

Welcome to Reception

"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 Reception...



Playing



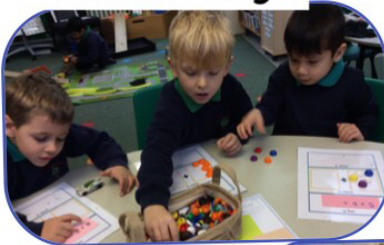
Discovering



Achieving



Investigating



Teamwork



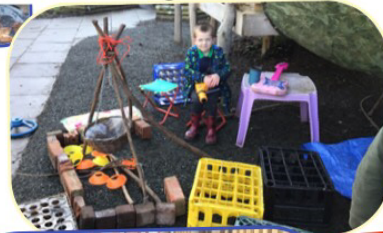
Cooking



Reading



Sharing



Imaginative Play

Friendship



Mud Kitchen




Exploring



PIC-COLLAGE

Meet the Team

<p>Class 1 Teacher - Miss Langley</p> 	<p>I'm excited to start my second year teaching at Appletree! I have worked across different year groups in my previous school and found my love for working in Reception. I have a passion for outdoor learning and love exploring in forest school, so bring your hats and wellies! I love to read and share books at story time. My favourite book that I'm looking forward to sharing is 'The Gruffalo'. In my spare time I like going to the gym, getting outside to explore new places, spending time with my family and friends and most importantly enjoying a roast dinner on a Sunday!</p>
<p>Class 2 Teacher - Miss Stamp</p> 	<p>I have worked at Appletree for seventeen years and during that time I have taught across all three key stages however Reception is my favourite place to be. I have a specialism in Early Years and love the creative challenge of working with young children. Every day is a day for discovery in Reception and it is a privilege to be part of each child's individual journey. I love reading and sharing stories with children and there's nothing quite like the excitement of cooking outside on the fire pit. Outside of school I really enjoy spending time outdoors, playing on the beach, going for adventures and socialising with my family and friends - sometimes all at the same time.</p>
<p>Teaching Assistant Miss Jennings</p> 	<p>Before starting at Appletree my roots in Early Years became apparent while working in private nurseries. Although I thoroughly enjoyed working with such young children I felt ready to develop my skills further in mainstream schools. I have worked at Appletree for six years now, working in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. I am a trained Thrive practitioner and I am passionate about supporting children's social and emotional development. I have two children aged eight and eleven and enjoy every moment watching them learn and achieve. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family away in my little caravan making memories.</p>
<p>Teaching Assistant Mrs Weighill-Cole</p> 	<p>I am excited to be moving into Reception from working in Year 1 at Appletree. I have twenty years experience of working with children and young people in the voluntary sector, focussing on mental health and wellbeing. In 2021, I changed career to follow my passion to work with younger children in a school setting. I have a five year old son and I enjoy following his learning journey every day and experiencing the excitement he has when he explores something new. Outside of school I enjoy open water swimming, recently completing the Arctic Challenge in which I swam for a full year in the sea, rivers and lakes without a wetsuit! I also love crafts, cooking, baking, singing and spending time outdoors with my family and my dog Winnie.</p>

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS)

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning. 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.

Information about Reception

School Start and Finish Times

School Starts: 8.45am	HomeTime: 3:20pm
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Organisation

The Reception area consists of two separate classrooms (where the children are based), a shared learning area between the two main classrooms (where the children regularly work and play together) and a richly resourced and inviting outdoor area and Nature Zone. Children have the opportunity to play and learn outdoors every day in their secure garden area where they can maintain contact with the Nursery staff and their friends.

Class 1 Teacher Miss Langley	Class 2 Teacher Miss Stamp
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Outdoor Learning and Forest School

Our outdoor area is in a mature garden with 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 Reception 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 school.

A day in the life of Reception

8:45 Doors open We kindly ask that you inform our school office of any absences as soon as possible. We encourage children to put their things away independently on their own pegs and in their drawers by finding their names.

9:00 - Phonics and Literacy input. Throughout Reception your child will learn how to read and write following the Read, Write, Inc. programme.



9:20 - Play to Learn. The children have this time everyday to explore the Reception learning area. There are opportunities for sensory play, creative play, role play, physical play and more!



10:45 - Snack time. Please send your child with a water bottle each day. Fruit will be provided for children each day. Milk is available daily to children who are registered as part of the Cool Milk Scheme. Milk is completely free to all children under five. Please register your child for milk at <https://www.coolmilk.com/>



11:00 - Maths input followed by more play to learn time! We make all of our lessons interactive and fun, ensuring our children are hooked by focusing on their interests.



