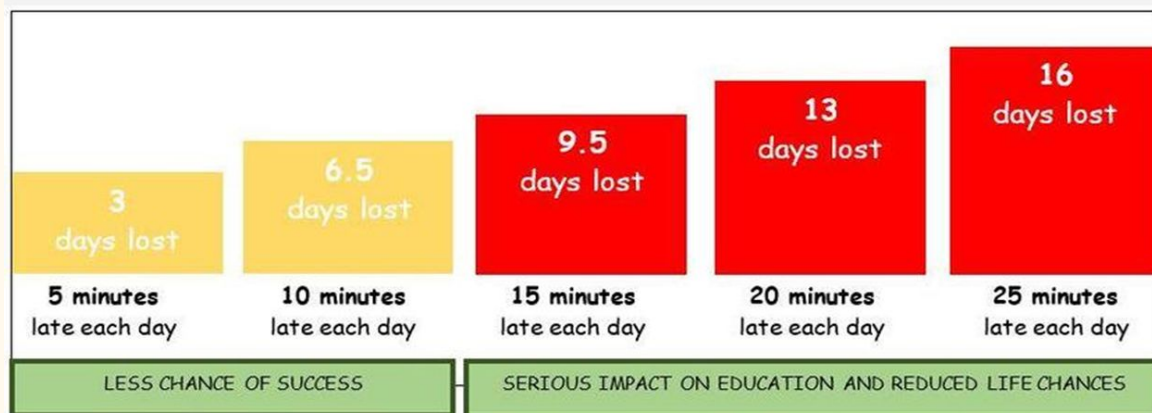
For 30 hour sessions, the day starts at 9am promptly (unless additional hours are purchased).

Gates open at 8:30am and close at 9am

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Gates open at 11.30am - 11.40am for lunch club

Gates open at 12.30 - 12.40 for 15 hour afternoon sessions





# Absence / Illness

Please do not send your child to school if he/she is not well

Please phone the school office (Mrs Lamaison) by 8:15am and leave a message if your child is going to be absent - please state what the reason for absence is (including type of illness)

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, he/she should not return to school until a period of 48 hours has elapsed since the last time they were unwell

Support and Guidance

['Is my child too ill for school?'](#) - NHS guidance & advice

['Healthier Together'](#) - guidance & support from healthcare professionals across Dorset, Hampshire & the Isle of Wight

['Parents Guide to Keeping Children Healthy...'](#) - guidance from GOV.UK

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**





# Parent Volunteers

We are hoping to be able to welcome back our wonderful parent volunteers this year.

If you are interested in supporting the children in school you will need to attend one of the two planned volunteer safeguarding meetings:

Friday 12th September @ 9am

or

Monday 15th September @ 2:30pm

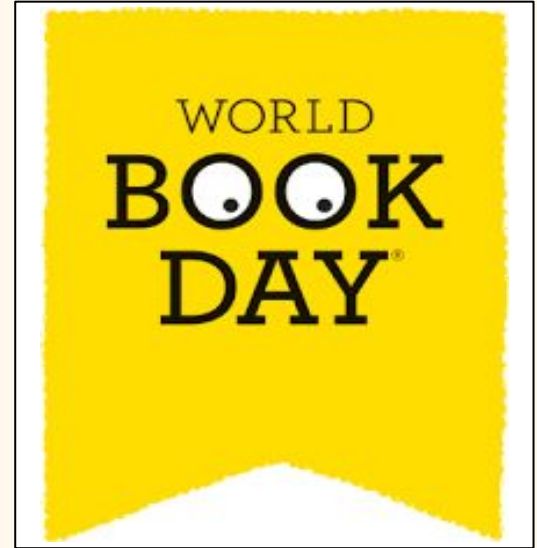
Many Hands Make Light Work



Thank You For Being So Kind



# Special Events / Weeks / Days





# Our Behaviour & Discipline Policy





# What your child needs for school in Nursery

School uniform and PE Kit are optional

Children should wear comfortable clothes that they can move in and allow independence



