



Welcome to Nursery

"From little pips mighty apples grow!"

At Appletree Gardens First School our bespoke and carefully sequenced Early Years curriculum is designed to support our golden strands - the branches on our tree. These have been carefully considered to reflect our ambition for each and every pupil to ensure all of our pupils **blossom** and achieve future success.

We believe it is every child's right to access an environment that is rich in wonder with highly skilled staff who are able to respond to individual interests and needs and who can support and nurture their learning over time. At Appletree we celebrate and encourage children to follow their interests and we strive to provide exciting, first hand experiences to help **grow** curiosity and strengthen and deepen understanding.

We recognise that each child is unique and we support all children to make progress from their individual starting points. The root of our ethos is to **'grow your learning'** and we are determined that through meaningful, memorable learning experiences we can come together to recognise and **grow** each individual's potential for excellence. We look forward to welcoming you all into Amazing Appletree this year.



Our children, parents, staff and governors worked collaboratively to design our

BLOSSOM CODE

A Taste of Appletree Nursery...



Team work



Reading



Science



Forest School



Creative



Literacy



Cooking



Friendships



PIC • COLLAGE

Meet the Nursery Team

Mrs Claire Carron



Nursery Teacher (Mon, Tues, Wed) and Early Years Lead

I have worked in Appletree Gardens for eighteen years and this will be my fifth year in Nursery. I have been the Early Years Lead for nine years and I love working with our youngest children. Their open minds and endless enthusiasm are some of the main reasons I love teaching!

I live with my husband, our 4 year old son and our dog, Archie, a crazy Border Terrier who loves long walks. We like walking at the beach or through Holywell Dene. I am in a steel pan band and I also enjoy swimming and playing games.

Miss Jane Tucker



Nursery Teacher (Thurs, Fri) and Forest School Lead

I am the Nursery teacher on Thursdays and Fridays. I absolutely love teaching in the Early Years and I am a Forest School leader, so expect lots of fun outdoors! I also teach Forest School across the whole school as well.

Nursery is the beginning of your child's learning journey and I promise you they will have the best possible start here at Appletree!

In my spare time, my son and I just love to explore nature by walking in the woods, camping, playing on the beach, building dens, cycling along the coast and we fancy ourselves as master chefs too!

Miss Amy Sprott



Nursery Teaching Assistant (Every day)

This is my second year working at Appletree and I really enjoy working in Nursery, especially seeing how much fun they have doing Forest School. I have a lot of experience of working within Early Years and have previously worked in a Private Nursery Pre-School for many years.

In my spare time I love spending time with my son, watching him play football and we love to go swimming too!

Mrs Michelle Copping



Nursery Teaching Assistant (Every morning)

This is the fourth year I have had the privilege of working at Appletree. My first year here was as a supply teacher and then I had a fantastic time working in Little Pips. I have really enjoyed my time working in nursery so far and I am really looking forward to getting to know all of our new starters. Outside of school I love cross stitching and reading and spending time with my family.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS)

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning - Communication and Language; Physical Development; Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. All areas of learning and development are important and interconnected and activities often cover more than one area of learning. Staff have worked hard to develop a curriculum that is progressive, inclusive and engaging for all learners. We follow half-termly topics to ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Within our topics we provide a range of well planned, exciting, stimulating and challenging activities, for high quality play, both inside and outside.

At Appletree, we have fantastic opportunities for the children to play and explore through nature in our Early Years Nature Zone, during weekly **Forest School** sessions. The children have opportunities to build on their active learning through self chosen activities such as making mud pies in the mud kitchen or printing with flowers. The children become better critical thinkers by using tools for a purpose, building dens, using gross motor skills for swinging or using our rope bridges. We recognise the benefits outdoor learning has on children's well-being and mental health and best of all, the part it plays in building resilience and helping children develop a real 'have a go' attitude.