11:45 - Lunch time. We always have delicious options available. We encourage children to make their own decisions and pick which option they would like to develop their independence. Please go to [Free school meals | North Tyneside Council](#) for more details and to register your child's name. Pupils are welcome to bring a packed lunch if they prefer. We monitor home packed lunches and request that **no nuts, sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks are included.**



1:00 - Topic input and play to learn time.

3:20 - Home time - Please arrive on time to collect your child as lateness can cause distress. If you are unavoidably late please phone the school office. Only a responsible adult known to school can collect a child. Please inform Reception staff if someone different is bringing or collecting your child.



School Uniform

Girls: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black or Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers• (Blue and White checked dress in Summer)• Green polo shirt• School navy sweatshirt or navy cardigan• Flat heeled BLACK shoes and Wellies (to keep in school)• White socks/grey or black tights	Boys: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black or Grey Trousers• (Black or Grey Shorts in Summer)• Green polo shirt• School navy sweatshirt or round neck navy sweatshirt• BLACK school shoes (not trainers) and Wellies (to keep in school)• Grey or Black socks
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PE Uniform - Children will be asked to come to school wearing their PE kit on PE and Forest School days

- Black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Green embroidered Appletree round neck T-Shirt
- Trainers



Shoes and Wellies

In Reception we spend a great deal of time outdoors 'whatever the weather' therefore it is essential that your child wears sensible school footwear every day. Velcro fastening is ideal as the children can manage it independently, no sandals, heels or wedges please. Each child should bring a pair of **named** Wellington boots to keep in school.



Reading Folders

Each child should have a green school reading folder which they need to bring to school every day. This is used for their reading books, Reading Record and Home/School Diary but it is also useful for letters which are sent home. Please check it daily.



Branded Uniform Stockists

Ann Thomas Workwear in Whitley Bay <http://www.annethomasworkwearltd.co.uk/>

Emblematic online <https://studentuniform.co.uk/appletre177/>

School Office We keep a limited stock of uniform in the school office which can be ordered via the Parent Mail app.

Jewellery

Although plain stud ear-rings may be worn (**they must be removed on P.E. days**), we would recommend against wearing them in Reception due to the physical nature of our daily routine. No other jewellery is allowed for health and safety reasons.

Medicines

Only medicine prescribed by a doctor, this includes inhalers, may be administered in school and you must sign a consent form. Forms can be collected from the school office..

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 NT Front Door on 0345 2000 109.

Parent Helpers

We like to encourage parents to come into Reception 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!

APPLETREE GARDENS OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Breakfast Club

Monday - Friday between
7.45am - 9.00am
Breakfast included
Session Charge
£5.25



After School Club

Monday - Friday
between
3.30 pm - 5.30 pm
Session Charge
3.30pm - 4.30 pm
£6.00
3.30pm - 5.30pm
£9.00



HOW TO BOOK

Pre-Registration required. Booking is essential as places are limited.

To book or for further information contact us at:

susanne.cross@appletrdegfs.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 2523546 opt 3

Mobile No 07853201570

Alternatively you can come and see us in the Appletree Annex, Appletree Gardens First School

HOLIDAY CLUB

Runs Mon-Fri throughout all school holidays plus teacher training days.

Full Day Care

7.45 am - 5.30 pm

Session Charge

£23.00

Half Day Care

Session Charge

£14.00



Children must bring a packed lunch with them.

Wraparound Care

Fee Paying sessions for 2/3 Year olds

Monday - Friday between:

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

12.30-3.30 pm

Session Charge - £9.00

9.00am - 3.30 -£20.00

Lunch Time Care for Nursery Children

11.45 am - 12.30pm

Session charge - £4.00

Children to bring a packed lunch.

Little Pips also offers funded and Fee Paying places for 2 Year (Criteria to be met)





Am I ready for school?



Tips for parents

When your child starts primary school there are a number of skills that they should ideally have mastered. Use this sheet as a guide to help track their progress.

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
 - I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Speaking & literacy

- I am interested in reading stories & looking at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
 - I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my clothes
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can put my coat on & use a zip

Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
 - I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
 - I like asking questions

Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
 - I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy experimenting with different shaped scribbles
 - I am practising holding a pencil

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash & dry my hands without any help

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
 - I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I can play games with others
- I can interact with other children

Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
 - I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days

