

What happens at night?  
The Skies Above my Eyes!  
Apple Class - Autumn Term 2025



Dear Families,

We hope that you have all had a restful summer break. We would like to welcome both new and current parents! We are so proud of all of the children for settling in so well this term.

Here is an outline of our learning for the Autumn Term. Our learning will be linked to the question 'What happens at night?' and we will be learning about nocturnal animals such as owls as well as other aspects of night time.

The learning for Year One children will be linked to the National Curriculum and for Reception, it will be linked to the seven areas of the Early Years Curriculum. However, although the Reception children will join in with some of the topic learning, they will spend the majority of their time pursuing their own interests whilst learning through play. Reception will have Phonics, Maths, English, PSHE and PE lessons once we have completed all of our baseline assessments.

**Monday and Friday**- we will be changing reading books on these days so please ensure books are in book bags. We will give out reading books to Reception around half term, once we have covered the first set of sounds in Phonics.

**Friday**- we will be issuing new Apple Class library books so please return them if you would like a new one.

Please ensure PE kits are in school at all times. Our PE days will be **Monday** and **Wednesday** but there are occasions where we may need to swap our days around. Please ensure all uniform and PE kit is labelled with your child's name as this will help us to get the children changed more quickly and allow us to return any lost clothing!

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff or message us on Seesaw if you have any concerns or questions. We are always happy to help!

Kind Regards, Mrs Champion, Mrs Burton, Mrs Urganci and Ms Ferris

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSHE and RSE)

The children will be forming class rules (linked to our 4 school values) to keep everyone safe and happy. This will help them to understand the routines and expectations of being in Apple Class. Our Reception children will be shown around the school so that they begin to feel confident and settled in their new surroundings. We will be playing lots of circle time games so that all the children can get to know each other and learn each other's names.

Our Year 1 children will be talking about communities, families and people who care for them and how to be a good friend. We will also be thinking about how we are all special and how we can keep ourselves safe (including e-safety and road safety).

### Mathematics

Reception will be counting, ordering, reading and writing numbers to 10. They will have lots of opportunities to sort, match and make patterns with shapes, colours and objects.

Year 1 will become more familiar with numbers to 20 and beyond and will be comparing and ordering numbers and learning the number bonds to 10. They will continue to improve their addition and subtraction skills by learning to count on and back using concrete resources.

All of the children will be learning to recognise and name common 2D and 3D shapes and to use them to make pictures and models. We will be discussing the sequence of the day and learning the days of the week.

### Understanding of the World (Science, Computing, History, Geography and RE)

We will be exploring seasonal change and looking at the weather patterns for Autumn and Winter.

Our Science focus will be Animals including Humans and we will be learning about parts of our bodies and our senses.

In Computing, Year 1 will develop their mouse and keyboard skills and Reception will explore simple computer programs. We will also be learning about E-safety.

Our History learning will cover the importance of Remembrance Day, why we celebrate Bonfire Night and the opportunity to learn about Katherine Johnson, who is significant for helping astronauts fly home safely from space.

In Geography, we will be looking at and creating simple maps linked to journeys and we will be using the story of 'The Jolly Postman' and fairy tales as a stimulus.

As part of our RE learning, we will be celebrating Harvest and discussing the question 'Does God want Christians to look after the World?' in relation to the Creation story.

## English (Drawing Club)

We will begin with fairy tales and then move on to reading stories about owls and night time and exploring non-fiction books in relation to different nocturnal animals.

### Writing to Entertain:

- Retelling stories (Year 1)
- Character descriptions (Year 1)

### Writing to Inform:

- Information pages about owls (Year 1)

### Reception-

Name writing

Labels and lists (initial sounds and cvc words)

Rhyming words

We will be using the Song of Sounds phonics programme. We will learn different letter sounds every week as well as high frequency 'tricky' words. Reception will begin with Song 1 and Year 1 will be revising Song 1 and the Reception tricky words before moving on to Song 2.

Each week, we spend time revising the sounds that we have taught to ensure that children consolidate their learning before progressing to more challenging sounds and high frequency words.

We will use key texts such the 'Oi Frog' series to teach the concept of rhyming words. There will be opportunities in Phonics sessions and in play to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to write simple words, labels and lists. The Year 1 children will begin to write captions and sentences with more independence, spelling a greater number of words correctly and using finger spaces accurately.

Year 1 will be able to change their reading books on a Monday and Friday. This will give them the opportunity to read a book twice before changing it for a new one. This is really important for building up fluency and word recognition skills. It will also develop their comprehension skills as they will have a greater understanding of the text once they have read it twice.

**Please read with your child as often as possible- even 5 minutes a day can increase their confidence and fluency.**

Reception children will be given reading books once we have covered enough of the initial sounds in Phonics. In the meantime, reading books without words will help to develop important storytelling and comprehension skills, as will listening to their favourite stories being read aloud. The more stories children hear, the greater understanding they have of how texts work and the more vocabulary they learn.

### Expressive Arts and Design (Art, DT and Music)

The children will be using junk modelling to produce models of their choice.

They will be able to immerse themselves in a variety of small world and role-play situations which involve familiar scenarios such as "At home".

We will be creating paintings of ourselves and developing our colour mixing skills.

In DT, Year 1 will be creating puppets linked to fairy tales.

As part of our Art learning, we will explore colour mixing and create our own clay owl tiles.

In Music, we will be singing Harvest and Christmas songs. We will be exploring rhythm in different pieces of music.

### Physical Development (PE)

Reception will be learning how to undress and dress for PE independently. Please do help them to practise this at home. The class will practise stopping on a signal and they will be exploring different ways of moving, pathways and directions. We will be exploring dance and gymnastics.

In class we will be developing the children's gross motor skills by using the trim trail, bikes and scooters and by using the equipment to create our own obstacle courses. We will also be following the programme 'Squiggle while you Wiggle' to encourage the children to create large movements when mark making.

We will support the children's fine motor control by using play dough, small construction and utensils such as tweezers to help strengthen their finger muscles in preparation for holding a pencil. We use the Dough Disco sessions on YouTube too as they are lots of fun!

Y1 will be following handwriting patterns and will also be practising their letter formation to improve accuracy.

### Useful websites/apps:

- White Rose 1 Minute Maths app (Reception and Year 1)
- Hit the Button app (number facts for Year 1)
- iLearn2 website for Computing skills -codes to log into the activities will be shared on Seesaw
- BBC Dance Mat Typing -typing/keyboard skills for Year 1
- ictgames.co.uk- free games to support maths and English learning
- Teach Your Monster to Read (sometimes free on the App Store)- phonics and reading activities