Nursery Session Times

All children are entitled to 15 hours free childcare from the term after they turn 3. This is offered within our school Nursery. **Please note that children should attend either all morning sessions or all afternoon sessions.** These hours should not be shared with another childcare provider.

Morning session: 8.45am - 11.45am (doors open from 11.30am)	Afternoon session: 12.30pm – 3.30pm (doors open from 3.15pm)
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Children Eligible for 30 Hours

At Appletree Gardens First School the 30 hour provision is teacher led within our Nursery. Those eligible are entitled to an additional 3 hours of childcare per day on top of their daily 3 hour Nursery sessions, and so would attend both the morning and afternoon sessions every day.

All 30 hour children have their formal teaching session in the morning for example pre-phonics, maths, Talk4Writing, Jigsaw PSE Scheme, etc. In the afternoon, the children remain in the same familiar Nursery setting and build on these skills. It has been wonderful to see these children become mentors for the afternoon children, taking their own learning to a greater depth.

Lunch:

- Lunchtime will be a separate session in our 'Wraparound' provision (located in Appletree Annex) and the children have access to a secure garden to play in after their lunch.
- Children will be collected from and taken back to Nursery by the Wraparound staff.
- Children must bring a healthy packed lunch (no nuts, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks please).
- **There will be a small daily charge of £4 for this session.**

Additional Fee Paying 'Wraparound' Sessions

In addition to this, we offer fee paying sessions (mornings and afternoons) to cater for your childcare needs. These additional 'Wraparound' sessions will be delivered in Appletree Gardens Out of School Care. Please note these times do not cover the lunchtime period and should your child need to stay for this time, an additional cost will be incurred.

Wraparound Sessions:

When: Monday - Friday

Times: 9:00am - 12:00pm OR 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Cost: £9.00 per session

Lunch Time Session Charge: £4.00

Out Of School Club Childcare Provision

At Appletree Gardens First School, we are committed to working closely with our families to ensure we can help cater for all of their childcare needs. We offer:

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Wraparound Care for Nursery children

Holiday Clubs

**2 Year Old Provision (Little Pips) -
funded and fee paying places**

This provision operates in Appletree Gardens Annex attached to the school.

For details of the services on offer, see separate leaflet or contact our childcare manager, Susanne, on 0191 2523546 or 07532 261368.

Preparing for Nursery

Children start Nursery with a wide and varied range of starting points and skills but there are certain things that will really help your child get off to a great start with their learning.

Some of these things are being able to:

- Separate from yourself or a carer without becoming upset
- Use the toilet independently
- Manage their school clothes - taking down and pulling up underwear and trousers, putting on and taking off jumpers or cardigans
- Wash their own hands
- Put on and take off their coat
- Put on and take off their shoes and wellies
- Sit and listen in a group for a short amount of time
- Share and take turns



This is not an exhaustive list but the more independence your child has in terms of basic self-care skills, the more they can focus on their learning across the curriculum, feeling comfortable and secure in themselves.

Information About Nursery

Organisation

Nursery provides two large, bright airy rooms which are interconnecting. The toilet area has a disabled toilet and children can access this area at all times as they need. We have a large outdoor area which the children access daily. Nursery has its own entrance which is separate from the school and the outside gate is locked after the children come in to ensure security.

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

Our outdoor area is in a mature garden and has a safety surface. We have a range of safe, sturdy play equipment and loose parts for open ended activities. We also have two garden sheds which stores our small world play, balls, buckets, large blocks and gardening tools. The children have supervised access to resources and are also encouraged to follow their fascinations and instigate their own play which the staff support and extend. We have a 'Nature Zone' which we access for Forest School activities, exploring natural materials, investigating and wondering. We play outside in the Nursery garden every day, 'come rain or shine', and always in the snow! High quality waterproof trousers and coats are provided. **Children will need to keep a spare pair of wellies in school please. These need to be named.** In the summer a sun hat should be worn and please put sunscreen on your child BEFORE coming to nursery.