Named sunhat/winter hat, scarf and gloves

Named coat when needed

Named water bottle - containing water, not squash

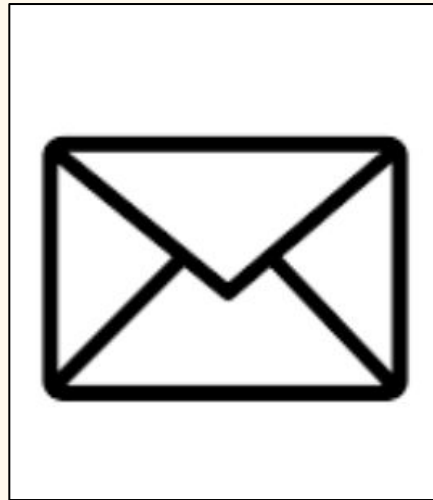
Sturdy shoes

Please do not send your child in open toe shoes, crocs or jewellery.

All clothing should be clearly labelled and appropriate for play.



# How we communicate with you



**'What are we learning in Nursery poster' and weekly summary including Home Learning activities**

**Key dates and events**

**WOW teaching and learning moments**

**Monthly School Newsletter (with termly updates from the EYFS)**

**PTA News and Events**

**Communication from the school office or other members of staff**

**FIRST AID messages (e.g. head bumps)**

**Missing School Book**

**Access to useful information**

**Weekly Posters**

**Monthly School Newsletters**

**School Calendar**

[admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk)





# School Calendar

## Calendar

[Home](#) >> [School Life](#) >> [Calendar](#) >> [Reception Parent/Carer Information Meeting](#)

### Reception Parent/Carer Information Meeting

Start: 17/06/2024 18:15

End: 17/06/2024 19:30





# Tapestry in Nursery



Observations / Nursery Learning wc 09.06.25

< Newer

Older >

## Nursery Learning wc 09.06.25

Edit

Authorised by Mrs McGrath added 05 Jun 2025 03:44 PM  
Approved by Mrs McGrath on 05 Jun 2025 03:47 PM

- Nancy O'Flynn, Nava Mary Gail, Veronica-Rose Coulson, Wibree Vialaty, TAbbe Power, Cecily Lambert, Nova Edmonds, Olivia Orchard, Thomas Nunnery
- Yasmin Sam Miled, Kobiha Whitehouse, Ocean-Rose Cole-Gibbons, Arthur Bloch, Aaron Shantree, Alfred Barnes, Joseph Whelan -Hirst, Antonia Cymba
- Ava Tagore, Noel Archer, Ali Rawlin, Miss Lotargen, Ava Zaccaria, Sierra Starakias, Zaki Durewanou, Adi Hargreaves, Luca Stylianou
- Talra Theophile, Ozzy Haddock, Penelope McGonardus, Sachin Rankine-McGarry, Samuel Edwards, Jamie Rabaska-Harte, Ellie Lamb, Nalaya Ladgrave

View History Export

Lika - 4 Likes

### Liked by

- Gregory Rawlins
- Lee Theophile
- Michaela Cole
- Nuria Stylianou

**What are we learning in Nursery this week?**  
nursery@applecrafft.herts.sch.uk

**Book of the Week**  
*Tiddler: The story-telling fish* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

**Language and Communication**  
Our special words are: imagination, whisper, captured, rescue, genius, escape.

**Maths**  
This week, we will have our first lesson focusing on shape. We will learn to identify shapes by counting their sides and corners.

**Expressive Art and Design**  
We will use collage to create sea creatures!

**Physical Development**  
In PE, we are practicing attack vs defence games. We are learning to work as a team and to remember the rules of each game.

