



Welcome to Reception

Appletree Gardens First School motto; “ENJOY, ACHIEVE, SUCCEED!” is at the heart of our Early Years ethos...

Our dedicated team work enthusiastically to ensure all children **ENJOY** each and every day.

We are passionate about providing a rich and varied environment and curriculum to enable all children to **ACHIEVE** the very best they can.

We are committed to developing confident, successful learners who **SUCCEED** in everything they do.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum





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. 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 'have a go' attitude.

Play is a natural activity for all children and it helps them to develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally and is a key way in which children learn with enjoyment and challenge throughout the Foundation Stage. Staff carefully plan and organise enabling environments for the children to develop their own learning journey and pursue their interests. In addition to this, children participate in small group activities which focus on developing specific skills and knowledge.

At Appletree we provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment in which children can learn through discovery and develop their skills and interests while being supported by staff and their peers. Our consistent routines and caring, supportive staff help the children to settle quickly and become independent learners. We look forward to welcoming you all into Amazing Appletree this year.

Meet the Team

<p>Class 1 Teacher - Mrs Emma Mitchell</p> 	<p>I have worked in Appletree for nine years and this will be my third year in Reception. I have a specialism in Early Years and am very passionate about providing an environment where children can learn, grow and achieve. Prior to teaching I was a Nursery Nurse working with children in early years and key stage one. My love of working in the classroom inspired me to go onto teaching and achieve my teaching degree. I live with my husband and two sons Charlie and Alfie. We often spend time on the beach, visiting national parks and finding new places to visit. We love going on adventures and exploring the great outdoors! I enjoy cooking, going on bike rides and I love to travel. My favourite destination was Jamaica.</p>
<p>Class 1 Teacher - Mrs Philippa McAvelia</p> 	<p>I have worked at Appletree for 10 years after being lucky enough to land long term supply which led to a permanent role in school. This will be my third year in Reception but my twenty first working with young children. I qualified in my native Australia with a specialism in Early Childhood and have taught in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 in various settings. I love teaching young children as their outlook on the world is full of delight and curiosity and everyday is different. I live with my husband and two boys who keep me busy taxi-ing them between numerous sports. When I get some me time I head to the gym or beach as I love the water. I have lived in the UK for 20 years and love it, however I still travel home to visit family as often as I can.</p>
<p>Class 2 Teacher - Miss Connie Stamp (Early Years Lead)</p> 	<p>I have worked at Appletree for fifteen years and during that time I have taught across all three key stages but Reception is possibly my favourite place to be. This will be my fifth year back in Reception and I feel just as passionately about it as I did when I first started. 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 I think story time is one of my favourite times of the day however cooking on the fire pit outside comes a close second! I live locally with my family and a cantankerous cat. Both my children have attended Appletree Gardens and thrived here. 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 Beth Brown</p> 	<p>I've worked with lots of different age groups in lots of different schools but I found my home when I joined Appletree last year. I enjoy working with early years children because they have such fantastic imaginations and I enjoy listening to, and facilitating, their ideas. At home I like to cook, read and play with my cat. I enjoy learning about lots of different things and trying food from different countries, I love to travel and my favourite place I've ever been to was Cuba.</p>
<p>Teaching Assistant Miss Sophie 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 three years now, working in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. I have two children aged six and nine 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>

Key Information about Reception

Organisation

The Foundation Stage at Appletree Gardens First School consists of our two year old provision - 'Little Pips'; our three year old provision; our school nursery and two reception classes. The Foundation Stage ends as the children leave Reception to go into Year 1 (Key Stage 1).

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.

The Reception classes and the Nursery share an entrance to the school grounds - Doors to Reception open at **8:50 am** and the school day begins. At the end of the day (**3.10pm**) parents should come to collect their child at the Reception door. Please tell your child who is picking them up each day and **please be on time as children can become distressed if they feel you are late.**

Lunch Time

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.**

All Reception children will receive a school lunch free of charge as part of the Government's Universal Free School Meals offer. 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. Please go to www.northtyneside.gov.uk/schoolmeals for more details and to register.

Fruit

We take part in the National Fruit Scheme and children are provided with a piece of fruit each day. Children are encouraged to try new fruits.

Milk

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 £15 per term (free for those eligible). Please visit the website www.coolmilk.com for more details and to register your child for milk in school.

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.**

Uniform

School uniform, PE kits and bags can all be purchased through **Emblematic** online.

You can order online at the following link:-

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

- If you require your uniform order before the new September term, Emblematic recommends ordering before 18th July.
- **NEW!! - Free Delivery to your home address if you order before the 1st July.**

We also keep a limited stock of uniform in the school office.

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

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.

Book Bags

Each child should have a school book bag (£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.

Adventurous Playtimes supported by OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Here at Appletree we work with an organisation called OPAL who have supported us over the past year to help improve playtimes for the whole school as we believe that play is essential for children's physical, emotional, social and intellectual development. Through our OPAL provision children have access to a wide range of open ended play resources to encourage them to develop their physical and critical thinking skills, imaginative play, teamwork and collaboration and support their mental well being. OPAL play is fun, adventurous, and allows children to take risks. OPAL playtimes happen whatever the weather and children need to be prepared for the ever changing British weather and the unparalleled fun that is splashing in muddy puddles with waterproof coats and wellies!

Extra Curricular Activities

From the Spring term onwards children in Reception have the opportunity to participate in school clubs (e.g. football, French, dodgeball, multi-skills), usually during lunchtimes.

Attendance and Illness

We expect your child to attend school every day. However, if they are ill please do not bring them to school. This is to avoid the spread of infection. Sickness and/or diarrhoea need an absence of 24 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 office of the reason as soon as possible.

Medication

Only prescribed medicines can be administered in school. All medicines must be handed over at the school office and a Medicines form completed by an adult. In most cases medicines can be given by parents before breakfast, after school and before bedtime. If it is deemed necessary to administer a medicine (including inhalers) in school it must be in the original, named container with the dosage clearly marked, handed into the school office and a form signed giving permission. Children are not allowed to suck cough sweets.

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 of Appletree. We have systems in place to protect our children and work closely with North Tyneside Children's Services 'Front Door' . 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 and concerns about a child's welfare or safety do not hesitate to contact school or NT Front Door on 0345 2000 109.



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