Communication with Parents

In Nursery we have electronic Learning Journeys, on a programme called Seesaw, to chronicle the children's learning. We encourage all parents to sign up to Seesaw as it is the perfect way for them to see what their child is doing in Nursery. We use it to communicate about events in school and ways you can support at home. It is also useful for parents to share photos and information about their child from home which helps us to really tailor our provision and curriculum around the needs and interests of our children. **See the sign up sheet in this pack.**

Collecting Children

Please arrive promptly to collect your child as lateness can cause distress. If you are unavoidably late please phone the school office, who will inform us and we can support the child until you arrive. Only a responsible adult known to school can collect a child. Please inform Nursery staff if someone different is bringing or collecting your child. Your child will have their own unique '**Pickup Password**' - please ensure you keep this safe and only share it with adults who will be collecting your child.

Clothing

The Nursery uniform is not compulsory, but many parents buy the navy Appletree Gardens sweatshirt with the school logo as they wear well and save the child's own clothing during messy play. Please do not send your child to Nursery in their best clothes; many of our most exciting activities are very messy or wet! Clothing needs to be comfortable, simple and easily washable - tracksuit bottoms and leggings are ideal for children to manage themselves. Send your child in suitable footwear every day which they are able to put on and take off by themselves. **Shoes with Velcro are ideal to encourage independence - no lace up shoes if possible.** Flip-flops, strappy sandals or shoes with heels are neither safe nor practical. No jewellery please.

Milk

Free milk is provided for all children under the age of 5. If your child does not like milk they can have a drink of water. Please provide your child with a named water bottle. Fruit is available every day through the 5 a day scheme and is very popular. If your child has any allergies please provide details on their application form and inform their teacher.

Toileting

Most children will be toilet trained before starting Nursery but we know that this skill takes longer for some children to learn. If there are accidents your child will be changed - we have some spare clothing, but please make sure you return all Nursery clothes promptly once they are washed. Clothes which are easy to manage support independence - please do not dress your child in tight skirts, jeans with a button, belts or dungarees. If your child is not toilet trained please see the Nursery staff and each child will be supported in a planned way as they learn to use the toilet.

What if you think your child may not be ready?

As we have said above, all children have different starting points when they begin Nursery but if you feel that your child may not be ready or you want to discuss anything further then feel free to contact the school. You can arrange to meet a member of the Early Years Team and we can discuss strategies that would help your child move towards being 'school ready'.

Nursery Admissions

The Nursery intake is staggered during the first two weeks of the autumn term. This ensures that the children have time to become familiar with their new environment and the staff can start to build really meaningful relationships with them. Several factors will influence the staggered intake, including accessing 30hrs provision and date of birth. See the separate letter in your pack for your child's start date.

Attendance and Illness

We expect your child to attend Nursery every day. However, if they are ill please do not bring them into school. This is to avoid the spread of infection. Sickness and/or diarrhoea need an absence of 48 hours from when the child was last ill. If your child becomes ill during a session parents will be requested to collect their child or a designated emergency contact will be made. When a child is absent please inform the school of the reason as soon as possible by phoning the school office. Only medicine prescribed by a doctor, this includes inhalers, may be administered in Nursery and you must sign a consent form.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

The safety and protection of children, staff, parents / carers and visitors to Appletree is paramount. Every adult in school and within our school community has a duty of care to the children in Appletree. We have systems in place to protect our children and work closely with North Tyneside Children's Services 'Front Door' service. We are also part of 'Operation Encompass', a national initiative to support children living in households with Domestic Abuse. If you have any queries or concerns about a child's welfare or safety do not hesitate to contact school or North Tyneside Front Door on 0345 2000 109.

Parent Helpers

We like to encourage parents to come into Nursery to help wherever possible. This might include playing games with the children, reading stories or helping with a craft activity. If you have any other skills you think may be useful please let us know! If you would like to help on a regular basis you will need DBS clearance which can be obtained through school. This is not necessary to help on trips. We are always grateful for any parental support on trips!