

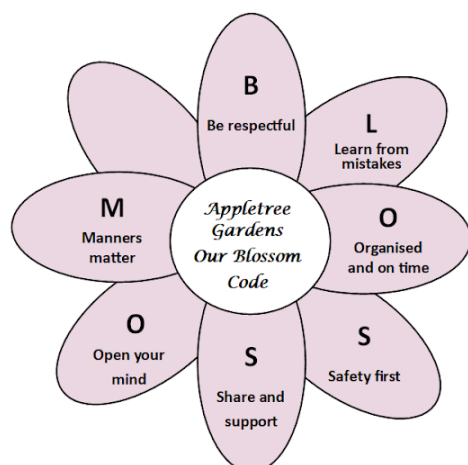
## Welcome to Reception

*"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



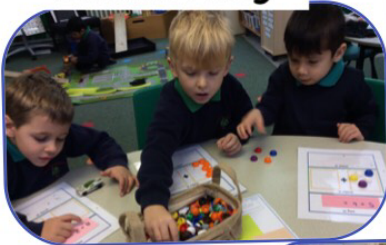
Discovering



Achieving



Investigating



Teamwork



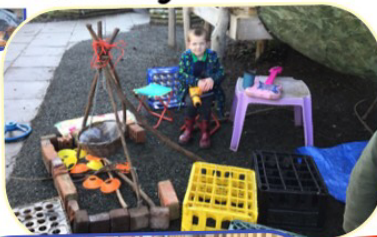
Cooking



Reading



Sharing



Mud Kitchen



Friendship



Exploring







PIC-COLLAGE

Imaginative Play



## Meet the Team

<p><b>Class 1 Teacher - Miss Langley</b></p> 	<p>I'm excited to be joining Appletree Gardens in September. I have worked across different year groups in my previous school and found my love for working in Reception. I'm looking forward to beginning my next teaching adventure in Reception next year. I have a passion for outdoor learning and love exploring in forest school, so bring your hats and wellies! I love to read, my favourite book, that I'm looking forward to sharing is 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. In my spare time I like going to the gym, getting outside, spending time with my family and friends and most importantly enjoying a roast dinner on a Sunday!</p>
<p><b>Class 2 Teacher - Miss Stamp</b></p> 	<p>I have worked at Appletree for sixteen 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><b>Teaching Assistant Miss Jennings</b></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 four years now, working in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. I have two children aged seven and ten and enjoy every moment watching them learn and achieve and love how much all children I work with explore and learn to their full potential. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family away in my little caravan making memories.</p>
<p><b>Teaching Assistant Mrs McLean</b></p> 	<p>I have worked at Appletree in Key Stage 2 for a number of years and have been given the opportunity to move and be part of the team in Reception. I'm so excited for this new challenge and to be able to support the children to learn and develop new skills. I can't wait to be a part of outdoor learning in forest school and having a good old sing song around the campfire!</p> <p>Outside of school I love to walk my dog with my family, catch up with friends and enjoy some gardening.</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

#### 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.

#### School Start and Finish Times

<b>School Starts:</b> 8.45am	<b>HomeTime:</b> 3:20pm
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#### 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 Reception 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.

#### 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 but please put sunscreen on your child BEFORE coming to school.

### **Lunch Time**

All children in Reception and KS1 currently receive a school lunch free of charge as part of the Government's Universal Free School Meals offer. Please go to [Free school meals | North Tyneside Council](#) for more details and to register your child's name. **It is essential this is done before starting school.** We encourage all families who may be eligible for benefit based Free School Meals to apply and register. School receives additional funding for those children who qualify for this entitlement.

Children in Reception eat their lunch in the first sitting each day, when the canteen is less crowded. Each class has a Lunchtime Supervisor who will help all children with the lunchtime routines. The Lunchtime Supervisors support the children in selecting and cutting up their food. The children who have school dinners are provided with water to drink.

Children on packed lunches also eat in the canteen with their friends. Please send a child-sized portion of healthy food that the children can manage themselves. We monitor home packed lunches and request that **no nuts, sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks are included.**

### **Milk and Fruit**

Free milk is provided for all children under the age of 5 (children must be registered by their parents). When your child turns 5, the cost of milk is then around £14 per term (free for those eligible). Please visit the website <https://www.coolmilk.com/> for more details and to register your child for milk in school. Fruit is available every day through the 5 a day scheme and is very popular.

### **Water**

We are always on the go in Reception and it can be thirsty work. Children should bring a water bottle into school each day. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office (£1). **Bottles should contain fresh water only, not juice or flavoured water.**

### **School Uniform**

#### **Girls:**

- 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:**

- 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

**PE Uniform** - Children will be asked to come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days

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

## **Branded Uniform Stockists**

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

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

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

## **Shoes**

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 school reading folder (£5) 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.

## **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.

## **Attendance and Illness**

We expect your child to attend school 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 school 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 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