Users with the "See a download media button" permission can download these photos and videos

Comments

## A Science Experiment



Edit

Authorised by Mrs McGrath added 23 May 2025 01:25 PM

Approved by Mrs McGrath on 23 May 2025 01:31 PM

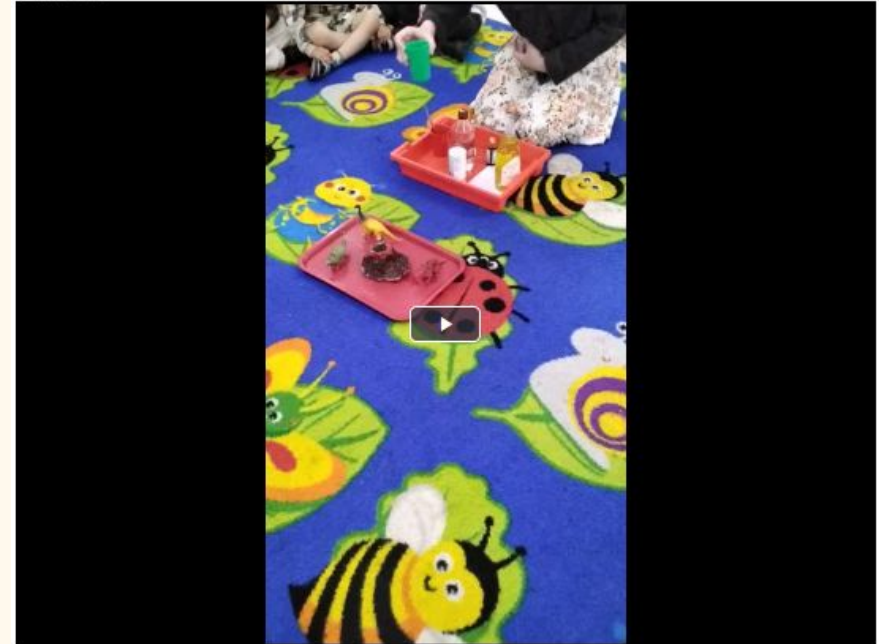
- Nancy O'Flynn, Nava Mary Gail, Veronica-Rose Coulson, Wibree Vialaty, TAbbe Power, Cecily Lambert, Nova Edmonds, Olivia Orchard
- Kobiha Whitehouse, Ocean-Rose Cole-Gibbons, Arthur Bloch, Aaron Shantree, Alfred Barnes, Joseph Whelan -Hirst, Antonia Cymba, Rafi Archer
- Ali Rawlin, Miss Lotargen, Sierra Starakias, Adi Hargreaves, Luca Stylianou, Talra Theophile, Ozzy Haddock, Penelope McGonardus
- Sachin Rankine-McGarry, Jamie Rabaska-Harte, Ellie Lamb, Nalaya Ladgrave

View History Export

Lika - 7 Likes

### Liked by

- Anna Ziemska
- Gregory Rawlins
- Louise Archer
- Michaela Cole
- Nuria Stylianou
- Samantha Orchard
- Sarah Lambert



Users with the "See a download media button" permission can download these photos and videos

Comments



# Nursery Noticeboard / Open Door Policy





# Learning in the EYFS

## 7 Areas of Learning

### Prime Areas:

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Personal, Social and Emotional  
Development

### Specific Areas:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design





# Learning in the EYFS

Children should mostly develop the 'prime' areas first. These are essential for a child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in the 4 specific areas.

Teachers plan learning and activities across all 7 areas and the flexibility of the curriculum allows staff to follow the children's unique needs and interests.

Phonics - Little Wandle

CUSP Curriculum  
Structured Storytime






# Focus Observations

We carry out focus observations each Term. We will communicate this to you via Tapestry and in our display cabinet.

The week before, you will receive a letter reminding you that your child will be one of a small group of focus observation children for the following week.

After your child's focus observation week has been completed, you will be invited in to have a chat with their class teacher about their progress, development and any next steps they have identified.



**Applecroft School**  
Nurturing Potential, Inspiring Minds, Changing Lives

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Focus Child Observations

We will be focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ We will be observing them while they explore and learn to find out more about their interests and how they are progressing.

We value the knowledge and understanding you have of your child and would really appreciate you sharing this with us so that together we can plan activities to meet your child's needs. This will help us plan for their future learning and development.

Is there anything significant happening in your child's life at the moment e.g. visits, holidays, new pets, family celebrations?

Do you have anything you would like to ask us about your child's progress and development?

