

GROW your learning at



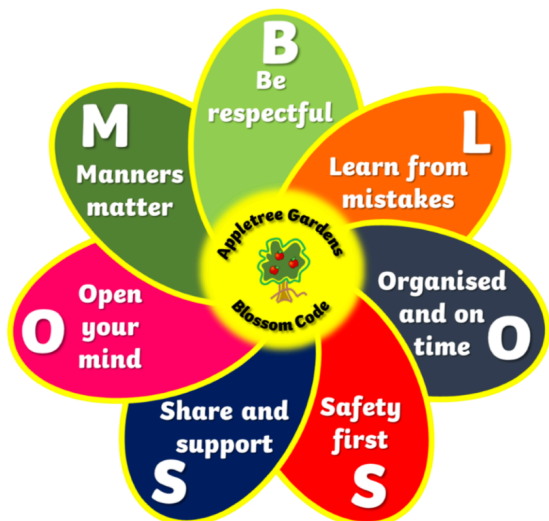
Welcome to Nursery

"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...



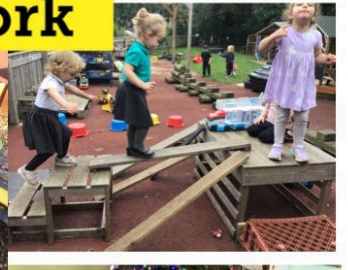
Team work



Reading



Science



Forest School

Creative



Literacy



Cooking



Friendships



PIC • COLLAGE

Meet the Team



Mrs Helen Bruce
Headteacher



Mrs Claire Carron
Early Years Lead

Mr Mitchell Dent



Nursery Teacher, Geography and Eco-School Lead

Hello, I have worked at Appletree Gardens for twelve years - nine years in Year 3 and three years in Year 1. Before joining the Appletree team I worked in a nursery in South Tyneside and I am excited to be returning to the Early Years!

I love making the most of the outdoor space - playing and exploring, planting and caring for the wildlife. I am also looking forward to diving into counting games and rhymes to help develop the children's early maths and language skills.

When I am not at work you might see me walking up and down the coast trying to get my steps up! I also love spending time with my daughter - game nights and trips to Beamish are some of our favourite things to do.

Miss Amy Spratt



Nursery Teaching Assistant (Full Time)

This is my third year working at Appletree and I love working in Nursery, especially seeing how much fun they have doing Forest School. I also love playing with the children and seeing how it helps develop their language and social skills.

I have a lot of experience of working within Early Years and have previously worked in private nursery pre-schools 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 Deb Elliott



Nursery Teaching Assistant (Full Time)

My first year at Appletree in Reception has gone so fast! I'm really happy to be staying in Early Years to work in the Nursery. I worked in my last school for 17 years across the key stages, the majority of the time I was in a Nursery or Reception class.

I'm very passionate about Early Years and the importance it has on children's long term learning and development. I love foundation stage teaching, especially singing, reading stories and learning outdoors.

In my spare time I like to read, get outdoors and go to Zumba classes. I love spending time with my family making meals, listening to music and dancing in the kitchen!

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 PSHE 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.

Children Staying for Lunch:

- Lunchtime is 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.**

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

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:

Your child should be able to:

- Put on and take off their shoes independently
- Put on and take off their coat independently
- Manage clothes for toileting
- Go to the toilet by themselves
- Wash hands independently
- Peel and eat fruit like bananas and satsumas themselves
- Open lunch boxes and food pots
- Share and take turns
- Sit and listen to stories and songs and actively join in

Parents / Carers - please can you:

- Name EVERYTHING!
- Send in a **named** water bottle each day
- Send a pair of **named** wellies for your child to keep in school

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.

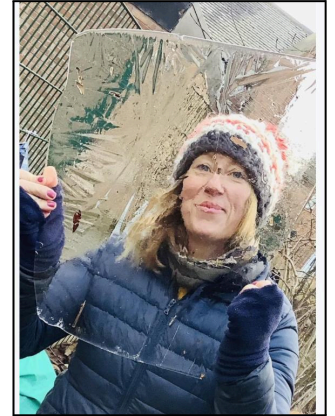
Information About Nursery

Organisation

Nursery has two large, bright airy rooms which are interconnected. 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. 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 suits are provided. **Children will need to keep a 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, flip-flops, strappy sandals or shoes with heels. No jewellery please.

Milk

Free milk is provided for all children under the age of 5. If your child does not drink 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

Children should be toilet trained before starting in Nursery. 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. Please speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns.

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. 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!

How can we help you?

Supernanny - We are delighted to have our own school nurse, Nurse Lauren, who is working with us at Appletree. She is available to work with parents on strategies to support a wealth of health and wellbeing issues. Nurse Lauren can also work directly with the pupils to support and identify needs with parental permission.

SENDCo - Ms Johnson is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator and leads on SEN provision at Appletree. If you would like to talk to Ms Johnson, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

Early Help - Early help is there to find out what is working well in your family and to build on your family's strengths and achievements. Early help is a way of getting extra support for your family as soon as possible when things happen. For more information please ask for our Early Help Leaflet.