We will be focusing on:

1. Phonics, comprehension, early reading, & writing (Literacy)
2. Self-regulation, Managing Self and building relationships
3. Understanding the world & listening, attention and understanding

Please upload pictures of any of the following onto Tapestry for your child to share with us:





- Favourite toys, food, personal items and current interests
- Family photos from a recent occasion or event
- Any items that tell us about your family

Please return this letter with the necessary photo uploads on Tapestry before your consultation. We are looking forward to seeing you at our consultation!

Miss Eloise Yates  
Seurat Class Teacher,  
Year Group Leader,  
Early Years Phase Leader

Mrs Fern Warden  
Kandinsky Class Teacher

Ambition	Leadership	Kindness	Supportiveness	Respect	Honesty	Determination	Resilience
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Company Number 07917745  
Website: [www.applecroft.herts.sch.uk](http://www.applecroft.herts.sch.uk) Email: [admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk) Tel: 01707 323758 X (Twitter): [@applecroftuk](https://twitter.com/applecroftuk)



# Focus Consultations

Focus observation meetings held termly to discuss your child's progress. These are offered each term in order to work closely with parents and teachers.

It is a chance to discuss your child's progress and where they are currently working within the 7 areas of learning.

We will share a document with appointment times and dates, via email at the start of each term. Please make a note of your time and date when you receive it and if you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Staff are happy to accommodate changes to the time of your appointment in advance of the proposed date. We will not rearrange appointments if you choose not to come.

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,  
**Re: Reception Focus Child Consultations - Autumn Term 2024**

Throughout the Autumn Term in Reception, we will hold Focus Child Consultations. The purpose of these meetings gives you the opportunity to discuss your child's focus week, their learning and development and how they have settled into Reception so far. The table below informs you of the week you are required to meet with your child's class teacher.

The Reception Team will be available to meet after school on a **Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday**, straight after dismissal, at 3.20pm. Each appointment will last approximately 10 minutes. If these days are not convenient, please speak to your child's class teacher and they will try their best to accommodate you. Miss Yates and Mrs Warden will send out an additional letter to you closer to the time to gather some information from you in preparation for your child's focus week.

3.20pm	Seurat			Kandinsky		
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Robbie	Felix	Freddie	Kiaan	Peter	Aydin
w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Edric	Alba	Ares	Aarohi	Benedict	Alexander
w/c 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Edith	Erika	Eoin	Benjamin	Eddie	Eloise
w/c 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Evie-Mae	Grace	Hattie	Elsie	Eve	Ezra
w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Isle	Joshua	Henry	Florence O	Isabella	Jude
w/c 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Liam	Maria	Max	Koha	Lily	Louie
Half Term						
w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Nadia	Noah	Olivia	Florence P	Maisie	Monty
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Oliver	Oriane	Paisley	Nikola	Niall	Rose
w/c 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Phoebe	Ruan	Toby	Scarlett	Sophie	Tabitha
w/c 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Vianna	Zac	Ziggy	Tilly	Zachary C	Kylan

Yours sincerely,  
 Miss Eloise Yates  
 Reception, Seurat Class Teacher and Early Years Leader



# School Procedures



**Birthday books only**

**No gifts bags/party bags and toys**

**No cakes/ sweets as we are a 'Healthy School'**

**We are a 'NUT FREE school'**



**Phone or email the school office (Mrs Lamaison) before 2pm**

**Leave a message if your child is going to have an alternative pick up arrangement**

**Any sent after 2pm are likely to not be picked up**



**We ask that routine dentist & doctor appointments take place out of the school day whenever possible**

**Phone or email the school office (Mrs Lamaison)**

**School Office not to be confused with 'Reception'.**

[admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk) - Mrs Lamaison (Office)



# School Dinners



- Children in nursery have the option to purchase a hot school meal or to bring food in from home
- Hot school meals are provided by the catering company Dolce
- All food must be ordered in advance via Dolce's ordering system SchoolGrid - the reason food needs to be ordered in advance is so that the cook knows how many of each type of meal needs to be prepared - this helps to keep the cost per meal as low as possible
- The cost of a meal is currently £2.53 - payment needs to be made in-advance
- School meals can be ordered on an adhoc basis - i.e. you can pick and choose which days your child will have a school meal - you do not have to book for the whole week
- Parents and carers will be able to access Schoolgrid from mid August once you have received an email containing your username and password (check your spam)
- If your child has any food allergies or specific dietary requirements these can be noted within SchoolGrid - this will mean that any meals containing ingredients your child should not have will not be visible for you to choose. If your child has a severe dietary restriction Dolce are more than happy to provide a separate menu for your child - please speak to me at the end of the presentation.



# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



The use of mobile phones by adults are NOT permitted on the school site.  
All phones **must** be out of sight and not actively used on the school site for safeguarding reasons.

Smartwatches - can we worn but must be silenced and all functions except for the watch to be disabled whilst at school (some watches have a 'school mode' that does this)

Positive Feedback & Suggestion boxes/emails

## Zebra Crossing in Car Park

# A typical day in Nursery



**Doors open at 8:30am / Close at 9am sharp**

**Funky Fingers (Fine motor activity)**

**Child Initiated Learning**

**Adult Directed Activity**

**Child Initiated Learning**

**Structured Story Time**

**Lunch / Home Time (doors open 11:30am-11:40am)**

**Doors open at 12:30pm / Close at 12:40pm**

**Funky Fingers (Fine motor activity)**

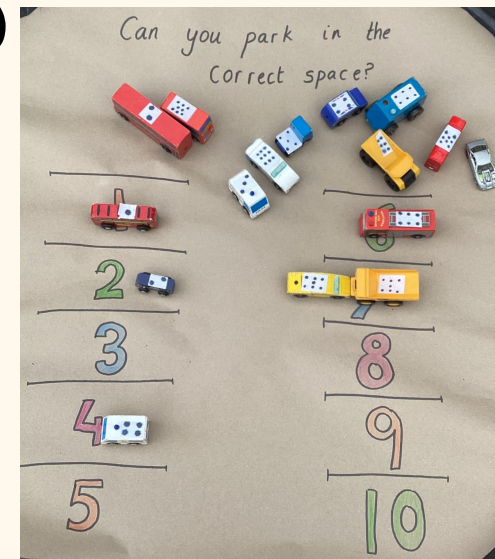
**Child Initiated Learning**

**Adult Directed Activity**

**Child Initiated Learning**

**Structured Story Time**

**Home Time (3pm-3:30pm)**



# Our CUSP Literature Spine





# Our Classroom Systems





# Pedestrian Gate / Nursery Entrance





# Supporting Smooth Transitions

Use the QR Code below to download a digital version of activity ideas that will help you, as parents and carers, to prepare your child for their next step into school.



**Ready Families** | **Ready Schools**  
**Ready Child**

## Early Years

Supporting Smooth Transitions | Learning at Home

Everything you do with your child can help them to be strong confident, independent learners who are ready to start school.

Use the QR Code below to download a digital version of activity ideas that will help you as parents and carers to prepare your child for their next step into school.

Time spent doing things together at home and seizing learning opportunities will really help your child find out new things and develop skills that will help learning at school. Each card will provide you with ideas of activities you could try in different places at home or out and about as well as Top Tips to encourage further play and learning.

These cards have been developed as part of the Supporting Smooth Transitions project commissioned by Herts County Council, delivered by HFL Education. HFL Education is the largest school company in the UK dedicated to improving education for young people.

**EVERY CHILD IN HERTFORDSHIRE DESERVES THE VERY BEST START POSSIBLE.**

For further information please contact [eytransition@hfleducation.org](mailto:eytransition@hfleducation.org)



# Important Dates

- Home Visits take place on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September.
- Nursery Children (30hrs) start on Monday 8th September.
- Nursery Children (15hrs) start on Tuesday 9th September.
- Nursery 'Love of Reading' Meeting for all Nursery parents/carers - Friday 19th September 8:45-9:15 and Friday 26th 2:30-3:00.
- Photo Day - Tuesday 23rd September